AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES
OF GEORGIA

ADDRESS
BEFORE THE
Cotton Planters Convention of Georgia
AT MACON,
DECEMBER 13, 1860

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pleasant and profitable materials of reflection to Agriculturists of the present day.

Francis Moore, in the year 1735, two years after the first settlement of Georgia, and one hundred and twenty-five years ago, thus describes the garden established near Savannah by the Trustees, for the use of the first settlers of Georgia, and the development and encouragement of a scientific system of agriculture:

There is near the town, (Savannah) to the east, a garden, belonging to the Trustees, consisting of ten acres; the situation is delightful—one half of it is upon the top of a hill, the foot of which the river Savannah washes, and from it you see the woody islands in the sea. The remainder of the garden is the side, and some plain low ground at the foot of the hill, where several fine springs break out. In the garden is variety of soils; the top is sandy and dry, the sides of the hill are clay, and the bottom is a black rich garden mould, well watered. On the north part of the garden is left standing a grove of a part of the old wood, as it was before the arrival of the Colony there. The trees in the garden are mostly Bay, Sassafras, Evergreen Oak, Pollitory, Hickory, American Ash and Laurel Tulip.

"The garden is laid out with cross-walks planted with orange trees, but the last winter, a good deal of snow having fallen, thus describes the garden established near Savannah by the Trustees, for the use of the first settlers of Georgia, and the development and encouragement of a scientific system of agriculture:

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"The garden is laid out with cross-walks planted with orange trees, but the last winter, a good deal of snow having fallen, had killed those upon the top of the hill, down to their roots; but they being cut down sprouted again, as I saw when I returned to Savannah.

"In the squares between the walks were vast quantities of Mulberry trees, this being a Nursery for all the Province, and every planter that desires it, has young trees given him gratis from the Nursery. These white Mulberry trees were planted in order to raise silk, for which purpose several Italians were brought, at the expense of the Trustees, from Piedmont, by Mr. Anatis; they have fed worms, and wound silk to so great perfection as any that ever came out of Italy. But the Italians falling out, one of them stole away the machines for winding, broke the coppers, and spoiled all the eggs, which he could not steal, and fled to South Carolina. The others who continued faithful, had saved but a few eggs when Mr. Ogilthorpe arrived, therefore he forbade any silk should be wound, but that all the worms should be suffered to eat through their bolls, in order to have more eggs against next year. The Italian women were obliged to take English girls apprentices, whom they teach to wind and feed; and the men have taught our English gardeners to tend the Mulberry trees, and our journeymen have learned to make the machines for winding.

"Besides the Mulberry tree, there are in some quarters in the coldest part of the garden, all kinds of fruit trees usual in England, such as apples, pears, &c.

"In another quarter are olives, figs, vines,
pomegranites and such fruits as are natural to the
warmest parts of Europe.

At the bottom of the hill, well sheltered from the
wind and in the warmest part of the
garden, there was a collection of West Indian plants
and trees, some coffee, some cocoa-nuts, cotton,
Palma-christi, and several West Indian physical
plants, some sent up by Mr. Evelyn, a public
spirited merchant at Charleston, and some by
Dr. Houston, from the Spanish West Indies,
where he was sent at the expense of a collection
raised by that curious Physician Sir Hans Sloane,
for to collect and send them to Georgia, where the
climate was capable of making a garden which
might contain all kinds of plants; to which design
his Grace the Duke of Richmond, the Earl of Der­
by, the Lord Peters, and the Apothecary's Com­
pany contributed very generously, as did Sir
Hans himself.

"These quarrels amongst the Italians proved
fatal to most of these plants, and they were labor­
ing to repair that loss when I was there. Mr.
Miller being employed in the room of Dr. Hous­
ton, who died in Jamaica, would have written
an account of his having obtained the plant from
whence the the Eulamum Cupivi is drawn; and
that he was in hopes of getting that from whence
the Jesuits had taken, he designing for that
purpose to send to the Spanish West Indies.
"There is a plant of Bamboo Cane brought from
the East Indies and sent over by Mr. Towars,
which thrives well

There were also some Tea-creeks, which came from
China place; but the latter, though great
care was taken, did not grow.

A voyage to Georgia begun in the year 1753,
&c., by Francis Moore—London 1744.

From these statements of Francis Moore, we
see that the founders of the colony of Georgia
were equal to, yea far ahead of the Agriculturists
of the present day, in their enlightened efforts to
introduce the most important products of all
countries, and to establish an enlightened system
of Agriculture in Georgia.

The founders of the colony of Georgia endeavor­
to introduce the cultivation of the great
staple of the South fifty years before its
successful cultivation; and within two years after
the foundation of the colony, these enlightened
Agriculturists had experimented with Tea and
Coffee and the Vine, which are only just now re­
ceiving attention at the hands of Southern Agri­
culturists.

