

# The Abbeville Messenger.

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## Where the Flag was Farled.

[From Philadelphia Times.]

Appomattox Courthouse, Va., a sleepy little village, doing its days away on the old stage road between Richmond and Lynchburg, seems to the Northern traveler to have become tired of existence away back in the early part of the century and to have settled into a Rip Van Winkle sleep, from which it only once awoke, shaken by the thunder of cannon and the tread of armed men, only to relapse into more profound slumber. All unconscious of its world-wide fame and the richness of its local history, the little town is content with its own peculiar life and calmly ignores the roar and rush of the outside world. Once in a while a stray tourist comes this way, but seldom does the old tavern door open to admit a stranger. Its hinges have accumulated rust for years and long springs of grass grow between the broken porch-steps. The whole town wears the same passive air of somnolency as when Generals Grant and Lee rode through its quiet streets to close, by a few strokes of the pen, the most bitterly contested and bloody internecine contest ever to swell the pages of history.

## THE ROAD TO APPOMATTOX.

This morning two tramps from the borders of the Keystone State found themselves at Appomattox Station, on the Norfolk and Western Railroad. After a walk of three miles through sedge, field and thicket, forests and corn-fields, they reached Appomattox Court House. Upon the brow of a hill overlooking the town a small graveyard brings vividly back to memory the one short but pregnant period of civil war which is inseparably connected with the place, for within its whitewashed fences are eighteen graves in one long row, each with a nameless white pine head-board of simple design. These graves contain the dust of the Confederate soldiers killed in the last skirmish on Saturday night and Sunday morning before Lee sent the flag of truce over the hills to Grant. A small whitewashed pine monument had been erected in the centre of the lot by some loyal friend of the dead, but even it is now overturned and lies prostrate before the row of mounds.

The Court House, a tall, square red brick building, resembling more the residence of a solid old Virginia farmer than a public structure, stands within a small square or "green" in the center of the town. The old stage road coming over the eastern hills deferentially turns to one side and passes around the Court House in a semi-circle, to resume in front its onward course again. Just north of the public building and across the road is the tavern, a gloomy-looking structure of ancient architecture. A mass of matted ivy leaves cling to one damp wall, while near by the old-time well-sweep rears its mossy head. Very rarely does a guest inscribe his name in the dusty register, or climb the creaking stairs with his tallow candle to seek repose. The county jail is southeast of the Court House about twenty yards away. Two small stores, one of which enjoys the additional dignity of being the postoffice, a blacksmith shop and ten or twelve dwellings constitute the remainder of the town, which contains, by actual count, one hundred inhabitants. The nearest church is two miles away. The people of Appomattox are very kind and hospitable, and without questioning the intent and purposes of the stranger at their gates, receive him courteously, minister to his wants quietly, unostentatiously, but with a kind-heartedness beneath all that is genuine and cheering. A number of Northern visitors stray here in the course of the year; in fact, curiosity is the motive inducing strangers to come at all, but there is no coolness in the welcome of these people. The veteran who fought under Meade at Gettysburg and followed Hooker into the Wilderness finds here one of Jackson's "foot cavalry" ready to grasp his hand and share his humble home with his late foe.

## COLONEL PEER'S STORY.

A good man here is Colonel G. T. Peers, clerk of the county court, an office he has held uninterruptedly for eighteen years, and altogether for nearly a quarter of a century. Colonel Peers is the only white man now living at Appomattox Court House who was here at the time of the surrender of General Lee. He is the friend, counsellor and leader, of the little community, and his kindly blue eyes and flowing white beard

give him a patriarchal appearance. His office in the basement of the Court House is crowded with dusty old papers, many bearing date early in the last century and concerning the estates and fortunes of many proud F. F. V's. Colonel Peers is probably better acquainted with the local events transpiring at the time of Lee's surrender than any man in the South. With great kindness he pointed out the scene of the memorable incidents of the 8th and 9th of April, 1865.

