

THE DEATH of Senator Bogy has caused a flutter among the Missouri statesmen, any number of whom, in their own opinion at least, are worthy of bearing his mantle. As he was a Democrat, and will be succeeded by a Democrat, his death is of no political significance.

IT IS RELATED that in the flush times of California, when robberies and murders had become so frequent, and desperadoes so shameless, that the whole community rose in arms and demanded vengeance, a certain lawyer became a candidate for judge. Mounting his mustang, he set out on an electioneering tour. Whenever he met a voter he would merely touch his hat, with the remark, "Good morning, Colonel, I'm in for hanging every d---d one of them," stick spurs to his horse and ride on. Upon that platform he was triumphantly elected. And he straightened things out. That is the kind of judge we want for the Radical rascals of South Carolina.

How to Secure a Good School in Winnsboro.

Mr. B. R. Stuart, who has devoted a large portion of his life to the education of youth, has recently proposed a scheme for the promotion of education in this State. Briefly stated, his plan is to establish in every town a high school, one-half of the expenditures of which are to be defrayed by the State, and the other half by the pupils. He proposes to incorporate these institutions into the public school system, and to have them placed under the supervision either of a State inspector or of a professor of the State college. The "aiding system," proposed by Mr. Stuart, and modeled upon the schools of Prussia and other European nations, possesses many meritorious features, and is well adapted to our present condition, where the people are too poor to maintain private schools, and the Legislature too frugal in its appropriations to secure advanced public instruction. These "half-and-half" schools are peculiarly fitted to mark the transition stage between the old and the new system.

While Mr. Stuart's proposed scheme is admirable in theory, its details, we fear, cannot be carried out. He asks that one-fifth of the State appropriation be set aside for the maintenance of these high schools. Unfortunately, the State fund is not sufficient to support even elementary schools for more than three months; and it is not improbable that the State Superintendent will strenuously oppose the diversion of any portion of it to other purposes. Recourse must be had to other sources of aid. In a word, the old local tax law must be depended upon to supply the needful cash. So objectionable had this law become under the Radical misrule that it was expunged from the statute book last session. The interests of public instruction demand its re-enactment with restrictions and safeguards against abuse.

As the constitution expressly provides that the poll tax shall never be increased, local school taxation has always been levied solely upon property. For this reason it appears to us that it would not be unconstitutional to pass a law submitting the question of a local tax to those voters only who pay taxes other than the poll tax. This would obviate the abuses to which the old law was subjected, and would, we think, be not unacceptable to property owners. And granting, even, that the Legislature would refuse to enact a general law of this nature, it would not refuse to pass a special act for any community of taxpayers desiring it.

Amending, therefore, the details of Mr. Stuart's scheme, we would make the following suggestion. Let the people of Township Four, or

even of Winnsboro, obtain from the Legislature the right to levy a local tax. By means of this tax, and the portion of the State fund due the town for a white school, at least twelve hundred dollars should be realized. A contract should then be made with the Mount Zion Society to establish a graded school with primary, intermediate and high school departments. Since the State guarantees elementary instructions, the primary department should be open, free of charge, to all white children in the township. For the higher grades, Mr. Stuart's proposition should be adopted, the tuition fee being fixed at, say, one-half the rates now charged at the Institute. No pupil should be entitled to enter the high grades without paying his tuition.

Such is, in brief, the outline of a scheme which appears to supply the pressing need of the people for education. It will be impossible, for many years yet, to secure public schools of a high grade. An annual tax of four mills is required in wealthy Massachusetts for her schools, and the amount raised, is over six million dollars yearly, or more than twenty dollars to each child. The tax in South Carolina realizes about one dollar per child, and yet people grumble about extravagance. The necessity for "half-and-half" schools, in this condition of affairs, becomes apparent.

If the school amendment be ratified, the money may be raised without resorting to local taxation.

If this plan be tried one year, with a liberal supply of money, and good teachers, we believe it will be permanently adopted. The difficulty of raising the required sum will become less difficult year by year. In this connection it may be stated that the Peabody trustees will contribute three hundred dollars a year to any school averaging eighty-five scholars for ten scholastic, or nine calendar months. Such a school could be secured in Winnsboro by the plan proposed above.

We commend this whole matter to the serious consideration of the Mount Zion Society, and the citizens generally. Whatever steps they may take, should be taken promptly, for a host of children are growing up in ignorance, and will soon be beyond the reach of the instructor's voice.

The Last Encampment.

Editor Columbia Register:

Under the above caption I read a communication in the *Ninety-Six Guardian*, giving an account of an encampment in April, 1865.

I do not know what Confederate troops were last in camp; but I do know that Hagood's brigade was in camp eight miles from Monroe, N. C., on Saturday night, the 6th of May, 1865, under military discipline, tents pitched, wagon train parked, guards posted, &c.; and that Walter's battery of Washington Artillery were encamped near by. I say I know, for "I WAS THERE."

A STRANGE EXPLOSION.—There was a curious explosion in the First Presbyterian church at Plattsburg, New York, the windows being blown out, the furnaces shattered, and the ceiling ruined. Those who entered the main audience-room found it filled with gas, the carpets and cushions blazing, several of the memorial windows severed, three small arched windows over the organ completely shattered, and the heavy outside front door blown out into the street. The statement of Sexton Prindle is that he spent a portion of the day in the main room, sprinkling benzine upon the cushions and carpets, according to directions given to him, to kill the moths with which the carpets and upholstery were infested. He thinks that about two-thirds of a barrel of benzine was used in this manner. After finishing his work up stairs he went down into the lecture room, and made his preparations to start a fire in the furnace, in the southwest corner. He cut kindlings and ignited a match, when a shock came which threw him fifteen feet, and rendered him insensible.

Rev. Dr. James A. Duncan, a distinguished divine of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and President of Randolph Macon College, died at Ashland, near Richmond, Va., on Monday. He was a brother of Major D. R. Duncan, president of the Spartanburg and Ashville Railroad.

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PANTHERS IN AIREN.—A boy by the name of Jones, residing near Hollow Creek, about twenty miles from Aiken, was attacked by a panther last week, and badly torn and bitten about the neck and shoulders. Two of these animals have been seen, and are creating great terror in that neighborhood.—*Courier-Journal*.

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april-26-11

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