It has been announced as our duty as well as
our privilege and honor, to consider upon the
present occasion the Agricultural resources of
Georgia.

In the brief space of time now at my command,
I can no more think of than the most
general views.

Georgia has been divided by the hand of na­
ture into three zones, with very distinct geologi­
cal, climatical, botanical and Agriculturist
features.

First, the lowest and what may be called the
tropical zone, commencing in a chain of islands
and rising by a very slow activity from the At­
lantic Ocean to an altitude of from 10 to 30 feet,
is bounded at the distance of 30 miles from the
Atlantic Ocean by another more elevated plain,
differing in the structure of its soil and in the
character of its vegetation.

In the first low plain, which may well be termed
the tropical zone, there are numerous swamps,
clothed with most luxuriant and imposing vege­
tation—tall cypress, the splendid magnolia
grandiflora, the majestic live oak with its mossy
boughs, the luxuriant sweet gum and tupulo, and
the impenetrable canebrakes, indicate not only
the fertility of the soil, but the warmth and mois­
ture of the climate.

These swamps discharge their waters into short,
deep, sluggish streams, and increasing in breadth
from their junction with the rivers and interlock­
ing with each other, form a chain across Georgia
and Carolina to the Neuse in North Carolina
and southward again along the Atlantic border into
Florida. The soil of the river bottoms and
swamps and marshes, consists of a rich deposit of
vegetable matter, mixed with varying proportions
of sand and clay, sometimes alternated with beds
of marl and sand: this clay deposit varies in
depth from 5 to 50 feet, and contains buried deep
beneath the surface supporting the present luxu­
riant growth, the stumps of pine, cedar, oak cy­
press, and other trees; and in some localities, as
upon Skiddaway Island and Hayner's Bridge, near
Savannah, and on the Brunswick Canal, between
the Altamaha and Turtile Rivers, bones of the me­
gerarium, a gigantic tooth, and of extinct vari­
ties of the horse, and other extinct animals simi­
lar to those found in the Pampas of South Ameri­
ca, an analogous formation along the borders of
the Atlantic Ocean.

The existence of these remains of ancient for­
ested, deeply buried beneath the present surface,
together with the bones of these extinct animals,
associated with sea shells identical with those
now inhabiting the Atlantic Ocean, prove conclu­sively that this portion of Georgia has been
but recently reclaimed from the sea, but has
been subjected to successive elevations and de­
pressions; and there are facts to show that the
sea coast of Georgia and South Carolina is now
slowly settling, and if this continues many rich
and valuable plantations will, in the process of
time, be covered by waters of the Atlantic.

This rich soil, formed from the washings of
Upper Georgia, brought down by numerous riv­
ers and deposited in a shallow sea with a level
bottom, is not only characterized by the tropical
aspect of the palmetto, Spanish bayonet, tall
feathery cypress, and glorious magnolia, but to
the agriculturist it is specially characterized as
the peculiar region for the successful culture
of rice and long staple cotton. Notwithstanding
the great and inexhaustible fertility of these in­
lands swamps, they are less cultivated now than
formerly, and the population of this region has
scarcely increased at all during the last sixty
years. We may, in these swamps, see every­
where the marks of former cultivation—old embankments covered with large trees, and the
enclosed lands which were once clothed with golden
rice, now support dense forests of cypress, tupulo
and gum; and the once deep and broad canals,
which were used by the ancients to drain these
swamps, are now covered with trees and choked
up with trunks and limbs of dead trees and ac­
cumulated sediment.

The sagacious American traveller, William
Bartram, thus describes the appearance of St.
John's Parish, now Liberty county, in the year
1778, two years before the Revolutionary war.
"Obedient to the admonitions of my attendant
spirit curiosity, as well as to gratify the expecta­
tions of my worthy patron, I again set off on my
Southern excursion, and left Sunbury in company
with several of its polite inhabitants who were
going to Medway meeting, a very large and well
constructed house of worship in St. John's Parish,
where I associated with them in religious exercise
and heard a very excellent sermon delivered by their pious and truly venerable pastor, the Rev. Osgood.

The respectable congregation is independent, and consists chiefly of families and proselytes to a flock, which this pious man led, about forty years ago, from South Carolina, and settled in this fruitful district. It is about nine miles from Sunbury to Medway Heath, in which stands on the high road, opposite the Sunbury road. As soon as the congregation broke up I resumed my journey, proceeding down the high road towards Fort Barrington on the Altamaha, passing through a level country, bordered by distinct groves of tall and spreading trees, among the magnolia, lilium amber, modeudron, and is generally bordered by tall and spreading branches of Medway and Newport Rivers, crousting from extensive swamps and marshes, their sources; these swamps are daily ceasing and increasing, and a part of the well inhabited and rich district of St. John's Parish.

