What is the cause? Does it become so from the attack of insects above or below ground? My friend of whom I enquired about it, believes it does – but could give no reason for it – I do not think so, because, they would have been discovered long before this; as the aphis, the web, the horn and other worms, and the fly and other insects; besides the plant would die or recover after a short duration. Well then does it become so from a disease, to which the plant is liable to be attacked from its natural organization; under certain peculiar circumstances? I think so for the following reasons: It is never seen on high, rolling land – it is most frequent in seasons where the rains are heavy and frequent and the land kept wet: it is always found, if found at all, on low, moist land, retentive of water – Again it is found on land which was very foul, or manured with unfermented manure, which by the hot sun and plenty of rain rapidly decompose and create great heat. It is seen more in seasons when the rains are preceded and succeeded both by great heat, and drying winds causing a perfect steam to exude from the earth. These are facts we learned from practical men, and from them I conclude that "Frenching" is a disease which attacks tobacco under certain circumstances with peculiar seasons combined – Let us see if this theory will hold good in your case

You say "I did not break my land until late, ploughing under the coarse at of my manure at breaking." There was no rain from that time, you say until it was planted, and all moisture had escaped from the land – then no decomposition of the manure had taken place of course, and the ground must have been very hot.

"2nd. July you planted" – "it stood well", and this rain you see set the coarse manure to decompose; on the 10th. 11th. 12th you had copious rains, then it was that fermentation of the coarse manure, was caused by the heat of the ground and the copious rains, causing decomposition to go on rapidly, it was like a boiling cauldron under the Tobacco plant roots, and then you noticed your Tobacco was dail. Therefore, for you say "it was soon after these rains I noticed my Tobacco "Frenching" –

Again "The land on which this tobacco stands is flat"

"it is retentive of moisture when unfermented"

I think you will agree with me that we find, your case most powerfully supports the theory I have advanced – As to the cure I have notice to offer, I look on a plant of Tobacco which has "Frenched", like a sick sheep – it is gone! But the remedy I believe will be found perfectly effectual. Never plow foul land late for Tobacco or manure tobacco land with unfermented or under-composed manure, unless it be in the fall or winter