"I remember well," he said, as standing on the Court House "green," he gazed thoughtfully at the woods skirting the western sky, as though catching again in memory's eye the glimmer of hostile banners through the trees—"I remember as though yesterday the day when the Army of Northern Virginia passed into history. There were few men in Appomattox that spring. Some were with Lee around Richmond, others with Joe Johnston in the South, and others again were sleeping on the fields of Gettysburg, Antietam and Chancellorsville. There were anxious wives, broken-hearted widows and childless mothers among us, and the few who remained could easily see the dark clouds gathering closer over the Confederacy. Lee, driven out of Richmond and uprooted from Petersburg, was hurrying his weary troops toward the western mountains, with the sleuth-hounds of Grant and Sheridan pressing hard behind. On Saturday morning, April 8, a few stragglers reached Appomattox with the information that Lee was close at hand, will terrified country people from the west came in with the intelligence that Sheridan had come up the railroad track and was across the road in Lee's front. In the afternoon Lee arrived and encamped on the brow of a hill about a mile from town. About half-way between, through a fertile meadow, runs Appomattox Creek, crossing the road near an old apple orchard."

## A COUNCIL OF WAR.

"I went into the Confederate camp that night and learned from an officer that a council of war had just been held by General Lee and his generals, at which it was decided that if Sheridan's cavalry was the only obstructions in front an attempt would be made early the next morning to cut through, but if Ord's infantry should arrive during the night there would be nothing left but surrender. Lee's pickets had been thrown through and about a mile west of the town, and a sharp encounter occurred about dusk between them and the 15th New York cavalry. The picket line fell back through the town, followed hard by the enemy, and it was in leading this pursuit that the command of the cavalry, Lieutenant Colonel Quot, was killed in the centre of the village. This was the last life lost at Appomattox. On Sunday morning a battery was planted in my yard one hundred yards from the Courthouse, and an artillery duel with the Federals began. From this battery the last shots were fired by the Army of Northern Virginia. About 9 o'clock that Sunday morning word was brought General Lee, who had ridden up under one of the apple trees on the banks of the creek, that the infantry was in his front several thousand strong. According to the decision of the council the night before, he immediately sent forward from this point the flag of truce. This is was the only part played in the closing drama of the war by the famous "apple tree of the Appomattox." General Lee and General Grant never met under its boughs; in fact, the latter never got within two hundred yards of the apple tree. He rode through the village about an hour after the flag of truce entered his lines, and was met by General Lee on the brow of the hill, half way between the town and the apple orchard. Here the two chieftains conversed awhile, then turned and rode together into the town."

## THE SURRENDER.

"Meeting Mr. Wilmer McLean in front of the Court House, General Lee asked him where they could do some writing, and the party were escorted by that gentleman to his own house, where, in the parlor, the articles of capitulation were drawn up and signed. An hour or so later General Lee passed me on his return to camp. He was alone, and rode slowly and thoughtfully, his head bowed upon his breast, as though in deep thought. He did not seem depressed, but looked like one who, conscious of

having done his best, had been compelled to submit to the inevitable, feeling at the same time the terrible importance of the step he had taken. After the surrender both generals retired to their respective headquarters, and, if I mistake not, neither came to our town again. Both, I think, left on Tuesday, General Grant leaving General Gibbon to complete the surrender and parole officers and men."

During Colonel Peers' narrative he pointed out many points of interests. The spot where the two great leaders met is marked by a pile of stones, while nearly a mile up the road on the brow of the hill, stands the solitary poplar under which the Confederate commander stood while delivering his farewell address to his troops.

The McLean house, where the articles of surrender were signed, is a long, comfortable looking red brick dwelling with a porch running its entire length. Over the parlor door hangs a picture of the room, representing it when the articles of surrender were being signed. Mr. Wilmer McLean, who owned the house at the time, was a refugee from the first battle of Manassas, bringing his family here to escape the horrors of war. In 1869 the old place passed into the hands of Mr. N. H. Ragald, its present owner. His son, Mr. T. T. Ragald, is a merchant and postmaster in the village.

