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OLD SERIES]

Nes aranearum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

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Agricultural Journal.

THE HARVEST THANKSGIVING.

Almighty One! who formed this earth so bright,
We bend before thee in a grateful prayer;
Our earth is free from canker and from blight,
Freed by Thy help, thy sweet and holy care,
The hand of Plenty! shed its treasures down,
And let us have our bursting summer-tide,
Whilst Flora don'd her light and aërial crown,
And deck'd the earth as joyous as a bride,
Stream'd down the glory of the Golden King,
And stars reflected on each bursting grain,
Whilst Cynthia's rays with stars would vie to fling
Her mild refulgence on the fragrant plain.
Oh! listen now to every grateful tone,
Whilst we our warm and earnest accents pour,
And feel so deeply that to One alone,
We owe the Plenty of our fruitful shore.
They said that famine and her dread distress
Would haunt the valley, speaking of decay;
Avert her grim and deathly hideousness,
And bid the tyrant all her havoc stay.
The prayer was heard, e'en through the balmy air,
Echoed by streams and plains, and valleys green;
The harvest season, beauteous and fair,
Was plentiful, and hearts had grown serene.
No—Famine comes not with its stricken gaze,
But smiles of joy light up the human face,
Each field of corn its load of grain displays,
And summer smiled in all its witching grace.
Accept the prayers, though tainted by our voice,
Though ting'd with sin, the offspring of our sod.
Accept the words, and make the hearts rejoice,
As thus they own Thee, Savior, Lord, and God.

St. John Courier, November 9.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SAINT JOHN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

LOCH LOMOND AND GOLDEN GROVE BRANCH SOCIETY.

To the President of the St. John County Agricultural Society.

SIR,—This being only the second year since the formation of our District or Branch Society, formed under the auspicious management of the Saint John County Society, I take much pleasure in giving you a brief outline of the results within this short period.

It appeared that when your Commissioners were appointed to organise Branch Societies in the different Parishes of the County, as named in your annual Report of 1849, its principal object must have been to induce persons who had hitherto neglected, to enrol themselves in the St. John County Society, or to form District or Parish Societies, to take an interest in the cause; and at the same time to hold out such encouragement, by reducing the annual subscriptions so low as would enable every person who might be inclined to avail himself of the opportunity of becoming a member; and also, to bring the Society meetings and annual exhibitions so close to their doors that no reasonable excuse could be offered for thus declining to come forward, and it must therefore be gratifying to you to observe that those efforts have been so far crowned with success.

Last year being the first exhibition at which premiums were given for the best samples of grain, vegetables, &c., and also for the best cattle, and improvements in various other ways in farming; it could not be expected that so much interest would be excited on the first occasion. But it appeared after that exhibition, the encouragement thus held out at that time, must have had the effect of stimulating and arousing to exertion many farmers. The increase of members in our Society immediately after—the ploughing and preparing of lands last autumn for cropping the following or this year, to such an extent as never before were known in this parish, and the making of manure, all strengthen this idea—the beneficial results of which are obvious. It will be found that a

greater quantity of grain of different kinds has been raised in this parish this year than in any year previous, samples of which were recently exhibited in the Grove at the second or last Fair or Cattle Show, which certainly could not be considered inferior to grains of the same kind raised in any country. Potatoes generally, especially those on newly burnt lands, turned out a good crop, although somewhat injured by the blight, farmers will have more than a sufficiency for their own use. Oats and buckwheat were the principal kinds of grain raised, which were of a superior quality, and it might be said for this parish, compared with other years, an abundant crop. Wheat was good, although there was not a great quantity of it raised. I think there was not so many turnips raised this year as last, as grain appeared to be more the object of the farmer. Hay was not an abundant crop, but it was much better than last year. On the whole, this parish I should say, would have quite enough for its own consumption. It would be superfluous for me to recapitulate those who received premiums at the last exhibition, and who have been already published. But it will be necessary to acquaint you, that at the last meeting it was moved and carried, that the Society be enlarged to the whole parish, at which time many of the leading members subscribed liberally, and a number of new ones enrolled their names.

