I learned that Mrs. Jackson was living at the Presbyterian Institute, where she was superintending the education of her daughter, Miss Julia a muny haired little girl of fourteen years. Presenting my card at the door I was carried to a cosy reception room that has been set apart for Mrs. Jackson's use. I found there a fair, pleasant faced lady, running agreeably to embompoint, awaiting my arrival. The widow's weeds, no more than the touching air of sadness, through which her smiles struggled to light, told me that the wife of the South's match-I learned that Mrs. Jackson was living at told me that the wife of the South's matchless hero stood before me. With charming grace she hade me he sected, and we were

mutual friend having endorsed me to Mrs Jackson.

"I declare," said she, "I am engaged on a work that completely unnerves me. You know I have always refrained from writing one word concerning my husband's home life. Although importuned again and again to do so, I have felt that I could not. public record belongs to the world. His home history is mine. I have felt that the possession was sacred. A few days since I received a very kind letter from Colonel McClure, of the Philadelphia Times, asking me to contribute an article to his paper con-cerning my husband's life. His letter was followed by letters from General Imboden and others, endorsing his request. He of-fered to pay me one hundred dollars a column for whatever I might write. This, I am sure, must be an exceedingly liberal offer, and, I must confess, had much to do with my acceptance of the proposition.] am very anxious to build a home for myself and my daughter in this city, and feel that if I can earn what money I need with my pen, I will be doing a work that my husband

"Besides this, I have felt that it was my duty to write something that would give the world a true idea of my husband's character. No man has been more misunderstood than he. He is represented as having been stern, inexerable and hard natured. He was just the opposite. He was as demon-strative, as affectionate and yielding as a woman. At home he was tender, playful and loving. The dignity, sternness and reserve that he were in public, was thrown off the moment he was out of sight of the public, and he became natural, spontaneous and happy. You can never know how irksome was to keep his real nature bound down mask, and he wore it as a martyrdom.

would advise me to were he living.

"His whole life hupg around his home. He had no ambition-no love of powerno thought of place or pomp. His horror of bloodshed was instinctive and powerful. He served his country from a sense of duty. As I said to some one the other day, the happiest moment of his life during the war was, in my opinion, when he had sent in his tween him and the government were such "His love for his daughter gave an instance cerning him. He was passionately devoted to children. Our first child died, and my daughter was born only a few weeks before his death. He never took a day's furlough tures he went into over that little girl's cra dle. I have seen him kneel by her cradle for hours at a time, just gazing into her alceping face. Those who had known him only in public were astonished at the apparent transformation of his character.

"It is partly that I may put his true character before the world that I have decermined to write a sketch of him for the Times. I am now at work on it, and it will be ready in a very short time. I can give certain facts that can be obtained from no other source; I shall give them in a plain

and simple manner.' I suggested that the letters to her, during the war, would give her many interesting points. "Oh, no," she said, a charming blush stealing over her face, while soft remembrances put a new light in her expressive eyes, "they were all real love letters .-He had little room for anything else in his letters home. And then he was a very prudent man and never talked of his plans to any one. I only gathered from them some general facts, as follows: He was absolutely confident of the final triumph of the Southern arms, and of the permanent establishment of the Southern Confederacy. He felt all the time that the war was being waged on a wrong plan. He felt that the South would be worn out if the struggle was protracted. He even complained that General Lee was too slow, although he had great admiration and love for him.

"It has been said that he was a sort of laughing stock at Lexington. This was surely a mistake. From the very beginning of the troubles he was turned to as the head of affairs in Lexington. He was put in immediate command of the cadets, though not by rank entitled to that place. The whole city loved him and respected him.— He was the politest man in the world. He never passed a lady on the street, whether stranger or not, without raising his hat .-One thing I remember of him-he never locked into a room that he happened to pass when the door was open-not even my

Mrs. Jackson is very pleasantly situated in Charlotte. Her father, a Fresbyterian minister, lives near the city. She has a Brown and Mrs. D. H. Bill) living in the General Washington Dispatches.

city. She spends her days quietly at the Institute, surrounded by a bevy of iunoccut young girls, and in the midst of loving and

Her means are limited, but sufficient .-She has few desires, and lives cheaply and comfortably. As signified above, she is desirous just now of building a home in Charlotte for her daughter and herself, as she has determined to make this city her per manent residence. To accomplish her purpose she has closed a contract to write a sketch of her husband's life for the Philadelphia Times, and they have allowed her for this work the extraordinary price of one hundred dollars per column. A movement was inaugurated some twelve months ago by Mrs. Morehead, of Charlotte, to have the various memorial societies of the South raise special fund on memorial day for the pur-ose of building Mrs. Jackson a none.

