A LITTLE WOMAN.

In a little precious diamond What a splendor meets the eyes; In a little lump of sugar How much of sweetness lies! So, in a little woman, Love grows and multiplies; You recollect the proverb says-A word unto the wise.

A pepper-corn is very small, But seasons every dinner More than all other condiments, Although it is sprinkled thinner; Just so a little woman is, If love will let you win her, There is not a joy in all the world! You would not find within her.

And, as within the little rose You'll find the richest dyes, And in the little grain of gold Much price and value lies; As from the little balsam Much odor does arise, So, in the little woman, There's a taste of paradise.

The skylark and the nightingale, Though small and light of wing, Yet warble sweetest in the grove Than all the birds that sing; And so a little woman, Though a very little thing,

Is sweeter than all other sweets, Even flowers that bloom in Spring!

Communicated.

STATE AND MUNICIPAL TAXES.

Collection of Taxes --- Mode of Enforcing Payment .-- Penalty for Non-Payment.

To the Editor of the Dispatch .- It is the duty of every member of the General Assembly to consider what, if any, defects there may be in the existing public laws with the view to remedy them by appropriate legislation. One among the greatest and most patent of such defects is in the system of assessment and taxation. The present inquiry, however, is directed to the defects in the system of taxation only, or rather in the mode of collecting taxes.

A casual inspection of the tax duplicates will show of how large a porfron of her revenue the State is annually deprived by the failure of taxpayers to comply with their obligabe accounted for in but one way, viz: net enforce the payment of taxes.

while increasing the expenses incident to such sales. It must be ad- besides being possessed of rare menmitted, then, that such sales have tal abilities, be highly educated, and been and are nullities, until at last well informed on all matters pertainmany, who do not conscientiously ing to education. The times demand bel their obligations and are actuated that he should be progressive; comby other motives, pay no taxes at all, bining that experience and culture confident that after the lapse of years which is fitted to lead teachers and the State will say to them, "if you schools up to a higher and a nobler pay one or two years' tax we remit all standard. And in every case he arrears," and yet enjoying along with must be interested-deeply interested others who have paid all their taxes in his work; so that, with his untiring the benefits of the government whose devotion and earnest appeals, he may citizens they are and whose interests inspire those under his supervision, are their interests.

ed to remain unchanged the result How pitiful to see a man occupying must be general demoralization such a position, whose sole incentive among the people in respect to the is the pay in dollars and cents! And payment of taxes and eventual bank- yet how frequently is this the case! ruptcy of the State. Demoralization | An article over the signature of in one respect will inevitably lead to "Country Teacher," appears in the demoralization in others.

We now narrow our inquiry down tract of which is as follows: to the question of taxation in incorpoattaches for non payment of taxes be, not who is the most anxious man,

due the one, which may be quickly the most needy, the most popular Wonderful Swimming of a Scotch followed by the other's lien attaching, among white or black; but who is to be augmented perhaps by an addi- the most worthy man, the man-best tional lien in favor of the first for a qualified to learn and to discharge the subsequent non-payment. If not duties of the position. In our opinotherwise an evil, this certainly is an ion it would be better to have these obstacle in the transfer of property. officers (School Commissioners) ap-We do not say that the present sys- pointed, either by the Governor or tem cannot by any possibility be by the State Superintendent of Eduworked harmoniously, but we do say cation. These matters are for the that it is so involved and cumbrous consideration of our law-makers." as to render its efficiency a practical

evil? Let us see. As in some other appointment, but will add another States let our Legislature place the for the consideration of those concollection of all taxes (State, County cerned. If School Commissioners and Municipal) in the hand of one are to be elected, why not leave such such times and in such instalments as may be most convenient to the taxpayer, with a penalty for non-payment, but whose infliction shall be absolutely sure; for unless the penalty, whatever it be, shall be strictly enforced and carried out, any system education and intellectual ability premust fail of its object.

Such a method would involve the necessity of altering the limits of the present State fiscal year, which begins with November; but conformity to the calendar year would, we imagine, be advantageous rather than oth-

The collection of all taxes by one officer would also obviate the ridiculous spectacle of a municipal government solemnly prescribing by ordinance a penalty of fifteen or twenty per cent. for non-payment of taxes, and then by subsequent ordinance or resolution revoking such penalty.