The only time when the town awakes to any degree of life is on Court days. They are periods of great interest to the Virginia farmers and people flock to the town from far and near. Two resident lawyers transact the local Court business and the Judge of the County Court is allowed to practice before the Circuit Court.

A strong effort is being made to have the Court House and jail removed to Appomattox Station, three miles distant. This place contains more inhabitants than its sister town and is growing as rapidly as the average interior Virginia town. Then several brands of whiskey are sold here. The Country around Appomattox Court House is poor and uninviting and there is little to attract strangers save its rich mine of historic interest.

## The Chester, Greenwood, and Abbeville Railroad.

[From the Augusta Chronicle.]

New York, Oct. 11.—[Special.]—Talking with a gentleman to-day, who is prominently identified with railroad development in Georgia, I caught the cue to an enterprise which has about matured here, and which when generally known may create something of a sensation in railroad circles. The New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk is of the Pennsylvania Central system, and, as the same indicates, extends from New York to Norfolk, Va. The water-break in track, between Cape Charles and Norfolk, amounts only to slight inconvenience, the longest freight or passenger trains being rapidly ferried across without uncoupling. The ferry boats used in the service are the largest of the kind in the world. This line in its present length is of no special interest to the *Chronicle* readers, but its southern extension, as now contemplated and provided for, concerns everybody in Georgia. From Norfolk it will be continued to Weldon, over the Seaboard and Roanoke track, either by purchase of, or traffic arrangements, with that line. From Weldon it will run on over several lines, forming a succession of links, now stretching between Weldon, N. C., and Chester, S. C. At Chester new work begins, which is to consist of an air line between that point and Athens, Georgia. For the construction of this contemplated new line the capital is absolutely ready. No better guarantee of that can be given than the assurance that the Pennsylvania Central is behind the enterprise. Whatever that powerful corporation espouses is perfectly protected against failure, if millions of money can secure success, and in railroad building, as with almost everything else, "money talks." This line, I am assured, is to be vigorously pushed through to Athens, and there to connect with the Covington and Macon and by that alliance, secure to itself a liberal share of the through business furnished by that section tributary to the Covington and Macon.

## A WELL GROUNDED PROBABILITY.

Thus may be seen, even by this meagre forecast of coming events, the well grounded probability that, in the near

future the great Pennsylvania Central will make its way into the very heart of Georgia, joining its links as it stretches its mighty chain through several Southern States, until its bold and far-reaching projection becomes a Southern system, more powerful and important than any now known in that section. Our people can well afford to bid it welcome, for the management of all its vast property is notably characterized by efficient service, surpassing enterprise and liberal policy. Capital is unquestionably inclining to the South now, and any scheme laid to that section, with fairly reasonable prospects to commend it, is promptly backed by all the money it needs.

Everything here is so inflated, that men of means are naturally looking to other fields for investment, and none is more inviting than the South. The mineral interests of Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia are growing in development and importance every day, and if our people will only work conservatively in the projection of their enterprises, money will flow to them from here and other financial centers in absolutely prodigal abundance. The very near future will certainly bring the South into independent affluence and unsurpassed prosperity, if she will only husband her resources, and be patient for magnificent results.

## The Triennial Convention.

CHICAGO, October 12.—The House of Deputies of the Protestant Episcopal Church began its sixth day's session this forenoon. The committee on canons submitted a report, recommending that no church edifice be consecrated which any debts rest upon it. The committee also ask that the question of the consecration of colored people to the Episcopacy be referred to the committee on the constitution. After considerable discussion the report was placed on the calendar.

A messenger from the house of Bishops reported that the Bishops had decided, the House of Deputies concurring, that there is no constitutional obstacle to the consideration and adoption of the several additions and alterations in the Book of Common Prayer proposed to the General Convention of 1883. A similar report was presented on behalf of the joint committee on liturgical revision of the House of Deputies. Referred to the committee constitutional amendments.

