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NOTES OF THE FARM.

By W. F. MASSEY, of A. & M. College.

There is no one thing that we hear... repeated than "my poor land" as an excuse for not... that they are planting... crop. Why is it poor?

There are thousands of acres of land all over the Piedmont section of North Carolina which are capable of making just as large, if not larger, crops of wheat than this Maryland county, and where the land is far better adapted to clover, peas and grass than there, for the section of which I write is more like Eastern North Carolina in soil than it is our true wheat section, climate of course making some difference, for there are few parts of Eastern North Carolina where wheat could be so well grown.

The area planted in corn is in excess of that harvested last year in nearly all the corn-growing States, and this is so in the Southern States, and especially in Georgia. The condition on the 1st of July in the South was better than at the same date last year, and nearly equal to the best of the year.

German or crimson clover should be seeded at intervals all through the month. We do not advise that this crop should all be sown at one time, as it is so liable to be killed by drouth or a few days of very hot weather when just starting into growth.

Total Bank Clearings. New York, August 2.—The total bank clearings at the principal cities of the United States for the week ended August 2nd were \$1,228,463,563, a decrease as compared with the corresponding week of last year of 16.8 per cent. Outside of New York city the total clearings were \$571,890,674, decrease of 2.5 per cent.

WORK OF THE MONTH.

(The Southern Planter.)

With the thermometer standing at 95 degrees on the street and between 80 and 90 in the open field, it seems almost like an act of cruelty to sit down and deliberately lay out a course of work to be pursued on the farm. The only work any man ought to be required to do at this season of the year ought to be to rest and recuperate from the effects of one of the most trying months we have ever experienced.

The land should be got ready for sowing winter oats as soon as it will plow. To succeed with this crop, it should be seeded in September, so that a good growth may be made before the winter frosts come on. If the land be well covered with the oat plants, the frosts will be largely kept out, and winter killing be much prevented. The oat crop is at best an uncertain one in the South, as it is essentially a cold climate crop, but it is desirable to grow it, as the grain and straw are both very valuable for stock feed.

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may be used in liberal quantity when preparing the land, which should be made as fine as possible before sowing the crop. Turnips may be sown in rows which is the best way to secure a large crop or broadcast. If sown broadcast, German clover may be seeded with the crop, and the best turnips be pulled out, leaving the clover and the small turnips for winter and spring grazing.

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Bill Arp's Letter.

He Sees the Spot Where His Father Taught School. An Interesting Fight.

It is good for a man to travel and study geography without a book. I am down here in the wiregrass talking to the people living along the line from Cordele to Savannah. This is a new road to me. It is only ten years old and is called the "SAM" road. The Seaboard has got it now. Sam has bought Sam and is running him. If railroads have sex the feminine is ahead. Some mighty big things are feminine. Ships are called she, but that they say is because the rigging costs more than the hull.

