

No Bill.

During the present Term of the Court the Grand Jury have failed to find true bills in a number of cases. Among them are some for retailing liquor, libel and assault and battery.

The facts connected with some of the cases have been generally known and commented upon throughout the county for some time. Various and conflicting opinions have been expressed as to what would be the verdict of the jury upon the trial, but no one thought it possible that the guilt or innocence of the persons accused would not be established because of a failure on the part of the Grand Jury to find a true bill. We have no right to criticize this action, and we have no desire to do so, because it is impossible for us to know what evidence they had before them. The deliberations of the Grand Jury are not known to the public and we must presume that they did their duty, and that sufficient evidence to establish a *prima facie* case was not before them. Whether the witnesses for the State by any means withheld evidence, or the jury misconceived their duty, it is unfortunate that the cases referred to should have terminated in this manner. Whenever the people are led to believe that there is a strong probability of a violation of law, and by any means the matter fails to be thoroughly investigated, the accused person evades the ordeal of a public trial, or where any circumstances appear that savors of inequality, the inevitable tendency is to create distrust in the machinery of the courts. It leads to lynch-law and disturbs the peace and good order of society generally.

While Grand Jurors act as conservators of the public peace, and should protect all persons against whom no *prima facie* case exists, against the annoyance of a trial, yet it should be borne in mind that they have no such discretionary powers as to decide upon the guilt nor innocence of the accused; nor is it their province, after they are satisfied as to a *prima facie* case, to smother the matter upon any other ground.

As soon as the probability of the offence is established, then the discretionary powers of the Grand Jury must end. The course which they should pursue is marked out by the law. If there are circumstances which would excuse the violation of law, it is a matter which belongs to another branch of the court, and with which the Grand Jury have nothing to do.

As we have said, we cannot know the cause for the action of the jury in the cases referred to, and we are bound to presume they did their duty, as those who compose this jury are true men. They are men of intelligence and doubtless need no instructions as to their duty; but if an error is made, it is far better it should be made in forcing an innocent man to undergo trial, than in allowing the guilty to escape.

Under our system of trial by jury, it seldom happens that an innocent man is convicted of crime.

"F." and the Road Law.

Two weeks ago we had a short article on the Road Law, and while we frankly admitted that we knew of no system by which the work could be better done, yet we considered the result of the present system unsatisfactory, and therefore advocated a change. Last week a correspondent under the signature "F." joined issue with us, and in a lengthy article, attempted to show that no change is needed.

"F." says: "It seems to be a metaphysical impossibility that a man should discern defects in a system and not be able to conceive of a better plan."

It appears to us that anyone who travels our public roads can scarcely resist the conclusion that they are not properly worked, and yet, perhaps no two men would agree as to the best way to have them worked. He says further: "The conception of a better plan would be the means, and the only means, by which you should affirm difficulties in the system." This language appears a little strange to say the least of it.

For years our public roads have been worked as they are now, and yet we see them in a bad condition. Year after year the hands perform the work set apart by the overseers

and yet no material improvement in the roads can be seen.

We affirm that the present system should be changed; not because we know of a better, but because we know that this method does not accomplish the result intended. Common sense would teach us that some better system could be devised. We do not know the best method, nor is it exactly our province to figure the matter out. If we could suggest we would do so; but as it is, we will leave the question as to the most available system where it properly belongs, and only reiterate our opinion that the roads are not properly worked under the present system, and a change should be made.

It appears that our "metaphysical" friend is determined to criticize our whole article, and newspapers generally. When he says "newspapers are not the only organs to dictate to the Legislature," we entirely agree. It was not our intention to dictate to anyone, but to give our views for what they are worth. Surely he will allow this much. It is not right that newspapers should dictate upon any subject, but whenever we find a system accomplishing no more than is done under the present mode of working the roads, he may be quite sure we will speak out our convictions.

Whither Are We Drifting?

When we confront the fact that every few days the horrible details of some tragedy, an account of some high-handed act, is thrust upon the community; when we see the low value that is placed on human life, we almost doubt whether or not we are advancing in civilization.

The news comes now from Edgefield that O. T. CULBREATH, described as having been "a gallant Confederate soldier, and for many years was esteemed an honorable gentleman and a worthy citizen," was shot down by a body of masked men, while in the office of his lawyer.

