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FORSAKING THE OLD PATHS.

GENERAL JOHNSON HIGGOD HEADS FOR A MIXED HUSBANDRY.

An Essay Read Before the State Agricultural Society and the State Grange at their joint Summer Meeting on August 1, 1886.

It is doubtful whether, in all the time since South Carolina was the hunting ground of the Indian, any single fifth of a century has witnessed within her borders a relative progress in material welfare equal with the last. It needs no compilation of statistics to show this. Look at Columbia, the beautiful city in which you are holding this summer meeting. Compare her in 1865, sitting amid ashes and her population feeding on the refuse of Sherman's supply train, with her condition to-day. See her waste places rebuilt, more more substantially than before; her homes once more surrounded with the comforts of life, and her people on the streets and in the marts again steadily asserting themselves in the battle of life. Columbia in this but represents the State, and in the degree of her rehabilitation does not more than equal the general progress. The uncompromising fortitude, the incomparable energy of the South in the struggle to restore her fortunes, broken in the late civil war, has been witnessed with admiration by all, and to my mind presents as much of the heroic element as anything in her history, from Sumter to Appomattox.

AGRICULTURAL DEPRESSION.

Yet, notwithstanding this successful progress, and at its close, our agricultural interest finds itself depressed, the chief product of its industry selling at best with no sufficient margin of profit, and often, in individual cases, at a point below the cost of production, which imperils the accumulation that has been made. The agricultural mind is earnestly and with justice demanding the reason why.

It has been suggested that it is to be found in onerous financial legislation and wasteful public expenditure. Others, going deeper into the analysis, have sought the chief cause of the trouble in the faulty business system upon which our industry is based. There is perhaps truth in both these suggestions, and each deserves attention, but as to their relative and practical importance in the consideration of a meeting of South Carolina agriculturists a few thoughts occur. The taxes paid to the General Government, indirect though they be, are probably the largest levied upon our pursuit; but in their levy and expenditure we have an interest and control in common with fifty millions of people. Indirection makes it difficult to ascertain what we actually do pay; and extensive community of interest both complicates its effect upon our special industry, and makes the desired change hard to accomplish. With an overwhelming voting majority at the polls, and with ordinarily a majority of representatives in the State Legislature, State taxes and expenditures have been and remain within our immediate control. The support of Government is a necessity, but every cent taken from the taxpayer beyond its economic and efficient administration is oppressive. Does the present management of the State Government favorably meet the requirements of this proposition? I think it does. It is not pretended that there is no room for retrenchment and reform. With some special opportunities of observation it has seemed to me that improvement may be sought in the direction of a more simple and a cheaper county administration; of confining the disbursements of the charitable institutions of the State, which exclusive of the interest on the public debt consume one-third of the State levy, more rigidly to those who are proper recipients of charity, and in making the labor of convicts a source of income, to the relief of the taxpayer. The inequality obtaining in the assessment for taxation and the failure of the forfeited land laws to enforce the collection of taxes operate injustice and demand redress. All of these may be looked to. When in position to do so, I have myself urged them upon the attention of our law-making power; but it has not been indicated where retrenchment and reform to an extent appreciable in this connection, can go further at this time without in my judgment impairing the efficiency of the public administration, or curtailing expenditures in the best interests of the people. Be this as it may, however, take things as they stand, and let us consider. The State and ordinary county taxes, together with the two-mill school tax, are one year with another, about ten mills upon a valuation of property at little over one-half its selling price; and estimating them per capita they are about one and two-thirds dollars to the population. How much can the burden of such a tax affect any healthy industry? Now subtract from the sum thus taken from the farmer what he must pay for an efficient and well ordered government, if this be not such, and you have the measure of practical retrenchment; but in the infinitesimal proportions of the savings made when distributed among the individual farmers have you found adequate relief from the widespread depression of our calling?

There are other assessments upon the industry of the farmer and his lands which are collected as taxes. These being in no just sense taxes, breed confusion in the popular mind as to the amount of taxation. I allude to county and township subscriptions to railroads. They are simply business investments made by the county or township upon business considerations; stock in the railroads is "always given in return for the subscription," and expected improvements in the property of the subscriber is a further inducement. These investments, like others, are sometimes wise, and sometimes not; but it is well to classify them correctly. If a farmer buys a mule, and the purchase money is collected through an officer of the law, it is not taxes, because the officer happens also to be the tax collector. The farmer has acted in his individual capacity upon his own responsibility. The profits of the transaction are not to be credited to good

government; nor its losses charged to maladministration.

