

SB 273

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**THE ART OF**

**PLANTING, GROWING,**

**CURING AND HANDLING**

**FINE TOBACCO,**

—BY—

**R. B. HARPER.**

DURHAM, N. C.

H. E. SEEMAN'S STEAM PRESSES.

1886.



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# THE ART OF PLANTING, GROW- ING, CURING AND HAND- LING FINE TOBACCO.

## SITUATION OF PLANT BEDS.

The growth of the plants depends a great deal on the situation of the beds. A plant bed should be located on the south or south west side of a stream, say a branch or creek, but far enough off the stream to prevent any overflow in case of a wet spell.

## BURNING, MANURING AND CULTIVATING PLANT BEDS.

Plant lands should never be burned when the ground is too wet. But always burn when in good order. The best time to burn beds and sow seed is from the middle of January or the first of February until the first of March; but there has been very good tobacco raised from plants that were sown as late as the middle of March. The manuring of plant beds is of very much importance. Stable manure, beat up very fine with some kind of good guano, thoroughly mixed, is a very good fertilizer for plant beds. Sow the same evenly over the bed, after you have raked the coals, &c., off thoroughly; then hoe your bed thoroughly, turning up as little of the soil as possible. After you have prepared the bed, raking off all the clods, sticks, &c., the bed is ready for the seed, which should be sown one or one and a half table spoonfuls to every one hundred square yards. Mix the seed well with about six quarts of dry sifted ashes. After the seed is sown trample your bed with a weeding hoe or your feet. Tobacco seed requires but little covering, and when covered deep they will not be likely to come up. Drain your bed well and put on fine brush or canvass, (the canvass is a good deal the best,) which you can remove from the bed as soon as the plants are safe from frost and the flies. Any one can give a very good idea as to when to relieve the bed of its cover, but as a general thing you can take the cover from the bed about the first or the middle of April. You should by all means keep the grass and the weeds out of the bed as they are very injurious to the *young plants*.

## THE KIND OF LAND AND ITS PREPARATION.

The best land for growing fine yellow tobacco is of a sandy soil, with a deep, yellowish subsoil. In selecting land for fine tobacco always select land free from wet, spouty places. Remember tobacco of all kinds requires a thorough preparation of the soil and the very best cultivation is

absolutely essential to success. If you work bottom land break in the fall with a two horse plow, turning up as little of the subsoil as possible. If fresh land, break early in spring with a single plow. If you have much vegetation plow as deep as the land will admit, turning under all the vegetation possible. If your land is clear of vegetation use a small plow as deep as the nature of the land will admit. If there should be a drought repeat the plowing as often as necessary until the land is in good order. If new ground clean off all litter, trash, &c., and break with a cultivator or some other kind of small plow that will turn up as little of the under soil as possible. Cross plow and get out all the roots, turf, &c. and get the land clean and as clear of roots, trash, &c., as you possibly can. Be sure and get your land in good condition before you set your plants in it. Run the rows three feet three inches to three feet six inches. You may check near or the same distance the first rows are apart. Any one may give a very good idea as to the width to have their rows, judging from the strength of their lands. In this case tobacco is like most any other plant, the better the land the further apart you may put the rows or the plants. Farm manure beat up very fine and mixed thoroughly with seventy-five to one hundred pounds of some good kind of guano to every one thousand tobacco hills is as good manure as you can use. Of course if the land is very poor you can use more of the guano and use a good quantity of the farm manure. The fertilizer should be covered immediately after it is put in the drill, by running two furrows together. Run your plow very shallow in order to keep the hills from being too high, then throw out the middles in like manner. Now if your beds are too high make a sweep and drag them down. You can tell how long to have your sweep, judging from the distance your rows are apart. Then put the hills in order with hoes.

#### PLANTING TOBACCO.

This is a matter of very much importance and should by all means have strict attention. If the plants are not well planted the growth will be very irregular. Be very careful not to break or bruise the plants while drawing from the bed or putting in baskets. Never set out a plant that is bruised. It is a very important matter that you should not make the holes deeper than the plants are long, and be sure that the dirt is well put to the roots. But don't pack the dirt very hard as it will prevent the growth of the plants in case the weather should turn off dry, &c.