The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Franklin, of New Jersey, read the unanimous report of the joint committee on marriage and divorce appointed at the General Convention of 1883. It embodied a new canon which contained several stringent modifications of the existing canon on marriage and divorce. The proposed new canon provides that no marriage of any person under eighteen years of age shall be solemnized unless the parents or guardians be present; that the divorce can only be recognized or granted on the ground of adultery, the guilty person being forbidden to marry during the lifetime of the person from whom he or she was divorced. The proposed canon forbids the remarriage of divorced persons under certain circumstances, and provides for penalties to be imposed upon the clergy for any non-observance of the strict letter of the canon.

Mr. J. Bancroft Davis, of Maryland presented a resolution providing for a joint committee of three Bishops, three clerical and three lay delegates, to consider the duty of the Church in work among the colored people of the United States. Mr. Stoenburg, of Indiana, offered an amendment requiring the committee so appointed to consider and report the best practicable method of prosecuting the proposed work, and also to draft a canon to place the plan upon a permanent basis. The amendment also provided that the committee should submit its reports, and that it be made the special order for next Monday. The resolution as amended was unanimously adopted.

The Rev. B. A. Rogers, of Texas, offered a resolution providing that the missionary jurisdiction of the Church be extended so as to include work among the colored people of the United States. Laid on the table for future reference.

The Rev. Mr. Cartstenson of Pittsburg, offered a resolution providing for the appointment of a joint committee to report some plan by which the work of evangelists may be officially recognized. Placed on the calendar.

## Governor Richardson on Our State Government.

[From the News and Courier.]

He did not propose to say a word against any man or set of men. He had been a farmer all his life, and his family had followed that profession for generations and his sympathies were with them in their struggles. While he would not answer all the charges that had been made, he would say something about that of corruption in the administration of the State Government. The Democratic party had accomplished more for all the people in the last ten years than any political party had ever done in the same length of time. In 1868 the Radical debt of the State had run up to \$29,000,000. Governor Scott carried his treasurer and the great seal of the State to New York and stamped the bonds as they came from the mills. They went down to ten cents on the dollar, and the levy for State tax was 14 mills. All this money was riotously wasted, and it is said that Governor Moses absorbed \$500,000 in one year. Our State then stood disgraced in the financial markets of the world.

Thus matters went on until 1876, when the "sons of Revolutionary sires," who had fought under Morgan at Cowpens, rose in their manhood and hurled the usurper from our State. When the Democrats came into power the first thing was to appoint a Court to separate the fraudulent from the valid debt, and after their verdicts passed through the highest Courts of the country the valid debt of the State was settled at six and a half million dollars. The State government has been fairly and economically administered. One of the charges is that there is great and wasteful extravagance. He said that honor is the best economy that a State ever exercised. No business can be carried on without money. The farmer will fail if he attempts to make a crop with impoverished stock and poor tools. The merchant will suffer if he hires cheap, inefficient help. It is a wise economy to pay a good price for a good article. So, in the administration of our Government, the question is whether there have been any unnecessary expenses or not.

One of the special charges is that the State levy is now \$320,000 more than is necessary. In 1878 the State levy was \$360,000, because no levy was made that year to pay interest on the bonds as they were in the Courts. That matter was settled, and the next year the levy was twice that amount. Some additional expenses have been incurred in the State Government. The amount is \$92,000, and it goes for the South Carolina College, the Citadel Academy, the completion of the State House, and for the Lunatic Asylum; but as an offset to this increased expenditure we have an increased royalty from the phosphate mines, so that the burden of taxation is really no heavier on the people than it was in past years before this increased expenditure. Taking our State in all its departments there is no extravagance and no waste.

Then comparing it with the cost of other State Governments, South Carolina takes the lead in economical administration, with the exception, perhaps, of Alabama. The tax per head in South Carolina is \$1.83, in Georgia \$2, in Louisiana \$4.67, in Pennsylvania \$7, in New York \$11, in Massachusetts \$13.