The road is strait and spacious and kept in excellent repair by the industrious inhabitants, and is generally bordered by spreading trees as the magnolia, Liquidambar, Litiodendron, catapla and live oak, and on the edges of the canals where the road was casedwayed, stood the cyrus, betania and magnolia, all planted by nature and left standing by the wise inhabitants, to shade the road and perfume the sultry air.

The extensive plantations of corn now in early verdure, decorated here and there with groves of flowering and fragrant trees, and under the cover and protection of pyramidal banks and plumed palms, which now and then break through upon the sight: from both sides of the way we pass along; the eye at intervals stealing a view at a level country, bordered by great extensive swamps, or the rich valley of the happy proprietor, amastd tombstones and groves all day, and moonlight nights filled with the melody of the cheerful night-bird, warbling nonpareil, and plashing turtle dove, altogether present a view of magnificence and joy inexpresseably charming and amusing.

These statements of Bartman with reference to the extensive cultivation of rice in the early history of this section of Georgia are substantiated by facts which I have already alluded to and by the exports of Georgia at that period.

The great value of these rice lands, appears to have been most thoroughly understood by Gor. James Wright, who, with successful management and cultivation of the low lands and swamps of Georgia, not only acquired a large fortune, but also by his successful example promoted at once emulation and industry amongst the planters. In 1763, the exports of Georgia consisted of 75,000 barrels of rice, 2,650 lbs. of indigo, 1,550 bushels of Indian corn, which together with deer and beaver skins, naval stores, provisions, timber, &c., amounted to £11,421 sterling. In 1764, the exports from Georgia in 217 vessels, amounted to £121,677 sterling, and consisted in large measure of rice.

The introduction of cotton produced not only a manifest improvement in the cultivation of rice, but upon the Agriculture and political position and commercial relations of the State.

Previous to the year 1768, cotton was not cultivated in Georgia as an article of commerce; in this year, Richard Leake made an extensive and successful experiment with the low staple, and in 1789, John Milledge, Josiah Tanfall and a rice planter of Liberty county, Mr. Gignellius made successful and extensive experiments with cotton. The cultivation of cotton increased greatly, in 1790, 20,000 pounds of ginned cotton were brought to the Savannah market, and in the year 1796, 1,700,000 pounds were produced. This increased culture of cotton, excited by its greater certainty and greater profit, led the rice planters to abandon to a great extent, the less certain and less profitable cultivation of the inland swamps.

The great difficulty in the cultivation of these inland swamps, is the climate—no race but the African can ever stand the burning heat and fatal miasms of the Rice fields, and of the Cotton fields; and it is worthy of note that the first attempt to establish African slavery in Georgia originated in the State of Georgia as an artificer; in 1794, the exports from Georgia amounted to £121,077 sterling, and consisted of 177,021 sterling.

The great enemy of the white man in those regions is the climate—no white man can ever work, with impunity in this climate—no race but the African can ever stand the burning heat and fatal miasms of the Rice fields, and of the Cotton fields; and it is worthy of note that the first attempt to establish African slavery in Georgia, originated in the State of Georgia as an artificer; in 1794, the exports from Georgia amounted to £121,077 sterling, and consisted of 177,021 sterling.

