

Gazette of the United States.

No. IV.

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ORIGINAL.

SKETCH of the POLITICAL STATE of AMERICA.

WHEN a writer ventures to expose his sentiments to the public eye, upon subjects which are not in their nature of local or partial import, but in which the interest of the great whole is involved, he not only avoids the force of invective and party spleen, but is happy in reflecting that the good of the public forms the main object of his pursuit, and feels himself entitled to candour, though he may have no just claim to applause.

At this all important moment, when America, from a state verging upon anarchy and confusion, can boast the possession of a government, adequate to every purpose of society—a government, not the offspring of violence, but the effect of calm and mature deliberation—and established upon the good sense of the community.—It may not be amiss to contemplate those principles and causes which led to this surprising revolution—and turn the mind to a view of those great national objects, which must form the basis of her future greatness.

So various and complicated are the causes, and so intricate those springs which naturally tend to effect the public mind, and produce revolutions in the political situation of a people, it may be found necessary to revert to that period, when we first dared an opposition to the power of Great-Britain: Which, while it affords a train of incidents, with their corresponding effects, in succession, at the same time forms an apology for America in not having sooner agreed to those general regulations, which would have enabled her more fully and substantially to have realized those blessings, which the attainment of her Independence naturally presented. I shall not however attempt a review of those principles which first gave rise to the late contest with Great-Britain, and finally produced our separation—as they have been repeatedly stated, and accurately defined by men of abilities much superior to mine in such a disquisition—and who have been constant actors through the whole great scene: Of principles, the effects of which have been felt in their full force by every virtuous inhabitant of America, and led to exertions unparalleled in history: Suffice it to say, that after suffering every insult and injury which tyranny and despotism could alone invent, America, in that ever memorable epoch, the 4th of July, 1786, found it necessary, with a solemn appeal to Heaven for the propriety of her conduct and the justice of her cause, to renounce all allegiance to, and dissolve all political connection with that parent country, whose tender mercies were cruelties, and surrounding nations at once subscribed to her plea of justification, which was founded on that universal political maxim, that as protection and allegiance are reciprocal, when a government ceases to afford the one, it becomes the indispensable duty of the people governed, to renounce the other.—In addition to this cause of their dissent, we can also attribute a growing jealousy among the nations of Europe of the power of Great-Britain, while holding such extensive territory in this Western world, which her insolent behaviour, on every occasion, served not a little to confirm.

A native spirit of liberty, and love of freedom, supported by a sense of common danger, gave union to the councils of America, and success to her arms. During the contest, and after an arduous conflict of ten years, the haughty pride of Britain was caused to bow at the shrine of Justice, and these States, early in the year 1783, were recognized by her as free, sovereign and independent.

AMERICANUS.

(To be continued.)

AGRICULTURE.

Mr. FERRO,

AS many people in this State as well as other parts of the Union, are preparing land for the growing of Hemp the ensuing season; you will please to republish Mr. READ's (of Massachusetts) useful observations on the culture of that article.

Your's,

A. B.

The PROGRESS of raising HEMP, and fitting it for USE, communicated to the committee of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences for promoting Agriculture by John Read, Esq. of Roxbury, and published at their request.

THE soil I chuse for raising Hemp, is a light rich mould, as free from stone, gravel and clay as possible; care is taken to have the soil thoroughly manured, and once ploughed in the fall of the year, if other business will admit; in the spring it is ploughed two or three times more, and as often harrowed with an iron toothed harrow, in order to separate the particles of earth, and leave them as light as possible; then a light

brush harrow is drawn by one horse over the ground, by which means it is levelled so as to receive the seed equally, after which it is marked out for sowing in the same manner that barley and oats are generally sown, calculating (if the soil is very good) at three bushels to an acre, if but middling good, at two and an half bushels to an acre. The seed is always harrowed in immediately after sowing, with a fine iron toothed harrow, and nothing is suffered to pass over it afterwards, lest by treading or otherways it might be injured.

