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## AGRICULTURAL.



"Agriculture is the chief foundation of a nation's power, as it not only furnishes man with food and clothing, but also with materials for the mechanic arts and commerce."

From the Farmer's Journal.

### The Importance of a Knowledge of Soils and Manures.

The system of cultivation in our State has heretofore been of that kind which has greatly depreciated the value of those lands which have been under tillage for any length of time. Those under whose management they have been have pursued the plan of taking from the field, not only the crop, but the stalks and vines besides. Nature has so constituted the various soils as to render them, in their primitive state, adapted to the growth of various plants which are necessary for the sustenance of man and animals.

It is an established fact, that like causes produce like effects; and upon this principle it is that the soil must contain the constituents of the plant to be grown upon it.—By pursuing the course of depriving the land of every thing raised upon it, and leaving nothing to be returned to the soil for the reproduction of the succeeding crop, our lands, which have been cultivated for any length of time, have become exhausted.

The subject which should engage the mind of the farmer at this time, is the discovery and use of those fertilizers which will, in the most efficient and least expensive way, supply those constituents which enter into the plant he may wish to cultivate, and which he designs for its growth. Here arises at once the question, how can this be done?

The answer is this: Let the soil be analyzed, and ascertain at once what is wanting in the soil which the plant requires for its growth.—This is highly important, for the reason that without this knowledge, the farmer may go to work and gather, at a great deal of unnecessary trouble and expense, a large quantity of manure, which when accumulated, may not contain to a sufficient extent those elements which are wanting in the soil.—Those farmers who are uneducated, and who have not seen practical illustrations of this fact may be disposed not to attach that weight to the subject which it deserves.—They may say that they can, with the common barn-yard manure, make their land highly fertile; but why is this the case?

—It is the plain reason this manure contains all the constituents required for the growth of plants. But this barn-yard manure is, strictly speaking, the very crops themselves, which, after losing to a great degree their strength in the nourishment of animals, are then to be used for the reproduction of the same crops during the succeeding year. We are a strong advocate for the use of barn-yard manure, but in many instances a man may be a lifetime in supplying his soil with that or those constituents which may be wanting by its use, when, with an analysis of his soil, he might accomplish his end at perhaps a third of the expense.

The perfect soil consists of fourteen elements, a part of which are inorganic or mineral, and a part organic of vegetable. Those minerals which enter most largely into the formation of soils are, lime, silica or sand, alumina or clay. Silica and alumina are rather the bases of sand and clay than the minerals themselves. Lime, of all other minerals, is most required in the soil to produce vegetables to any degree of perfection, and is most sought for by the practical agriculturist. It is, in truth, "the basis of all good husbandry," and the foundation of all permanent improvement. When properly applied, it rarely fails to meet the expectations of the

farmer; but when misapplied, it only produces disappointment.

If the soil upon which we purpose to use lime is already highly calcareous, it would be evident to the practical farmer that its use would only serve as a poison to plants, and if there does not exist much vegetable matter in the soil for its action, it should be used only in a small quantity. "Lime supplies a kind of inorganic food for plants, which appears to be necessary for their healthy growth. It neutralizes acid substances which are naturally formed in the soil, and decomposes or renders harmless other noxious compounds which are not unfrequently within the reach of the roots of plants. It causes, facilitates and enables other useful compounds, both organic and inorganic, to be produced in the soil, or so promotes the decomposition of existing compounds, as to prepare them more speedily for entering into the circulation of plants." Lime may be used upon newly-cleared fields as well as on those worn out. Indeed, we have been informed by Mr. Josiah Collins, a very extensive and highly educated farmer in Washington county, in this State, that he uses lime upon his newly-cleared lands, which has the effect to neutralize the vegetable acids which prevail in new lands that have not been long drained. This gentleman has succeeded, by the use of lime, in reclaiming a portion of savannah land which was thought by those who knew it to be almost valueless.

