

# The Sumter Banner.

DEVOTED TO SOUTHERN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY, NEWS, LITERATURE, AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND THE ARTS.

WILLIAM LEWIS,  
JOHN S. RICHARDSON, Jr., } PROPRIETORS.

"God—and our Native Land."

TERMS—\$2 IN ADVANCE

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**TERMS.**  
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For the Banner.  
**Renovation of the Soil.**  
To the President and Members of the Sumter Agricultural Association:

GENTLEMEN: As improvement in every branch of Agriculture is the object which our Association has in view, I deem it proper to address this and other communications relating to agricultural art or science to you, trusting the views set forth may lead to the communication of important facts by others.

The improvidence of the Southern planter has become almost proverbial. He begins by preparing the woodland for the culture of corn, cotton, &c.; and at the end of a few years the fertility of a large part of his cultivated land has become exhausted by neglecting to restore to it what has annually been abstracted by the growing crop. The remedy for this has been to lay it aside, and prepare a fresh piece of woodland for culture, until, as often turns out in the course of his planting operations, he has cleared three or four times as much land as he annually cultivates. Now though it would be better economy to renew regularly in the soil what it loses from year to year in bringing to maturity the cultivated crop, than to defer this labor till it has become utterly impoverished, and then resort to some means of renovation; yet, as such economy is so little practiced, we propose the question to any planter who designs clearing and substituting new land in place of what he has exhausted. Would not the labor and expense of renovating your exhausted land be less than that of clearing and preparing for cultivation the same extent of woodland?

We feel assured (though all planters have not equally at command the materials for cheap renovation) that such would be the result of actual experiment in nine cases out of ten, in which the simple means of renovation hereafter pointed out, are employed. Both observation and experiment furnish us with a reason for the faith that is in us, viz: that, whenever there is a sufficient body of woodland adjoining or near by the cultivated field, and rotted vegetable matter may therefore be provided in sufficient quantity, and at a convenient distance, the renovation of the soil in such a field is not only practicable, but attended with less labor and expense than the preparation of the woodland for cultivation. In seeking to effect this end, (renovation,) the planter cannot err in adopting the simple means which nature employs with the same end in view. In the leaves, straw, bark, &c., with which she annually covers the surface of the earth, is provided an ample store of the food requisite to sustain the plants and trees which grow upon it. They contain the very ingredients of the natural soil; and in their decay and decomposition, evolve whatever elements it may be necessary to return to it in order to restore its fertility. Chemical analysis of the seeds and roots of cultivated plants, and of the leaves, straw, and bark of a great variety of trees abundantly prove this; and show us farther, that in the beautiful economy of nature, the elements of nutrition for plants exist in these products which she annually returns to the soil, in far greater proportion than they do in the bodies and branches of trees. What then is the planter to do in order, either to restore to the soil before it becomes exhausted, whatever is needed to secure its fertility, or, to renew the fertility of one which he has exhausted? but to draw from the woodland adjoining his field, a sufficient quantity of the very material which originally fertilized it. It is sometimes important to ascertain by an analysis of the soil what elements may be needed to restore its fertility, but we believe it rarely happens that they can be provided as cheaply in their separate form, as that in which they may thus be provided by a greater majority of planters. While therefore we rejoice that science begins to shed its light as a guide to the planter in his operations, let us not overlook of higher value the plain teachings of nature, because the truths she discloses are not brought to view

by the light of science. By the decomposition of the leaves, straw, &c., which fall from the trees, other purposes in the economy of nature are answered besides preserving or renewing the soil, but the planter having this end solely in view may accomplish it in a comparatively short time—and apply the same materials in a form better adapted to other objects he has immediately in view.