For some cause or other the movement failed, only two or three hundred dollars being raised.

A dread of notoriety that it will, bring, has almost dissuaded Mrs. Jackson from fulfilling her contract. She shrinks from anything like a conspicuous place. An amusing instance of the annoyance that publicity brings is furnished in the following: Some months ago a paragraph slipped into the papers, saying that Miss Julia Jackson was a pretty girl of sixteen years or thereabouts. By the time this paragraph had made the rounds of the press, Mrs. Jackson's mail was greatly augmented. Each post brought a number of epistles from strange (very strange) young men, begging that "Miss Julia" would, in the language of the "letter writer," favor them with her "confidence and correspondence." It is hard to conceive how the whole brood of young men throughout the North and West were at once seized with impudent intent, but so it was. The letters-all sorts of letterskept pouring in-pouring through Mrs. Jackson's hands to the fire.

It is a pleasure to witness the universal love in which the people of Charlotte hold Mrs. Jackson. They cluster around her as some great family about a loved member .-Could the great hero, whom she wedded, have spoken his mind before he "had crossed over the river to rest beneath the trees," he wife and daughter than the legacy of love in which they are enfolded.

affection; and it is the total enging to be able to record two instances in the one, if not both, of the quality in shown in remarkable manner in this animal. The college one acre of land worth five dollars, requires one acre of land worth five dollars, requires one acre of land worth of fencing. Often-remarkable manner in this animal. The college dollars worth of fencing. Often-remarkable manner in this animal. The college dollars worth of fencing. Often-remarkable manner in this animal. The college dollars worth of fencing. Often-remarkable manner in this animal. The college dollars worth of fencing. Often-remarkable manner in this animal. The college dollars worth of fencing. Often-remarkable manner in this animal. The college dollars worth of fencing. Often-remarkable manner in this animal. The college dollars worth of fencing. Often-remarkable manner in this animal. The college dollars worth of fencing. Often-remarkable manner in this animal. The college dollars worth of fencing. Often-remarkable manner in this animal. The college dollars worth of fencing. Often-remarkable manner in this animal. The college dollars worth of fencing. Often-remarkable manner in this animal. The college dollars worth of fencing. Often-remarkable manner in this animal. The college dollars worth of fencing. Often-remarkable manner in this animal. The college dollars worth of fencing. Often-remarkable manner in this animal. The college dollars worth of fencing. Often-remarkable manner in this animal. The college dollars worth of fencing. Often-remarkable manner in this animal. The college dollars worth of fencing. Often-remarkable manner in this animal. The college dollars worth of fencing. affection; and it is the tero ago, when Tom came and stood near me mewing in a plaintive way, as if to attract attention. Not wishing to be disturbed, I waved him off. He, however, returned in a resignation to the Confederate Government | minute or so, and this time jumped on to the and contemplated returning to our little sofa, and looking me in the face, renewed home in Lexington. The differences bearing noise more vigorously. Losing patience, I roughly drove him away. He then went that he did not believe he could be of further to the door of the adjoining room, and stood service. Hence, his sense of duty was re-conciled to his laying down his sword.— I got up and went toward him. As I approached, he made for the farther corner of | ing horses and cattle into their fields. The of the misapprehension that prevailed con- the room, and began to show fight, bristling farmers formed but a small population at up and flourishing his tail. It at once struck me that there was an unwelcome visitor in the room, which Tom wished to get very harshly against the farmers. The ownhis death. He never took a day's furlough during the war; not even to come to see to child. Just before the took of Chancel lorsville I took the little bedy and went to see him. You should have seen what rap tures he seet into over that little girls are the snake, and he attempted to make off; A man may be prosecuted in an action for the snake, and he attempted to make off; A man may be prosecuted in an action for the snake, and he attempted to make off; but I dispatched him with my gun, which was ready loaded close by. You should have seen Tom's satisfaction. He ran between my legs, rubbing himself fagainst them caressingly, as if to say, 'Well done master!' The snake measured five feet seven inches in length."