The use of lime as a fertilizer, is of very ancient date. The Roman agriculturists used it in the culture of fruit-trees, and the Arabs of Spain also used it successfully.—Until within a few years past, its value as a fertilizer has not been generally known in this country. Our farmers now are beginning to learn that there are correct principles by which they are to be guided in its application. Sand, though really non-productive alone, is highly necessary in the soil to the luxuriant growth of plants. It enters largely into the formation of the stalk of the various grain crops, and when it is wanting to a great extent, the stalks, particularly of the various small grain crops, are weak and unable to support the ear, and consequently lodge and are difficult to reap.—Where a soil is principally clay, it is found to be too tenacious, and it becomes necessary to mix in sand with it, which will greatly increase the product, besides rendering the land less difficult to cultivate. Clay does not enter as a constituent in plants, but it is essentially necessary in the soil, in order to render it sufficiently compact and tenacious as to be adapted to the growth of plants.—The remaining minerals are the phosphates and alkalis, which are really important to the growth of plants, and when deficient can easily be supplied. Vegetable mould is the natural manure of the soil, and all exhausted and worn-out lands are deficient of it to a great extent; but it may be easily supplied by resorting to the swamps and bogs, and to the woods. By a proper use of lime, ashes, salt, soda, bone-dust, muck and woods-mould, the farmer need not have exhausted fields; for by a proper combination of these, as each is required, he can soon have his land in a more fertile condition than perhaps it was in its primitive state.

From what we have already said, we are sure that every thinking and reading farmer will at once see how important it is to be acquainted with the nature of the soil he cultivates, and the action of the manures he accumulates. There is scarcely any part of our State in which lime, shells, or marl; may not be had at such cost as to justify the farmer in using them as fertilizers; and the swamps, bogs and salt-marshes are almost innumerable. The Supreme Ruler has been all-wise in his provisions; for where the soil is easily exhausted, there may be found the very materials for enriching it and making it more fertile than before.

What is wanting in our State to elevate the farmer to that position which he has a right to claim, and ought to occupy, is to impress upon him the great importance of a liberal education in the prosecution of his business successfully. Let the thousands of boys attending our common schools, and designed to become farmers, be instructed in the elements of agriculture. This may not make them at once good farmers, but it will lay the foundation for it. We hope that every teacher in the State will at once introduce into his school a little work on the elements of agriculture, published in France, and re-published in this country by F. G. Skinner, adapted to the schools of our country. This

book may be had at the book store of C. M. Saxton, in New York. Indeed, the best way of getting this book introduced into schools, is for those who deal in books in our State to obtain them, and then urge their use, which we are sure they will do after reading it.

We shall in each number of our paper treat on some one of the fertilizers which may be used to advantage by our farmers.

## THE FARMER.

It does ones heart good to see a merry, round faced farmer. So independent and yet so free from vanity and pride. So rich and so industrious—patient, and persevering in his calling and yet so kind, sociable and obliging, there are a thousand noble traits about his character, he is generally hospitable—eat and drink with him and he won't set a mark on you and sweat it out of you with double compound interest as some people I know will; you are welcome; he will do a kindness without expecting a return by way of compensation—it is not so with every body; usually more honest and sincere, less disposed to deal in low and underhanded cunning, than many I could name. He gives to society its best support—its firmest pillar that supports the edifice of government; he is the lord of nature. Look at him in his homespun and grey; laugh at him, if you will, believe me, he can laugh back if he pleases.

## POLITICAL.

### The Democratic Party

And Press of North Carolina.

Not without reason have the press and party in this State been complimented by those of other States, for the steadfastness, consistency and perseverance which they have displayed under the most unfavorable circumstances, and for a long series of years. The "Old North" seemed irrevocably Whig, and had begun to be regarded by the leaders of that party as one of the stars "that never set." Still there was no wavering in the ranks, no breaking up of the organization—no seeking refuge under new names or success by any abandonment of established principles. Looked upon as hopelessly lost to the Democratic party, little of the honors or emoluments of the General Government in the gift of that party have either been asked for or been bestowed upon her citizens. Her State Government has been in the hands of the opposite party, and all the power of wealth and corporate influence has been arrayed on the same side. Such a combination of depressing circumstances was sufficient to have dampened any ardor not founded upon permanent principles, and no stronger proof of sincerity can anywhere be adduced, than that to be found in the conduct of the Democratic party in this State.

