

# THE SOUTHERN AGRICULTURIST.

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No. 2.

For the Southern Agriculturist.

AGAINST PACKING SEA-ISLAND COTTON IN SQUARE BALES.

St. Helena, Dec. 15th, 1843.

To the Editor of the *So. Agriculturist*,

DEAR SIR,—I have been directed by a resolution of the St. Helena Agricultural Society, to send you the enclosed *Report* for publication; which was elicited by a communication from the St. Luke's Agricultural Society, referring them to a Report of theirs which had appeared in your Journal some time before,\* setting forth *the advantages of packing Sea-Island Cotton in square bales*; and begging an expression of opinion upon in the subject. This they have done in the following Report, which you will please publish as soon as possible.

Your ob't. serv't.

DANIEL JENKINS, *Secretary*.

The Committee to whom was referred the report and resolutions of the *St. Luke's Agricultural Society*, respecting the packing of Sea-Island Cotton in square bales, with the screw press, beg leave respectively to REPORT.

That they have given the subject the most deliberate attention, and after obtaining all the information in their reach, have come to the conclusion that the mode now in use is preferable. In order to illustrate their views more fully, they would first present the manner of preparing Sea-Island Cotton for the bag, as practiced by our most experienced planters. The cotton being ginned out it is placed in the hands of moter's for the purpose of cleaning it thoroughly before it is packed; and it is very well known that

\*See Southern Agriculturist, Vol. for 1842, p. 514.

a very heavy rain, which covered the seed so deep and baked the ground upon them, that not more than half a stand got up, and even with the two replantings which I gave it, I got but two thousand two hundred and sixteen stalks on the best acre. I do not think that the ground averaged more than two thousand stalks to the acre. The first planting was not earlier than the tenth of April, and the replantings much later. I gathered, however, 1444 pounds of cotton to the acre. I am satisfied with the result, and shall adopt into my practice of planting more space—but I think that four feet would have been quite sufficient on my ground the wide way. The ground had been cleared four years, and cultivated four. The growth was beech, white and red oak, poplar, sweet gum, and cane above the size of sweet cane, but not so large as the great cane of our brakes generally.

I would not recommend a reduction of the space the narrow way on such a soil as I used, because that space is not more than is required to admit a proper ventilation by wind and light—a matter of great importance in growing cotton. Then I come to this conclusion: that the space should be apportioned to the ground or to the length of the limbs the stalks shoot out. I consult the length of the limbs rather than the roots. My reasons for this I will give you at a more convenient season. The result of my observations upon that cotton are these: I think it grows faster, I mean in the production of fruit. It grows a much more substantial stalk. It grows a great many more limbs, and the limbs are more equally distributed around the stalk—that is, they are not fan-shaped as they are in crowded situations. It is less affected by drought or wet-weather, as is usually indicated by a loss of squares or forms. The bolls are larger and blow open much more freely, and of course the picking is much better; and though I am not perhaps a good judge, I think the staple better—both finer and longer.

I do not wish to be understood by my remarks above, as opposed to manuring land. Far from it; but most of us must arrive at that object gradually, even slowly; but it can be done surely successfully by profitable crops at the same time too. For fear of wasting all the patience of all the parties concerned in your paper, I will take my leave by wishing you every success.

Dec. 31st, 1843.

A PLOUGHMAN.

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Communicated for the Southern Agriculturist.

INTRODUCTION OF MUSKMELLON AND OTHER SEEDS FROM ASIA.

*Smyrna, Asia Minor, Oct. 28th, 1843.*

Dr. JOSEPH JOHNSON:—

*My Dear Sir,*—I send by a passenger in the vessel which takes this, a small parcel for you, to the care of my father, which con-

tains some more seeds of the Cassaba muskmelon, (of which I sent you some a few years ago,) and also seeds of several varieties of the celebrated Cypress tree of this country. The package marked *No. 3*, I believe, however, will be found to be seeds of a kind of Cypress known in America.

I enclose you also directions for planting which, as well as the seeds themselves I obtained from my friends the Messrs. Van Sennep of Smyrna, descendants of a very old respectable family of this city, who are now making the experiment of cultivating a farm a few miles in the interior upon the European plan.

I hope these seeds, particularly those of the Cypress, may take in our soil, as I cannot think of a more valuable present of the kind which I could make to my native Carolina. After four or five years they will need to be transplanted, and as this must be done in a particular manner, I will let you have directions on the subject at another time.