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"None of all those who have planted their lands, have been able to raise sufficient produce to main-
tain their families in bread kind only, even though
as much application and industry have been ex-
terted to bring it about, as could be done by men
engaged in an affair, in which they believe the
welfare of themselves and posterity so much de-
pend, and which they imagine must require more
than ordinary pains to make it succeed; so that
by the accumulated expenses every year of provi-
sions, clothing, medicine, &c., for themselves,
families, and servants, several of them have ex-
changed all their money, may even run consider-
ably in debt, and so have been obliged, and have
left off planting, and making further improvements; and
those who continue are daily exhausting more
and more their money, and some daily increasing
their debts, without a possibility of being re-
imbursed, according to the present establish-
ment, which they imagine must require more
than ordinary pains to make it succeed; so that
by the accumulated expenses every year of provi-
sions, clothing, medicine, &c., for themselves,
families, and servants, several of them have ex-
}
in an ordinary application of these calcareous manures, we apply more phosphate of lime than is contained in a most liberal application of the very best phosphatic manures; and further, that the value of lime in agriculture has been established by the best and most reliable agriculturists from the days of the learned Pliny to the present time—in England the experience of agriculture has been the most superior of all good husbandry; the predictions of Baron Liebig as to the value of the fossil lime formations of the chalk and greensand of England and the chalk and greensand of Maryland, who has abandoned Marl for Commercial Phosphatic manures, are now returning to the Marl and abandoning Guanos; within the past week the distinguished Southern statesman and Agriculturist, Senator Hammond, of South Carolina, has renewed an attempt to decry the value of marls and guanos; the celebrated Chemist of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, Prof. Way, is now conducting an elaborate series of experiments upon the action of lime upon English soils, which demonstrates conclusively its great and absolute value in agriculture; Prof. Philip Tyson, of Maryland, in his report of the last year, affirms that the farmers of many portions of Maryland, who had abandoned Marl for Commercial Phosphatic manures, are now returning to the Marl and abandoning Guanos; within the past week the distinguished Southern statesman and Agriculturist, Senator Hammond, of South Carolina, has renewed an attempt to decry the value of marls and shell limestone of Georgia, and affirms his experience “that in a good crop year, marl judiciously applied, would increase the crop 100 per cent., in an ordinary year, 50 per cent.,” and in the number of Southern States, and in the number of Southern states and of the millions of acres, which is now issued, its learned editor, C. W. Howard, has brought forward reliable testimony to the great value of lime upon Georgia’s soil — whoever, therefore, attempts to decry these inexhaustible sources of wealth, which has not yet even been developed — with extensive regions of country, yielding the diamond and other precious stones—with mineral springs of the greatest medicinal value—with scenery, which will compare either in its grandeur or its beauty, its softness or its sublimity, with any in the world, this zone is destined not merely to afford a rich field to a teeming and busy population, and to present a scene of the busiest and happiest and most productive industry; but it is destined under a new and independent form of government, of supplying the entire South, with the most delightful watering places, equaling in climate and surpassing in scenery the most fashionable and favorite watering places of the North, and we may add even of Europe, and of supplying the entire South with manufactured articles, with cotton and woolen goods, with Railroad iron, with arms and ammunition, and with a thousand other articles for which she is now dependent upon England and the North—it is destined under a new and improved form of government to support splendid seats of learning and science, which, in the course of time, will rival those of Cambridge and Oxford—it is destined under a new and improved system of government to realize what should be the golden dream of every true hearted Georgian, the independence of his State, in all that constitutes the true wealth, power, dignity and happiness of a people, and the mutual dependence and inalienable union and friendship of the different sections, by a mutual interchange of the products of labor.

In view of the inexhaustible resources of this, our noble State, which in its Southern extremity, has a climate suitable to the cultivation of long staple cotton, sugar cane, rice, indigo, the orange, olive, pomegranate, date, lemon, and palm, whilst in the northern mountainous regions, the climate is fully eight degrees colder and is favorable to the cultivation of wheat, apples, and the grape, and thus affords a field for the successful cultivation of every agricultural product cultivated upon the North American continent; we may well ask the question whether the agriculturists of Georgia have improved aright these great natural advantages? If we attempt to decide this question by an examination of the increase of her population, we will find:

1st. The rate of the decennial increase of the entire population of Georgia, has progressively diminished from 1790 to 1860.

2d. The population of the first settled counties in the Southeastern portion of the State, has remained stationary in most of the counties for the last fifteen years, in some there has been a slight increase, whilst in others there has been an actual decrease of population.

3d. The population of the earliest settled counties of middle Georgia, has in most cases progressively decreased for many years past.

4th. The population of the newly settled counties of middle and northern Georgia, notwithstanding...
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Standing the rapid increase in the first year of the settlement of this section of the State, is now becoming stationary in some counties, and in a few places has already commenced to decrease.

64. The counties of the Northeastern portion of the State, the geological formations of which are more recent than middle Georgia, and older than those of the cretaceous and tertiary formations of Georgia, have been but recently settled, and in most cases are rapidly increasing, and it is, therefore, at the present time impossible to say what the limits of the population will be—especially as the soil contains more lime than any other portion of Georgia, and appears to be inexhaustible under culture.

65. The counties of the Southwestern portion of the State, embracing the cretaceous and more recent Eocene lime formations, like the counties of North-western Georgia, have been but recently settled, and are rapidly increasing by emigration from the older counties of the State, and it is impossible to assign at the present time, the probable limits of the population with any degree of certainty. We may, however, from a careful review of the rapid increase of population, and from a consideration of the resources of the soil of North-western and South-western Georgia, affirm that under the same exhausting and reckless system of agriculture which has been pursued in the older counties, the population of these portions of the State will, in the course of fifty years, reach its culminating point, and the tide will then flow to the rich lands of newer States.

If we examine these facts collectively, and endeavor to determine their causes, we will find that the main cause, which is of far greater importance than emigration, changes of climate and seasons, the value of produce and many other causes, is that system of agriculture which takes for granted that soils are inexhaustible, and which has regarded alone the interests of the acting generation.