#### THE CULTIVATION OF TOBACCO.

As soon as the plants have taken root so there is no danger in killing or injuring in any way by working, you must commence cultivating it. The cultivation is essential, and must be done as early as the plants will admit, whether you have any grass or not. Plow deep enough to loosen



the soil beneath the plants, you can also follow with hoes, but be very careful not to work too deep near the plants. You continue working the tobacco with suitable plows and hoes until the tobacco gets too large to use a plow, then you continue with hoes working among it. Be very careful all the time from the beginning of the cultivation until laid by, using every precaution possible to prevent breaking or bruising the leaves. Never work tobacco deep after the first plants begin to come in top.

#### PRIMING TOBACCO.

As soon as the plants are large enough to bear priming without injuring the stalk, the bottom leaves must be taken from the stalk. This will supply the plant with food and will also give the upper leaves a better growth. Keep up the priming until the bottom leaves are clear of the ground. By keeping up this treatment the tobacco will not be as trashy as it would be provided you failed to do so.

#### TOPPING TOBACCO.

There has been a great deal of tobacco ruined or damaged by not knowing how or when to top it. Never permit it to run up or bloom before topping, as soon as a button appears it should be topped. Yet it is not necessary to wait until a button appears before topping, if the tobacco is of good size. If the tobacco is topped too high the bottom leaves will, as a general thing, burn or fire up before the top leaves get any ways ripe, and of course, under these circumstances, it would be a matter of impossibility to get much, if any, good tobacco. If your tobacco is very fair the first topping will bear ten to twelve leaves, and in some cases where it is extra large, you may leave 14 to 16 leaves. But the later the season the lower you must top, in order that it may ripen before frost.

#### SUCKERING TOBACCO.

Suckering tobacco should be looked after very carefully, as it is of too much importance to neglect. Never let the suckers get more than three or four inches in height, the older they get the tougher they become of course, and after they become old and tough it is almost a matter of impossibility to relieve the plant of them without an injury to the plant in some way, either by breaking loose the leaves or damaging the stalk.

#### WORMING TOBACCO.

The importance that is attached to this part of tobacco raising is hardly imaginable. Common sense should teach any one that they can not make a crop of tobacco unless they keep the worms off of it, and besides worm-cut tobacco will not sell for a good price on the market. Some people will tell you to worm your tobacco two or three times a week. But you should by all means worm your tobacco every day, provided it

needs it. The best time to worm tobacco is soon in the morning or late in the afternoon, as the worms will try to hide during the middle of the day, either by going in the ground or secreting themselves somewhere about the stalk which makes them troublesome to find.

#### CUTTING AND PLACING TOBACCO IN THE BARN.

In cutting, go over the patch and cut the plants that are as near the same size and color as possible, in order that it may cure as uniform as possible, using all precaution possible to prevent breaking the leaves or bruising the tobacco, as bruised tobacco will be black when cured. Put the tobacco on sticks as you cut it; have the sticks four to four and a half feet long. You can tell the length to have sticks, judging from the size of the barn. Let tobacco lie on the ground long enough to prevent the leaves from breaking while hauling to the barn. Put six to eight stalks on a stick, and place the sticks from eight to ten inches apart in the barn. You can put it nearer together as the weather gets cooler. It depends somewhat on the size of tobacco as to the distance you put it. Bear in mind that you can not use too much care in handling tobacco while in a green state.

#### HOW TO ARRANGE WAGON FOR CONVEYING TOBACCO FROM THE FIELD TO THE BARN.

Make a frame about twelve feet long, put four standards on each side, the same distance apart. Have a smooth plank floor, lap and relap the tobacco, letting the sticks rest against the standards on each side. Any one may be their own judge as to the quantity to put on for a load.