The friend to whom this incident is related, after reading it to me, went on to say, that some years ago, when in India with her father, the family were gathered after tea, one rainy evening, listening to one of their number who was reading an interesting story. While thus engaged, a cat of which her father was very fond jumped on his knee, and, moving about in a restless manner, began to mew in a louder key than usual. The old gentleman as was his wont, commenced to caress the cat, expecting thereby to quiet it; but to no purpose. It showed signs of impatience, by jumping down and up again, mewing vigorously the whole time. Not wishing to be interrupted in what was going on, he called for a servant to put the cat out of the room; but Puss would not tamely submit to an indignant turn-out, and commenced clawing at the old man's feet. This he thought was going too far, he rose to chastise the cat. but, ere he had time to do so, he discovered that it was nothing less than a timely warning which Puss had given him, for not far from where he sat there was under the table a small, venomous snake, which probably would have bitten him had he molested or trampled on it. The reptile was immediately killed; and Puss ceased her mewing. - Chamber's Journal.

HORNE TOOKE having challenged Wilkes, who was then Sheriff of London and Middlesex, received the following laconic reply: "Sir, I do not think it my business to cut the throat of every desperado that may be tired of his life; but as I am at present High Sheriff of London, it may happen that I shall shortly have to attend you in my official pacity, in which case I will answer for it that you shall have no ground to complain of my endeavors to serve you.'

Gen. Washington couldn't tell a lie, and

JUDGE MACKEY'S CHARGE.

At the opening of the April term of the Chester County Court, Judge Mackey deivered, in substance, the following characteristic charge to the Grand Jury, in which truth, logic and humorous satire are admirably blended:

Gentlemen of the Grand Jury : As this s the first time you have served in the important position to which you have been called, it is proper that you should be instructed in regard to your duties and pow-

Your first duty will be to act upon all bills laid before you by the Solicitor—these bills are accusations, in solemn form, against some one charged with crime. In acting upon these bills, you will examine only witnesses for the State. In all cases of with all who are engaged in this noble work grard jury must find a true bill. The find-

ing of a bill is no proof of guilt.

The grand jury may act without assistance from the Solicitor in cases of nuisance. such as buying cotton, or other agricultural products at night, whether from the lawful owner or not. To conduct a lawful business in such a way as to endanger the property of others, or to cause a feeling of insecurity, subjects the person thus conducting his business to indictment. Since this coustruction of the law has been applied, this business of trading at night has fallen off ninety per cent within the bounds of this

Your attention is called to a matter of general concern—the fence law. The criminal docket of the court is crowded year after year with cases arising from cattle breaking into fields where there are growing crops. Persons shoot down cattle breaking into their fields, and the court sentences those who thus kill the cattle of their neighbors. Still this thing will be done, while human nature remains as it is; men will not stand by and see the fruits of their labor thus destroyed. It is proper for this grand jury to memorialize the Legislature. at its session to begin this week, to repeal the fence law. Carefully prepared statis-tics show that twenty dollars is expended in fences to keep out one dollar's worth of cattle. Chester county contains a smaller could have left no richer heritage to his quantity of timber than any county of equal area in the State. Much of this timber has recently been used and is still to be used in CATS AND SNAKES.

It is not often that we hear any credit rendered to the eat for either intelligence or

You may say, in your memorial to the Legislature, that the farmers of the county will act in self-defense; they will give three months notice, and at the end of that time will drop all their fences, protect their crops and test the constitutionality of the present fence law. The fence law was enacted in 1694. It day, who were spoken of, in the preamble cometimes larger than the first, and of choice

that time. The fence law, kept in force from that day to this, still discriminates damages, for milking his neighbor's unpenned cow, yet he cannot recover for damages committed by that roving cow upon his unpenned or unenclosed crop. As said before,

the law is barbarism, and should at once be abolished. The attention of the Court has been called to the fact that at a point eight miles north of Chester is a wood pile, owned by the Charlotte Columbia & Augusta Railroad. and that in the winter of 1875 this wood pile was incorporated by an act of the Leg-

slature under the name of the "town of Okestnut Grove." [Laughter.] The population of this wood-pile, so called town, consists of five whites and eleven colored. [Renewed laughter.] The corporators of this so called town pay no taxes, and yet one town government was to levy a tax of fifteen mills. The very first act of the so called incorporation was to license two barrooms. Cato Porter, one of the incorporators said that the principal object in having the wood pile incorporated was that a grogshop might be opened there. At the January term of this court, this same Cato Porter was convicted of a violation of the license laws of the State. The so called town of Chestnut Grove consists mainly, as the Court is informed, of a large wood-pile,

doubt, protect its property without an act of incorporation. [Laughter.]