With the inauguration of such a system, a single aggregate tax to be collected by one officer, and the positive infliction of the penalty for the nonvantages resulting therefrom in the disease. general transfer of property.

T. W. BACOT. CHARLESTON, S. C., Nov. 16th, 1880.

School Commissioners.

BY A TEACHER.

It is a startling fact, that in many sections of our State, and even tions; and this evil increases from throughout some counties, the mayear to year. It is an evil which can jority of the voters cannot write their names. Worse still, in numerous inthat the State either cannot or will stances, those who should know better, vote in direct opposition to their own Every year, and sometimes more interests; saying by their actions, we than once in the year, we see official do not wish any improvement; we advertisements of the sale of long lists prefer to lag at our ease. Away with of property, which yield no fruit to intellect and culture! We scout the the State, and, in fact, only serve to man who holds them up to us! Can increase the public expenses, the State such be expected to choose compeinvariably forfeiting the property to tent School Commissioners? To us herself and leaving it in the posses- it has always appeared to be neither and enjoyment of the delinquent, more nor less than a miserable farce.

A School Commissioner should, with zeal in the noble cause of edu-If this condition of things be suffer- cation which is equalled only by his.

Southern Educational Monthly, an ex-

"Any school system will be just rated towns or cities, which are in- what it is made by its officers. We vested by the State with a power of hear much complaint about our free taxation within themselves for their school system in South Carolina. corporate purposes. Here an addi- How much of its failure to give satistional difficulty presents itself, and faction is due to unqualified, ineffithat is the complication arising from cient school officers? No harm will the conflict of the respective liens of result from its careful consideration. State and city; as for example, a lien | We may then hope the question will

Certainly, but is it not right that such matters be brought before that Now is there no remedy for this body? We like the suggestion of officer, such collection to be made at elections exclusively to school teachers and other school officials, such as trustees. &c.? The result would surely be satisfactory.

The world moves, and the time has come when duty demands that we step boldly to the front, and ask that side over our schools. We feel much interested in the matter, and would like some interchange of opinion on the same. Let every teacher and every official in the county make it a subject of careful thought; and a move in the right direction may result so favorably, that by the close of the next session of the Legislature, and say: "There is life in the old land yet."

Dots from Saluda Township.

FATRBANKS, S. O., Nov. 18, 1880. Messrs. Editors:-Now that the election is over and we have elected our State and County ticket, I will again dot you a few items from old Salada. Health of the people good; less payment of the tax, whatever the pen- fevers have prevailed during the last alty may be, the ghost of delinquents season than for several years; several will vanish, and we shall see the rev- cases of diphtheria have appeared enues of State and county and city but none have proved fatal. Our increased and rendered capable of physician, Dr. Eargle, has been very definite calculation, besides the ad- successful in his treatment of this

> Rain in abundance for the last week, which will delay some of us very much in sowing our grain; an unusually large acreage will be sown if the weather will admit.

> Crops are nearly all gathered. Corn is better than last year. Cotton not so good. More sorghum has been made than any previous year; several varieties are grown; California variety is said to be the best. Some have given attention to the cultivation of upland rice with success.

Some of our schools have opened with a good attendance. A school is badly needed near where the Lexington C. H., road crosses Bush River Road. Our Commissioner or trustees should see to it that the children in that vicinity receive some benefit of the public school fund.

With the best of wishes towards ou and your excellent paper, I am B.

What An Old Man has Noticed.

I have noticed that all men are honest when well watched.

I have noticed that purses will hold pennies as well as pounds.

I have noticed that in order to be a reasonable creature, it is necessary at times to be downright mad.

I have noticed when the purse is empty and the kitchen cold then is the voice of flattery no longer heard.

I have noticed that silks, broadcloths and jewels, are often bought with other people's money. I have noticed that whatever is, is

right, with a few exceptions—the left eye, the left leg, and the left side of a plum pudding. I have noticed that the prayer of

the selfish man, "Forgive us our debts," while he makes everybody thing.

to surrender the rascal to justice.