#### THE SIZE AND HOW TO BUILD TOBACCO BARN.

People differ a little as to the size to build barns, but you cannot select a better size than eighteen feet square. Select logs as straight as possible, from six to eight inches in diameter. It will take from eighty to eighty-four logs to make a barn the proper height. Cover with boards or shingles, of course shingles make the best cover, but board roofs will cure the best in warm weather. Chink the cracks thoroughly with wood and mortar. Make barn as near air tight as possible. Put the first set of tiers five or six feet from the ground. If the logs are large put in tiers for every three logs, if small skip four, nail on to the rafters until you reach the top. Put door in south side, you may put a window in both or one of the gable ends. Put two arches in one end, make them of rock or brick, brick is the best. Extend arches about eight feet inside, one or two feet on the outside. Ten inch piping is as good size as you can use.

#### CURING TOBACCO.

Curing tobacco is a very important matter and should by all means have the most strict attention. There is no one that can tell another



exactly how his tobacco should be cured. It makes no difference how well his experience might have been in curing tobacco, as it depends a great deal on the nature of the land, and also the condition of tobacco when cut, as to how it will cure. Any one in curing tobacco must use their own judgment to a great extent. I will give some receipts and information that might aid any one a good deal in curing tobacco, provided they use their own judgment and take all the interest in the business that is possible.

#### FIRST RECEIPT—CURING RIPE THIN TOBACCO.

95 degrees for 7 hours, 100 for 8 hours, 105 for 12 hours, 110 for 6 hours, 115 for 6 hours, 120 for 5 hours, 125 for 4 hours, 130 for 8 hours, 135 for 6 hours, 140 for 1½ hours, 145 for 1½ hours, 150 for 1½ hours, 155 for 1½ hours, 160 for 3 hours, 165 for 1½ hours, 170 for 1½ hours, 175 for 1 hour, 180 to 190 until stalk and stem is thoroughly killed.

#### SECOND RECEIPT—CURING RIPE THICK OR HEAVY TOBACCO.

95 degrees for 7 or 8 hours, 100 for 9 or 10 hours, 105 for 13 or 14 hours, 110 for 8 hours, 115 for 6 hours, 120 for 7 hours, 125 for 5 hours, 130 for 6 or 8 hours, 135 for 6 hours. Proceed as in first receipt.

#### THIRD RECEIPT—CURING TOBACCO THAT IS NOT THOROUGHLY RIPE.

95 degrees for 9 hours, 100 for 13 hours, 105 for 12 hours, 110 for 7 hours, 115 for 4 hours, 120 for 6 hours, 125 for 3 hours, 130 for 6 or 8 hours, 135 for 3 hours. Proceed as in first receipt.

#### FOURTH RECEIPT—CURING TOBACCO THAT IS GREEN.

90 degrees for 5 to 6 hours, 95 for 6 to 8 hours, 100 for 14 to 16 hours, remain here until the lugs begin to cure. Then move up to 110 or 115 and remain until the leaf yellows. Proceed as in first receipt.

#### FIFTH—GENERAL RECEIPT.

Go to 95 degrees after putting fire in the barn in about two or three hours. Don't begin to count time until you reach 95 degrees. It is best to put fire in as soon as you get the tobacco in the barn, as fermentation takes place as soon as tobacco is cut, and the sooner it is cured the better. Tobacco will not cure well that hangs in the barn long enough to begin to yellow before the fire is put under it. In curing tobacco, if you are going too fast, the face side of the leaf will sploch, in this case drop back four or five degrees and remain an hour or two. Then proceed as you first intended. If your tobacco is thoroughly ripe before you leave 110, see that the lugs are dry, but not cured, the middle leaves yellow and the tips nearly yellow. If the tobacco is not thoroughly ripe the tips should be only part yellow. You can not make yellow tobacco

out of green tips if you cure the leaves bright. One important matter in curing tobacco is to yellow the tobacco high enough to expell the sap while yellowing. If you are going too slow the face side of the leaf will sponge or redden. If tobacco should get to sweating while yellowing give it ventilation by opening the door or making holes under the barn about the size of your arm or both until the sweat has passed off, then close the door and the holes and proceed as before. In examining tobacco it is best to use a smooth stick. By handling it with your hands it will blacken wherever you touch it. You can put tobacco nearer together in cool than in hot weather. Tobacco that is yellowed too low will not be very tough, as a general thing when cured, and by going too fast the oil is killed in the tobacco and it will be of less value.