The grand jury will investigate this whole matter, and if they find that the facts alleged are true, this Court will use all its power to prevent the exercise of municipal every man to take care of his own property, authority by this so called town government. authority by this so called town government;

which always grows smaller after a dark night. [Loud laughter.] This wood pile is the property of the Charlotte Columbia

& Augusta Railroad, and the road can, no

and will expunge the charter.

You will inquire and report how the publie officers of the county are discharging their duties. If any public officer is incompetent, or if he violates his trust, or if he neglects the business of his office, he is indictable.

You will ascertain and report the number and condition of the public schools in operation in the county. You will likewise ascertain and report

vides that all officers must qualify within thirty days after the election. The persons claiming to have been elected to the offices of school commissioners, county commission ers, and probate judge have not thus qualified. This matter will be brought to the attention of His Excellency, the Governor, who will cause to be issued writs for another election to fill these offices.

The Court is called upon this morning to excuse a number of jurors from attendance upon this term, for the reason that children have just been born into their families .-The Court cheerfully grants all applications for this cause and congratulates the good people of the county upon the fact that, simultaneously with the redemption of the State, we have such a fruitful year in population. The best wishes of the Court are with all who are engaged in this noble work.'

HINTS ON CLOVER AND GRASS. BY DR. T. W. HARRISS.

It is not too late yet to sow. Some think it is the best to sow in the Fall. I can't say as to this. From my own experience I would say, that, sowed in the Spring in this purpose the harrow is necessary. If it | The grading already done and paid for is wished to sow on wheat or oats, the harrow will prepare the land well and will not injure the grain crop. Unless it is loose soil, it is often better to harrow two or more times with an interval of a week or so between the workings. If cultivation is good for wheat, which seems reasonable, then we ought not to to stop at one harrowing. So far as my observation goes, the effect of one harrowing is not perceptible. At any rate it is too small an amount of cultivation to be of much advantage. Whatever number of harrowings one wishes to give his wheat, they must be all done when the seed is sown -the last one or the roller covering the

come when covered with the harrow. Clover is indispensable on the Farm. After a field is once seeded it is easy to keep it forever seeded. A clover sod may be turned in the Spring and cultivated in corn and followed by wheat in the Fall, and a good stand of clover will come without re-

grass seed. I have never had seed fail to

seeding.
Orchard grass is one of the best of the grasses. It is very tenacious of life, grows up early in the Spring, and continues to do so as often as you cut it, throughout the Summer. It affords a considerable amount of Winter pasturage, if the Winter is not too severe or it has a little protection. It succeeds well when the land is not too wet.

Timothy does well on pottoms when a enough for corn. In point of quality it takes the lead-at least in the estimation of the public. This grass will not succeed on dry land in this State, I think.

Herd's grass, or red top, will succeed on wetter land than Timothy, and for low bottoms not well drained, it is among our best grasses. This grass and Timothy make very little aftermath. A good meadow well stocked in Herd and native grasses, will make a first crop of almost pure Herd's discriminated against the farmers of that grass, and a second crop of native grass,

> In speaking of harrowing wheat, I said nothing about the kind of harrow used .-This question is often asked. The fashion is to speak of the Thomas Smoothing harrow, for this purpose, as if no other would do. A straight tooth harrow will not tear Up the steat. You need not be afraid.— Drive boldly over the crop—it may look like ruining it, especially if the ground is loose, but if you will examine you will find very little wheat torn up, and in a few days, the dirt will be knocked off and the young plants will look none the worse. The 'Thomas Harrow' is without doubt a good implement, but any harrow may be used.

> If you have any young clover or grass which you wish to cut for hay or which you wish for pasturage, do not turn your stock on it now. Better feed them and take care of your grass.