THE REMEDY.

Without ignoring, or I think undervaluing, the effect of financial legislation, either Federal or State, upon our agriculture, I am of those who find that the chief cause of its present depression is the faulty system upon which it is directed. Of this system it has been said that it looks to sending abroad everything that we produce, and bringing back everything that we consume. That which it brings home is nothing; exports and imports everything. That whenever our capital finds investment outside the farm, it is in railroads made necessary by this system, and whose obvious interest, lying in securing the longest haul of the largest freight, is to intensify it. And finally that under it the producer is given over to the rule of that class of business people who are occupied merely with the distribution of the products of labor, adding value to them only by change of place, and that the merchant and the transporter have it all their own way in apportioning the avails. This may be too trenchant criticism, but we are compelled to admit that there has been much force in it in the past; that there is too much force in it now; and, until it substantially ceases to apply to our methods, I can see no abiding prospect for us. We are too exclusively devoted to agriculture, and our agriculture is confined to too limited a range of production. The standing injunction of the agricultural journals, "Keep the boys on the farm," is based upon fallacy. It should be, "Send a full proportion of them from the farm."

But in developing the resources of our forests and mines; send them to the trades and occupations which will supply at home what we buy from abroad. Build up manufactures of any and everything for which there is demand. Invite capital to embark upon these industries by favoring legislation. Thus increase the class of profitable consumers, and make for the farmer that home market, which is for him the best of all markets, and without which he cannot diversify to its most profitable extent the products of his farm. The markets abroad, the farmer finds the circle of competition widening as he goes, and he is handicapped with freights to an extent that confines his shipments to special and not always his most profitable crops. With us the list for exportation embraces for the larger part of the State but a single item, cotton. Rice takes the place of cotton in a small section, and there is some talk of introducing tobacco as an additional so-called money crop. But what we want are the consumers to take, and the crops to be sold, in the home market. Fresh meats, the products of the dairy, fruits, vegetables, live stock are transported with a difficulty and at an expense which, in the distance to which they can be sent, yet it is in the production of the most perishable of these that the farmer finds the most remunerative results of his labor and the largest increase in the value of his land. An acre devoted to market gardening, near a city, will rent annually for what will buy the fee simple to five acres devoted to this State to cotton; and when live stock is the object (the least perishable of the products enumerated, because the least perishable and the easiest transported to distant markets) a Kentucky blue-grass farm will rent or sell for three times as much per acre as a cotton plantation.

Without going further into these general considerations it does seem to me that the progress we have made since the devastation of the late war has been, not because, but despite the system upon which we have worked; that the depression we are laboring under is the legitimate consequence of that system; and that as long as we adhere to it we will continue to have our periods of elation and free expenditure when the price of our single money crop, from causes which we do not control, is up; and our periods of despondency over cramped resources, when it is down. We cannot, it is true, escape the vicissitudes of seasons, nor evade the primal cause; but we must no longer look so exclusively to foreign markets, nor in any way suspend our fate upon a single trade. We must, by diversifying the pursuits of our people, enlarge the home market, that alone fully repays the farmer's labor, and in ordering that upon the farm we must recognize the law of chances, which is as rigid as any other imposed upon nature. Like the insurance men, we must spread our ventures over a broad surface to hope to realize a reasonably certain profit.

AGRICULTURAL CAPABILITY OF THE STATE.

Circumstances sometimes forbid a mixed husbandry and compel adherence to the one crop system, but in no section of this State do such limitations exist. In the coast region, beside the valuable crops of rice and sea island cotton, easy access to large centers of population make market gardening more or less practicable on every farm, and the natural perennial pasturage of cheap, unimproved highlands and swamps, combined with a climate requiring no winter shelter for stock, gives opportunities unsurpassed even on the Western plains for the addition of pastoral farming. In the middle section of the State, between the water and the falls of the rivers, and in that part of it which more especially constitutes the cotton belt, on almost any one plantation may be grown each of the staples that is planted, and all of the cereals. The soil seems specially adapted to root crops; garden vegetables and fruits do well. The soil, a sandy loam, is not so well adapted to the usually cultivated grasses, but valuable natural grasses are found, and the Bermuda is naturalized. For a pasture grass the latter is unequalled on such lands, and Dr. Ravenel's experiments have shown that, highly fertilized, it may also be cut for hay with extraordinary results. There is no question of the success of the Means grass for hay under similar circumstances. The various sowing crops are, however, grown with such facility in this region that, under the system of preserving by ensilage, the necessity of hay from meadows for home use is done away with. (Going above the falls of the rivers, from there to the mountains, everywhere to be found plantations with bottom land enough for hay and corn, level land enough for small grain and cotton, and broken hillsides, once fertile but now less remunerative under the plough, yet producing good natural pasturage and