The lands of Middle Georgia, which at the time of their original settlement were clothed with dense and magnificent forests, and covered with the accumulated mould of thousands of years, and which yielded most luxuriant and profitable crops of cotton and corn to the early cultivators, who improved the soil so that it supplied all either rest or manure, and without any attention to hill-side ditching and plowing, now present the monotonous and dreary spectacle of barren red clay hills, badly supporting stunted crops of cotton, struggling to lift its fruit a few inches above the hot and barren ground and avoid the pelting of the sand, hardly saving the reputation of the planter from the charge of sanded cotton.

These bald red clay hills, marred by deep furrows and yawning red gullies, and by deserted dilapidated houses, with their diseased, half-dead fruit trees, will long remain monuments of that system of agriculture, which has had for its great object the enrichment of the living generation, regardless of the interests of future generations.

The same result has followed the same system of agriculture in the Southern portion of Georgia, in the effects, however, are not so patent to the eye, because the country is level, and because the rivers afford inexhaustible supplies of organic and mineral matters to the rice plantations.

It remains to be demonstrated, whether not the fruitful plains of Southwestern Georgia, and the fertile valleys of Northwestern Ga. will share the same fate. The great questions to be solved by the agriculturists of Georgia are: How can the rich lands of North-western and Southwestern Georgia be preserved in their original fertility? and the native resources of the State adequate to the perfection of the system of agriculture which will ensure the permanent preservation of the fertility of her new lands?

Upon the determination of these questions will depend the future agricultural, commercial, and political progress and importance of Georgia.

If they are ignored by the agriculturists, it is that the lands will steadily be exhausted; their value will steadily diminish; the population will as steadily emigrate to more fertile regions, and our State will not attain to that high political and commercial position assigned her in Providence, by her soil, her climate and her productions. If, on the other hand, the resources of Georgia be carefully developed and employed, and the reckless exhaustion of the soil be checked, and an enlightened system of agriculture be inaugurated, Georgia will be capable of containing as many inhabitants, black and white, as are now found in the territory of the British Southern States, and will, with this teeming population, be not more thickly settled than Great Britain at the present day. If we wish to convince ourselves of the mighty results which may be achieved by an improved system of agriculture, we can only compare the present conditions of France and England.

In this comparison we shall use the testimony of a French writer of the highest authority, as quoted and endorsed by the leading Agricultural Journal of England, and shall use his measures and his calculations, that the greatest accuracy may be maintained.

No stronger testimony than this of M. Leonce de Lavergne could be adduced, nor merely to prove the relative conditions of England and France, but more especially to demonstrate that the commercial, political and intellectual condition of a State depends upon the condition of Agriculture, for aside from the very high qualifications of this distinguished Agriculturist to draw such comparisons, he is a Frenchman—a native of that country, which in the natural gifts of soil and climate, is far superior to England.

And first as to the produce of Agriculture pursued in France and England.

France has devoted herself too exclusively to the production of corn crops, which are the immediate food of man, without sufficiently considering the means necessary to uphold the fertility of the soil under this exhausting process.

England, on the contrary, has been led, partly by the nature of the climate, partly by design, to take a sort of by-path, which reaches corn crops through the intervention of green crops; finding, in the rearing of cattle and the supply of manure the restorative process which is necessary.

The experiment has entirely succeeded, and is extending itself day by day; and the remarkable fact is, that in proportion as the head of cattle increases the quantity of corn increases also; the gain in intensity exceeds the loss in extent.—Thus, on a surface of 51,000,000 of hectares, reduced to 20,000,000 by the waste lands, the British Isles produce more food for animals than the entire surface of France, of double the extent. Hence the supply of manure is in proportion three or four times greater.

The average produce per hectare in France is 6 hecates of wheat, about 5 of rye, and 1 of maize, or buckwheat; collectively about 11 hecates. In England, 23 hecates of wheat (8½
of sheej) in Fiauee and S-,

have as many sheep in proportion as the United Kingdom, or 35,000,000 of sheep on 25,000,000 hectares of land; 35,000,000 of sheep in France, or 25,000,000 hectares of land. This amount equals the number and quantity of sheep. According to the annual report of an English farm, among the products of animal and vegetable, it appears that the production of England, per hectare, nearly doubles that of France.

The great lesson which these figures teach beyond the disproportion of the result, is the relation of animal to animal products.

In France the vegetable products form four-sixths only; showing at first sight an alarming state of agricultural stagnation, and one at least stationary. In the United Kingdom the animal products are equal to the vegetable. Thus the animal products of an English farm are more equal to the entire animal and vegetable products of a French farm of the same extent.

The most remarkable feature of British farming, in comparison with that of France, is the number and quality of sheep. By statistical returns and estimates, the number of sheep in France and in England, is about equal—about 35,000,000 of sheep in France and 25,000,000 in England. But this apparent equality conceals the fact, that the animal of the United Kingdom lives on four-sixths of the whole, and the animal products two-thirds only; showing at first sight an exhausting proportion of the result, is the relation of animal to animal products.