Four great advantages, for example, are gained by applying the straw &c., for the purpose of renovation, in a rotted, instead of a fresh state. As far as our observation extends, these substances have been used, in the few experiments made to test their effects as a renovator, either in a fresh or very partially rotted state. Various disadvantages attend the use of them in this form, which do not attend their use when thoroughly decayed. The labor of carting fresh litter is comparatively much greater; which is owing to the difficulty of compressing it to a convenient bulk for loading and hauling. No more than a comparatively small quantity can be ploughed in the land. The soil is choked and the roots of young plants very much obstructed by it. To this add, that in consequence of its slow decomposition, and the small quantity ploughed in, the increased fertility is not always very perceptible. We are satisfied however from a full experiment with it, that a highly profitable use may be made of vegetable matter obtained from the woodland as a renovator, by collecting it in large piles and sulking it to lie a twelve month or more before being ploughed into the land. By this means the bulk of vegetable matter is reduced to about one fourth, and this lessens in a considerable degree, the labor of carting; in its thin partially decomposed state, it immediately provides nutriment for the growing plant, without obstructing its roots as fresh litter does; while no quantity that can be ploughed into the land will prove too much. We need scarce remark that the addition of even a small quantity increases its efficacy as a manure. We invite your attention however to a fact stated by Mr. Pell, an agriculturist of high reputation, in a communication on the subject of vegetable matter as a manure. He informs us that when collected in a heap, with a certain quantity of powdered charcoal strewn over it (which answers the purpose of absorbing and retaining the ammonia which would otherwise escape) it becomes, when rotted, a manure superior even to stable manure. As charcoal is the very best known absorbent of ammonia (a principal food of plants) we question not that great advantage is derived from the use he makes of it.

As an experiment by which to compare the labor of renovating the soil by the means we have adverted to, with that of clearing and preparing new land for cultivation, we have, as we believe by such means perfectly renewed the soil on six or seven acres of old, exhausted land, and are satisfied that the labor and expenses of a perfect renovation need not be above one half that of the latter operation. We have also, as a means of providing a larger quantity of manure for our fields, resorted latterly to the plan of providing rotted litter for the stable and cowpen, by sulking it to lie in piles a sufficient length of time before making use of it; and in consequence of the ease with which it is reduced to a proper consistency, the same quantity of good manure is made in a comparatively short time and our manure heap is more than twice as large as it formerly was. The proportion of animal excrements to the whole bulk of manure is necessarily smaller, but our observation thus far satisfies us that it nevertheless possesses equal efficacy with that made with fresh litter. We repeat the hope, gentlemen, that what we have written may lead to other communications from those among you, possessing greater experience in agricultural affairs, than yours &c.

GREEN SWAMP PLANTER.

For the Banner.  
MESSRS. EDITORS:—Although the names of many prominent individuals are before the public as candidates for the office of Governor at the next election and their claims urged by their friends, and although they all may be well deserving of any honor that may be conferred upon them, I will take this means of introducing the name of another gentleman who has done the State good service in time past, and is still at his post using all proper diligence to maintain and advance the cause of popular rights and popular education—Maj. B. F. PERRY of Greenville.

A lawyer of extensive reputation and a statesman of long experience in both branches of the State Legislature, he is well acquainted with the condition of the State and the wants and requirements of the people. He has always been the advocate of

giving the election of President to the people to whom it rightfully belongs, a right which has been withheld from them in consequence of the anomalous composition of our legislature, whereby the different sections of the State are unequally represented in that body—the parishes by means of their numerous Senators being enabled to control (at least negatively) the action of the legislature.

The electoral question will be the principal issue before the people in the next election of members of the legislature and it is but just that the friends of that measure should turn their attention, in regard to the next governor, to one who has advocated their rights with a boldness and perseverance that has been deterred by no opposition however strong—by no obstacles however prominent.

He has been and is the advocate of popular education, desiring to see all classes receive an education, whereby a superior intelligence may prevail among all ranks; and at a time like this when the country is alive to the importance of this subject those who are in favor of a more extended and useful system of Free Schools, should confer honors, at their disposal, upon those who are not unwilling; that the State should lend assistance in diffusing education among all classes of our fellow citizens. And last but not least Maj. PERRY has always been and is a firm and consistent friend of "Our Union" and to him, is to be attributed the honor, in some degree, of being instrumental in causing the failure of the doctrines of the late Secession party, and now when all men everywhere appear contented with "our Union" as it is, Maj. PERRY should not be overlooked in the distribution of honors at the disposal of the people.