In conclusion, Col. Richardson said: "Now in the administration of public affairs I promise economy when it will do good, and will recommend retrenchment when it will promote the honor of the State and the prosperity of the people. But I want no one-horse Judge on the bench to try my case. A 25-cent man is not the proper person to try one for his life. Farmers and merchants do not want cheap men to manage their affairs. A niggardly, ungenerous, selfish man is the worst of all. With such an administration as we have had for the last ten years the future is full of highest hopes. It is only by following the Democratic banner that we will be able to preserve all that we have acquired, and I exhort you men of Spartanburg to be faithful to party, to principle, and to the highest honor of the State."

Col. Richardson's speech was repeatedly cheered and applauded throughout. It was one in which there was not a single backward step taken. He favored a progressive policy in all things, political, agricultural, industrial, and educational. He opposed none of the established in-

stitutions of the State, and perhaps the love of the people for the past government of the State could not have been better or more gratifyingly indicated than in the rounds of applause with which they punctuated his manly and able defence of the past policies of the Democracy.

## Drift in Mid-Ocean.

St. Johns, N. F., Oct. 11.—The Anchoria has arrived here in tow. The passengers and crew are all well.

The steamer Anchoria, Captain Small, left Glasgow on the 18th of September, bound for New York. She had 700 souls on board, including passengers and crew. On September 22, four days later, a strong gale sprang up and a heavy sea struck the ship, and in the lurch which she made the shaft of the propeller was broken.

At the time of the accident the ship was in lat. 50.19 north and long. 39 west. She was reckoned to be about 1,200 miles west of Ireland. The shock occasioned by the breaking of the shaft threw the ship on her side and strewed glassware and other articles over the decks. Many of the passengers were frightened, but upon officers assuring them that there was no danger of sinking a panic was averted and order restored. Sails were set and the ship became somewhat steadier, but the rudder gear being useless she drifted about at the mercy of the waves from the 22d of September, to Wednesday, October 6th, efforts in the meanwhile being made daily to repair the broken shaft.

On October 6 the engineers effected temporary repairs and the ship was once more got under control, but soon afterwards the shaft broke again, this time beyond all prospect of repair. A consultation was held by the officers and the exact position of the ship was ascertained. It was found that she was eighty miles off the coast of Newfoundland. As provisions were running short, the first officer and seven others volunteered to launch a boat and make for the coast. The first officer was instructed to secure the services of a steamer if the boat reached St. John's.

On Friday the ship made little headway, and the expected steamer did not come on that day nor during the following night. On Saturday at noon, however, the glad cry of "land" rang through the ship. Another volunteer crew was quickly enlisted, consisting this time wholly of passengers, who pulled toward shore. Both boats reached land safely, but the steamer which was sent to the Anchoria's relief did not find her, and the latter had nearly reached port before she was seen and taken in tow by another vessel.

There were two deaths and two births on board during the voyage.

## The State Campaign.

[From the News and Courier.]

CHESTER, October 12.—The second meeting of the State Democratic campaign was held here to-day, and was largely attended by the Democracy of the Fifth Congressional district. Owing to an indisposition, which prevented him from speaking, there was no address from Col. Richardson, the nominee for Governor, a circumstance which caused general regret. Speeches were, however, made by Messrs. Leitner and Bonham and Congressman Hemphill. It was expected that Senator Hampton would be present, but having missed connection he did not arrive at Chester until after close of the meeting. He was, however, waited on at the train at Chester station and received with music and cheers. He spoke a few words of encouragement and recognition to the crowd and went on to Columbia with the State canvassers. It is possible that he will address the mass meeting at Florence on Thursday next, but he will certainly attend the meeting at Summerville. He stated to-day that he would not be able to attend many of the meetings announced for the State campaign, but would make an effort to speak at as many as possible of those which will be held in the low country. Senator Hampton will not remain long in the State, but will spend some time in the West before the opening of Congress.

## Bucklen's Arnica Salva.

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