It is evident there has been within the last two or three years, an increasing desire manifested amongst the inhabitants generally to improve in Agriculture. The premiums offered for the best, second, and third methods of making manure, have created a stimulus in this very essential and important branch of agriculture. The improvements in it certainly are very great. I regret that I am not in possession of the written descriptions of those to whom premiums have been awarded for manure, to accompany this Report. The premiums also held out for the best turnips and carrots, have been the means of introducing to some extent the raising of these very certain and beneficial crops, as also premiums for the greatest crops of all kinds.

Our means being limited as yet, we have not been able to hold out encouragement for the draining of lands; but this being so necessary, especially in this climate, to render lands earlier and more productive, I trust our society will soon turn its attention to this most important improvement.

I am, Sir, your most obt. servant.
JOHN JORDAN.
Loch Lomond, Oct. 30, 1850.

United States.

DEATH OF JOHN McDONOGH.

The New Orleans Delta furnishes the annexed notice of the life and character of the late John McDonogh, of whom and his immense bequests we gave some account a few days ago:

DEATH OF McDONOGH.—This gentleman, the wealthiest citizen in the South, and perhaps in the United States, died yesterday, at his residence, in McDonoghville, opposite the city. Mr McDonogh had reached the age of seventy two. Though his great vigor of mind and energy of spirit enabled him to triumph for a while over physical debility, and to pursue within a few hours of his death the industrious and busy habits which he had practised for fifty years, his health had been declining for several months, and the termination of his earthly career was daily looked for by himself as well as by his friends. Two days ago we saw him in our streets, engaging in earnest negotiation and discussion with a brother millionaire respecting some settlement which he desired to consummate ere he was called hence, and overheard him say, in words which fell upon our ears force and em-

phasis, "My days are numbered and my affairs must all be settled this side of the grave." The constitution of Mr McDonogh was severely taxed by its habits of close, concentrated, and wearing labor. A few months ago he told us that he devoted eighteen hours per day to labor, and regretted that he could not spare a few minutes to read the newspapers. His labor consisted in keeping the accounts, deeds, papers, and vouchers of the most extensive and landed property owned by a single individual in the world. His only assistants in these duties were some negro slaves, whom he had educated and trained in his own habits of method and industry. No white person lived in the ancient and dilapidated chateau in which he resided. No person ever visited him, save on business or for charity. His manners were rigid, severe, and repelling. Everything about his establishment partook of the spirit of the master; all was bleak, cold, dreary, and forbidding. The dogs did not bark in his yard; they cast at the passer-by a piteous hungry look, as if they sought some kindly sympathy or notice to comfort their lean carcasses, the cocks did not crow cheerily, as elsewhere, but drawled out their notes in a funeral and hollow strain as if from empty stomachs; the merry songsters flew around, without lighting upon the dark old trees, hung with melancholy moss which nearly concealed from view his crumbling edifice. There was no sunshine ever fell upon that spot or upon the heart of its possessor.

Such was the abode of one who worshipped Mammon with an unceasing and all absorbing passion, whose soul and mind were entirely monopolized by the spirit of gain, excluding every tender emotion, every ennobling feeling, every humanizing sympathy. And yet there are many familiar with the character and history of John McDonogh who declare that the severe life he led and his love of aquisition did not proceed from avarice, from the mere spirit of miserly acquisition, but that he had some great philanthropic purpose in view, to which he had appropriated his life and fortune, and in the pursuit of which he had hardened his soul to all the affections of humanity. This may be so. It would throw some light upon a picture otherwise dark and desolate. He was frequently heard to declare that he lived only for the Lord, to carry out some great design of his Maker. When asked if he would sell property, his invariable reply was, "I own none; what I have acquired belongs to the Lord; I am his agent, without the power of selling." He had long employed his mind, which was a remarkably acute and sagacious one, in devising modes by which his immense property might be kept together after his death for a certain number of years, so that his calculations of its eventual value might be realised. He had a great passion for buying waste and swamp lands, and estimating with arithmetical precision the yearly increase in the value of those lands. A great admirer of the system of popular education, a friend to learning and Colleges, he projected also some grand schemes of education, to be maintained out of the yearly increase in the value of his lands, which were not to be sold for a certain time, but only their product applied to that purpose. He endeavored to get an act of the Legislature passed tying up his property in this manner; but it was not deemed practicable under our jurisprudence.