It happens that CULBREATH had separated from his wife. On the night of the 12th inst., a young man named HAMMOND was shot at Mrs. CULBREATH'S house. While many suppose that O. T. CULBREATH committed the crime, or was the principal agent in the affair, yet it was purely a supposition. No evidence could be found, not even circumstantial, yet the life-blood of a citizen must be shed to satisfy an infuriated mob. The perpetrators of this vile and reckless act declare that they shot CULBREATH because the evidence was not sufficient to convict him in Court. Even in the darkest ages of the world's history, a parallel case can scarcely be found. A man shot like a dog because, forsooth, the evidence was not strong enough to convict him. Where will such things end! Well may innocent men tremble if such recklessness be sanctioned by the community.

The Edgefield Tragedy.

(Special to the News and Courier.)

TRENTON, September 25.—The coroner's jury in the Culbreath case recommended this morning at 10 o'clock, their sessions growing more deeply interesting each day and being attended by increased crowds of anxious spectators day by day. Mr. O. O. Barr, who lives about six miles from the village on the road leading to Antioch Church and the Culbreath Section, testified that a crowd of mounted men assembled in his woods pasture, lying on the road, on Monday evening. Later in the evening he went to his pasture to drive home his cattle, his negroes refusing to go on account of the crowds of men they knew to be there, and he came up with Wyatt L. Holmes, George Vance and Steve Hammond, while they were drinking water at the branch. Holmes told him there had been two hundred men along in the woods and that this crowd was a demonstration on the Hammond side. Barr says he started to go in the direction of the crowd when Holmes advised him not to go any further and he returned home. That night about 10 o'clock Barr was aroused and on going to the door saw three men, one of them being Holmes, but the others were masked. Holmes told him that he Barr must keep his mouth shut. The three men then left and went in the direction of Antioch Church.

H. Wood testified that on Monday evening he saw several mounted men in the near vicinity of Antioch, and recognized among the number Ned Bussey, Collier Hammond, Pat Bussey, George Vance, D. Bussey, Jasper Falbert and three of the Holmes boys, not remembering their names.

Other witnesses to-day testified to recognizing the parties or most of them mentioned above. After an all-day session the jury this evening returned a verdict that O. T. Culbreath, the deceased, came to his death from a gunshot wound at the hands of Wm. Parkman, and that Wyatt Holmes and other parties unknown to the jury were accessories thereto. Arrests will be next in order, and quite a number will be arrested.

Five prisoners under sentence from the U. S. Court for illegal whiskey selling, broke jail in Wall-halla on Sunday night last.

Speech of Hon. A. P. Butler Before the Lisbon Farmers' Club.

Mr. President Ladies and Gentlemen!

It gives me great pleasure to be with you to-day and to learn of the flourishing condition of your Club. In 1882 your Secretary wrote me "we have on our roll, I suppose, fifty members. Our regular attendance varies from fifteen to thirty. We have a good many members who live some distance from place of meeting who do not attend regularly. Those members, however, all take a deep interest in the club and invariably apologize for not attending more regularly. We have not failed to have a meeting of the club more than half a dozen times since date of organization—March 1879. We have endeavored from time to time to induce our brother farmers all over the county to organize similar associations, and are determined, whether they do or not, that we will keep ours alive. We think the influence of our club is being felt all over our county, manifested by the desire of farmers from all parts of the county to join us. There is a growing disposition on the part of our members to use improved implements, improve live stock and make our farms self-sustaining. Improved modes of culture are being adopted, and more attention is being paid to food crops for man and beast. We expected the past summer to have an exhibit of farm and garden products, household products, stock &c. We had the social features of our club exceedingly pleasant, especially during the summer months when we have the ladies with us.

We feel that if our farmers all over the State would organize into similar clubs we would then be better able to assist the Agricultural Department in its great work.

This letter from your Secretary, written two years after the organization of your club, satisfied me that you had the right spirit among you, and I am glad of the opportunity to congratulate you upon your decided success. The fact that you have maintained your organization so well for six years demonstrates conclusively that you value and fully appreciate the vast benefit of such societies. To undertake, therefore, to talk to you about the importance of such an Association, would be like "serruying coals to Newcastle." You have the proof of it here in your own club, and its results in your own efforts.

At the suggestion of one of your members I will speak to you for a day of the State Department of agriculture and how its work has been discharged.

The Department is charged with the management of the Phosphates of the State; the protection of the consumers of commercial fertilizers; the fish interest of the State; the collection of agricultural statistics and information; the investigation of all subjects relating to agriculture and stock raising; and generally the development of the natural resources of the State.

