THE
CONSTITUTION
AND
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BLACK OAK AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,
FOR
1848 & 1849.
Published by order of the Society.

CHARLESTON, S. C.
PRINTED BY MILLER & BROWNE.
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The Constitution and By-Laws of the Black Oak Agricultural Society for 1846 & 1847.

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1846.
CONSTITUTION.

WHEREAS, it is expedient for those having a common interest to unite themselves together, in order that they may co-operate more effectually in promoting their object; and whereas, the formation of Agricultural Societies has been of great benefit to the planting interest, in diffusing information, and in awakening a spirit of inquiry for further improvement. We, therefore, the planters of St. John's, Berkley, do hereby associate ourselves for these purposes, and subscribe our names to the following Constitution, viz:

ART. 1. This Society shall be called the "BLACK OAK AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY."

ART. 2.—The Officers of this Society shall be a President, Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

ART. 3.—It shall be the duty of the President to preside at its meetings; and whenever necessary, he may call extra meetings by giving timely notice. In his absence, the duties shall be performed by the Vice-President.

ART. 4.—It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive and keep the funds of the Society—to pay out all demands against the Society, and at each anniversary meeting, to make a report of all receipts and expenditures for the past year.

ART. 5.—It shall be the duty of the Secretary to make and keep a record of the proceedings of every meeting, and at the expiration of his term of office, to hand it over to his successor. He shall also, at the instance of the Society, carry on all correspondence with other Societies, and with individuals, for the purpose of obtaining information on any subject connected with the Society.

ART. 6.—A majority of the members of the Society shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the Society; provided that any number of members exceeding six, who shall meet on a day regularly appointed, shall have the power of transacting all the ordinary business of the Society; but for the altering of the Constitution, the institution of premiums, and the origination of new appropriations, two-thirds of the quorum be necessary.

ART. 7.—At every anniversary meeting, the Society shall determine upon the premiums to be awarded at the succeeding anniversary.

ART. 8.—The Officers of this Society shall be elected annually by ballot, on the day of the anniversary meeting; provided, if there be not a sufficient number of members present to form a quorum, the same officers shall serve until the next regular meeting, or until an election be held.
STANDING RESOLUTIONS.

1. Resolved, That it shall be the duty of the President of this Society, to appoint annually, on or before the first day of November, three delegates to the State Agricultural Convention at Columbia, who shall be allowed to offer such pecuniary aid to the operations of the said Convention, as may be required by any resolution thereof. [Resolution passed 7th March 1842.]

2. Resolved, That the Society hereafter meet at 11 o'clock, A.M. [Resolution passed 30th April 1842.]

Whereas, it is essential to the success of a Society like this, instituted for improvement in the economy of agricultural life, that transactions should be at all times accessible to the members thereof, and to the community at large:

3. Be it therefore, Resolved, That the Secretary be directed and empowered to cause to be printed, in a cheap and convenient form, at least once in each year, the acts and proceedings of the Society, including reports of committees on specified subjects; reports of individuals on subjects declared important by vote; the award of premiums at the anniversary, and such other matter as the Society may at any time direct; and to distribute the same in the proportion of two copies to each of the members, one to the President of the State Agricultural Society, and one to the President of each of the local Societies in the State.

4. Resolved, That the report of all committees, when the time for reporting is not expressly specified, be made at the regular meeting, next succeeding the one of their appointment.

5. Resolved, That the premiums of the Society be open to the community, generally.

6. Resolved, That hereafter the time of meeting on the anniversary, be 9 o’clock, A.M. [Resolutions passed December 4, 1842.

7. Resolved, That Standing Committees be appointed annually, who shall report at the fall meeting, or oftener if necessary, on the different subjects committed to their special inquiry, viz:

A Committee on Cotton—its culture—the prospects of the crop generally, and more particularly that embraced within the geographical limits of this Society; also, upon any improved mode of preparing it for market, and all other facts relating to it.