An old man showed me the spot at Mt. Vernon where the old log school-house stood in which my father taught school some eighty years ago. Father used to tell us his varied experience there. How some bad boys had run three teachers off in succession and broke up the school, and how reluctantly he undertook the work of reforming them. He had about sixty scholars, boys and girls, and their ages ranged from eight to eighteen years. The oldest boy was six feet tall, a sapling with long arms and legs, a red head and a freckled face. He was the ringleader in running the teachers off and father was cautioned about him. The first day he made them a good kind, friendly talk, told them he came to do them good, to teach them books and morals and manners, and he wanted them to obey the rules and help him to make the school a success. "You can't afford," he said, "to grow up without some education. No nice young man would marry the girls, and no smart girl would marry an uneducated boy. Now, boys, when you come into school after dinner I want you to come in good order. Don't rush and crowd the doorway like you did this morning. You ran over a little girl and threw her down and hurt her. Be quiet and orderly and come in two or three at a time, and before you take your seat make a little bow to me. That's nice; that's good manners. I will like that and I want all of you boys and girls to do that. Will you do it? If you will please hold up your hands." All hands went up promptly except those of Bill Jenkins, the red-headed rebel. Next morning he declined to make a bow, but looked sour and defiant. When school turned out that evening, father heard him say: "I'll be damned if I'll make a bow to any Yankee." Next morning two other big boys failed to bow. Bill Jenkins had worked on them. That evening father told Bill to stay in a little while, as he wished to see him after school broke up. He stayed and the door was shut. The other boys peeped through the cracks, between the logs to see and to hear what was going on. Father talked to Jenkins kindly and told him of the bad example he was setting and so forth, and begged him to conform to the rules. "Now," said he, "William, will you promise to make a bow to me tomorrow morning?" "No, I'll be damned if I do," said Jenkins. That settled it. The crisis that father had dreaded had come. He got between Jenkins and the door and said firmly: "Well, sir, you have got to do one of three things. You have got to bow, or you have got to take a whipping. Which will you do?" "I'll be damned if I'll do any one," said Bill. Father's history was within his reach between two logs. He seized it and began on Jenkins with stinging strokes and Jenkins made for him with his long arms and used cuss words abundantly. They fought like wild cats, turned over benches, broke the water bucket, and for ten minutes the confederacy reared, for father was stout and was in the right and kept the history going and landed off the strokes of Bill's school, or take a whipping. After a while they clinched and father got him down between two punchen seats and pummelled him good. He held on enough and to let him up, and after they got their breath father said: "Now, Jenkins, what will you do." He blubbered out: "I'm gwine home and stay there. I'll be damned if I'm gwine to school to you any more." "Well, why didn't you say that at first and save the whipping?" said father. All this time there were a hundred eyes peeping through the cracks between the logs, but not a word was said. Jenkins never came back and the crisis was over. From that time on for two years there was a good, orderly school and my father's reputation was made. The Yankee had whipped Bill Jenkins and that settled him in the favor of his patrons.

I will visit everybody could visit the little village of Longwood. It is in the country, eight miles from Mt. Vernon, and eight miles from a railroad. I never was in a better settlement of farming people. I spoke there in the day time and those country people came from far and near and spread before us the finest picnic dinner I ever saw. It is a Scotch settlement, and their fathers and grandfathers all came from Robeson county, in North Carolina. At least three-fourths of the names begin with the prefix of Mc. I made a memorandum of the many Mes I was introduced to—all different—such as McArthur, McRae, McAlister, McLung, McNair, McLaurin, McLemore, McGuffie, McDuff-

McConnell, McDonald, McDaniel and so forth. These were thirty-seven of them and many of these had sons and brothers and kindred of the same name, and so it was Mc something everywhere. If a man's name begins with Mc in that region it is a guarantee of good stock. It is a fine farming region and three people are almost all farmers. I never saw finer corn and cotton in upper Georgia. The women are goodly dressed and were good looking, good size and healthy. They could handle their skirts as gracefully as a city lady and as my old friend Bill Jenney used to say, "Major, these women are well coupled and stand up square on their pasteur joints." Jenney had dealt in horses for fifty years and talked horse-talk about women and everything else. He was a genuine David Harum. I have most pleasing recollections of Longwood and its people.

