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3-4-1828

Austin Tucker and Thomas Tucker

Letters Patent, granted March 24th 1828.

The schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same containing a description in the words of the said Austin Tucker and Thomas Tucker themselves of their improvement in the mode of curing Tobacco.

Improvement in the art of preparing Tobacco to be cured [illegible] scaffolds or houses and curing the same by sticking, hacking and [illegible] scaffolds or such other things as may be found necessary in the judgment of the manager to make it sufficiently yellow to be cured of the desired colour, taking care in all cases not to suffer the tobacco to advance too near putrescence. It is best to let it stand in the field until it is fully ripe, and when it is cut, take it when about half limber, and put it together with the stalks pointing upwards and the leaves on the ground, or on [illegible] dry leaves or straw spread on the ground, taking care not to crowd the tobacco so close or in such quantities as to cause it to heat. This is called sticking or hacking, and is the best mode for tobacco that is of a deep green colour or [illegible] when cut, it should be covered up in this situation if there be hot sun, with green bushes or something that will answer the same purpose, and remain from twenty four to forty eight hours, if the weather permits, then take it up, hang it on sticks and crowd it on low scaffolds so that a [illegible] of the ends of the leaves will be on the ground, under the scaffolds the ground should be covered with [illegible] dry straw or leaves [illegible] there be a natural coat of grass sufficient to keep the Tobacco from the dirt. The exposed parts of the tobacco should be covered as before, in this situation it should remain if the weather permits until it is sufficiently yellow to be cured of the desired colour, the manager occasionally examining, say every ten or twelve hours to see that it does not get hot, and also to see when it is sufficiently yellow: then raise it on a common high scaffold sufficiently open

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for the air and soon exhale off the natural damps and exhalations while the Tobacco was near the ground, it may then be cured by accelimation of heat and air as by fire, taking care not to let the Tobacco be expos'd to rain or damp time after it is cut, or before with it commences curing. If it should be necessary on account of weather to carry the Tobacco into the house before it is sufficiently yellow, it may be arranged on the scaffolds until it is in order for curing, or until the weather will permit the Tobacco to be taken.

Tobacco which has a yellowish appearance in the field when cut, may be laid on the low scaffolds so soon as it is sufficiently limber to prime the stalks, without either shredding or stripping.

If the weather is unfavorable for preparing the Tobacco for curing, or if the manager prefers having it in the house, it may be prepared in a temporary way so as to keep the leaves of the Tobacco from expanding to the point it becomes yellow.

The improvement in the art of curing or drying Tobacco of any colour by means of the log or channel may be the plainer shewn as by raising posts of wood, brick or stone work form channels to make the pieces, which the logs or channels are covered with sheet iron or other metal.

We prefer wood in making three of the channels from a house twenty feet square, six inches into the ground, and two inches wide, three rails from one foot above ground, the channels to be covered with sheet iron or other metal two feet wide; The metal to commence about two feet from the wall, the two outside channels are to turn about two inches half from the rails to allow room between two inches half of the opposite rails of the house from what they commence, from the outside ends of the two outside channels there shall turn an channel of the same size and description aforesaid in the same way two inches half from the wall, &c.

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