Girl.

fifty-three minutes. She is only 16 and remarked: years of age, and when it was known that she intended to swim the Chancomplish the feat. He swam vigoforced to take refuge in a boat completely benumbed .- Before mid channel was reached Miss Grow's hands were benumbed, and she turned on her back and chafes them a few moments. Refreshed by the rest, she again proceeded on ler way. At this point she was joined by her brother from one of the boats following her, who is a splendid swimmer and diver but he also had to succumb after being half an hour in the water. Left alone, she followed the leading boats with indomitable pluck, and gradually neared the shore. The current was now, unfortunately, very strong against her and her failing strength was unable to fight against the tide. I am going to the pawn shop and and she made little or no progress. pawn it. When within fifty yards of the shore she complained of-cramp, and her we may be encouraged to look up friends advised her to leave the water. She complied reluctantly, and after entering the boat, was carefully attended to. After partaking of re freshments and resting an hour, she returned to Dunoon, none the worse for her daring swim.

> At the last election, with a certainty of defeat staring his in the face, Hon. John W. Forney wrote these brave, true words; "I am only one of the ton. mill ons who voted for Hancock today, and what I can do to aid in this great work is read to The Democratic party holds the form of the future. Its reserve is the remote all brave men pledged to hostility to this new reign of capital. Its tremendons resources will rescue the Republic from tremendous perils. There is need necessarily for instant organization. In this hour, when the Republicans are exulting over a purchased victory, let the Democracy of the whole nation set their houses in order for the great struggle in the future."

Garfield will be the twentieth President of the United States.

Ten thousand Chinamen are preparing to go to the Louisiana sugar

Georgetown and Beaufort counties are the only two in the State that Hit's a button got offenwent Republican. The stock law will go into opera-

tion in Spartanburg County on the first day of next January. Strive to make a good impression

wherever you go, said Jones, as he pulled his foot out of the mud. Just take a bottle of my medicine

said a quack doctor to a consumtive and you'll never cough again. Is it so fatal as that? gasped the patient.

A Galvestion woman, just married, wishing to impress her husband with her ability as a bouskeeper, bawled out to the servant as she entered the door: Matilda, bring me the wash board, I want to wash the potatoes

The common belief that the pecan nut cannot be successfully cultivated in South Carolina has been satisfactorily proven to be erroneous by Mr. Hiram W. Lawson, of Abbeville his suspenders? County, who has now a noble tree in full bearing which he planted eighteen years ago. The fruit of this tree is exceptionally fine.

Well, we are all back where we snake." were fourteen years ago, with the that owes him pay to the utmost far- whole North arrayed against us, professing friendship in one breath and I have noticed that he who thinks voting with the next one to enslave every man a rogue is certain to see us. But South Carolina is all right, one when he shaves himself, and he thank God, and the devilish hate of ought, in mercy, to see his neighbors the Radical North cannot take away from us our fields and firesides. Let I have noticed that money is the us attend to them, and our love for fool's wisdom, the knave's reputation, the Union will perhaps grow and inthe poor man's desire, the covetous crease when our dear Northern brothman's ambition, and the idol of them ers learn that we are at least human. -Hampton Guardian.

A Relic of the War.

Yesterday a well-dressed man-but The young lady who has shown this is not a fasionable article; what's this wonderful endurance in water is the use of describing a man's dress? a Miss Lizzie Grow, who swam from Anyway, the man entered a store, Dunoon to the Scotch Light house and taking a brass button from his ciscan, lately returned from Japan. and was in the water one hour and pocket he handed it to a bystander, He is registered at the Lindell Hotel

ton was shot from Gen. Hancock's ing to the strange country he hails nel, a gentleman also essayed to ac- coat at the battle of Gettysburg. My father was on Hancock's staff, and rously for about a mile, when he was picked up the button when it fell from the General's coat.

said the man, examining it. From Hancock's coat? Well I declare. What'll you take for it? Excuse me, sir. I should not of asked such a silly question.

No offense, sir. I wouldn't sell the relic, of course, as it is bound to me by more than one tie. My father is dead, and the man looked away while the other party turned and made a foreign remark to a boy that stood by the counter lazily turning the leaves of a lot of sheet music. No, I wouldn't sell it, continued the man, but as I am in strained circumstances,

Don't do that. Let me take it.