FARMING WITHOUT FENCING .- Under this heading, we find the following from the Union, a paper published at Junction City, Kansas, (located at the point where the Kansas, Pacific and Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroads intersect) which, as it relates to a subject that is new receiving much ttention from this section will be of interest of our readers :

"We have a law in Kansas, which has ocen sustained by the Supreme Court, which enables County Commissioners, upon a certain petition or vote of the people to issue an order restraining stock from running at large, in their respective counties. It is called the herd law, and is designed to enable farmers to raise their crops without the expenses of fencing. It is the most remarkably successful reform of this decade .-There is, under this law, no trespass by stock because stock is better cared for by its owners. There is less litigation about trespass than in a fence country, because fences are not always reliable. The idea of the herd law is the embodiment of justice and common sense. It protects the growing crops, which disturb no one, from the roaming, malicious steer, which is a constant disturbance to everybody. In other words, it requires

ONE LIFE, ONE AIM .- A wife said to her husband, who was scolding her, "However cross you may be, there is not a couple who live in greater unanimity than you and I; for we always desire the same thing-you want to be master, and so do I."

AFTER FORTY YEARS OF LITIGATION. - New Orleans, April 17.—District Judge Billings has rendered a favorable decision in the case of Myra Clark Gaines, involving millions of dollars in You will likewise ascertain and report property in New Orleans. This ends forty what officers have qualified. The law pro- years of litigation in favor of the claimant.

Spartanburg and Asheville Railroad. An interesting meeting of the Stockholders and other citizens of Charleston interested in the success of this important enterprise, was held in Charleston on the 13th instant in the Hall of the Bank of Charleston. We make the following extract from the account given of said meeting in the Charleston News and Courier:

Maj. D. R. Duncan, the President of the Spar-tanburg and Asheville Rail Road, then gave an interesting account of the condition and pros-pects of the company. Maj. Duncan, in the course of his remarks, said that the road was ow continuously graded for a distance of about thirty-two miles, which included the heaviest work on the road. By June 1st three miles additional will be graded, and the graded line of thirty-five miles will then run clear to the summit of the mountain, at l'ace's Gag. This point reached, there is no descent to Asheville, the reached, there is no descent to Ashevine, the intervening country being on the plateau of the Blue Ridge. The point thirty-five miles from Spartanburg is eight miles from Flat Rock and sleven miles from Hendersonville. Nor is it in the miles of a wildenness but right out the film miles of the country of the miles of

Howard's Gap Road and three miles from The

Saluda Gap road.

Besides the continuous grading of thirty five miles about ten miles more are graded in dis-connected sections. Four hundred laborers are at work grading, two hundred of whom are con-victs hired from North Carolina. In Henderson suitably prepared soil and covered properly, for in the bonds of those counties, which the they are pretty sure to come. The top soil contractors have agreed to receive in place of ought to be fine and freshly stired. For

would cost, at contractor's prices, no less than.....

25 miles of cross-ties delivered and distributed, only \$1,800 unpaid.... 5 miles of iron rail and fastenings, including 10 miles in opperation, all paid for

65,000

Cost and value of work and material ... \$481,250 The work done by the convicts has saved the ompany for that work at least fifty per cent. in cash outlay; but the value of the work and maerial is as we have given it. There is some little floating indebtedness, but the balance due on private stock subscriptions will more than cover

Ten miles of the road are now in opperation and, by the 25th of the present month, fifteen miles in all will be open, unless the weather interfere. The company needs twenty miles more iron to lay the track to Pace's Gap, the point thirty-five miles from Spartandurg. This iron, with the cross-ties, fastenings, and the cost of laying, will come to \$88,000, and the company have made arrangements to pay half this amount in cash, receiving a credit, extending to two years, for the remainder. The issue of mortgage bonds to an amount not exceeding \$10,000 mile has been authorized, and the company desire to borrow, upon the security of their bonds. ty will be the work already done, with the iron to be bought and Jaid, costing nearly \$500,000, with thirty-five miles of road in operation; and the whole lien upon this in shape of the first mortgage will not much exceed \$4,000 a mile. But the security is not limited to the bare value of the road. As soon as the road reaches Pace's Mountain the whole the past trivel of the transmonant districts will past the light trivel of the trively par numerous of wagons from Asheville, within easy distance of the Western North Carolina Railroad, drag their way to distant Green-ville and Spartanburg, and the produce they