A Committee on Corn and the Provision Crops—their culture—the probable yield per acre, within the above specified limits, and the prospects of the crop generally, throughout the country.
A Committee on Manures—the best and most economical mode of collecting and preparing them; the time and manner of their application; the adaptation of certain manures to certain crops; with a detailed account of all experiments on the subject, which have been carefully conducted, and the results accurately noted. [Resolution passed November 21, 1843.]

8. **Resolved**, That an Inspecting Committee, to consist of nine members, be chosen annually, whose duty it shall be to examine and report upon whatever may be offered for exhibition, and to award the premiums. It shall be the duty of the Chairman of this Committee, to have the medals ready for distribution on the day of the exhibition.

9. **Resolved**, That the regular meetings of this Society be held at Black Oak, on the 4th Tuesday in April, the 1st Tuesday in August, and on the Tuesday preceding the meeting of the Legislature, in each year.

10. **Resolved**, That on the day of the anniversary meeting, there shall be an exhibition of live stock, grain, agricultural implements, and any production of the soil, and of the arts and sciences, which may offer for the premiums.

11. **Resolved**, That each member shall pay to the Treasurer at the anniversary meeting, the annual contribution of—in advance.

12. **Resolved**, That the Secretary be directed to advertise the meetings of this Society in the Charleston papers, and also the list of premiums, and the articles for which they are offered. [Resolutions passed 23d April 1844.]

13. **Resolved**, That there shall be four Standing Committees added to those now in existence, to be called Committees of Inspection of Plantations. That one Committee shall be appointed for each of the following districts, viz: 1st, Cooper River; 2d, Black Oak; 3d, St. Stephen’s; 4th, Upper St. John’s. It shall be the duty of these Committees to visit and inspect the plantations of the members of the Society; also, that it shall be the duty of these Committees to ascertain the amount of cotton, rice, and corn made in their several localities. [Resolution passed 6th August 1844.]

14. **Resolved**, That hereafter, the Committee on Premiums may, at their discretion, decline awarding premiums. [Resolution passed 22d April 1845.]
MINUTES.

Extra Meeting, August 24th 1847.

The President and Vice-President being absent, William Cain, Esq., was called to the chair. This meeting was held, by a call from the Vice-President, (the President being absent from the neighborhood,) in consequence of the very inclement state of the weather on the day of the regular meeting, which prevented the attendance of members.

The journal of the last meeting was read.

T. W. Peyre, Esq., from the Committee on Inspection of Plantations, made a report in writing, upon the present state of the crops, &c.; which was accepted and placed upon the records.

After which the Society adjourned.

H. W. Ravenel, Secretary & Treas.

Regular Meeting, November 16th 1847.

The President called the Society to order, and requested to be excused from presiding on account of indisposition.

W. M. Porcher was therefore called to the chair. The journal of the last meeting was then read.

Col. James Ferguson from the Committee appointed in April last, made the following Report:

The Committee appointed at the last anniversary to revise the list of Premiums, and the objects for which they are awarded, and the kind and value of the premium; and to make a report at the November meeting—have had the subject under consideration, and recommend that Premiums be offered for the objects below enumerated, and no others.

For the best Colt,  
Do. Filly,  
Do. Mule,  
Do. Yoke of Oxen,  
Do. Milch Cow,  
Do. Ram,  
Do. Ewe,  
Do. Boor,  

The Silver Medal.

Do. do.  
Do. do.  
Do. do.  
Do. do.  
Do. do.  
Do. do.  
Do. do.  
Do. do.
For the best specimen of Domestic Cloth, fit for the winter wear of the laboring negro, and such as the exhibitor uses for that purpose, made of cotton warp and wool filling, Silver Medal.
For the best specimen of Domestic Cloth made of cotton, both warp and filling, Do. do.
For the greatest production of Corn, made upon ten acres of highland, or upwards, Do. do.
For the same of Rice, Do. do.
For the same of Cotton, Do. do.
For the greatest amount of Sweet Potatoes, made upon one acre, Do. do.
For the best managed Plantation, Do. do.
For any quantity, not less than 100 bushels of Lime burnt for sale, Do. do.
For the best Butter, not less than 10 lbs., put up for winter use, Do. do.

(Signed,) JAMES FERGUSON, Chairman.