The phosphate territory of South Carolina is the most valuable property owned by the State. The value of the annual production of South Carolina phosphate rock is ten times as great as the value of all the gold and silver mined in all the Southern States. At this time there are engaged in mining rock fourteen companies, and eleven companies are in operation manufacturing this rock into commercial fertilizers. They have invested about six millions of dollars and employ about 3,000 hands. About four thousand tons of rock is raised every year from the rivers and land mines, and about one hundred and fifty thousand tons of fertilizers are manufactured. Foreign vessels now come to our ports loaded with sulphur and take back with them cargoes of our rock. The State receives annually about one hundred and fifty thousand dollars royalty on the rock mined, or equivalent to nearly one third of the State taxes. You will readily perceive from this brief statement of facts that this is a very important industry and requires a great deal of attention from the Department. Wisely encouraged and fostered, the benefits from it to all our people will increase every year. The Department has a Special Assistant in immediate charge of this work under the supervision of the Board and Commissioner, and the latter makes an annual inspection of the phosphate mines and reports the results, with such recommendations as they may deem proper, to the Legislature. Since this work has been done by the Department, the sum of seven hundred twenty-four thousand dollars in royalty has been paid into the State treasury by the mining companies.

The analyses of commercial fertilizers is one of the most, if not really the most, important duty to the Department, because upon the quality of these manures almost wholly depends the agricultural production of the State. If the standard of these goods was lowered it would inflict almost irreparable loss upon the farmers of the State, because they would not only lose the amount expended for fertilizers (between three and four millions of dollars every year) but the crops also. It is necessary, therefore, that they should be fully tested every season, and in order to do this thoroughly, the Department has established a complete analytical laboratory and put in charge of it one of the best practical chemists in the South. Every season we send out Inspectors to every section of the State, who are required to draw samples from every lot of fertilizers they may find and forward to the chemist for analysis. In order to prevent even a suspicion of collusion between the chemist and the manufacturer, the Inspector numbers the sample and the chemist reports to the Commissioner the result of his analysis of such a number. The manufacturer is required to

brand on his bag the amount of Ammonia, Phosphoric Acid, and Potash that he may claim, and if our analysis shows any material deficiency in any of these ingredients his goods are liable to seizure and condemnation, and the results of our analysis are published for the benefit of consumers. This is the way in which our official analyses are made, but we will also make analyses for individual farmers when desired, under certain rules and restrictions, and we are always glad to have them send us such samples. If a farmer will draw a sample when he purchases his guano, seal it up in a clean bottle and have it witnessed by a responsible party and send it to us, we will analyse it at the close of the season, if he has reason to believe that it was not what it was guaranteed to him. You will all take to notice such analyses merely for the gratification of the farmer, because it would give us more work than we could possibly perform, but if the farmer has reason to believe that he has been imposed upon, we will make the analysis for him, if it is necessary to suspend all other work of the Laboratory to do it. Since the Department began work we have made about six hundred and ninety analyses of fertilizers. The importance of official analyses are generally acknowledged, but I have recently read a communication in a Northern journal that shows this so forcibly that I repeat it here: "The establishment of a State Department of Agriculture in North Carolina, in 1877, did much to encourage and to extend the use of commercial fertilizers. Previous to this confidence was being lost in the value of fertilizers put upon the market, and the sales had diminished to less than 400,000 tons. But since their composition and sale have been made subject of State supervision, the annual sales has steadily increased to 1,000,000 at present, and at the same time, the price has decreased and the quality improved."

The Chemist of the Department gives his entire time to our work and is not permitted, without the authority of the Board or Commissioner, to do any other work. He is now prepared to make analyses of ores and mineral waters, and I invite you to send us anything of this kind that you would like tested. Analyses of any kind made for the farmers are made without cost to them.

You all recognize and appreciate the importance of the Fish interests of the State. We have endeavored to promote this interest to the extent of our ability and increase the supply of food fishes. The Department now has a hatching house in Oconee County for propagating salmon, trout and such species, and another on the Edisto River, in Colleton County, for hatching shad. We have also breeding ponds for Carp and Columbia, and, although not extensive, we have obtained fine results from them. This work is under the immediate supervision of a practical fish-culturist who gives his whole time to it. Since the work was commenced we have distributed in the streams of the State, 7,863,000 Shad, 362,000 Salmon, 12,000 Trout, and distributed to owners of ponds, 41,000 Carp. The salmon planting was an experiment with all the Southern States, and we are not yet satisfied that it will prove successful. The results of the shad hatching are already seen in the Edisto River, where an increase in the number of these fish is reported. The success attending carp culture in the State has been remarkable and entirely satisfactory. Any farmer who desires to raise these fish, will be supplied with enough to stock a pond without any cost, except the express charges on the fish, from Columbia, which amounts to a mere trifle. The Superintendent of Fisheries has recently inspected the streams in the upper counties where obstruction to the free passage of migratory fish exist, and fish ways will be constructed over the dams in those streams by the first of October, and we hope to have fish ways in all of them at a very early day.