In the case of cattle, the same care in breeding and continually improving the breed in matters of productive qualities and early maturity, has affected results similar to the results produced in sheep. France possesses 8,000,000 head of cattle, the United Kingdom 4,000,000. In France, three products are demanded from cattle—labor, milk, meat; in England only two—milk and meat. The yield of these two valuable productions is materially interfered with, by requiring work also from cattle. It might appear at first sight, that the work of cattle could not in an important degree, influence the supply of meat, and it is not difficult for people to persuade themselves that labor in utilizing the life of an ox enables meat to be obtained at a lower cost. But experiments have proved, that if this is sometimes a truth in detail, it is an error in the gross. The habit of labor forms hardy, vigorous oxen, which like men devoted to hard work, eat much, fatten slowly, develop their bony structures, make little flesh, and make slowly. The habit of inaction on the contrary, forms, races, gentle, tranquil, which fatten early, assume round fleshy forms, and give with equal food a greater, and in the end if the ox is killed when his work is done, the result is a poor grade of beef, requiring 8,000,000 of oxen to produce 8,000,000 of kilogrammes of meat, averaging 250 kilogrammes per head. This is at least double the yield of England, where 2,000,000 head of cattle and 1,000,000 hectares of land, produces only 400,000 kilogrammes of meat. France with 5,000,000 head of cattle and 25,000,000 hectares of land, produces 1,000,000 kilogrammes of meat, averaging 250 kilogrammes per head. Thus with 8,000,000 head of cattle and 25,000,000 hectares of land, British agriculture produces 750,000,000 kilogrammes of meat; while France with 5,000,000 head of cattle and 25,000,000 hectares of land, produces only 400,000,000 kilogrammes. (Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, vol. 17, 1856, p. 30.)

The ancient Romans, so justly celebrated for their learning and courage, regarded the planting of colonies amongst their poorest wars, more glorious than wars and victories, such as an Association as this, which labors to increase the prosperity of Georgia, and of the entire South, by improving imperfect systems of agriculture, reclaiming exhausted lands, preserving virgin lands in a state of primitive fertility, by developing native resources, by advocating and obtaining more manufactures, and thus setting in motion that circulation of wealth and prosperity which will continue forever upon our own soil, and for our own citizens; and by the establishment of direct trade with all parts of the world, and thus promoting such an interchange of ideas with all nations, as will excite intelligent, and profitable action—surely such an experiment is due to the respect and confidence of virtuous minds.

The Planters of Georgia, and of the entire South, have at this time the highest incentives to deep thought and decided action. While France, Germany, and of the entire South, have at this time the most stirring calls to vigorous and intelligent action. A sectional party has occupied which
Agricultural Resources of Georgia.

sworn to subvert our institutions, and excite our slaves to rebellion and murder; and which would not merely make us dream of fire, poison, and murder in our sleep, but would surround us with a wall of fire, and apply the torch of the incendiary to our cities, our farm-houses and our dwellings.

Notwithstanding that the South pays more than fifty millions of the seventy millions raised annually by our government—Notwithstanding that the South, in the distribution of these seventy millions of dollars loosens each year, more than thirty millions of dollars of the money raised upon her own soil—notwithstanding that the South has generously submitted to the arrangements by which the North commands the carrying trade, and in fact, the entire commerce of the United States—notwithstanding that the South employs the North to carry one hundred and forty-three million dollars of Southern exports, and twenty-seven million dollars of the thirty-three million dollars of the direct imports of the South—notwithstanding that the South purchases more than sixty million dollars worth of goods from New England alone—notwithstanding that the South expends millions upon millions of dollars upon Northern hotels, Northern watering places, Northern Railroads and Northern literary and scientific institutions—notwithstanding that the South during her entire connection with the Government of the United States, has never asked protection for a single branch of her agricultural or commercial pursuits—notwithstanding that the South has generously granted protection to all the departments of Northern industry—notwithstanding all this, the North has grown brutal upon the generosity of the South, has been drunk and madened by her success; and now that she has doubled in population and feels herself secure in numbers, with a combination of cowardice and fiendishness and base ingratitude, unknown in the records of the past, threatens to destroy that institution by which her prosperity has been mainly achieved—threatens to degrade and desolate with fire swords and poison her generous and confiding twin sister.

The cases are before the Planters of the South:—submission to a sectional, false and base party, who have not only violated all good faith and justice, by the nullification of the fugitive slave law and the passage of most odious liberty bills; but who have trampled the Constitution of the United States in the dust and gloried in the basest treason—submission to a treacherous and blood-thirsty party, who would not only deprive you of your political position and rights in the National councils and in the common Territorial government—acquired by common blood and common treasure, but would excite your slaves to rebellion, apply the torch of the incendiary to your peaceful dwellings, and poison the very food and drink of your wives and children—or a brave prompt and full assertion of your rights, peaceably if possible, but if needs be, at the point of the sword, and at the mouth of the cannon.