The report was considered in detail, and with one amendment was adopted as it now stands, and ordered to be placed on the journal.

A letter from Isaac Porcher, Sr., Esq., was read, resigning the office of Vice-President. The resignation was accepted, and the Society proceeded to an election to fill the vacancy. Upon counting the votes, Col. James Ferguson was declared duly elected, and conducted to the chair.

Samuel Dubose, Esq., from the Committee appointed at a previous meeting, made a verbal report on the subject of Layton's Cotton Gin.

On motion of William Dubose, Esq., Resolved, That the Committee heretofore appointed to test Mr. Layton's machine for ginning the long staple cotton, be requested to continue their trial, and those particularly having the gins, to test it by prolonged use in ginning the present crop, and if they concur in its fitness, that they report particularly to the Secretary as early as practicable, to be recorded on the minutes, and published with them; and further, if they concur in its promised utility, that they recommend it to the members of the Society, and the community generally.

The following report of an experiment in the topping of Cotton made at Hanover plantation the past season, was then read by H. W. Ravenel,
PICKINGS.

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Accepted and ordered to be placed on the journal.

On motion, it was Resolved, That the Meteorological Journal kept by the Secretary, be published as soon after the close of the year as possible.

The Secretary then informed the Society, that in conformity with the resolution passed on the day of the last Anniversary meeting, he had purchased from Charles Baer, Agent, the right to the use of Bomar's Patent, for all persons residing within the Parishes of St. John's, Berkley, St. Stephen's, and St. James, Santee, who work less than eight workers, and that the officers of the Society were now ready to give certificates to all persons coming within the provisions of that resolution.

After which, the Society adjourned.

H. W. Ravenel, Secretary.

Anniversary Meeting, April 25th 1848.

The Society was called to order by the President, and the proceedings of the last meeting were read.

The Secretary being absent, T. W. Peyre was appointed to act as Secretary.

The Society then proceeded to vote for officers for the ensuing year, and elected the same unanimously, viz:

Samuel Dubose, President.
James Ferguson, Vice-President.
H. W. Ravenel, Secretary and Treasurer.

Dr. John S. Palmer, the Orator for the day being absent, on motion it was

Resolved, That he be requested to deliver his address on the next Anniversary.

It was also Resolved, That the Secretary be requested to collect the arrears due the Society.
Samuel Dubose, Esq., from a Committee appointed at a previous meeting, to test Layton's Gin, made a verbal report, which was very unfavorable, it having ginned at most only 150 lbs. per day, and very soon got out of order.

Mr. S. G. Deveaux was then called upon to make a statement with respect to the success of his Barrel Gin, and he reported favorably upon it—364 lbs. being the greatest amount got from the six gins per day.

The Society then took a recess to enable the Committee on Premiums to examine the different objects brought for exhibition.

The Society being called to order again by the President, Isaac Porcher, jr., made the following report:

The Committee to award premiums, beg leave to report as follows:

To Samuel Dubose, for the best Milch Cow, A Silver Medal.
To Edwin Dubose, " Brood Mare, do. do.
To Capt. Robertson, " Mule, do. do.
To Mrs. Ferguson, " Butter, put up for winter use, do. do.
To Mrs. Phoebe Johnston, for the best specimen of Cotton Cloth, do. do.

(Signed,) Isaac Porcher, Jr.

The above report was accepted and confirmed.

William E. Porcher, Richard S. Porcher, Theodore Marion, and Stephen L. Deveaux, were proposed as members, and unanimously elected.

After which, the Society adjourned.

T. W. Peyre, Secretary pro. tem.

Regular Meeting, August 1st 1848.

The President being absent, the Vice-President called the Society to order.

As the Secretary was prevented by sickness from attending, it was moved and carried, that T. W. Peyre be appointed to perform the duties of the office for the day.

There could be no information given as to whether new Committees had been appointed by the President, and the old Committee-men not feeling themselves authorised to act without notification of the fact, had prepared no report. The Society there-
fore consumed the time in discussing subjects in relation to agriculture, and adjourned (without transacting any business,) to meet again in November next.