The seed must be of the last year's growth, and will be benefited by lying in the cellar a few weeks previous to its being sown. In general I sow my seed about the middle of May (being governed by the season) a little sooner or later will do; my hemp is commonly fit to pull by the 8th or 10th of August, which is known by the male hemp turning whitish just at the time when the farina passes off; this is easily discovered by its smoking when agitated by the wind or jarred with a stick.

When the hemp is pulled, it is spread on the ground where it grew, about an inch thick, and what that will not receive is carried off to other ground, and after laying two or three days turned with a pole about six feet long; then receiving one or two days more sun, it is bound into bundles of about 15 or 18 inches in circumference, and immediately housed from wet until convenient time offers to put it into water for rotting, which is done as soon as other business will admit. There being a small stream of water that runs through my farm, I have erected a dam which enables me to flow a pond about five or six feet high, wherein the hemp is laid (much in the same manner that flax is laid for rotting) and after covering it with straw to keep it clean, the plank and stones being placed thereon, the dam gate is shut down, and the hemp being over flowed, remains until it is properly rotted, which is done in six or seven days, if put in as soon as the latter end of August or beginning of September, the weather being generally warm at that season of the year; if put into water the latter end of September, or the beginning of October, I have let it lay twelve days; if the latter end of October or beginning of November, twenty days, unless the weather has been uncommonly warm for the season, in that case I have found it necessary to be removed sooner, but have made it a point of attending to the heat or cold of the weather, as when the water is warm, the hemp will get a proper rot much sooner than when it is otherwise.

My practice has been to draw the water from the hemp 24 hours before the taking it up, leaving the weight thereon in order that it may be well drained, as in that case it is much better handled: Then it is removed to a dry piece of ground and spread about two inches thick, and after remaining a week or ten days in that situation is turned, and in eight or ten days after, it is taken up, tied in bundles and removed into the barn, where it remains until I have leisure time to break and swing it out; when barn room cannot be spared I have placed it up against a rail fence, running the top ends between the two uppermost rails, letting it remain there until proper time for breaking; for which purpose I have always found clear cold weather to be the best.

My hemp is broke and swingled much in the same manner that flax is done, excepting that the first breaking is done in a course break, the teeth or flats being nearly four inches apart, then a common flax break answers well, and being carefully swingled is fit for use.

My practice for raising seed hath been to set apart in the field some of my best grown hemp for that purpose, pulling up the male and female hemp for about 18 inches in width, so that a man may pass through; leaving the other in beds about six feet in width, in order that two men, (one on each side) may reach in their hands and pull up all the male, without injuring the seed bearing hemp.

This process is performed when the general pulling is done in August; the female hemp must stand until the seed is fully ripe, which is known by its turning brown; in wet weather I have been obliged to let it stand until the middle of October before it was fit to pull; after which it must be tied in bundles like other hemp, and carefully fet up against a fence to dry, or in that is not convenient it may be laid on the ground, and after one or two days sun, beat out in the same manner that flax seed is beat out, striking lightly; then expose the other side to the sun one or two days, after which give it a thorough beating and spread the seed with all the leaves, &c. in a dry place for some days, then thresh it with a light flail or rub it by hand, either way until the seed is all out, and

NOTE.

* It is to be observed that a muddy bottom will require straw previous to the hemp being laid thereon.

after winnowing but it into a dry place for sowing the next year.

The seed bearing hemp, requires a few days longer to rot than the other, owing to the thickness of the bark or hurle, and the greater quantity of glutinous substance occasioned by its long standing.

I have always preferred old manure to new, more especially in horse or cow dung, but new will do, and it is much the better to have it ploughed in, in the fall.

With respect to the quantity of hemp, raised on an acre of ground, it varies from six to twelve hundred weight, much depending on the quality of the soil and the manner of preparing it.

The expense of cultivating, &c. an acre of hemp, is not at present in my power to ascertain, great part of the business being done at leisure, and when the time could best be spared; I would just observe, that I can raise two or three acres yearly on my small farm, without interfering much with my other business.