Well, loan me \$5. The money was handed over, and after the relic man had carefully taken down the address of the capitalist he walked out. About five minutes afterward the clerk in a neighboring store entered and exclaimed: See boss relic-a button shot from Gen. Hancock's coat at the battle of Gettysburg. He then unwrapped a lot ent hair restorative and which repre of oil paper from around a brass but- sents the mermaid rising from the

Where did you get it? asked the man who had a similar curiosity.

I got it from a man whose father picked it up just after a bullet had clipped it from Hancock's coat. The poor fellow had started to the pawn shop. I let him have \$10 on it. What, ho! boss, exclaimed another

man, entering the store and holding up a brass button. Here's a relic for you. Shot from Gen. Hancock's coat during the-

Say, there, said a man looking through the doorway, do you fellers want to see a relic of the late war,

I've got one that'll beat it, said a man stooping and fumbling in his as that of a baby, but is perfect in vest pocket.

Hold on dar, said a colored man.

Oh, let up, exclaimed several voices, while the noise of buttons rolling on the floor was heard.

first victim. Why, bust my buttons, somebody must have drawn on Hancock with a double-barrelled shot-gun.

The party went out and the only information learned of him was that he had just cut the buttons from an old army coat and started for the next town.- Little Rock Gazette.

If marriages be made in heaven some have few friends there.

While the tall woman is stooping the little one bath the house swept.

The woman who neglects her husband's shirt fronts is no longer the wife of his bosom. When a girl talks about the two

strings to her beau, does she mean A man bought a picture of the temptation of Adam and Eve. Some

ture. "Yes," he said, "chased by a A girl wrote to her lover, "Now, John, don't you fale to be at the singing school to-night." John wrote back that "In the bright lexicon of

is no such word as fale." An Illinois man sold his wife for \$10, and now he wants to return half brought to their notice, and have con- him: "I say, John, they say that the money to ease his conscience. He says he wouldn't hesitate to cheat a man in a horse trade, but this is too two years ago by three fishermen, why you should say 'I say,' I say, rough on a purchaser.

A MAN WITH A MERMAID.

The Strange Creature, Half Woman and Half Fish, Now in St. Louis.

Mr. Chas. A. Doyle is a San Franfrom Yokohama, and in addition to Rather a valuable relic. This but- the interest that attaches to him, owfrom, he enjoys the further distinction of being known as the man with a "mermaid." A Globe-Democrat reporter learned yesterday that Mr. I should think that it was valuable, Doyle not only enjoys the distinction mentioned, but really is the possessor of a genuine mermaid. The reporter hunted up Mr. Doyle and had a pleasant chat with him. He had been in Japan for several years and was greatly interested in the many modernizing influences at work in the Orient. Mr. Doyle, who is an art critic and collector, went into raptures over the richness of Japans' art subscriptions promptly and under the products, and this is just what was expected from him, as he is here with a large quantity of rare Japanese articles, as curious as they are costly.

But these lost all interest to the reporter when a long deep glass cage, in the shape of an acquarium, was exhibited, which held the most curious and the rarest of all the objects in the collection. It was a wonderful looking thing, almost hideous to look upon, but possessing a powerful attraction for the beholder, owing to the queer amalgamation of species displayed in its formation. Those who here, fellers, I reckon I've got the have seen the old-time geography illustration, which has recently been used as a trademark for a certain patsea and combing her long locks with one hand while in the other she holds a small looking-glass, can recall this picture and thereby form an idea of what the present monstrosity looks like, barring, however, the beauty, ideal mermaid. Mr. Doyle's strange curiosity is half human, half fish. The head, chest, abdomen and arms are unmistakably human, but from the abdomen down the creature is a fish, scaly, finny and formed like the want to propose something very imextremities of a dweller in the water. portant to him. No. Clarance, papa The arms are covered with scales to is not in, but I am. Couldn't you the wrist, and the backs of the small propose to me just as well? And he hands have the same scaly covering did with perfect success. to the finger tips. The head is small every detail; the forehead does not recede, but is high and straight and Lem me show yer de boss curyasity. is of the class that indicates an unusnal degree of intelligence. The eyes are soft, swimmy and lightless, as those of a fish; but the mouth, the ears, the nose, and in fact all the Less look for that feller, said the other features, are pronounced human, regular, clear cut, and as perfect as a beautiful woman's face. A light covering of brown hair, several applied for a license to sell whiskey. inches in length, and eyebrows of the if he was of good moral character. same color, are the only hirsute of replied: "Faith, your honor, I don't appendages. The spinal column is clearly seen running up to the base of the skull and falling down the back until it is lost in the fishy extremity. Ten ribs are easily counted upon the breast, and the mammalian female development for feeding the young is readily discernible. The mermaid measures almost three feet from the crown of the head to the extremity of the candal fin, and is said to be larger