capable of being brought, under the hoof of the sheep, to the highest condition of grass production. The soil and climate of this part of the State are naturally adapted to all the grasses that are cultivated. In situations away from water courses, (and they are few,) where alluvial lands sufficient for meadow are not found, the general character of the country remains the same, and, as in the middle region, ensilage may supplement any deficiency in hay production.

Such are the varied agricultural capabilities of our State, and the exhibit is under rather than overstated. It is only because of the exclusive attention given to cotton that the impression ever could be obtained that the cereals and grasses were not suited to our surroundings. The crop of corn grown by Dr. Ravenel, near Columbia, and the crop of oats of Colonel Willie, at Lancaster, remain respectively the largest on record, the corn crop reaching 200 bushels and the oats crop 181 bushels per acre. Dr. Ravenel's crop of Bermuda hay near Charleston was ten thousand pounds to the acre, exceeding more than ten-fold the average crop of the United States. Mr. Childs, within five miles of where we are sitting, profitably grows and sells with the Means grass \$10,000 worth of hay per annum. Colonel Ried's growth of lucerne in Fairfield yielded ten cuttings in the season, and by actual measurement twenty-five feet of growth. The Egyptian millet, a luxuriant and valuable forage plant, is cut from six to seven times and gives a total growth of eight to ten feet.

The market gardens near Charleston are unsurpassed anywhere. Within the last four years the growth of watermelons for market has been introduced along the line of the South Carolina Railroad in Aiken and Barnwell counties, and the profits have been such that this year five thousand acres are devoted to the crop. Last year one farmer, Mr. Wettershaw, for ten thousand dollars, finding his market in Charleston, New York and Cincinnati. He informs me that his net return, the expenses of production being included with cost of marketing, was something over \$6,000. In the same section of these counties, on the Ridge in Edgefield, and at other points, orchards are cultivated for the home and Northern markets with eminent success. In Greenville and in other counties the culture of the grape upon a large scale is no longer an experiment. In short, whenever individuals or a neighborhood have broken loose from old-time traditions, the ability to successfully vary our agriculture has been conclusively shown.

GRASS AND LIVE STOCK.

The summer meetings of our societies have largely the character of experience meetings, and it is in this that in the judgment of many lies their chief value. Having been requested to do so, some details in my own experience of converting a cotton plantation into a farm of mixed husbandry, with grass and live stock as the leading features, will be submitted. As in all new departures, mistakes were made, difficulties encountered and losses incurred with which it is unnecessary to trouble you; but to save some younger brother of the plough, who is dissatisfied with exclusive cotton culture, from traveling the same path, resulting methods will be freely given.

The experiment was commenced in 1878, and made in the upper part of the State, on Saluda River, twelve miles by rail from the town of Newberry. The plantation contained near a thousand acres, of which about one-half was creek and river bottom. Of this last about 300 acres had been cleared from fifty to a hundred years and cropped chiefly in corn, without manure. The high lands were hilly, their original growth were oak and hickory, and the soil varied from a red to a whitish clay, with more or less loose surface rock. These high lands had been nearly all cleared, cultivated with little attention to preserving the land, and when beginning to fail turned out to be grown up in pines. This process had been repeated at least three times since the land was in original forest. As a slave plantation, it had been profitable; after emancipation, under an ill-divided system of tenantry, it had become unprofitable and the property became much impaired. The buildings had become dilapidated, fences almost gone, ditches filled, and the arable land cultivated in patches, a vigorous growth of young pines over most of it. The establishment of a meadow, the restoration of a portion of the arable land to good till, and the cutting down of pines and shrubs on the balance to promote the growth of natural grasses for pasturage, the alteration of old buildings and the erection of many new ones together with the putting up of first-class fences, constituted the permanent outfit. Live stock, tools and implements had also to be purchased.