The present price of hemp, together with the bounty by the State, to encourage the culture of this useful plant, amounts to about 220 dollars per ton, which bid fair to establish its growth here, and I am fully satisfied, from my own experience, that at the present day no branch of agriculture (where land is found suitable) can be carried on to so great advantage as that of raising hemp, and I have no doubt that our farmers will soon be convinced of the truth of this observation. It having been found by experience, both in Europe and America, that hemp may be grown on the same ground for twenty or thirty years in succession, without lessening the crop or enervating the soil; this also will have its weight.

The last year I tried the experiment of raising hemp on a piece of diked marsh, the salt water having been kept off better than one year; after being ditched, I had a small part near the upland carefully dug and manured with old dung mixed with sand, the hemp grew to full height, and proved to be of the best kind; this encouragement has occasioned my preparing a larger piece for further trial the next season, when I mean to make several experiments on the cultivation and clearing of hemp, and if any advantage shall accrue therefrom, I shall do myself the honor of communicating it to the committee as early as possible.

NOTE.

+ A man that understands the breaking and swingling hemp well, will clean from 40 to 50 wt. per day.

NEW-YORK.

PROCEEDINGS of CONGRESS.

In the HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES of the UNITED STATES.

SKETCH of the DEBATES upon the ARTICLE of TONNAGE.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 1789.

THE proposed duty of 6 cents, pr. ton, on vessels built in the United States, and belonging to the citizens thereof, was objected to by several members: It was urged, that it would tend to the discouraging ship building; that it was like taxing the implements of husbandry, and was an improper article of taxation. To these objections, it was replied, that the design of this tax was not for the purpose of revenue; but to defray the expenses of light-houses, and incidental charges of commerce; erecting hospitals for disabled seamen, &c. for which purposes, a tax of the kind now proposed was the most convenient and natural revenue.

Upon the paragraph which related to vessels owned by the subjects of foreign powers in alliance with the United States—many observations occurred upon Mr. Goodhue's proposing a duty of sixty cents per ton. This tonnage, the gentleman observed, according to a calculation he had made, would amount to about five per cent. on the freight of vessels of 200 tons.

Mr. BODINOT proposed thirty cents per ton.

Mr. GOODHUE observed, that the duty on foreign ships was rendered necessary, in consequence of the heavy burthens American bottoms were liable to in foreign ports—that therefore, the duty to be laid, ought to bear some proportion to those impositions. Thirty cents, he conceived, would not establish the preference, in favor of our own shipping.

Mr. LAWRENCE was opposed to sixty cents, as much too high; considering the present state of our shipping, which the gentleman said, was insufficient for the exportation of our produce; this would be found so heavy a duty, as to discourage the shipments of our produce; which it was well known would not bear a duty in foreign markets; it would operate as a tax on ourselves; for freight in foreign vessels would be enhanced to an intolerable degree; which would embarrass, or prevent exportations, to the discouragement of agriculture and industry of every kind. Mr. Lawrence concluded, by seconding the motion for thirty cents.

Mr. HARTLEY proposed 33 1/3 cents.

Mr. GOODHUE said, that he was against a duty that would be so high, as to operate to the discouragement of exporting our own produce; but he thought, that five per cent. was as little as could be mentioned, to give American vessels proper encouragement.

Mr. FITZSIMONS observed, that it had been the policy of maritime, and commercial nations, to encourage their own shipping; and to give it, if possible, a decided superiority, over that of their neighbors and rivals.—Hence the propriety of our giving our own navigation peculiar advantage; and there was no doubt but in time, our own ships might and would carry our own produce to market, at a lower freight, than any foreigners could—for many obvious reasons: But in the present scarcity of vessels, he did not conceive it good policy, to discourage foreigners from coming to our ports. The shipping at present employed in transporting the produce of the United States to market, was two thirds foreign property.—It would require time to bring our shipping upon a par with foreign shipping; but a decided preference to American bottoms, would induce the merchants to increase the amount of their capitals, in