It is time the people of the up-country should look among themselves for recipients of offices in the gift of the legislature, and having the majority on joint ballot in that body, they may by steadily pursuing the course of electing men of their section to office; men who are in favor of giving the elections to the people,—men who are in favor of equal representation in the Senate, and men who are in favor of distributing the Free School Fund according to the necessities of the people may bring the aristocracy of the parishes to a proper appreciation of the just rights of the people—the masses—though plebeian they may be.

Moreover Maj. PERRY has combined in him all the qualifications requisite for the Commander in Chief of the State. No time serving politician, but possessing sagacity to understand the delicate duties of the office and a moral courage equal to any emergency that can arise, he is eminently qualified by nature—by intelligence, and by political experience for the highest office in the state.

ONE OF THE PEOPLE.

**Ball-Room and the Nursery.**

"You are quite beautiful to-night," said Frank Fearing to his young wife, as she entered the drawing room, dressed for a ball; "I shall fall in love with you over again. What! not a smile for your young husband? and a tear in your eye, too! What does this mean, dearest?"

Mary leaned her beautiful head upon her husband's shoulder, and turned pale as she said:—"Frank, I feel a strange, sad presentiment of some impending evil, from whence, I cannot tell. I have strived to banish it, but it will not go away. I had not meant to speak of it to you, lest you should think me weak or superstitious; and, 'Frank,' said his sweet wife, in impeding tones, "this is a frivolous life we lead. We are all the world to each other—why frequent such scenes as this? A fearful shadow lies across my path. Stay at home dearest; I dare not go to-night."

Frank looked at her thoughtfully a moment, then gaily kissing her, said—"This vile cast wind has given you the blues, the more reason you should not give yourself time to think of them; besides, do you think me such a Blue Beard as to turn the key on so bright a jewel as yourself? No; no; Mary, I would have others see it sparkle and shine, and envy me in its possession; so throw on your cloak, little wife, and let us away."

land's flashing lights, music to make your blood race more swiftly through the veins; all were there to intoxicate and bewilder.

Peerless in the midst—queen of hearts and of the dances—stood the young wife of Frank Fearing. Accepting the offered hand of an acquaintance, she took her place among the waltzers. She made a few turns upon the floor, then pale as death, she turned to her husband, saying:—"O, Frank, I can not—I feel such an oppression here," and she placed her hand on heart and brow.

Frank looked annoyed; he was very proud of his wife; her beauty was the admiration of the room. She had never looked lovelier than that night. Whispering in her ear, "for my sake Mary, conquer this weakness," he led her again to the dances. With a smile of gratified pride, he followed her with his eyes, as her fairy form floated past him, excitement and exercise lending again to her cheek its loveliest glow, while on all sides, murmurs of admiration fell on his ear.—"And that is all on his ear," said Frank to himself, "I have won her from hearts that were breaking for her."

When the dance was over, following her to the window, he arranged her scarf about her neck, with a fond care, and with a thank you dearest, when leaving her she again laid her hands upon his arm, saying with a wild brilliancy in her eyes:—"Frank something has happened to Walter—take me home now."

"Shew! Mary, dear, you look so radiant; I thought you had danced the vapors away.—One more dearest, and then if you say so, we will go."—Suffering herself to be persuaded, again those tiny feet were seen springing the floor; toward the close her face grew so deadly pale, that her husband in alarm, flew to her side.

"The effort costs you too much," he said; "let us go home." He wrapped her cloak carefully about her. She was still and cold as a marble statue.

As the carriage stopped at their door, she rustled past him with the swiftness of an arrow, and gaining her boy's chamber, Frank heard her exclaim, as she fell senseless to the floor: "I knew it, I told you so!" The child was dead.

The servant in whose care the child had been left, following the example of her mistress, had joined some friends in a dance in the ball. That terrible scourge of children, the croup, had attacked him, and alone in darkness, the fair boy wrestled with the "King of Terrors."

From whence came the sad presentiment that clouded the fair brow of the mother; or the mysterious magnetism drawing her so irresistibly back to her dying child? Who shall tell?

For months she lay vibrating between life and death. "Yet the leader was there, who had suited her heart. And when her treasure away. To allure her to heaven, he has placed it on high. And the mourner will sweetly obey." "There had whispered a voice—'twas the voice of God. I love thee! pass under the roll."