THE MEADOW.

The meadow consists now of seventy-five acres of first river bottom, being a pure alluvium. Stumps and sprouts were carefully eradicated, the land flushed close and deep with narrow one-horse ploughs, Bermuda grass seeds sown broadcast and ploughed in shallow, then heavily rolled to make the surface as smooth as possible. The best time for this work was found to be from after frost in the spring till hot summer weather set in. The annual weeds that sprang up with the grass were cut and raked by horse-power and carted off the land.

The meadow is ordinarily subject to frequent winter and occasional summer overflows. It has received no other fertilization, except in some small experimental plots, none of which have given satisfaction. The summer overflow, if coming just before a harvest, is injurious; if before the grass is tall enough to be washed down by the sediment deposited, and time enough for subsequent rains to cleanse the blades, they are, like the winter freshets, advantageous. When the whole or any part of a crop is matted by a freshet it is perfectly cleansed by running it through a machine combining a whipper and fan arrangement. After the meadow is fully set, say toward the second year, including the occasional drainage from summer overflows, four to five thousand pounds of merchantable hay may be expected according to seasons from such a meadow. Ample barn room is necessary to making good hay; railroad or water facilities for transportation to market are essential. Hay, bulky in proportion to value, will not bear

transportation for any distance over a highway, and local railroad freights approximate too closely the cost of conveyance by wagon. Water carriage is best and cheapest. When the location is not adapted to marketing the hay, only enough should be harvested for winter feed of live stock, and the rest grazed off for summer pasture. Indeed, the best husbandmen contend that if justice is done to the land no hay should ever leave the farm on which it is grown, except in the shape of fish and bones.

So far, with my meadow in a few hundred feet of a railroad, and special conveniences for shipping, the bulk of the hay has gone to market, and it is the largest and most remunerative market crop of the farm. I have not been able, however, to advantageously send it for sale farther than to towns from sixty to one hundred miles away. Bermuda, from its tenacity of life and from its well known character as a pest in load crops, should be put for a meadow only when it is intended to stay; and here its staying qualities are of immense value in comparison with grasses that require re-seeding and resetting every few years. Cultivation, however, is to some extent necessary. Harrowing benefits it, and a thorough scarification every other year with a sharp cutting instrument that does not disturb the smoothness of the sod is desirable. Thus far the river overflows seem sufficient to keep the meadow productive. The seventh and eighth crops have been the largest, reaching each over 5,200 pounds per acre of hay, weighed when cured and baled for market.

CORN.

The second river low grounds on this place are a cold tenacious clay, requiring thorough drainage, and from long cultivation deficient in humus. Enough of this is set apart for corn culture, and the remainder thrown into permanent pasture. Producing without manure from twenty to thirty bushels to the acre, fifty acres annually under the plough is enough in the general scheme. This fifty acres alternates with as much more either in spring oats or in weed fallow, thus adding to instead of decreasing the supply of humus. More than one year in weed fallow injures the soil for the next succeeding crop by the land becoming too foul. Corn is a poor market crop, troublesome and wasteful to handle, and no more, therefore, is grown than can be profitably fed. Very little of the blades is gathered for forage, sometimes none. It is too expensive and is not needed except as a change to hardworked or sick horses.

OATS.

Spring oats are planted in rotation with corn on the second low grounds; fall oats on highland in rotation with cotton. In the cotton rotation the land is sown down immediately upon harvesting the oats in peas, fertilized with either animal or kainit. When the peas are matured, hogs and no other stock, are pastured, not too closely, upon them. The value of the peas to the hogs is estimated at about the cost of the pea and ash element crop, leaving its ameliorating value as clear gain. The cotton receives two hundred bushels of compost in the drill, which is found to be as much as can be advantageously applied to the acre in that way. The oats crop, neither spring nor fall, receives manure. The crop is threshed as soon as harvested, but to secure economy in feeding the grain and by careful housing to save the straw in the best condition for winter forage. Cut when not over-ripe and cured without or with little rain, it is valuable. Salt, in putting it away, makes it more palatable to stock. The yield of oats has varied with seasons from twenty-five to forty-seven bushels per acre.