But a change has at length been brought about. Much of the rising intelligence of the State is arrayed on our side. As an instance of the change going on we may cite our own bar, where a few years since a Democratic lawyer was an exceptional case; whereas, now, we believe, the majority belongs to that party. Another instance we might give: In the highly commercial town of Wilmington, without its suburbs, there is a decided Democratic majority and the tendency in that direction is progressive. At the last election for Governor, our good old Banner District gave Reid the largest majority ever received by any candidate in the District. These things mark the current.

The Democratic press, too, has struggled painfully, yet bravely; we know and have felt some of the losses and crosses attendant upon the business. Yet its conductors have not swerved from their duty. Their course has been manly and consistent; and if, at times, defective facilities may have caused them to be somewhat behind-hand with the news, or inadequate patronage prevented that expenditure of money and personal attention necessary to have rendered their sheets as interesting as they could have wished; still their views have been constitutional and conservative, and their influence, although silent, has been beneficial. It is deeply to be regretted that a stronger effort has not been made for the Democratic press, especially in the western part of the State. The important and rapidly increasing towns of Salisbury and Charlotte; have no Democratic paper, while there is a Whig organ in each of the two towns, and also one in the intermediate village of Concord. In view of the approaching contest, some effort ought to be made. The two towns above mentioned, are

the great distributing centres of large populous and important sections of country. A village paper is a bad experiment for one totally unacquainted with the details of the business—we know that; but for a person with talents, and practical experience, there is no better opening than either of the towns of Charlotte or Salisbury present. In the meantime, we cordially endorse the injunction of our friend of the Standard—our Democratic friends must distribute the documents. And while they will thus benefit their own party, they will confer a favor upon the State, by assisting to place its press upon a permanent and independent foundation. If we only do right, we will carry the State at both the elections this year, and the dissemination of facts and principles through the medium of the public press, is one of the means which must be used.

Wilmington Journal.

## Judge Strange.

The Pennsylvanian of the 30th ult., after noticing an article in the Richmond Examiner in favor of Judge Strange for the Vice Presidency, goes on to say:

"We have already noticed the merits of most of the candidates for the Vice Presidency, and now cordially bear testimony to the high character and eminent deservings of Judge Strange, whose nomination is enforced with so much eloquence by the Richmond Examiner. He is one of those men who reflect the highest credit upon the highest stations. Of spotless character, disinterested patriotism, and the most tried devotion to Democratic principles, he would adorn the Vice Presidential office. Nominated at Baltimore, his name would be a tower of strength in all parts of the land; in his own State, his virtues would challenge investigation and defy assault. This much is due to Robert Strange, of North Carolina, and this much we are free to say without expressing any preference between the several candidates for the Vice Presidency."

A Converted Whig.—The Goldsboro' Patriot says that it finds the following in the official proceedings of the democratic meeting of Cleveland county:

"The audience was gratified with an address from Maj. H. DeK. Cabanis, in which he showed the honesty and integrity of his heart by renouncing his connection with the Whig party, stating that that party had ceased to advocate its former principles, and as a party, had no avowed platform; and that, therefore, he renounced them, and would hereafter be found in the ranks of Democracy, battling for the party that holds its banner to the breeze, with republican principles fully inscribed thereon and 'Equal Suffrage' standing out in bold relief on each side.

The Legislature of Pennsylvania has finally enacted a law allowing the use of the State prisons for the confinement of fugitive slaves. This is the fruit of democratic ascendancy in that State.