My next call was at Hagan-Claston, a double town only three miles apart, but whose people work in harmony and have a very fine high school and school building called the Hagan-Claston Institute, that is just midway between them and is sustained by both. The teachers' convention was in session there—about a hundred teachers—from Tattall and other counties—and I say truthfully I never looked upon a more thoughtful, intelligent and earnest body of teachers, both men and women. My request, I made some fatherly remarks to them and then had to stand up and receive a hearty handshake from every one. That night I gave my lecture "Behind the Scenes," in the beautiful large hall, where 450 good people from the twin towns and adjacent country gathered. How easy it is for a lecturer or a preacher to please and magnetize a large audience when they are packed close together. The standard of teaching is rising higher in this region. The county school commissioners are good scholars, graduates of our colleges, and they are conducting their examinations. Nineteen applicants were rejected recently in our county. This is an interesting region and farming is easy and prosperous. The long staple cotton is grown here. I did not know until now that the bloom was first yellow—a bright canopy—and then turned red. The seed are black and are rolled out instead of being ginned out. It is harder to pick this cotton from the bolls and seventy-five pounds is a good day's work. It is now 20 cents a pound. Sugar cane abounds here and is the most luxuriant crop I know of. But it is the turpentine and lumber business that secures money so freely in all this region. I visited the Perkins mill. They are up to date in all respects and cut and bludge and dress 75,000 feet in a day, and give employment to several hundred hands. Pine lands are now bringing \$8 to \$10 an acre for the timber and the owner keeps the land after the pines are cut away. It is right sad to see all these beautiful forests passing away, but this is destiny. While sojourning here I was the guest of Judge Williams. I felt very much at home, for his lovely wife and twelve children adorn the large, inviting home. These children are from two to twenty years and are well behaved, obedient and kept their faces clean. The two younger ones began to call me grandpa as soon as I arrived. Beautiful fruit abounds and I get as much of it as I wish and it keeps the in good health.

Yesterday I visited McIne-Helena, the twin city. McIne is the boy and Helena the girl, and they get along in harmony like Winston-Salem, in North Carolina. There is but one college and one of the newspapers is "The Twin City News," published by two of these same Scotchmen—McIntosh and McIne. This is a new, live and progressive town, adorned with pleasant houses and cultured people. It is high, dry and greatly rolling, and quite a resort for sick and tired people. I forgot to mention that Hagan-Claston, the other twin towns, have no corporation and don't want any. No mayor or aldermen, no marshaled or police. It is like Pelzer, in South Carolina. Judge Williams said "Why should the good people of a town require these officials any more than the good people in the country. If they believe they are not needed and they do believe here, I've been living here six years and have not yet heard of a fight or even a quarrel, and if a blind tiger or one that wasn't blind should come here we would strap him over a log and run him off in two hours." The Scotch blooded stock has civilized all over this region and made laws for themselves when necessary. I met Rev. Mr. Walker, of McIne-Helena, today and he told me he had twenty-seven McInes in his church brook and half the other names began with Mc.

Tattall county was named for Josiah Tattall, who was governor just one hundred years ago. His son, Josiah, was in the United States navy and commanded the Grampus, a man of war, in 1858, while England was fighting China. Tattall was ordered there to watch and protect American

(Continued on Sixth Page.)

Hester's Cotton Statement.

(By the Associated Press.)

New Orleans, August 3.—Secretary Hester's statement of the world's visible supply of cotton shows the total visible supply of cotton to be 1,392,274, against 1,412,675 bales last week, 2,587,621 bales for the year. Of this the total of American cotton is 828,231 bales, against 814,675 bales last week and 2,241,621 bales last year and all other kinds including Egypt, Brazil, India, etc., 522,000, against 522,000 bales last week and 746,000 bales last year.

Of the world's visible supply as above there is now on foot and held in Great Britain and Continental Europe 824,000 bales, against 1,358,000 bales last year; Egypt 67,000 bales, against 67,000 bales; in India 288,000 bales, against 422,000 bales; and in the United States 173,000 bales, against 552,000 bales.

\$200,000 COTTON MILL FOR LENOIR.

Mr. Geo. B. Hiss Will be President and J. M. Rhodes Vice-President.

(Special to News and Observer.)

Charlotte, N. C., July 28.—Mr. Geo. B. Hiss, secretary of the Southern Cotton Spinners' Association, today makes the announcement that a \$200,000 cotton mill is to be built on Catawba river, ten miles south of Lenoir, N. C. J. M. Rhodes, and C. J. Rhodes, of Cherryville, N. C., are also interested in this new enterprise. Sixty thousand dollars has already been subscribed. When the organization is completed Mr. Hiss will be president, J. M. Rhodes vice-president, C. J. Rhodes secretary and treasurer.

Humbert's Funeral Set For the 9th

Rome, August 4.—The date of King Humbert's funeral has been definitely fixed for Thursday next, August 9th.