CATTLE.

The United States department of agriculture in 1876 estimated the average yield of cotton in the South at 166 pounds of lint per acre, and the cost of production at 91 cents per pound. Mr. Henderson, the commissioner of agriculture in Georgia, is quoted as placing the crop of last year (1885) at that State at 150 pounds of lint, and the cost per pound at 9 cents. The average yield in South Carolina varies little from that in Georgia, and there is with me no doubt of the near approach to accuracy of the estimates of cost made on the basis of that rate of production. Many of the items of expense, however, are fixed, and with a larger yield the cost per pound decreases. In Hammond's Hand-Book of South Carolina are given in detail the expenses of two crops grown in 1882—one in Newberry of 400 pounds of lint and one in Fairfield of 300 pounds of lint per acre; the first cost 91 cents and the last 66-10 cents per pound. In the same year I kept for my own satisfaction a careful account with the cotton crop on this farm; the yield, better than usual, was 410 pounds of lint to the acre and the cost 64-10 cents per pound. These figures show that, with middlings ruling at from 9 to 10 cents at the seaports, cotton by itself can be no profitable crop. Analyzing the items of expense in my accounts I find that 3-6-10 cents, or something over half, was in manure, meat and bread for the laborers, and feed for plough animals. These under the system of mixed husbandry are made on the farm and sold at full price to the cotton crop. It is just here that in any such system at the South, cotton comes in, and planted only to a proper extent is valuable. If sold only at the cost of production, it has purchased the manures from the live stock, and turned into money the surplus crops of the meadow which they have been previously converted. These are some undesirable, and others marketed with difficulty, while in that respect cotton is unequalled. It is transported with more facility and less waste than almost any other farm product, and is as readily exchanged for gold as the note of a solvent bank. The limit of the cotton crop is the extent to which the compost made on the place will go, some thirty to forty acres; and the seed is all fed to sheep or working oxen; none of it is used directly as a fertilizer.

TURNIPS, WHEAT, BARLEY AND CLOVER.

About six acres of ruta baga turnips are sown annually on land upon which stock have been recently huddled. This is sufficient for the flock of sheep to which it is fed. Larger crops, with a view to feeding also to cattle and hogs, have been tried, and abandoned. Ruta baga remains sound in the field all winter and is dug as fed. Barley for

soiling, and rye and red clover for grazing, are sown. Though good for this purpose, rye does not do as well as the sandy loams of the lower country. Barley is highly remunerative for early spring sowing, and red clover sown as a separate crop on huddled land has never failed to catch, and does as well as I have ever seen it in Virginia or Kentucky. From forty to fifty acres are now set aside for these crops.

PASTURAGE.

There are, as stated, seventy-five acres of meadow, one hundred acres in corn culture, fifty being planted alternate years, eighty acres in the cotton and oat rotation, and say fifty acres in small crops. The remainder is permanent pasture or forest. Of this near 300 acres is recently cultivated land, (both bottom and highland,) or highland known with us as "old field," upon which all the short-leaved pine has been cut down and the young deciduous trees left for shade. This constitutes the summer pastures. Its cultivation consists in keeping down shrub growth and an annual spring scrubbing of dead grass. Under this treatment the soil of natural grasses has steadily improved. It carries, including cattle, sheep, hogs and colts, some five hundred head of stock. A separately fenced pasture is necessary for the hogs during the lambing season. In the winter the gleanings of the corn fields, the aftermath of the meadow and the canebarks of the swamp forest, (which are not grazed in summer,) are a valuable resource.

SHEEP.

Commencing with fifty native and fifty Southdown ewes, broad-tailed bucks were bred to them and their female progeny for four years. Then a pure bred Southdown buck was put with the flock and recently a Shropshire has been added, the broad-tailed being withdrawn to the same extent. The number of breeding ewes was increased to near three hundred. These were found to be too many, and two hundred adopted as the right number without further provision of special pasturage. The flock has been kept principally for the lamb market and the product of wool is a secondary object. Barren ewes are culled for sale; breeding ewes have been generally kept as long as they were fertile. In nine years three sheep have been lost by dogs, none by theft. There has been a little scab and other disease of a sporadic character. No epidemic of any kind, some deaths from accident, some from old age, and a few from unknown causes. The loss of ground sheep from all these causes has varied from 3 to 10 per cent, with an average of less than 5 per cent. The number of lambs reared in proportion to ewes has averaged 81 per cent. From Christmas till middle of April the flock receives as much hay as it will eat at night, with, per head, a pint of cotton seed oil night and one large turpentine seed the next. At other times it subsists upon the pasturage heretofore indicated. From early spring until Christmas the sheep are huddled in open movable pens; in winter they are yarded at night upon litter with sheds provided that they can eat at pleasure.