#### HANDLING TOBACCO AFTER IT IS CURED.

As soon as tobacco is cured, stem and stalk thoroughly killed, put out the fire. Let the tobacco remain as it is until it becomes in order so you can handle it without tearing or breaking the leaves. Then move it to another house and bulk it down. Be careful to lay it straight as it will look better on the market. After the tobacco has lain in bulk six or eight days you may hang it up very close together. Some say it is best to hang up, others say let it remain as it is until you are ready to strip it.

#### STRIPPING TOBACCO.

Stripping tobacco should be performed with a great deal of care and pains, as it is so very important that tobacco should be nicely handled and well assorted. When ready to strip take as much tobacco as you want to strip, hang it up in a damp place, the curing barn is a good place to hang it until it becomes in order, so you may handle it without breaking or shattering off. Select leaves as near the same size and color as possible, making from four to seven different grades. Never tie more than six leaves in a bundle unless it is common lugs or very small leaves. In this case you may put more leaves to the bundle and they will look just as well or better. Then put it on well dressed sticks. Dressed sticks will prevent it from tearing while putting on and taking off. You may put from twenty to thirty bundles on a stick. After the bundles are put on the sticks you may bulk it down a day or two, being very careful to lay it straight, then hang it up and let it dry. Never let it lie long when in very high order. Don't carry your tobacco to market when in very high order unless you are compelled to do so. If you have handled your tobacco nicely and assorted it well you will be more than apt to get a good price for it.

R. B. HARPER.

# TESTIMONIALS.

I bought one of Mr. Harper's books this year and I cured my tobacco with his receipts. I am well pleased with the result.

W. M. BARBEE.

Williams Mill, Chatham Co., N. C., November 15th, 1886.

I bought one of Mr. Harper's books and I cured the best tobacco with his receipts that I ever cured. I have been growing tobacco eight years. I would not be without his book for \$25.

S. A. COLE.

Hillsboro, Orange Co., N. C.

I bought one of Mr. Harper's books this year. I cured three barns of tobacco with his receipts and they are the best I ever cured. I cured one without his receipts and it is as poor as I ever cured.

RICHARD COTHRAN.

Harris' Mill, Person Co., N. C.

I bought one of Mr. Harper's books and cured tobacco with his receipts. I think they are all they are recommended to be.

W. J. MAY.

Dayton, Durham Co., N. C., Nov. 23rd, 1886.

I bought one of Mr. Harper's books this year. I am pleased with the results of his receipts.

BAXTER KING.

Chapel Hill, N. C., Nov. 23rd, 1886.

I have examined Mr. Harper's directions and receipts for curing the various kinds of tobacco. Having had 40 or 45 years experience in growing and curing tobacco, I believe this theory is as reliable as could be given for curing tobacco.

J. L. BLACWELL.

Durham, N. C.

This is to certify that I have examined Mr. R. B. Harper's treatise on tobacco, having had twenty-five or thirty years experience in the cultivation of tobacco. I think they are as good as could be given.

R. M. JONES, Durham, N. C.

Having had twenty-five or thirty years experience in the cultivation of tobacco and also in the curing and handling the same, and I further say that I have raised as fine tobacco as was ever raised in the State of North Carolina, and having examined R. B. Harper's treatise on tobacco, I say they are as good as could be given.

S. BROWNING.

Durham, N. C., Feb. 15th, 1886.

Having examined R. B. Harper's treatise on the culture, curing and handling of tobacco. I am decidedly of opinion that new beginners and even those that have experience in tobacco raising will derive great benefit by following these general directions. Having had fifty years experience in the culture, curing and handling tobacco.

