

*The Easley Messenger.*

J. R. HAGOOD, EDITOR.

THE CAMPAIGN OPENS.

Tuesday, the 23rd inst., was a gala day for the citizens of Pickens County. By appointment of the State Executive Committee, Pickens was made the place for the opening of the State Campaign. All the speakers assigned to Pickens were present with two exceptions. Senator Wade Hampton, who has been spending sometime at Dagger's Point, Va., received the information of his appointment too late to be with us. Unavoidable circumstances prevented Hon. Jno. C. Shepherd, the present Lieutenant Governor of the State, from a participation in the events of Tuesday.

Our people would have been pleased to welcome in Pickens again, the man that so materially aided in the redemption of the State from the hands of plunderers and self-aggrandizing office holders. Notwithstanding the very busy season, the solid democracy of Pickens County was well represented on the 23rd. The rare and rich eloquence of the speakers who graced the already adorned stand, said much to interest our people upon the subjects of National and State politics. The meeting was held on the campus of the Piedmont Institute, the speakers occupying the front piazza of the building as a stand. The rostrum was artistically decorated with evergreens and flowers, and presented an appearance indicative of the work of the gentle hands of the good ladies of Pickens. Not only did they add to the attractions in this particular, but then they were present at the exercises, and their inspiring presence was not without its influence. WELCOME was clearly delineated upon their countenances, and ostensibly shown by their presence.

Maj. D. F. Bradley, the County Chairman, introduced as the first speaker the Hon. J. P. Richardson, of Sumter, the present State Treasurer, and a candidate for the same office. He remarked that it was the first time that he had ever been with us, but that he had sympathized with us, and that he felt himself a redeemed Carolinian, in part made so through the efforts of the citizens of Pickens County. He is a gifted speaker, and in fact, is nothing less than a natural born orator. Of course it was his province to speak on the subject of taxation. Those who failed to be present missed hearing some very

interesting statistics. He spoke of the taxes collected during the radical regime, and of the great public debt. From August 1st 1868 to December 1872 the debt contracted by the radicals amounted to \$28,900,000, without reasons he said, and our State became bankrupt. When the democrats came into power the assessed valuation of property was about one-sixth of this amount. In 1875 the appropriations made by the radicals exceeded the receipts by \$864,000. But in 1879 after the democrats were placed in power there was a surplus in the Treasury of \$268,000 after all expenses were paid. He spoke of the taxes collected in 1882-83, as amounting to \$750,965, and that all the expenses of the government along with the interest on the public debt was \$688,000. The State is evidently upon the road of prosperity.

The next speaker was Hon. Isaac M. Bryan, of Greenville, one of the Presidential Electors from the State at Large. He delivered a well prepared speech and for one hour gave vent to his power of eloquence. He was followed by the Hon. W. C. Benet, of Abbeville, an elector from the Third Congressional District, and who in turn was followed by the Hon. George Johnstone, of Newberry. These men are among the most able minded of our State, and their presence and power are well calculated to lend interest to all such occasions. Following these gentlemen was the Hon. D. Wyatt Aiken of Cokesbury, our present member and nominee for Congress from the Third District. Col. Aiken has much of the orator in him, and would necessarily entertain any audience before whom he was called to speak. The last speaker was our present, very efficient Solicitor, the Hon. James L. Orr, of Greenville. Our people are well acquainted with this man of sterling worth and ability. He has served us faithfully in the past, and this, with his great efficiency is a fine GUARANTEE for the future. The Hon. W. H. Perry, of Greenville, the nominee for Congress from the fourth district was present, and he has our best wishes.

THE STOCK SHOW AT PENDLETON.

On Thursday, October the 9th, the Pendleton Farmers' Club will hold their 69th Anniversary. It will be a day of great interest to many of our people, and all those owning fine stock of any kind should place them on exhibition.

The great interest that is being taken in stock raising in upper South Carolina is truly encouraging. It bespeaks prosperity and the rapid rise of a progressive people. The exhibition will be worth attending, for fine horse flesh and extra cattle will be there in abundance. We are glad to state that it is the intention of Messrs. Hagood & Alexander, of our County, to place on exhibition their fine horses, purchased from the Wizard Oil Company, and the Percheron Horse Company will also be represented.

[For the Messenger.]

MR. EDITOR: During your absence from your paper headquarters, I handed your Foreman a communication which appears in your issue of Sept. 12th. In the local column reference is had to the article in language and style fully as impolite, and unbecoming for a newspaper publisher and gentleman, as anything I have said, notwithstanding he chooses to style it "growl and grumble," and goes on to say that I, "he would have those who do not know any better to believe that the crop prospects for this County are stamped with starvation."