CATTLE.

Cattle have been bred chiefly for beef and work animals; the calves getting nearly all the milk from their dams. Recently a dairy for the sale of butter has been undertaken with success thus far. Selected native cows were bred to a Devon bull with a Brahma cross. The half-bred heifers were bred to a short-horn bull with a Brahma cross, and now a pure-bred Devon is being used. The result has been rapid improvement and a handsome herd of general purpose cattle. No further crossbreeding is contemplated. Devon bulls will be used in future. About fifty head of cattle are kept. The straw crop and some second-class hay is reserved for their use in bad weather in winter, and when high water keeps them from the canebarks. They also in winter are yarded at night on litter with adjacent shelter, and are huddled in summer alongside of but not with the sheep. In huddling, the land is ploughed before and after the stock is put upon it. The size of the pens is determined by the number of stock, upon a calculation that one cow is equal to three sheep and that five hundred sheep will in seven days manure an acre. This is more than profit, and other writers consider a fair dressing. It is believed to be the equivalent of at least seven or eight hundred pounds of first-class fertilizer, and the permanency of its effect, with fair after treatment, is such that it is thought to add ten dollars per acre to the value of the land. The manure of animals is applied by huddling at one-third of the expense of compost.

COLTS.

Colts have been the least profitable stock handled. Both mules and horses have cost nearly their full value to rear them. Some are still bred both for the pleasure in dealing with them, and because they too purchase the grain and forage crops at full value. Mule colts pay better than horse colts of the common breed.

HOGS.

Hogs have given satisfaction on two different plans. First: Keeping only enough to be reared on natural pasturage and the waste of the place, receiving grain only when put up to fatten for slaughter; and second, (which is now preferred,) keeping enough to make them the chief purchasers of the corn grown and the clover and peas crops. This is the only stock not carefully yarded every night during the year, and there has been little if any loss by theft. So far, there has been humanity from epidemic diseases. Essex and Berkshire males are used, and sows on foot, at from eight to twelve months old, have been found most profitable.

WORK ANIMALS AND MACHINERY.

Six large and active mules are needed, and five yoke of oxen are kept principally for teaming. These last are occasionally ploughed, but are utterly unfit for machines. The hay harvesting machines used are: 3 mowers, 2 sulky mowers, 1 tedder, 2 hay carriers, 1 hay fork, 1 1-horse binder, 1 self-binding reaper, a Chicago screw mangle, and a No. 1 corn-shell of the American Grinding Company have given satisfaction. The manager must be more or less of a mechanic, and a shop well equipped for repairs be kept on the place. The wear and tear of machinery and implements, including blacksmith and wheelwright work and material used in repair, has been 15 per cent. on first cost. If this

work be done promptly and as thoroughly as possible, it will, including material, cost about 8 per cent., and the remaining 7 per cent. will express the insidious effect of age which repairs short of reconstruction cannot reach. These calculations are based upon careful and judicious use, and shelter at all times when not in the field.

LABORERS.

One active and reliable negro has charge of all the live stock, including work animals when at pasture. He has a collier to assist him. Other laborers are not allowed to keep dogs. About three-fourths of this man's time is thus occupied. Beside the manager, one white man is foreman and assistant; six negro laborers, including stockman, are employed by the year. Job labor equivalent to the work of four laborers for the year is hired at different seasons, as needed.

CONCLUSION.

Under this system separate accounts with each crop show that, per acre cultivated, hay is the most profitable; oats next, cotton next, and then corn. Of the live stock, in proportion to capital invested in each, hogs, sheep, cattle, colts, have proven remunerative in the order named. Each product of the farm, however, supplements the other, and I am by no means sure that a larger development of any one would not, under present conditions, injuriously affect its standing as given. What has been written of this experiment is based upon the data of the previous eight years. The unprecedented rains and freshets of the last two months of this year have been damagingly felt there as elsewhere in this and adjacent States. It is too early to speak positively, but I have reason to think that in the face of a common calamity the result will confirm the advice that "it is best not to carry all our eggs in the same basket."