The advertisement of the resources of the State is another important duty. To do this thoroughly requires an extensive correspondence and an immense amount of time and work, but we have endeavored to do it as fully as possible. Since the organization of the Department we have made two exhibits of our resources at National exhibitions—one at Atlanta in 1881 and the other at New Orleans in 1884-1885. Time will not permit me to describe these exhibits. I had mailed a number of copies of our report on the exhibit to your Secretary for distribution to your members. This report contains full descriptions of our New Orleans exhibit, and I think that after reading it you will agree with those who saw it, that it was a complete exhibition of our resources and industries, and that it was alike creditable to our great State and her patriotic people. We have also advertised the State in other ways also. In 1882 the department issued 5,000 copies of a Hand Book containing a full and complete review of the Social, Agricultural, Educational, Industrial and Commercial condition of the State, and this book has been universally pronounced one of the best publications ever issued by any State. In addition to the Hand Book the Department has published 25,000 Annual reports, 220,000 Monthly reports, and over 30,000 miscellaneous publications. These documents have gone to all civilized portions of the world. The monthly reports were chiefly distributed among our own people as they were published, principally to give information to our farmers.

In order to perform its work satisfactorily, the Department has purchased a large building for its purposes. In this building is the laboratory and the offices of the department, and the large halls will be used for a permanent exhibition of the resources of the

State. To this building we extend a special invitation to all farmers, and hope that they will consider that it has been purchased in their interest and that they will come and advise with us as to the best means of advancing that interest.

It is the earnest desire of the Board and Commissioner to establish an experimental farm at an early day. This would have been done long ago if other matters requiring an expenditure of money had not been more pressing. It will be done as soon as the funds at our disposal permit. You all realize that a department of this kind takes time to grow and develop, and we hope that its growth and development will always be in the right direction.

In conclusion, I trust you will pardon me for detaining you a few minutes to explain to you how the Department is maintained, as this is so much misunderstood. No appropriation for its support is made from the State Treasury. When the Act creating it was passed, an appropriation of \$5,000 was made from the phosphate royalty, to be used until the tax on fertilizers became available. This appropriation was never touched, and at the end of the year was covered back into the Treasury. The law requires all manufacturers of commercial fertilizers to pay a tax of twenty-five cents per ton on every ton of fertilizers sold in the State. The fund arising from the payment of this tax is used exclusively for the benefit of the Department. So that while the Department has charge of the phosphate territory of the State and looks after the collection of the royalty, no part of that royalty, nor any part of the State taxes are appropriated for its support.

Correspondents from the Agricultural Societies, Granges and Clubs, and the Department has been warmly supported by the people generally, and has had the cordial endorsement of the farmers, individually and collectively.

In conclusion permit me to thank you for the opportunity you have afforded me of bringing the work of the Department to your attention. I trust that the statements I have made will satisfy you that we have accomplished some good for our people, and that with the experience we have gained we will be able to do much more in the future.

—A dress does not make the woman but often breaks the man.

"Good gracious," said the hen, when she discovered the porcelain egg in her nest, "I shall be a brick-layer next!"

—The South Carolina Agricultural Society will hold an industrial exposition in Charleston on the 23d of November.

—Sam Jones, the evangelist, has opened a campaign to "save" Chicago. His great-grandchildren will carry on the business in the old stand.

—Fra S. Davonport has been nominated for Governor of New York by the Republicans. He is a weak man and his nomination is a surprise to everyone.

—A glass busthead has been made at a Birmingham, Eng. factory for a California millionaire. It is of solid glass, the legs, rails, &c., being richly cut. The King of Burma also has one.

—The case of Cluverious, the Richmond murderer, will probably be reached in the Supreme Court sometime next month. The prisoner maintains his cheerfulness and confidence. There has been no change in public opinion as to his guilt.