bring, and far more, will naturally seek the Rai When Major Duncan had finished his explanatory statement, Senator Cannon, of Spartanburg, briefly addressed the meeting, describing the character of the country through which the Spartanburg and Asheville Rail Road passes.— He mentioned that Northern settlers had already bought 35,000 acres of land in Transylvania County, N. C. This settlement and others like it would increase the business of the road. In explanation of the fact that produce seeks South Carolina, by wagon, instead of the Western N. 2. Rail Road, he said that it was useless for the farmers to send their corn, wheat, eggs, milk and other articles to that Raiload, because the

country through which it runs produces those same articles just as cheaply. South Carlina, on the contrary, needs them, not raising them as abundantly; and, seeking the best market, the produce flows to this State. Where the farmers sell they likewise buy, and the whole State will thus be benefitted.

In reply to questions by Capt. Fairly, Maj. Barker and other gentlemen, Maj. Duncan said that the cost of grading the whole line to Asheville would average \$7,000 a mile; the entire cost of the road, fully equipped, will be about \$13,000 a mile. (making it the cheapest road of that gauge in the country) and that, when completed, the mortgage debt will be between \$5,-000 and \$6,000 a mile. The Spartanburg and Acheville Railroad is the only road in the United States that crosses the Blue Ridge without a tunnel. The depots on the line from Pace's Gap to Spartanburg, with the necessary land, will be built and given to the company by the owners of the land through which the line runs. Two of these depots, far ahead of the track-layers, were already built. One of these, at the Rutherford and Greenville Cross Roads, twenty-two miles from Spartanburg, is an exceedingly commedious and handsome structure. A store stands near the depet, with a large sawing and planing mill. The meeting being in possession of the ne-

ersary information, on motion, adjourned.

Major Duncan, by his clear and business-like statements, has made an excellent impression in Charleston, and the prospect is very flattering.

GRANGERS .- Whatever else may be said of the Grangers "as a secret order without any secreey," it must be admitted that they have taught the farmers how to buy cheaply and how to sell their products at full prices. It must also be said, to their credit. that they have brought down the prices of many manufactured and other articles of prime neccessity from 15 to 331 per cent. agricultural implements, coal, etc., for example. Morever, there is no doubt that the order of Patrons of Husbandry has introduced a new element of sociability and improvement among farmers. Many of the Grange headquarters have been virtually transformed into club rooms-some of them supplied with libraries; and they are habitually frequented by all the members entitled to their privileges. Certainly, an insti-tution of which such things can be said, and which is purely non-political in its constitution and by-laws, deserves to be kept alive, encouraged and bidden God speed! by every well-wisher of that class, upon whose prosperity rests the welfere of the whole frame -work of American society .- Frankfort (Ky.) Yeoman.

An imaginative Irishman has improved upon Ossian. "I returned," said he, "to the halls of my father by night, and I found them in ruins. I cried aloud: 'My fathers, where are they?" And echo responded: 'Is that you, Patrick M'Clathery?"

GOV. HAMPTON'S MESSAGE.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

COLUMBIA, S. C , April 26, 1877. Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representa-

It is proper that I should, before entering ino a discussion of the grave questions which will come before you, give the reasons that impelled me to call the General Assembly together at a ime so unusual and inconvenient to its members. recognize and appreciate fully the great personal sacrifice demanded of the members by the call which brings them here; but the critical condition of public affairs and the welfare of the State made it imperative that I should invoke the aid of the legislative branch of the government to assist in the great work of reform before us, and I felt confident that the patriot-ism of those comprising this branch of the State government would inspire them to meet cheertully all the sacrifices required for the interests of the State. Your presence proves that I have not been disappointed in this hope; and I cher-ish the additional hope that you will forget the

unimosities engendered by political strife, rise superior to the petty considerations of partisanship, and devoting yourselves with patriotic zeal to the service of your State, that you will strive earnestly to restore its lost prosperity, to revive its wasted industries, to reform all abuses in its government, and to promote peace, harmony, good-will and justice among all classes and paries. To the accomplishment of these noble nims I pledge my constant, unwenried and earnest efforts; and in this patriotic work I invoke your aid, gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives, not alone as members of the Legislature, but as patriots and Carolinians. The anomalous condition of affairs during