T. B. LYON, JR., Durham, N. C.

This is to certify that I have examined Mr. R. B. Harper's treatise on the cultivation of tobacco, having had some experience in raising tobacco. I raised in the year of 1885, on two acres of land, five hundred and twenty dollars and eighty-three cents worth of tobacco. One of my adjoining neighbors raised on 26 acres of land the same year cotton and it only sold for \$250. His treatise is undoubtedly good.

J. S. WILLIAMS, Elm Grove, N. C.

This is to certify that I have examined the treatise of R. B. Harper on the culture, curing and management of tobacco and take pleasure in recommending the same as entirely practicable and safe in procuring a good marketable crop of tobacco, having had considerable experience in the management of tobacco in every way from the planting of the seed to preparing it for the manufacturer, and being familiar with the curing in particular, I can safely say I believe his receipts are as reliable as could be given for the curing of the various kinds of tobacco.

E. H. LYON, Durham, N. C., Feb. 10th, 1886.

I have examined Mr. R. B. Harper's treatise on the cultivation and curing of tobacco, and I consider it very well gotten up, and believe it to be of service to all inexperienced persons wishing to engage in the cultivation of tobacco. Respectfully,

Durham, N. C., Feb. 17th, 1886.

H. A. REAMS.

Knowing the within named gentlemen and knowing them to be men of great experience in the culture and handling of tobacco and judging from their certificates I believe this treatise on tobacco correct.

W. T. REDMOND, J. P., Durham, N. C., Feb. 13th, 1886.

Knowing the within named gentlemen and knowing them to be experienced in the culture of tobacco, and also perfectly reliable for what they say. I believe Mr. R. B. Harper's treatise on tobacco of benefit to any one that is not thoroughly experienced in raising tobacco.

W. A. LEA,

Proprietor of the Globe Warehouse, Durham, N. C.

W. DUKE,

The original founder of the great world renowned Duke of Durham Smoking Tobacco and Cigarettes.

B. L. DUKE.

One of the firm of Duke, Sons & Co., Durham, N. C.

We know several of the parties whose certificates are given above as recommending Mr. Harper's book and believe them to be reliable.

BLACKWELL'S DURHAM TOBACCO CO.

I know the gentlemen who have given above certificates and am sure they not only know what is a good process for curing tobacco, and would not give a certificate to any treatise unless they believe it to be a good one.

E. J. PARRISH.

# J. R. GATTIS,

DURHAM, N. C.,

Will pay in cash the highest market price for your Green and  
Dry Hides, Sheep Skin, Wool, Furs, Old Copper, Brass,  
Bones, Rags, &c.,

**OLD RUBBER SHOES.**

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IS THE PLACE TO BUY YOUR GROCERIES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION

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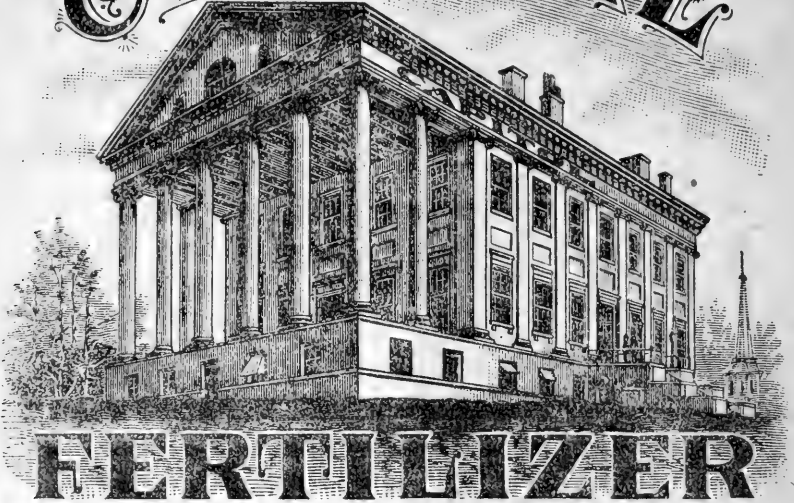
Of Chatham, would be pleased to see all of his friends. They  
will receive polite attention.