Other fair children now call her "mother," never again, with flying feet, has she chased the midnight hour away. Nightly, as they return, they find her within the quiet circle of home—within call of helpless childhood.—Dearest than the admiration of the gay throng—sweeter to her than violin or harp—'tis the music of their young voices, and tenderly she leads their little feet into the green pastures and still waters of salvation, blessed with the smiles of the Good Shepherd, who sayeth, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not."

THE SONS OF TEMPERANCE IN THE UNITED STATES.—From interesting statements lately made public, we gather some facts in relation to the origin and growth of the Order of Sons of Temperance in this country. The organization was commenced on Sept. 29, 1842. The party which first started the project numbered sixteen persons. They met in "Teetotaler's Hall," No. 71 Division street, in this city. A constitution was adopted, Mr. D. H. Sands officiating as a Chairman, and Mr. J. W. Oliver as Secretary, and the organization was completed under the title of the "New York Division, Sons of Temperance, No. 1." The order is now composed, after a lapse of twelve years, of one National Division, having jurisdiction over the United States, British America, England, Scotland and Ireland—the last three named have but one Grand Division.

There are in this territory 41 Grand Divisions and 6,010 Subordinate Divisions, having 321,060 contributing members. By these there was paid, during the past year, to sick members, the sum of \$141,206 92,—leaving a balance in the Treasury of \$193,637, 12.—New York Times.

**My First and Last Night in London.**

It was in the fall of 18—, that the ship to which I belonged, after a voyage of four months in the Northern Atlantic, hove in sight of the Sicily Islands and, as we were bound for Liverpool, shaped our course up the channel, and in a few days were anchored in the Downs. Having been short of provisions for some time back, we were obliged to stop to replenish. The next day, however, we were towed up the river, and entered the Commercial Dock on the 28th of October, 18—. It was a grand sight for me, for I had never been in London, and the city seemed like the world in comparison to my humble village in the west of England. We were to be paid off on the morrow, and I determined as soon as I was at liberty, to take a stroll and see some of the sights about which I had so often heard. At twelve the next day, all hands proceeded to the office in Leaden Hall street, and received severally the amounts due them. There was just ten pounds coming to me, and I started off to see how I could best make it conducive to my pleasure. I had been strolling round for some time looking at the tower and other places of note, and finally walked into one of the parks, to see what I could of the London fashions. I was leaning against a tree, watching a party which attracted my attention, when I was accosted by a female, apparently about eighteen or twenty, neatly dressed, and with an expression which, though pleasing, seemed somewhat sad.

"What is it you wish, my good lady?" said I. She looked at me a moment and said:—"You are a sailor, I suppose?"

"Yes."

"How long have you been in London?"

"I arrived yesterday."

"Have you ever been here before?"

"Never."

"Well, then perhaps I can be of some assistance to you. Suppose we take a cab and drive out to Vauxhall, this evening?"

I hesitated for a moment; for I thought to myself she no doubt thinks I have plenty of money, and wishes to obtain a share. But then again I thought it makes no difference; I'll spend it anyhow, and consented.

She called a cab, and in a short time we were at Vauxhall. I pulled out my purse to pay the driver, when she anticipated me and said:—"Never mind, sir—I have plenty.—Besides I invited you here; therefore I bear all expenses."

I was astonished; for I had never doubted but that my money was the principle attraction; and I was puzzled to think what could be her object.

After ordering some refreshments, of which she ate and drank very little, but which she insisted upon paying for, we strolled round the garden listning to music, until towards evening, when I remarked it would be best to return.

"Yes, it will soon be dark, and we had better go. But," said she, "you are a stranger in London, and it would be folly for you to look for a hotel to-night—and, besides, it would be ungenerous in me to allow you to. I reside in — street, and if you will accept a room in my house, you will be perfectly welcome; and my husband, who is fond of company, will be glad to see you."

While hesitating she called a cab, and half forced me in.