T. W. PEYRE, Secretary pro tem.

Regular Meeting, November 21st 1848.

The Society was called to order by the President, and the minutes of the last meeting read.

There being no business to transact, after a few hours spent in conversation, the Society adjourned.

H. W. RAVENEL, Secretary.

Anniversary Meeting, April 23d 1849.

The Society was called to order by the President. Before the reading of the minutes of the last meeting, it was, on motion, Resolved, That a Committee of Three be appointed to wait upon his Excellency Governor Seabrook, and invite him to attend and participate in the proceedings of this association this day, and that he be also requested to address us on the present aspect of the agricultural interests, in connection with our public affairs.

The following Committee were appointed for that purpose, viz: Hon. Wm. Cain, Wm. Dubose, Esq. and Dr. M. Waring.

The minutes of the last meeting were then read.

A paper on the productiveness of the potatoe crop, and its value as an article of food on the plantation, was then read to the Society by Major S. Porcher.

On motion, Resolved, That it be entered upon the records.—(This paper will be found at the end of the journal.)

A paper was also read by H. W. Ravenel, on the subject of Meteorology in its connection with agriculture, and explanatory of the mode adopted in keeping the Meteorological Journal for this Society. On motion,

Resolved, That it be entered upon the records of this meeting. (This paper will also be found at the end of the journal.)

During the reading of the above paper, his Excellency Governor Seabrook was introduced to the Society by the Committee, and invited to a seat near the President.
The following resolutions were proposed by Dr. John S. Palmer, and unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That to Elwood Fisher, Esq., the plantation States are greatly indebted for the enlarged views he has taken of their peculiar institutions, internal resources, and political importance in the confederacy, and that we gratefully award to him the merit of having substantially confuted the absurd fallacies so currently entertained in regard to the relative progress and prospects of the Northern and Southern sections of the Union.

Resolved, That this association, through their President and Secretary, tender to Ellwood Fisher, Esq., their sincere thanks for the very able and patriotic address, delivered before the Young Men's Mercantile Library Association, of Cincinnati in January last.

Resolved, That independent of the political bearing of the views in the address, its statistical information deserves to be extensively circulated among us, as an agricultural people.

Resolved, That this association obtain, or cause to be reprinted 500 copies of the address for the use of its members.

Governor Seabrook on invitation, then addressed the Society upon the agricultural interests of the South, in connection with our public affairs, dwelling at length upon the continued and increasing aggressions of the Northern States upon the South, not indicating any particular remedy, but advising union among ourselves, and firmness in maintaining our rights.

At the conclusion of the address, the Society proceeded with its business.

Letters of resignation from Charles Macbeth and Charles Sinkler were read.

The following members were unanimously elected, viz: Dr. Rene Ravenel, and Henry L. Stevens.

The Society then took a recess to enable the Committee on Premiums to examine articles offered for exhibition, and to award the premiums.

On being again organized, the Committee made the following report:

The Committee on Premiums recommend that medals be awarded to the following persons:

To T. W. Peyre, for the best Milch Cow, A Silver Medal.
To Charles Macbeth, " " Mule, do. do.
To Dr. Joseph Palmer, " " Filly, do. do.
To Edwin Dubose, " " Brood Mare, do. do.
To S. W. Palmer, for the best of Yoke of Oxen, A Silver Medal.
To T. W. Peyre, do. do. Sow, do. do.
To C. J. Edwards, do. do. Boar, do. do.

(Signed,) EDWIN DUBOSE, Chairman.

The above report was accepted and confirmed by the Society.

The following resolution was proposed by John Harleston, and unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That every member of this Society will, as far as lies in his power, exert his utmost to prevent the injurious practice of firing the woods.

On motion of S. G. Deveaux,—

Whereas, the duties of Secretary and Treasurer of the Society are incompatible and ought to be separated.

Resolved, That hereafter there shall be two officers, a Secretary and a Treasurer, elected at the usual time for the election of officers.

Resolved, That the 4th Article of the Constitution be amended by striking out in the first line the words “Secretary and”—and in the sixth line, by striking out “he shall,” and inserting “It shall be the duty of the Secretary to.” Unanimously adopted.