CONGRESSMEN WHO DON'T PAY.

Merchants of the Capital Have Found Them Out and are Careful.

(Washington Notes in Pittsburg Dispatch.)

Some queer things can be seen about the Capital during the last days of the session. One of the queerest is the crowd of collectors. Coming to Congress may be an honor, but it cannot be said to make men honorable. The average of dead beats in Congress is quite as great as outside. On the last days of the session you will find a swarm of florists, lively stable men, hotel and boarding house keepers, constables and professional collectors, swarming the corridors, looking after delinquent members and trying to catch them in the halls. There are members who systematically rob hotels and landholders and all sorts of tradesmen right and left. Nothing can be legally done with a member of Congress for obtaining money under false pretenses, though it is a jailable offense when committed by common people. The only remedy is to make the transaction known. If the records of the Congressional dead beats could be printed a good many people would be astonished. The most reckless profligacy in luxuries, such as carriages, flowers, wines, cigars, etc., is the usual life of the Congressional dead. There are poor men and women here who have catered to these members with the idea that men holding such honorable positions must of necessity be honest, who have tried in vain to collect what is due them. These days actually suffer for the necessities of life, while the Congressional debtors are sipping men of wealth in high living. The sergeant-at-arms' office could tell a disgraceful story of bogus checks, duplicated drafts and violated obligations—a story too unpleasant to print. The hotels and restaurants, and even the barber shops, would simply repeat the story. I was standing in the livery office at Willard's the other day, about to call for a coupe, when a Northern Congressman hurried up and asked very peremptorily for a carriage.

"Haven't got one, General," said the agent, blandly. "Sorry, but everything is out."

As soon as the member went away the agent inquired if I would have the coupe.

"That's all right," he remarked; "we've got plenty of carriages, but he's a dead beat. Never pays for anything. Why, I've got a bill against him in here two years old. The gall of the man!"

"Are there many such men in Congress?"

"Yes, quite a number; we've been stuck often—beaten out of hundreds of dollars—by both Senators and members. They are the worst customers in that way, because you can't force collections. They hardly ever have anything more than their clothes; you can't arrest and punish them; you can't garnish their salaries. And the sins they give themselves. We are very careful about trusting Congressmen, I tell you!"

Some One Might Write a Short Novel from This.

I heard to-day the story of a Troy shirt factory girl which has elements of the wonderful in it. A new hotel, to be called the Burwick House, is being built at Rutland, Vt., at a cost of \$25,000 to \$30,000. A former Troy laundry girl is the capitalist in this venture, although the house is named after her brother, who is the ostensible proprietor. Her name is Mrs. Phoebe Churchill. She married an officer of the United States Navy, who was blown up in a premature explosion at Holt Gales at some stage in that improvement. Two women came forward to claim him as husband. One was from South Carolina. He was living with her at New York. The other was this Troy girl, and she succeeded in establishing the validity of her claim and securing \$2,000 insurance on his life. A considerable sum of money that was raised in New York was divided between the two women. Mrs. Churchill having known something of the laundry business at Troy, entered into partnership with a gentleman of that city and started an establishment in New York city. They now have four or five laundries here which are equal to a bonanza, and it is from this source that the money has come for the construction of the Burwick House.—Cath in Cincinnati Enquirer.

An Ohio Idea.

A dispatch from Springfield, O., states that the decision of the school board, that colored children and white children shall attend separate schools, has made the colored population indignant. This is wrong. They ought to be too proud to get mad. If the "poor white trash" of Ohio don't want to associate with the descendants of African kings, let them go off by themselves and lead the lives of "poor white trash."—Brooklyn Eagle.

Now that the gentle mosquito

has reached the liveliest stage of her business life, it should be a comfort to refined minds and tender bodies to read the appended extract from Thoreau: "I was as much affected by the faint hum of a mosquito making its invisible and unimaginable tour through my apartment at earliest dawn, when I was sitting with my doors and windows open, as I could be by any trumpet that ever sang of fame. It was Homer's requiem; itself an Iliad and Odyssey in the air, singing its own wraith and wanderings. There was something comical about it; a standing advertisement, till forbidden, of the everlasting vigor and fertility of the world."