When the cab stopped, we got out, and I found myself in a narrow street, dimly lighted, before a large brick house, with iron railings in front.—She opened the door, and asked me to sit down a moment; when she went into a room close by, and returned almost immediately, and said:—"My husband has retired; I'll introduce you to him in the morning. Here is a light take the room at the head of the stairs—good night!"

I went up stairs to the room she had pointed out, opened the door and went in. It was furnished you might say richly; the bed stood in the further corner, with the blue damask curtains in front. I undressed quickly, as I was somewhat tired by the day's adventures, walked to the bed drew aside the curtains, and there lay a man, weltered in his blood, with his throat cut from ear to ear! It would be vain to attempt to describe my feelings.—I immediately dressed myself, with a presence of mind which I have not been able to account for. I then tried to open the door, which to my horror, I found was locked. Glancing around the room, my eyes fell upon the iron in the fire-place; I snatched one up, and with one stroke, broke the lock, and opened the door. Running down stairs, I found the front door locked also. Having nothing to break the lock with, I darted into the first room I came to, and jumped from the window into the alley on the side of the house, and I had merely time to conceal myself, when I heard the pro-

ple round crying murder, and I saw the very woman that I came with followed by several of the police, enter the house, thinking I suppose, of course she would find me: I left as soon as the crowd gathered, and passed on unnoticed.

The next morning, I was reading the paper and almost the first thing which attracted my attention was the notice of a bloody murder in — street, with the reward of fifty pounds for the apprehension of the murderer. It went further, and in the description of the supposed person, described me better than I could have done myself, even the manner in which I wore my beard. The first barber's shop received that gratis; and changing my clothing which was so minutely described, I went down to the docks, and the bark — being a hand short, I slipped in her for New York; and have never since, nor never wish to spend another night in London.

REQUEST OF THE HON. KEA BOYCE.—We learn that the will of the Hon. Kea Boyce has been opened, and some magnificent bequests are found to have been made to public and charitable institutions in this city. It is stated that the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars has been given to the Orphan House, Ten Thousand for establishing a school for the poor at Graniteville, and Thirty Thousand Dollars to the Charleston College. The bequest to the Charleston College is for the education of poor young men, to be appointed by its son, Rev. J. P. Boyce, and, at his death, by the Trustees of the Charleston College. It is provided, we understand, that in case the school at Graniteville should ever be discontinued, the bequest to that institution is to ensue to the benefit of the Charleston Orphan House. The will of Mr. Boyce had been in keeping of Mr. Fanning, and by him was deposited yesterday with the Ordinary of this city. The persons appointed to execute the will are, Judge O'Neal, the Rev. J. P. Boyce, A. G. Rose and Col. Whitesides, of Chathamoga, and it is estimated that the property left by the deceased, will be a little less than a million and a half.—Mercury.

**Knights of Jericho.**

The Order of Knights of Jericho is now looked upon as the order of all orders, that has a temperance pledge attached to it. Who that is conversant with the progress of orders of this kind, could have imagined it possible that this noble institution in so short a time would rank second to no institution of the kind in North America?—As strange as this may appear to some, it is true this order has to say the least, as good qualities as any other secret order of the day, with the advantage of a temperance pledge perhaps as strong as man can well pen.

We hesitate not to say that the principles of this order harmonize with the Holy Bible, we are somewhat conversant with both ourselves, but if we mistake in any one particular, we call on some hundred of the clergy who are members of the order of Knights of Jericho, to correct us. Compared with the best orders, its private work is most sublime, there is nothing in the organic laws of the Knights that comes in contact with or that does not harmonize with the true religion; the assertion would appear needless when it is known that we have in this order a greater number of the respectable clergy, than any other order, in proportion to the numbers of the order. The order is founded upon the true principles of Charity no benefits, but when a worthy brother (or sister) is in want they are provided with all their circumstances require.

The order has but very little to contend with now, it has outlived all apprehension now and then a poor miserable fault finding scamp will show his teeth and growl but cannot do any harm, we will say to the friends of the order, that there never was a brighter star shone in the order than at the present moment, Lodges are being instituted every day in every part of our land, this joyful news is greeting our ears every day.