He was also a warm friend to the colonization enterprise. He established a colony in Africa, to which he sent many of his negroes, after giving them an education or a trade. It was his custom to allow his slaves a certain time to work for themselves. He kept accounts with each one of them, so that when the value of the work of the slave equalled his cost, he would give him his liberty, and send him to Africa. He was a hard exacting man. In the prosecution of his rights, or in

any relations of business, he knew no pity, no liberality, no kindness. What was "nominated in the bond," he would extort at every sacrifice. Involved in innumerable lawsuits, he prosecuted his rights and interests with a tenacity, vigor, and perseverance which stopped at no obstacles, and were never moderated or softened by any of the considerations that ordinarily operate upon mankind. And yet, outside of his business and legal relations, he was not insensible to charitable appeals; when properly approached he would sometimes give, we cannot say liberally, considering his means, but quite so, considering his view of his relation to the Almighty. He was self-willed and opinionated, and would only give in his own fashion, and to such undertakings as pleased his peculiar ideas. To his relations, who were quite poor, he preserved a severe and studied coldness, only relieving their poverty by the most meagre contributions. Of enterprise, the spirit of public improvement and progress, he was as destitute as the old planks of his house were of sap. Owning immense property in the city, he left the greater part of it entirely unimproved until his possessions became a great nuisance to the Corporation. When induced to build, he would only erect the roughest and most unseemly buildings, usually put up by his slaves, who brought the bricks with which they were made across the river. Many of these buildings are now eyesores in our city, tenantless and dangerous from their dilapidated condition. So too of his immense property in the country. But a small portion of it was in cultivation. He usually bought tracts of lands by leagues and miles, instead of acres. He was said to own fifty miles fronting on the Mississippi, in Louisiana. Four-fifths of the swamp land in the State belonged to him.—He had, too, immense possessions in Florida, Mississippi and Texas. The area of his property would equal that of one of the small States of the Union, and exceed that of several of the Kingdoms or Principalities of Europe. The preservation and administration of this immense property must have required a vast deal of labor and great administrative talents. These Mr McDonogh possessed.—He was well educated, wrote very well, understood the law, and was quite familiar with the history of the country. A native of Baltimore, he removed to this city in 1800, engaged in mercantile pursuits, was successful, and then embarked in the purchase of wild lands and vacant property, which he followed the balance of his life. He never left the State, never went North, but remained one of the stand-bys and originals of our city till a few hours before his death. The singularity of his appearance in his old fashioned blue coat, strapless pants, large white neckerchief with green umbrella under his arm, made him one of the peculiar features of our city.

But our notice has reached to an unreasonable length. We must close it by expressing the hope that the will of Mr McDonogh, which we understand is to be opened on Monday, will realize the expectations of his philanthropic purposes; so long entertained by those most familiar with his intentions. He certainly had a glorious opportunity of linking his name with immortality through the establishment of some great institution of charity, education or science, and we trust that he has in this manner obliterated from the memories of the people the recollections of the many hard and severe qualities which were exhibited by him.

The New Orleans Picayune of the 28th ult adds the following particulars respecting Mr McDonogh's bequests, &c.:

Mr McDonogh was buried yesterday afternoon in the cemetery erected by himself near his residence at McDonoghville, for his negroes. It was his wish that he should be buried among them. The funeral was plain