## Kossuth.

This distinguished Hungarian leader, with a portion of his suite, passed through our place on yesterday morning's train from Wilmington, where he spent Sunday night. We took a look at the lion, but couldn't see much of him except his mane—his face being covered with whiskers and moustaches. He was dressed like a decent American, and, at the time of our observations, was busily reading a copy of the "Live Giraffe," in which he seemed to be so much interested that he wouldn't look up so as to let us have a good look at his eye. There, what will the Giraffe man say to that! By the way, he wore a white hat, pretty much like some we saw the other day at Edmunson and Borden's. We would suggest to the young Bucks about this and other towns that the white hat, square crown about six inches high, with brim four or five inches in width, is the latest agony, and they had better doff the black hat and feather, and bright buckle forthwith. So much for Kossuth.—Gold. Rep.

From the Louisville Journal of March 29th.

California Immigration.—The boats from here and those from above, bound for St. Louis, are all crowded with passengers. They are mostly farmers from the East, who seek a new home in the West, and California. The Statesman, which passed down on Saturday, had

over 600 souls on board, and her cargo consisted mostly of live stock and farming implements belonging to the passengers. The St. Louis Intelligencer says: "The tide of emigration from the Ohio continues to pour in upon us; every boat comes densely crowded with passengers, no inconsiderable portion of whom are bound to California. It is generally thought that a larger number will cross the plains this season than of the past. Our city is filled with emigrants, and at every town on the Upper Missouri hundreds and thousands have assembled to take an early start in the spring. Upon the first appearance of grass the tide will commence rolling over the plains and continue throughout the spring and summer months. Several large and well organized companies will leave in advance of the main body with pack mules, and by feeding to Fort Laramie, get a start that will enable them to accomplish the trip before the great heat sets in on the plains and avoid many of the other inconveniences and hardships of the voyage."

From the Southern Press.

The receipts of gold at the port of New York, from California, thus far this year, according to the manifests of the steamers, have been \$10,261,887, against \$9,208,929, showing an increase of \$1,052,958. A very large amount has also come in the hand of passengers. The amount of coinage at the Philadelphia mint in January, February and March, was \$11,101,396, against \$13,989,698 same months last year.

## THE GIRLS OF CALIFORNIA.

Some young fellow, writing to his sister in Zanesville, Ohio, says:

"It is a rare treat in this country to enter a house hallowed by the presence of a lady, where, instead of a floor covered with dirty boots and 'tater peelings,' you see it nicely carpeted with coffee sacks neatly stitched together; and then to see in what trim order they keep their cupboards, whilst we men, miserable housekeepers that we are, pile every thing pell mell on one shelf; bread, meat, candles, soap, grease, hats and cigar stumps altogether. If a gentleman is courting a lady, the precise time when he popped the question, and what was said on the occasion, is known through the country in the short space of no time.

Men are seized with the hallucination in regard to female beauty, as bewildered Don Quixotte when he invested a red faced, tub shaped city wench with comeliness and charms of a Venus. An old maid was lately married in our neighborhood who had, no doubt been singing 'why don't the men propose?' for the last twenty four years. She was red-haired, squint-eyes and freckled—sans teeth and sans money—in short she had about as little pretension to beauty as the old gal whose husband had to practice kissing the crow a year, before he could screw up his courage to give her a smack."

## FOREIGN.

### ARRIVAL OF THE Steamer Africa.

Three days later from Europe. English and French Affairs—A Further Decline in Cotton—Broadstuffs unsettled, &c.

NEW YORK, April 7. The Steamer Africa, with Liverpool dates of the 27th ult., and 86 passengers, arrived at 6 1/2 o'clock this evening. Business affairs at Liverpool and London were quiet.

The general news does not possess much interest.

### ENGLAND.

On Thursday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Hume brought forward his motion for the extension of suffrage, which was defeated by 165 majority.

Lord John Russell was one of the opponents of the motion.

The supplies were being freely voted, without objection from the opposition. Advances had been received at Lloyd's, that the Abesra steamer was on her way from Vera Cruz, with £5,000,000 in gold, from California.