Respectfully,

CHARLES ROBBINS.

Between Railroad and Main Streets, Durham, N. C.

# CAPITAL



This is our **NEW BRAND**, put upon the market for the first time in 1886, but wherever introduced it has taken the **FRONT RANK** among **TOBACCO FERTILIZERS**.

## THE REASONS ARE THESE :

- 1st. It is made only of the **VERY BEST MATERIALS** known to the Fertilizer trade.
- 2nd. It is put together with the **GREATEST POSSIBLE CARE**.
- 3rd. It is **HIGHER IN ANALYSIS** than any Fertilizer on the market, with one or two exceptions.

The following is the **OFFICIAL** Analysis of the Virginia Department of Agriculture, copied from the Official Bulletin of the Department, May, 1886 :

### OFFICIAL SAMPLE NO. 1162, "CAPITAL" TOBACCO FERTILIZER.

Available Phosphate Acid,	9.44 per ct.
Insoluble " " "	51 per ct.
Potash, (K <sub>2</sub> O.)	3.86 per ct.
Ammonia,	3.61 per ct.

We confidently recommend the "CAPITAL" for Tobacco, or wherever a strong and pushing Fertilizer is desired. Give it a trial. Sold for cash or on time, and laid down at the farmers depot, freight prepaid.

S. W. TRAVERS & CO.,  
Manufacturers, Richmond, Va.

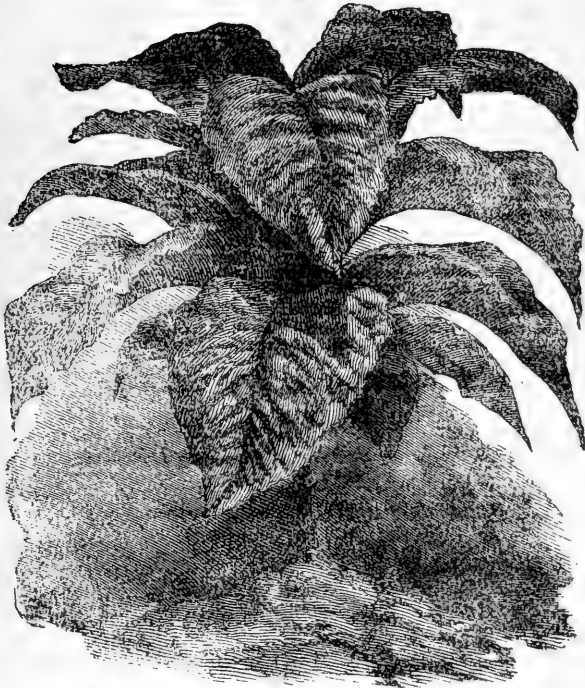


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## Star Brand



## Special TOBACCO MANURE

Continues to hold the Front Rank in the Line of Commercial Fertilizers,

**FOR CROWING FINE BRIGHT TOBACCO.**

The constantly increasing demand for this High Grade, Standard Fertilizer is the best evidence of its value.

EVERY BAG IS GUARANTEED TO BE OF STANDARD QUALITY.

ALLISON & ADDISON,  
Manufacturers, Richmond, Va.

1869.

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**PIEDMONT GUANO****—FOR—****TOBACCO.**

Eighteen years experience of many of the most successful planters in Virginia and North Carolina show conclusively that for

**FINE YELLOW TOBACCO**

Nothing equals these goods. Being made expressly for this crop, they supply whatever is requisite to the plant in every stage of its

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The best goods on the market for Tobacco or Cotton Crop. For sale at Durham, Oxford and other prominent points in North Carolina.

**SEE A FEW CERTIFICATES BELOW:**

Flat River, Durham Co., N. C., Nov. 27, 1885.

Mr. C. J. Rogers.

Dear Sir.—I take pleasure in stating that I have, for the past two years, used Zell's Fertilizer by the side of other standard grades, and find it better than any of them. LEE MANGUM.