You were kind enough some years ago to send me some live-oak acorns, &c., which did not succeed, because I then knew no one to whom to commit them. But the Messrs. Van Sennep are the very persons to make the experiment—and they will be very thankful for any favors from you in this line—and I shall be most happy to be the medium of bestowing through you, and through them, such great benefits on both Turkey and Carolina, as might arise from interchange of their respective productions.

I name as among the seeds we should like to receive from you in addition to the *acorn* above mentioned, the following, viz:—

The magnolia.

The hickory.

The pine.

The sugar maple.

The ground-nut.

The sea-island cotton.

The sweet potato, white and yellow.

The tannier.

This last I am not sure that I spell correctly, I refer to a root I have eaten on John's Island, of the size of the Irish potato, or rather of the turnip, white and sweet, and rather dry.

We shall need of course directions for the proper cultivation of any of these seeds which you may be able to send. I do not

know whether the magnolia is propagated from the seed—nor whether you can get the sugar maple—but I thought it best to put them on the list with the others.

As for the sweet potato, I fear we never shall get it safe across the Atlantic. I know it is to be had in France and Spain, but I think not our fine large yellow potato. Could it not be propagated from the seed?

I would like to compare the rice of Carolina with that found here, and would thank you to enclose with the other seeds a little specimen in the rough, and also a little cleaned, of the best quality—and tell me what is the price of the same in Charleston.

I forgot to put on the list on my other page the watermelon. Those we have here are far inferior to the watermelon of our country.

I have had some of our *flint corn* planted at the Van Sennep farm, and it has done remarkably well—and astonishes the Turks very much by its great height and fullness, and the whiteness of the grain. The corn of this country grows generally not higher than a man's knee. All the neighbors of Messrs. Van Sennep are begging for the seed of this Carolina corn. Please to send me a little of the *yellow corn*, the *gourd-seed*.

I was told, perhaps by yourself, that at *New Smyrna, the Turnbull settlement*, there are plenty of olive trees, but wild and fruitless. They say here that if you should graft them one upon the other alternately, or rather interchangeably many times, you would gradually get them to bearing. I know not how true this may be—but every olive tree in Turkey is fruitless until it is grafted.

If I find that you take as much interest as ever in these matters, I shall endeavor to procure and send you a few young olive trees, already engrafted from the bearing olive, and planted in tubs. I should hope they might go safe in the summer season, by the hand of some friendly Captain or passenger. Will you name any thing you would like to have sent from this country.

I am, my dear sir,

Very respectfully, yours,

J. B. ADGER.

DIRECTIONS FOR PLANTING.

*Melon Seeds.*—The best soil for the muskmelon is a very rich soil, such a soil for example as a drained marsh offers, or in fact

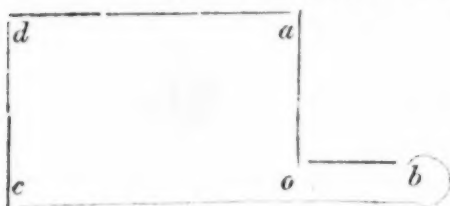
any which has been naturally manured with organic remains and water; but not water in a running state as a brook, for then its formation is sand, which is very prejudicial. In order to aid nature when no rich soil is found, the melon seeds should lay in water well mixed with manure, and that for the space of eight or nine hours, and planted immediately after. This last process agrees very well in a soil of a *calcareous* nature, and does not injure the seed, even when after this it is planted in a rich soil, such as at first described. Always whenever and wherever planted, the seeds should be well washed and separated the one from the other, and immediately planted, this should be done in about two or three inches from the surface of the ground.

*Cypress Seeds*.—No. 1, are seeds from the large cypress trees which grow in the burying grounds.

No. 2, are seeds from another kind called female cypress, but of a dark color, and grow large, almost as large as the common cypress.

No. 3, seeds from the real female cypress, or the kind which is always planted in parterres and gardens, which never reaches a high size, and is of a light green.

These seeds should be all planted in beds, the soil should be light and calcareous, not manured (or else it will not succeed) any how, the seed should be watered in a peculiar manner, the water should not be poured from the top as rain, but at the side. The annexed rough drawing explains my meaning.



## EXPLANATIONS.

*a o c d* bed in which the seeds should be planted.

*b* place in which the water must be poured.

The seed should be sowed in the same manner as wheat or barley, with the hand in a loose manner, and very slightly covered with soil.