The London Times of the 26th, has a long article on the expedition to Japan, which it takes for granted is intended to break up the exclusion of that empire; and says if it is carried on in spirit of humanity, and under the impression that the government, and the people, are at fault, Com. Perry will be backed with the sympathies of European nations. It compares this ex-

pedition to the English operations in China, and wishes it the same success.

The English government has issued tenders for a line of screw steamers between Quebec, Montreal and Liverpool, to run once a fortnight.

Ten thousand of the engineers lately on a strike, have signed a declaration to return to work.

Large quantities of wheat and flour have been shipped from London and Hull to Prussia at a nominal duty, in consequence of the great scarcity in that country. Large contracts are said to have been entered into by a leading corn factor.

### FRANCE.

A democratic demonstration had been attempted at St. Prioux, in the department of Haute Vienne, on the occasion of M. Mazard's funeral, formerly a banker, and a member of the liberal party. The disturbance was easily suppressed.

The Moniteur, of the 24th, publishes a decree regulating the course of procedure in the assembly, from which it appears that the President has complete control of the action of every member.

The new decree respecting the University of France has been published in the Moniteur, and has caused great commotion in the literary world. All the members of the superior councils, inspectors-general, rectors, professors, &c., are to be appointed by the President, and a new course of studies is to be arranged.

The Moniteur publishes a decree, from which it appears that the members of the Corps Legislatif are to wear blue embroidered coats and white waistcoats, with gold stripe, hat and black feather, and sword with eagle on the handle.

### TURKEY.

The loss of the steamer Corvette Marianne is confirmed. Eighty persons perished in her.

A despatch dated Leare, March 14th, states that 1,700 men had marched into Lione, where the Greeks and Catholics were disarmed and the clergy and two principal men in every canton seized and imprisoned.

### PRUSSIA.

The report of the finance committee on the proposed newspaper tax is published. All foreign newspapers pay a tax of 25 per cent. on the selling price at the place of publication, exclusive of postage.

### MARKETS.

After the departure of the Baltic the desire to sell cotton increased, with a diminished demand. On Wednesday and Thursday, qualities below good middling declined 1/4 and better qualities were difficult of sale. The decline for the week in better descriptions is 1-16d, and lower qualities are almost nominal at 1/4 a 1/4 decline. The sales of the week are 36,850 bales, of which speculators took 6,300, and exporters 3,110 bales.

Breadstuffs.—McLenny's Circular says the market closed with a more hopeful feeling, though without any improvement in prices. There were buyers anxious to purchase flour at 5s. 9d. to hold over on speculation; but no sales had taken place at less than 19s. 6d. for western canal, Philadelphia and Baltimore, and 20s. for Ohio. Fresh arrivals of wheat pressed on sale at 5s. 9d. a 6s. White corn sells at 31s., and yellow at 28s. 6d.

Gardner's Circular, on the contrary, says that the tendency in breadstuffs is still downward. Wheat has declined 2d. a 3d. and flour 1s.

Pork was unchanged. New beef was much wanted; old sells readily at advanced rates. Lard dull; quotations nominal. The stock of cheese is exhausted. Tallow quiet. Bacon is in fair demand at full rates. Shoulders sell freely at steady rates. Hams are neglected. Butter unchanged.

The Manchester market had experienced the same depression as the Liverpool cotton market. Goods generally were dull, and buyers offering lower terms.

### LATER FROM BUENOS AYRES.

Defeat and Flight of Rosas.—The New York Courier has received reports of the 10th of February, which announce the defeat of Rosas by the allied forces of Brazil and the revolted provinces of the confederation. Urquiza had taken up his quarters at Palermo, the country seat of Rosas. The combat was bloody, resulting in a loss on both sides of 4,000 lives. The date and place of the battle are not given. Rosas and his daughter had taken refuge on board an English steamer. The news reached Rio just as the steamer for Pernambuco, which brought this intelligence, left that port.