THE GREAT EVOLUTION TRIAL.

Dr. Woodrow Cleared of the Charge of Heresy—A Statement of the Case.

(From the Augusta Chronicle, August 19.)

This is the first formal arraignment of Dr. Woodrow in a Court of the Church authorized to try his case, although his peculiar teachings have been reviewed and criticized in every assemblage of this denomination. He has been cleared of the charge of heresy, and escapes even the admonition which was the milder form of punishment he could have received, and which, I believe, would have been the penalty selected by the prosecution. The case will be taken, on complaint, before the Georgia Synod, which meets at Sparta in November, and as this body has been against Dr. Woodrow, the verdict of the lower Court may be annulled. But annulling a verdict of not guilty does not establish a verdict of guilty, and a new trial before the Presbytery could have but one termination.

So much, then, for Dr. Woodrow's ecclesiastical character. Three of the four Synods controlling the Theological Seminary in Columbia may, and probably will, vote to turn Dr. Woodrow out of the faculty in accordance with the recommendation of the General Assembly. That, of course, will sever his connection with this institution. Dr. Woodrow's point was that he could not afford to resign under fire, and that, as he has been cleared of teaching error by the Court having jurisdiction, he will remain until he is removed by the formal order of the Synod.

As Dr. Woodrow has two large publications in Columbia, and as he occupies the chair of natural science in the South Carolina College, he will remain in Columbia at all events.

The features of the trial were full of interest. The two persons pitted against each other were prominent men. Dr. Adams, of Augusta, conducted the prosecution in a spirit of candor, courage and high ability. His argument was said by Dr. Girardeau to have been the most masterly presentation of that side of the question that has yet been made. I saw no evidence of malice or intolerance. It was the clean work of a man who did his duty in the most direct way, and did it well. It was not an enviable position—that of prosecutor. It was a contest with Dr. Woodrow in his own field, among his old friends. No man knows better than Dr. Woodrow what he does believe, and no man marshals his proofs so completely. It is hard to fasten error or to impugn here.

Dr. Woodrow says he believes the body of man was formed by successive steps through succeeding stages of lower animal life. The objectors say he does not give full credit to God. Dr. Woodrow says he recognizes God in the whole development from beginning to end. The objectors say God created man out of dust. Dr. Woodrow insists that the exact process of creation is not told in the standards of the Church or in the Bible; that science is not forbidden to try to work out the problem, and that the Church should not set up arbitrary or liberal barriers.

The personal character of the accused had its effect upon the case. Members of the Presbytery had been associated with Dr. Woodrow for thirty years. They refused to believe him a dangerous man to the Church. Others of the younger ministry had studied under him, at Oglethorpe University and at Columbia. They did not incline to the belief that his teachings were heretical. All recognized him to be a pillar of intellectual strength in the Presbytery. It was not easy to secure a verdict of guilty against this sort of man.

Dr. Woodrow's handling of witnesses was wonderful. He has a trained and subtle faculty. His mind is alert, and his output this time was finer in reading evidence from the stand than in making his appeal to the Court. He is a skilled debater. The examination of Dr. Girardeau by Dr. Woodrow was the keenest contest of the trial. It was a clash of flint and steel, edge-cutting and spark-throwing. It was quiet and intense. Both men are masters of controversial forces.

Dr. Adams proved the better advocate; Dr. Woodrow the more adroit attorney. One is impulsive and eloquent; the other wary and logical. Dr. Adams is full and florid, and his eyes shine with fire and nervous force. Dr. Woodrow is quiet and collected. He is precision itself. His face is pale, his eyes clear and passionate, and his demeanor indicates cool determination.

Both men I believe were born abroad and are of Scotch extraction. This meeting might have suggested the array of Colchonian extremes. You might almost see Bruce and Balliol personified there. I was glad to note the exchange of friendly courtesies in the train thereafter. The personal relations are not disturbed. I think Dr. Adams has sustained his reputation and made friends even of his opponents. Dr. Woodrow has, of course, gained all the official advantage of the trial and proven his strength in his home Presbytery.

The vote on the indictment stood as follows: Yeas (Guilty): Ministers 4, elders 5; total 9. Nays (Not Guilty): Ministers 4, elders 10; total 14.

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