the past few months, while it has entailed the necessity of convening the General Assembly, has precluded me from laying before this body such full and accurate information as is desirable, or making precise and definite recommendations on particular measures which will demand your attention.— Circumstances with which you are all familiar have prevented my access to the books and re-cords of the various departments of the State government, and hence I can neither speak authoritatively of the exact financial condition of the State, nor make such particular suggestions as under the ordinary condition of public matters, it would have been my pleasure, no less than my duty, to have done. At present I can, therefore, only call your attention in general terms to a few subjects which require immediate action on your part, and I must ask for your in-dulgence if I am unable to do more than to indicate the broad and comprehensive principles which, in my judgment, can give peace, stability and good government to our State. To the wisdom and patriotism of the General Assembly is committed the grave duty of bringing back to our people these inestimable blessings. The merit of success will belong to you, gentlemen, if you succeed; and to you will the responsimerit of

bility attach if the hopes of your constituents are disappointed.

The first, as it is the most important, subject to which your attention is invited, is that of the financial condition of the State. It is needless for me to say that this condition is deplorable,

for it is shown by an empty treasury and a ru-ined credit; by stagnation in commercial circles public and personal, povosty, as was spread as amentable. All efforts to bring about a better state of affairs will prove unavailing until the finances of the State are put in a healthy condition and the credit of the State established on the sound and

honorable footing they once occupied. But in the meantime there is an imperative necessity that the immediate needs of the State should be provided for; and in doing this the burden of taxation should be made as light as possible, for the resources of our people are well nigh exhausted, and the season of the year at which the tax s will be called for is most unfortunate.— While it is the province of the House of Representatives to fix the amount of taxes requisite to meet the demands of the State, and the time and mode of their collection, I venture to offer some suggestions on these points for the consideration of the Legislature. It is due alike to the honor and the credit, as well as to its future prosperity, that there should be no question nor doubt as to our determination to meet every honest obliga-tion of the State fairly and faithfully; but it is equally our duty to ascertain what are its hon-est liabilities. The suspicions which attach to a portion of the outstanding obligations of the State, and which, to a greater or less cases of feet the value of all, render it imperative that these obligations, whether funded or not, should be strictly scrutinized, with a view of ascertain-ing which are valid and which are not. There should be a condition precedent to the payment of interest on any of the outstanding obligations of the State, whether in the shape of bonds or otherwise, and also to the further funding of any of the State indebtedness into the consolidated oonds authorized to be issued under the act of 1873, to reduce the volume of the public debt.

In order to effect this object in a mode satisfactory and equitable, alike to the State and to the public credit, I respectfully suggest the ap-pointment of a commission, to consist of one member from each House of the Legislature, the Comptroller-General and the Treasurer of the State, and three citizens of financial ability, to whom the whole question of the financial condition of the State shall be referred, and under whose directions a thorough and complete investigation of the funded and floating indebteduess of the State shall be made; and who shall be empowered to require a registration before them, or before such officers as may be designated. of the consolidation bonds of the State. Obligations, the validity of which shall be thus ascertained, shall be certified in such form as the commission or the Legislature may prescribe, and the coupons on such bonds alone should be receivable for taxes. The commission should also be charged with the duty of reporting to the General Assembly at its next regular session the precise character of all obligations of doubt-ful validity, or clearly fraudulent, with the specific facts or testimony upon which their conclusions are based. As all the records and books showing the amount of consolidated bonds now outstanding, with the nature of the securities on which they were issued, have been withheld by the late officials, I am unable to state, with any degree of accuracy, what portion of the public debt has been converted into consolidated onds and what portion remains to be funded. But from the best sources of information before me, I estimate the amount yet to be funded as about three million dollars; which, at the rate established for funding, will require the issue of \$1,500,000 of consolidated bonds.

Under the act of 1873, these bonds bear date of January 1, 1874, and the annual tax provided by the act for the payment of interest on the en-tire consolidated debt has been regularly levied every year, and the amount unexpended for in-terest should be in the treasury to meet the past due coupons of these bonds, as soon as issued. — I have no reason, however, to believe that there is any such unexpended balance available for this purpose, and if the conversion of the debt into consolidated bonds continues as provided by the existing act, it will be necessary to provide suggest for your consideration the propriety of funding these arrears up to the time of conver-

sion, in new bonds, payable at such time, and [CONTINUED ON SECOND PAGE.]