"Say," said the editor's smart little son, as he entered a store, "do you keep knives?" "Oh, yes," responded the storekeeper, "we've kept them for years." "Well," responded the boy, as he started for the door, "you ought to advertise, and then you wouldn't keep 'em so long."—Ed.

—Mr. Honey, Section Master on the Laurens Railway, was arrested in Newberry Saturday afternoon by a Laurens constable upon a warrant charging him with assault and battery with intent to kill—shooting Ed Satterwhite, colored, the day before at Goldville. Satterwhite was not much hurt.—Newberry Observer.

—Yesterday a Chinese storekeeper who kept silk handkerchiefs for sale was induced to sell one for 50c, which he had asked \$2.50 for at first. "How much do you make on this sale?" as asked after the trade was made. "Oh, 90c," was the reply. "But how can you make 90c, when that is all you get for it?" "Oh, my steal um," coolly replied the Chinaman, as he threw the money into the drawer.

—No doubt remains that a terrible famine is impending in India. The crops in the Deccan have all failed for want of rain, while in Bengal the crops are ruined by an excess of rain and floods. The country for fifty miles about Calcutta is completely submerged. Nearly all the railways in the provinces are injured by floods and landslides. The railway at Lucker Sera has been completely swept away. Public subscriptions have been opened in Calcutta, and in all the large town all possible preparations are being made to provide against the famine which is now inevitable, and to mitigate its horrors.

LET US ORGANIZE A NATIONAL BANK.

It is admitted that we need a National Bank for Laurens. We invite all who can be induced to take an interest in the project, to come up with their subscriptions, large and small.

No subscription will be called for before the 1st of January next.

SAMUEL R. TODD,  
JNO. A. BARKSDALE,  
Sept. 20, 1885.

# ASSIGNEE'S SALE.

The Stock of  
GENERAL MERCHANDISE  
OF  
T. B. ANDERSON

AT  
WATERLOO, S. C.,  
Must be sold

Within the next thirty days.

The Stock consists largely of

## FALL AND WINTER GOODS,

SOUND GOODS AT AND

BELOW their ORIGINAL COST,

Those wishing to buy should examine this stock—  
if they find anything they want, it WILL BE

### SOLD CHEAP,

as NO PROFIT on the goods is desired

A. E. NANCE,  
as Assignee,  
L. W. SIMKINS,  
as Agent.

SEPTEMBER 21st 1885.

## Our Big Drive.

IN order to make ROOM FOR OUR

### Mammoth Stock

### WINTER GOODS

We are selling at greatly reduced prices the following goods. Calicoes, Dress goods, Remnants of Dress goods, Table Damask, Towels, Hdkfs, Edging, Laces etc., and a Great Variety of goods too numerous to mention. We call the special attention of the ladies to our Stock of Fine Shoes, every pair guaranteed to give satisfaction. We also carry a Large Stock of men's children and Misses Shoes, which we sell as low as the lowest. Come one, come all, and see for yourselves.

### GRAHAM & SPARKS.

## IRON FOUNDRY.

All kinds of Machinery repaired. Iron and Brass Casting, of every description, made on short notice. Work guaranteed as good, and prices Lower than can be had at any other Foundry. We mean what we say. Call or write for prices.

MYERS & COLE,  
Laurens S. C.

August 5, 1885

## The Big Eagle!

J. R. Cooper & Co.

Have removed their Stock of Fancy and Family Groceries, Confectioneries, Fruits, &c.

Vegetables, Wooden-ware, Boots, Shoes and Hats to the new store, just completed, under the sign of the "Big Eagle," East side of Public Square.

Highest prices paid for Produce, Hides, Etc.

We thank our customers for past patronage, and solicit a continuance of the same. Call and see us.

J. R. COOPER & CO.

## CLOTHING! CLOTHING! CLOTHING.

Davy Crockett

Was on TOP when he said, "Be sure you are right, then GO AHEAD."

The celebrated buyer, J. W. Leake, bought \$14,000 worth of Clothing right at FORCED SALES in New York, and we are going right ahead.

205 Suits for Men, at \$3.15,  
187 " " " at 4.85,  
500 " " " at \$5.00, 5.50,  
600 to 700 worth double.

Fine Stylish Suits for Youths and Boys.  
816 Sample Hats at 75 cents worth a dollar.  
The Celebrated Stetson Hats and Hissers Shoes, on top.  
Plenty Shirts, Collars and Drawers for every body.  
Open your Hearts and Pockets when you come in our Store.

LEAKE & PATTON.