The cry of Union at this time at the South, is the cry of submission.

Union with whom? Union with men who are the sworn enemies of your institutions and of your liberties?—union with men who glory in the thought of debasing the South to a position far lower than that of Mexico or of St. Domingo; union with men who have prostituted even the temples of the most high to the basest political purposes, to the brazen proclamation of the blackest treason, and to the preaching of rape, fire and poison!—union with men who have excited, armed and defied the ruffians who murdered your peaceful people.

Submission to what? Submission to the tyrannical rule of a purely sectional party who would degrade you to a level lower than that of the native African.

The moment that the spirit of fanaticism, injustice and treason of the North culminated in the triumph of the Republican party, by all laws of nations, by every principle of justice, the compact of these free and independent States was broken; and he who cries Union, to the South, cries submission to tyranny and anarchy.

With a territory of eight hundred and fifty thousand square miles—with more than three thousand miles of continental shore line—with four hundred and fifty thousand square miles suited to the cultivation of cotton—with the largest body of land and the best climate in the world, and with the best system of labor that has ever been devised for the cultivation of the great staple, which has accomplished almost as much for the civilization of the world as the printing press, and which controls not only the destinies of the North, but of England, and we might almost say of the civilized world—notwithstanding that the South is not only independent of the North—with the ability of raising for the support of her government, fifty millions of dollars by a system of taxation not greater than that now pursued—with command of the Mississippi, with its forty thousand miles of tributary streams—and with possession of most of the great Mississippi valley, and with the ability of commanding the whole of this splendid region which by itself is capable of forming a splendid empire of the first magnitude—with Mexico on the west and southwest and Cuba on the south, for the reception of our surplus population and such an extended cultivation of the great staples, cotton, rice, sugar and tobacco, as shall meet the increasing demands of the world; the South is not only independent of the Northern robbers she will form the most splendid and powerful empire in the world.

Is the South dependent upon the North? Is the South unable to secede? Has the South anything to lose by secession?

According to the last published official Report of the Secretary of the Treasury for 1859, the total value of the Exports of the United States, from the 1st July 1858 to the 30th June 1859, was $385,894,385, and of this amount a single article of Southern produce—Cotton—formed $161,424,923.

The three great articles of Southern produce, Cotton, Rice and Tobacco, together form $134,717,471—or nearly two thirds of the entire exports of the United States.

Of the $151,177,276 remaining, $37,592,306 were gold and silver bullion; if we subtract this from the remainder of the exports, after the subtraction of the Cotton, Rice and Tobacco, we have remaining $93,674,971.

It is fair to assume that the other products of the South, sugar, lumber, pitch, tar, turpentine, hemp and other articles, constitute at the lowest
AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES OF GEORGIA.

According to the latest published report of the Secretary of the Treasury, the total imports of the Northern States for the year ending June 30th, 1859, was $305,512,849, whilst the total imports of the Southern States was only $32,955,281, and the exports of the Southern States during the same period were $200,000,000. If the independence of the Southern States was established, our Northern factors would be displaced, and more than $200,000,000 of imports now received at Northern ports, would enter Southern ports, and all the advantages and advantages be received where they really belong.

During the year ending June 30th, 1859, $143,045,445 of the Southern exports were carried in foreign vessels; whereas only $44,898,212 were carried in foreign vessels; during the same period, $12,892,623 of the Southern imports were brought by Northern vessels, whilst only $8,006,628 were brought by foreign vessels. When the independence of the South is established, the North will lose the protection of cunningly devised laws, and will have to enter into competition with the ships of the world for this carrying trade.

The Southern patriot should enquire with the deepest concern—what has become of all this immense amount of money, annually received by the South for her great staple products?

Has her greater production rendered her correspondingly greater and more powerful than the North? Has the South built more railroads, erected more factories, and supported more splendid seats of learning, than the North?

We are compelled to confess that in all permanent, agricultural, industrial, and educational improvements, the North has surpassed the South.

The largest proportion of the money received by the South in exchange for cotton, rice and tobacco, has not remained in the South, but has flowed out for the protection of the Northern and English manufactured goods, and in the support of Northern cities, Northern watering places, Northern commerce and Northern literary and scientific institutions. Northern authors, Northern newspapers, journals and books; the money of the South, therefore, has not fulfilled its high destiny.