one asked him if it was a chaste pic-Mr. Doyle is very proud of his mermaid, and, although a great many attempts have been made to induce him to sell the curious creature, he has thus far refused to part with her. youth-Webster's Unabridged-there near Urishaba, in the great island sea. John."

than the only other specimen of the

kind ever seen in this country. The

other mermaid is now on exhibition

in the New York Aquarium, and at-

tracts a vast amount of attention from

They had seen her many times and had made many attempts to capture her, and succeeded in taking her after the most persistent efforts. When taken she was placed in the museum at Tokio and remained there for a year and a-half. She had been heard by the fishermen to sing a peculiar song while on the rocks, but never spoke, except to feebly try to articalate after her capture. She was fed on a peculiar sea-weed, the secret of which is known only to the Japanese, and thrived under the great care taken of her. Mr. Doyle purchased her from the authorities of Tokio at the extravagant figure of 5,000 sats or dollars. The purchase was made to satisfy a sudden desire to possess the strange creature, and Mr. Doyle does not know what special advantage he enjoys in being one of the very few men who own a mermaid. -St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The duty on paper-To pay your consciousness that you get more for the money than can be had in any other way.

Native to stranger. "We have always an east wind in Galveston." "But I see the wind right now is from the West." "Oh that's the East wind coming back you know." "Ah."

A junior was heard to remark, on a recent Sunday, after Professor had preached an eloquent sermon. "That was a splendid sermon. Gad! One hundred and eight single gestures and thirteen double."

I understand, said the Galveston recorder, that you are a confirmed drunkard. Dat's whar you is too soon jedge. I ain't been confirmed in no church yet, but the blue light Baptises is giben Satan a heap ob worry about me.

If a country editor's purse was as long as the time his delinquent subscribers takes to pay for their paper, and as well filled as his imagination, what a mine of wealth he could command! And if-but let us leave that painful subject.

Ella, is your father at home? Said a bashlul lover to his sweetheart. I

My case is just here, said a cittizen to a lawyer the other day. "The plaintiff will swear that I hit him. I will swear that I did not. Now, what can you lawyers make out of that? Five dollars apiece! was the prompt reply, as the lawyer extended his

The Irishman had a correct appreciation of the fitness of things who, being asked by the judge, when he see the necessity of a good moral character to sell whiskey.

When an Eastern man goes to Colorada, he is called "tenderfoot" until he has been stabbed, shot at, engaged in a free fight, fallen down a mine, kicked by a mule, and chased by a vigilance committee. Then they admit that he is getting use to the country, and when he killed a man he is looked upon as a citizen.

Any good shooting on your farm? asked the hunter of the farmer. Splendid, replied the agriculturalist; there's a machine agent down in the scientists as well as from the general field, a cloth peddler at the house, a lightning rod agent and a candidate out in the barn lot, and two tramps in the stock yard. Climb right over the fence, young man, load both barrels, and let into 'em.

An old gentleman who was in the He says the monstrosity has been sub- habit of prefixing "I say," to every jected to the closest scrutiny by sci- sentence to which he gave utterance. entists of the Pacific slope, all of having heard that his man-servant whom have pronounced her the most mimicked him, thus addressed the wonderful natural phenomenon ever ill-behaved domestic when he met curred in declaring mermaids no long- you say that I say 'I say;' and if I do er myths. The curiosity was captured say 'I say,' I say that it is no reason