I claim that I have not "growled, grumbled," or tried to make anyone believe a falsehood in my communication, and am more than willing to submit it to those who know English Grammar, as I do not claim to know anything about it, having never studied it one minute. But from the showing I am able to make from the highest authority on the subject of estimating crops correctly, which estimate more than fully sustains me in all I have said in my communication, I would ask the author of that out of time, out of place, uncalled for comment, who the readers of (his part of) the MESSENGER will accuse of trying to deceive the people, (who do not know any better,) and make them believe a falsehood. I respectfully submit the names of 200 farmer citizens of this County, some from every township and neighborhood, whose average estimate of the growing crop of corn, cotton, peas and potatoes, is 53 per cent., not per annum but per hundred.

In reply to what is said in the issue of Sept. 19th regarding the matter, I have to say that I respectfully concede to the author of the groundless charges in reference to my communication, his opinion about estimating crops or anything else, if he will leave me out, or wait until he can justly bring me in.

With kind regards and best wishes for yourself and paper, Mr. Editor, I close still able to

LET HER ROLL.

Reply to "Let Her Roll."

I regret the necessity of a reply to 'Let Her Roll,' after the apology of last week, which I re-publish below, and leave the readers to judge and see who is right, as no doubt they are tired of such nonsense:

In our last issue a charge was made that our correspondent, "Let Her Roll," was "growling and grumbling" about the crops. Nothing insulting was meant by the author of the local, and we believe that our correspondent was sincere in his opinion regarding the crops. There was a difference of opinion and the writer of the local claims to be equally sincere in that of his own.

But he does not seem to want or appreciate an apology; but is anxious to keep up a disturbance about a matter

of which neither of us know but little, except through reports furnished us by others, which was my fort in this instance, coupled with the good and full wheat and oat crops which every one knows to have been made this year, and I feel confident that my informants are as truthful as he, "Let Her Roll," and that my convictions in the comments made in regard to his communication of the 12th were as sincere as his—my aim being to uphold the credit of our *deserving* farmers and business men—while his led directly in the opposite direction—whether intentional or not, we leave to the readers of the MESSENGER. I did not assail his character or veracity in the least, which can be seen by a reasonable man at a second reading of my comments in the local columns of the same date, but I merely thought that because he had a short crop, he was inclined to place every one on the same footing—or rather imagined them to be. He spoke as though he had inspected every farm in the county, and was deputized to speak for them. It appears that his main objection to the article was to the words "growl and grumble." We all growl and grumble more or less, and still it does not make us dogs, unless we place ourselves in that category. I had always before this "much-a-do about nothing," held him in high esteem as a gentleman and good citizen, but he has gone off half-cocked, and says, not only in the MESSENGER, but *away from home*, in the "Greenville Daily News," that I have used language, &c., "unbecoming a newspaper man, publisher and a gentleman." Well, I will compare with him on that score, and it really sounds funny to me, when I consider that such abusive language comes from a man that is not reasonable enough to see and accept an apology, such as the one printed above, which appeared in our last issue—an apology which I now regret having made, for I have none other to offer.

He refers to my (the foreman's) part of the readers of the MESSENGER, (we did not know the paper was divided before) to know who was trying to deceive the people "who do not know any better," and make them believe a falsehood, he or I. Well, I will inform him that I was aware before I commented, that the larger portion of the farmers of the County were subscribers to the paper, and that if I was wrong in my statements, that they, as a body, were more competent to inform me of my error than one man, especially him. Not one has made a complaint to the office so far, but some have upheld me in my calculations where, as they say, farms have been properly worked, and cared for. And, no doubt, after the publication of his "distressing" communication, some of our farmers were refused needed supplies by which to carry them through until gathering time.

Further, in regard to the apology mentioned he does not concede it to me unless I leave my part out, and confess thereby that he is correct and that I am wrong. I am not the man to do that, "Let Her Roll," to the contrary notwithstanding, as my convictions about the crops were as sincere as his. He was the first to use insulting language, and such language as does not become a gentleman to use over such a trivial misunderstanding. I leave the public to judge as to the whole matter, especially the "gentleman" part, as the editor dictated the apology, thinking it satisfactory over so simple a difference of opinion. *I myself* have "no ax to grind," and shall drop the subject where it now stands. But must request of him to explain to the readers of the paper what he means by "53 per cent., not per annum but per hundred," as I have never studied English Grammar either, and have never accused him of it.

W. S. GREGORY,  
Foreman Easley Messenger.