The Society then proceeded to elect officers for the ensuing year, which resulted as follows:

SAMUEL DUBOSE, President.
JAMES FERGUSON, Vice-President.
H. W. RAVENEL, Secretary.
T. W. PEYRE, Treasurer.

The Society then adjourned.
STANDING COMMITTEES.

APPOINTED TO SERVE UNTIL THE NEXT ANNIVERSARY.

On Cotton.—William Robertson, Chairman; Thomas P. Ravenel, A. J. Harvey, Dr. H. Ravenel.

Duties of this Committee.—"To report upon the culture of Cotton, the prospects of the crop generally, and more particularly that embraced within the geographical limits of this Society; also, upon any improved mode of preparing it for market—and all other facts relating to it."


Duties.—"To report upon their culture, the probable yield per acre, within the above specified limits and the prospects of the crop generally throughout the country.

On Manures.—H. W. Ravenel, Chairman; T. W. Porcher, Dr. S. Barker, W. M. Porcher, C. J. Snowden.

Duties.—"To report upon the best and most economical mode of collecting and preparing them; the time and manner of their application; the adaptation of certain manures to certain crops; with a detailed account of all experiments on the subject, which have been carefully conducted and the results accurately noted."

On Premiums.—S. G. Deveaux, Chairman; Edwin Dubose, W. H. Sinkler, James Ferguson, R. Ravenel, James Gaillard, Jr., Peter P. Palmer.

Duties.—"To examine and report upon whatever may be offered for exhibition and to award the Premiums."

COMMITTEES ON INSPECTION OF PLANTATIONS.

For Cooper River.—Dr. S. Barker, Chairman; John Harleston, James Ferguson, John S. White.

For Black Oak.—Edwin Dubose, Chairman; T. P. Ravenel, T. W. Peyre, W. E. Porcher.

For St. Stephen's.—Theodore Marion, Chairman; D. Bonneau, Samuel Foxworth, S. W. Palmer.

For Upper St. John's.—C. J. Snowden, Chairman; Joseph Palmer, James Gaillard, Jr., James Sinkler.

Duties.—"To visit and inspect the Plantations of the members of the Society, and to ascertain the amount of Cotton, Rice, and Corn, made in their several localities."
A paper on the productiveness of the Sweet Potato Crop, and its value as an article of food on the Plantation; By Major S. Porcher.

The object of the following report, is not only to give the quantity of food the potato crop affords; but to remove the prejudices of many persons against feeding work animals with potatoes.

The crop of potatoes at Mexico,* in 1848, was thirty-five acres. On the 10th of August I commenced giving potatoes to the little negroes; on the 18th to feed all the negroes. (the consumption of corn, 250 bushels per month,) and continued to the 1st Feb'ry. 1849. I fed fifteen mules and one horse from the 1st September to the same period, and sixteen oxen. I gave no grain whatever to any of them during

* The name of Major Porcher’s plantation.
that time, and they were kept continually at work. One item of their labour, was to carry manure on 261 acres of land, 36 loads to every acre. Sixty bacon-hogs were fattened from the same field, and no grain whatever given to them. Without including the consumption of potatoes by the negroes from the 10th to the last of August, and only taking the five months, from the 1st of September, it will be seen that 1750 bushels of grain would have been required, equal to 50 bushels of grain to the acre. Six quarts being the usual feed for each mule, the quantity of grain required for the five months would be nearly 500 bushels. I do not undertake to estimate the number of bushels of grain saved, in fattening the sixty hogs.

As it may be expected some notice of the preparation will be stated. I usually put half a bushel of cotton seed to each row of 150 feet; the seed is strewed in the alley; and about 20 mule cart-loads of pine-straw and leaves strewed on the cotton seed to each acre, and listed. This is generally done in January; it is suffered to remain until about the middle of March; the beds are worked three several days previous to planting. The object is, having collected much of the grass seed in the first operation, each succeeding drawing up of the bed secures it. I never plant the same land two years in succession. My experience has convinced me that for the two following years, the cotton on the potato-field is the best part of the crop; but, to obviate the plant dying, I always have the cotton-bed made up in January. I consider it indispensable that the beds should be made in January.