Brooklyn, Va., Oct. 19, 1885.

Zell Guano Co., Baltimore, Md.

Sirs.—Yours to hand, and in reply I consider your Guano the best in market; for this reason, I used two hundred and twenty odd sacks. Yours very truly, J. A. OSBORN.

Madison, N. C., Oct. 23, 1885.

The Zell Guano Co.

Dear Sirs.—I used your goods with two other brands, and can say the tobacco ripened yellow and better with your goods than any others, and I like it very much. JAMES OLIVER.

Kentuck P. O., Pittsylvania Co., Va., Oct. 14, 1885.

The Zell Guano Co., Baltimore, Md.

Gentlemen.—I have used your Tobacco Fertilizer for several years, and consider it superior to any for tobacco.

Yours, &amp;c.,

W. J. BROWN.

Brooklyn, Va., Oct. 26, 1885.

The Zell Guano Co.

Gents.—I used your Guano last season, and am so well pleased with it that I expect to use it again the coming season.

Yours truly,

E. COLLEY.

**STOUT, GOODWIN & CO.,**  
**MACHINISTS AND FOUNDERS,**  
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Machine and Foundry Work of every description. Piping and  
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has had 17 years experience in repairing Cotton and Mill Ma-  
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**TINSLEY'S SPECIAL TOBACCO FERTILIZER.**

Has always on hand a large stock of Farmer's Supplies, Boots,  
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Opposite Carrington's corner, near the Railroad. Give me a call  
 when you come to Durham.

J. W. MARKHAM,  
 Durham, N. C.

W. T. BLACKWELL,  
 President.

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**"THE BANK OF DURHAM,"**  
DURHAM, N. C.,

Offers facilities to the public equal to any Bank in North  
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## FOR BARGAINS,

Offered by no other house in town. We have frequently been asked, by the most careful buyers, how we could sell goods so remarkably low.

### OUR ANSWER

To this inquiry is this: We have established in New York city a purchaser, with cash in hand, whose business it is to look after every house on the verge of bankruptcy and ruin, to buy the lump, or in lots, every class of merchandise which we can get at less than its value.

Hence the astonishingly low prices at which we sell. Call and examine our stock before buying elsewhere.

Respectfully,

PAGE, WHEELER & CO.

## HOTEL CLAIBORN, DURHAM, N. C.

RATES PER DAY, \$2.00.  
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### CENTRALLY LOCATED.

Convenient to all Warehouses.

W. J. POGUE, Proprietor.

## TERRY & PLEASANT'S BRICK SALOON, PARRISH STREET, DURHAM, N. C.

They carry the largest, purest and best stock of Whiskey, Brandy, Beer, Ale, Wines, Cigars, Tobacco, &c., to be found in the State.

## **SOMETHING**

**THAT EVERY GROWER OF FINE YELLOW TOBACCO**

**SHOULD CAREFULLY READ.**

Fine Yellow Tobacco is too valuable a crop for any planter to take risks on, and he is not wise to invest in a fertilizer that time has not thoroughly tested and proved. It is not enough for such a fertilizer to "analyze" well (for the most indifferent materials "analyze" as well as the best); its elements must be *of the right sort, and put together in the right way, to produce the best results in the field.* Two things must be specially provided for in such a fertilizer: First, it must feed the plant *with regularity* from the beginning to the end of the crop, (not start off with a flirt and wind up with a poor, chaffy leaf); and second, it must burn the plant as little as possible in dry weather. Now all this is secured by the use of the

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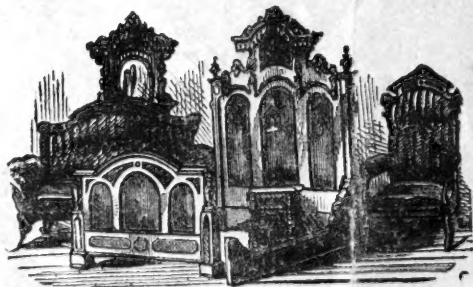
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