**Battle Ground.**

INCREASE OF SALARY.—At the first quarterly meeting of the Fayetteville Station, North Carolina Conference, do hereby most respectfully and earnestly recommend to the approaching General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Rev. R. J. Carson, presiding, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved That we the members of the Quarterly Conference of Fayetteville Station, North Carolina Conference, do hereby most respectfully and earnestly recommend to the approaching General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, to be held in May next, so to alter the Discipline as to increase the salaries of our single and married preachers, and the allowance for the widows of our deceased preachers, at least fifty dollars each.

Mlle RACHEL. — find very sprightly scenes of gossip in the "Echoes from Paris," of the French Courier. The following amusing anecdote of Mlle Rachel was translated from that Journal:—

PARIS, Jan. 19, 1854.  
The Theatre Français has received from her Christmas-box the resignation of Mlle Rachel. A letter from St. Petersburg conveys to us, in reference to the great tragedienne, the following anecdote:

One day in the latter end of December last, two o'clock in the afternoon, Mlle Rachel was passing through one of the principal streets of the city. She alighted from her sleigh and walked along on foot in order to serve the Christmas displays in the richly adorned arboreuses. The snow had ceased to fall since the evening before; the air was clear and calm, but excessively cold. Enveloped in ermine, the tragedienne braved with her habitual courage the vigor of the temperature, and courageously exposed her delicate visage to the sharp and biting frost. With much less indifference did she appear to endure the gaze of a gentleman who had just met her, and who started at her with an embarrassing attention. His fixed and continued gaze seemed naturally to her to be a most extraordinary imperfection, and already were her eyes flashing with rage, when the gentleman springing towards her, caught her in his arms, held her tight to prevent resistance, then stopping, he gathered up a handful of snow, and began scouring with it the celebrated lady's nose.

Mlle Rachel scowled fearfully, a crowd gathered around; but none among the spectators exhibited the least desire to oppose a proceeding that they observed with so lively an interest. One of them even offered a second handful of snow to continue the operation. This was done very promptly, and when the gentleman had rubbed until he appeared satisfied, he restored to the lady her liberty, and saluting her with a respectful bow, said to her, "Excuse me, Madame, but your nose was freezing, and it was the only means of saving it." The assistants confirmed by their voices and gestures the truth of his words, and Mademoiselle Rachel, now comprehending that what she had taken for an offence was an important service, passed from anger to gratitude, and gracefully returned her thanks to the savior of her nose.

The above is an incident that occurs frequently in Russia during the winter. The person whose nose begins to get frost bitten, does not himself perceive it, insensibility being the first effect of the freezing; but others perceive it for him, for the peril exhibits itself by evident and well known signs. Then and upon the spot, the homoeopathic remedy is at once applied, by vigorously rubbing the place infected with snow, which, very comfortably, is always on hand in that country. Baltimore Clipper.

MURDER DISCOVERED BY A DOG.—A man named Lipman, residing at Phalsbourg, (France), says Galigiani's Messenger, left his house a few days since on some business, and not returning at the time expected, although he had been seen by a neighbor on his road home, his family began to be seriously alarmed. Two days elapsed, and although every search was made no clue could be found of him. A gendarme at length conceived the idea of making use of a famous dog belonging to a person in the neighborhood, and gave notice that he was on the scent of something.

On the gendarme coming to the spot, he saw the dog scratching in a place which bore the marks of having been recently turned up, and on digging, the body of Lipman was found buried there, after having been murdered. This is not the first time that the dog has rendered similar service to the gendarmes. A short time since a prisoner escaped from them, and the dog was turned out upon the scent, and soon discovered the fugitive, whom he kept fast hold of but carefully avoided injuring. What is singular is that the dog will not allow itself to be fondled by any one but his master and the gendarmes, for whom it appears to feel a strong partiality. The police are actively endeavoring to discover the murderer or murderers of Lipman.

RETURNED TO SLAVERY.—A bill passed the Virginia Senate, and the House, too, probably, at the late session of the Legislature, to allow several negroes who had been set free by their master before his death, to be sold by his relatives. The negroes sent a strong petition to the Legislature in favor of the bill, preferring to be the slaves of their master's relatives, than to accept of the freedom proffered them.