I have for the last two years succeeded in keeping the root potato to about the middle of February; the mode adopted was by putting not more than 30 bushels in a bank; cover the banks at night with straw; do this for three days, then cover well with straw, and then with earth, leaving no air-holes.
A paper on the subject of Meteorology in its connection with Agriculture, &c.; by H. W. Ravenel.

The subject of Meteorology is one of importance to the planter. Winds and weather, rains and frosts, all affect his prospects, and although both cause and effect are beyond his control, a natural anxiety to know more of these secret agents, makes it always worthy of consideration. We will confine our attention at present solely to the subject of temperature.

The question is often asked, at what state of the thermometer will frost be produced? The answer here depends upon the position of the thermometer. It is very certain that when frost is produced, a thermometer standing in a perfectly exposed place, would fall to 32 deg. of Farenheit's scale at least. That is the freezing point; and frost, which is nothing more than frozen dew, cannot be formed at any higher temperature. When, however, the thermometer is placed under shelter, or against the side of a building or any other object, the mercury may stand 10 or 16 degrees above the freezing point, whilst frost will be found in open and exposed situations. Here it is affected by causes which it will be necessary to consider.

Radiation of Heat.

It is a law of nature that all bodies are at all times radiating, or passing off in strait lines their heat. This property is entirely distinct from that of reflection. Reflected heat is not retained, but passes off immediately from the surface, at an angle always equal to the angle of incidence. Radiated heat is continually escaping from every portion of the surface of bodies in straight lines or radii. As all bodies possess this property, the effect is, a constant tendency towards an equilibrium of temperature. During the day, the earth, receiving more heat from the sun than is lost by radiation, becomes warmer; but as soon as the heat of the sun disappears, if there are no clouds above, radiation continuing—the heat is lost in open space—the surface begins to cool, and continues until the heat of the sun is again restored. But if there are
clouds above, they receive the radiated heat from the earth, an interchange is established, and the earth cools but little.

We will suppose two thermometers placed, one in an open field where there is no obstruction in any direction to free radiation, and the other against the side of a building, exposed above and on one side. In the first case, radiation continuing uninterruptedly in every direction, the thermometer will indicate the true temperature of objects in the same situation. In the other case radiation can proceed only on one side, consequently less heat will be lost, and the thermometer will indicate a higher temperature. Again, if a third thermometer be placed under shelter, against the body of the house, but protected by the shade of a piazza, no heat whatever is lost by radiation, and it then merely indicates the general temperature of the atmosphere. I have ascertained by frequent trials that the difference of temperature between thermometers placed, the one under shelter and the other in a perfectly exposed situation, is about 8 or 10 degrees of a clear night; this difference will vary according to the degree of cloudiness or haziness in the atmosphere. The difference in temperature between a thermometer perfectly exposed and one against the outside of a building, where radiation proceeds only on one side, is 4 or 5 degrees.

It will be perceived, from the above remarks, that, in order to understand correctly a thermometrical journal, a knowledge of the position of the thermometer is necessary.

For the sake of convenience in referring to them, thermometers are usually kept in or at the side of a house. If kept always in the same place, the whole series of observations are relatively correct, but they may not suit for comparison with those given by a thermometer placed in a different position, unless the proper allowance be made. Hence the variance between observations taken in the same neighborhood.

In keeping the Meteorological Journal for the Society, I have placed the thermometer during the winter months against the North side of my house, under the shed of a piazza, where it is not affected by radiation at night, or the
heat of the sun by day. In the summer months the morning
and night observations are taken from one placed against
the South side of my house, under the piazza shed, and the
mid-day observations from one in the body of the house, as
far removed as possible from the reflected heat of the sun.