It matters not what the income of a nation or of a man may be, if it is all expended abroad, no permanent benefits will result. Money is really useful to the country where it is produced, must be expended in that country, and must change hands often amongst its citizens, and like the life-giving and force conveying red particles of the blood, be diverted into other and different channels, and accomplish a thousand beneficial results. It must build up and sustain manufactories, it must circulate in a never-ending stream between the agriculturist and the manufacturer—it must build ships and railroads—it must support those great institutions of science and learning, which will react upon the State and return in the development of her resources and in the scientific and manufacturing arts, and manufactures a thousand million fold.

It is time that Southern manufactories should be established and sustained by Southern money—it is time that this ruinous drain of money should be stopped—the whole of the money now yearly derived in the collection and distribution of the revenues of the government, will be saved, and its revenue which goes now to sustain Northern manufactories and Northern ships, will be distributed among our Southern towns, and will be expended in building up Southern manufactories, Southern towns and Southern commerce.

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experiments, and calculate the immense sums expended by England in her attempts to supply herself with cotton from her possessions in Asia, Africa, and South America, to demonstrate that she must forever remain the firm ally and defender of the South, and the natural and uncomprising rival of the North? need we recount the progressive increase of the consumption of cotton in France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, and Spain—that in 1830 France exported $2,437,520 worth in France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, and Spain.—need we picture to you the filthy condition of the inhabitants of Europe, during the middle ages, and prove that the twenty thousand hospitals for lepers, said by Matthew Paris to have existed in Europe during the middle ages, were filled by inmates who were lepers because they had suffered from the effects of cotton, and were diseased because they were in an habitually filthy state?—need we prove that insufficient and filthy clothing, more than any other cause, produced the terrible epidemics which committed such fearful ravages in the middle ages?—need we point the planters of the South to all these well established facts to prove that their great staple will prove the greatest blessing to nations, and will ever prove, with the strongest defense against lawless oppression, and will ever command the navies and armies of the world?

I trust not my countrymen. I believe that the spirit which animated and fired the hearts of our noble revolutionary fathers, still inspires your bosoms, and that you will need no such facts to sustain the firm resolve to achieve Southern independence, peaceably if possible—but if need be through fire, carnage, and blood, at any cost, produced the terrible epidemics which committed such fearful ravages in the middle ages?—need we point the planters of the South to all these well established facts to prove that their great staple will prove the greatest blessing to nations, and will ever prove, with the strongest defense against lawless oppression, and will ever command the navies and armies of the world?

I have spoken of these subjects which interest us as citizens of the South as the best prospects of our inextinguishable mineral resources;—the older fossiliferous formations of North-western Georgia, resembling the celebrated wheat district of New York, with its inexhaustible deposits of limestone, iron, coal, and other minerals useful in agriculture, and the arts; the cretaceous formation of Western Georgia, with its inexhaustible beds of green sand and marl; the Eocene lime formation of Southern and South-western Georgia, with its inexhaustible supplies of lime and phosphoric acid; the oldest and diluvial plains and river bottoms of Southern Georgia—suitable to the growth and culture of every important agricultural product, and yielding almost every mineral useful in the arts and agriculture—producing annually five hundred thousand bales of cotton, and with capabilities of producing under an improved system of agriculture, and with an increase of population, two million bales of cotton—with an annual surplus production of fifteen million dollars—with 1100 miles of Railroads, which have been built and equipped at an actual cost of twenty millions of dollars—with 25 banks in a sound condition, returning during the last year $9,797,088 more than the taxable stock paid in—with 53,342,229 acres of cultivated land, valued according to the tax returns of 1850, at $181,174,400 dollars; cultivated by 4,193,902 slaves, valued at $542,294,881, with a debt of $101,110,397—money and solvent debts, merchandise shipping, tonnage, stocks, and manufactures to the value of $207,202,440—with an increased value of land during the past year of $121,277,075, and increased value of slaves, amounting to the sum of $41,176,145—with a balance in her Treasury of $274,829, and with a tax upon slaves and other property of only 61 cents on the $100—with a taxable property of $905,529,787, which if distributed equally amongst the entire population, adults and children, black and white, would give to each inhabitant six hundred dollars; and if we were to estimate the absolute and not the tax value of the property, this sum would
be even greater than one thousand dollars to each individual, black and white, man, woman and child—with fourteen hundred churches, capable of accommodating half a million of persons—with twelve hundred primary and public schools with twelve hundred teachers; fifteen colleges for males with thirteen hundred students; twenty-seven colleges and high schools for females, and twenty-five hundred female scholars—with fifty newspapers and periodicals—with resources and a territory capable of supporting with even greater ease than England supports her dense population, fifteen millions of inhabitants, (Georgia has been and will ever continue to be, if she improves aright the blessings of Providence, the Empire State of the South—Georgia is not only the Empire State of the South, but she has the resources and the power to maintain her independence with or without the South, and to form by herself an EMPIRE.