The Journal merely professes to give the general temper­
ature of the atmosphere, uninfluenced by direct radiation, or
the reflected heat of the sun. When, therefore, frost is in­
dicated, whilst the thermometer is noted at 40 or 45 degrees,
it must be understood, that when the general temperature
of the atmosphere is at 40 or 45 degrees, objects placed
under the effects of free radiation, will have fallen to a de­
gree of cold at least equal to 32 degrees of Farenheit’s scale.

The formation of dew is the effect of radiation. The at­
mosphere at all times contains more or less of aqueous va­
pour, held in solution by heat and rendered invisible.—
Generally during the hottest weather there is moist vapour
in the atmosphere. Whenever the heat is abstracted the
vapour, deprived of its solvent, returns to the state of fluid.
When objects on the surface of the earth exposed to free
radiation become cooler than the surrounding atmosphere,
the vapour contained in that portion of the atmosphere in
contact with these cooler bodies, is deprived of its solvent
and is deposited in the form of dew. The moisture observ­
ed on the outside of a glass of ice-water, is produced in the
same way.

It has been ascertained by experiment that different bodies
possess the property of radiating heat in different propor­
tions. That the leaves of living plants, wool and metallic
bodies whose surfaces are roughened, are good radiators,
whereas earth, stones, brick, and bright polished metals are
bad radiators. This fact accounts for the formation of dew
upon the former, when the latter are found dry in the morn­
ing.

Although dew is formed more copiously upon living than
upon dead leaves, the living plant, possessed of the princi­
ple of vitality, and more capable of resisting extremes of
heat and cold, will often escape when frost will be found
upon dead leaves. This is a fact well known to all observers, and adds another to the number of those beneficent provisions, which the great Author of nature has established for the protection and well being of his creatures.

Meteorology in its effects upon agriculture is at present enjoying the attention of scientific men in Europe and this country. In explanation of the mode in which these investigations are practically applied, I will here introduce to the notice of the Society an extract from the report of the Commissioner of Patents for the year 1847. [This extract, too long to be inserted here, may be found on p. p. 96, 97, 98 and 99, of the report of the Commissioner of Patents for 1847, and contains a Table of the Weather, kept by Mr. Lawes of England during the crop growing season, for the years 1844, '45, and '46, in which the production of crops during those years was found to accord with the condition of the seasons. A table, somewhat on the same plan, adapted to the cotton growing months, and taken from the Meteorological Journal of this Society is appended to this paper.]

It may be said that, as we have no control over the seasons and weather, such information is useless. We contend that every kind of positive information is useful. If we cannot present these causes which affect us injuriously, we can, at any rate, know what they are and how they affect us. It is a notorious fact, that when statistical information is collected and preserved, it is never useless. It sets men to thinking—it opens new lights to them—it gives them often a hint which may be improved to some valuable purpose. It is a fact unchangeable and unchanging, always reliable, open to all; and, not unfrequently, comes to be used afterwards for purposes which never occurred to the original collectors.

We would, therefore, take this opportunity of urging upon the Society, the importance of collecting and preserving all statistical information in reference to agriculture. For this very purpose our Committees are all well arranged and distributed. The machinery is complete, but the impetus to
set that machinery in motion is wanting. It is necessary to have the hearty co-operation of all the members to effect this object. An agricultural society cannot remain stationary while all around is in progress. If we do not advance, we shall assuredly be left behind in the great march of improvement.

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TABULAR STATEMENT,

Of the mean temperature, number of rainy or cloudy days, and amount of rain in inches, during the cotton growing months, for the years 1846, 1847 and 1848, taken from the Meteorological Journal of the Black Oak Agricultural Society.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>April</td>
<td>63.55</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2.90</td>
<td>65.50</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>62.80</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>73.24</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5.36</td>
<td>66.70</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5.34</td>
<td>77.05</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5.85</td>
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<tr>
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<td>75.13</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>7.77</td>
<td>80.66</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>5.72</td>
<td>73.45</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2.58</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>76.33</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5.19</td>
<td>82.40</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>5.33</td>
<td>78.33</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>73.46</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6.45</td>
<td>78.55</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9.56</td>
<td>73.33</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mean temperature of the 5 months: 72.34
Whole number of rainy days: 78
Total Rain: 27.67, 26.52, 18.27