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A. C. JONES, Pub. and Proprietor.

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AN ABSTRACT OF THE ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HON. JAS. M. LIPSCOMB, MASTER OF THE STATE GRANGE.

At the Fourteenth Annual Session, Held in Charleston, S. C., on February 3rd and 4th, 1886.

To you the representative legislative body for the Order of Patrons of Husbandry in this State, now assembled and sitting in annual session, to devise and provide measures and plans for its welfare and promotion, it is my official duty to make such suggestions as may be deemed proper for your consideration and "for the good of the Order."

From the Annual Reports of the Worthy Secretary and Worthy Treasurer, you will get exact, detailed information of the financial condition and numerical strength of the Order in this State. From the number of new Granges organized, and dormant ones reorganized, it will be seen that the Order is not retrograding or weakening, or its prospect for the future discouraging. It is most astonishing that an association for which so little time devoted, and on which so little money has been spent, should have grown and prospered in spite of the groundless antagonism of most of the organized interests and classes of the community and country. It has been sustained by its inherent and intrinsic principle and vitality, with but little if any fostering care, canvassing, labor or pecuniary expenditure.

This benign Order should have zealous care, diligent canvassing, and liberal expenditure. It is an Order that, while pre-eminently caring for and representing the interests of the farmers as a class, conduces to, and promotes the interests of all other classes, and of the country generally. Fairly and truly viewed, it conflicts with none and antagonizes none. Properly used, it harms no one, but confers untold and immense benefits upon all and every one. Many erroneous ideas prevail, creating false impressions as to the objects and mission of this Order, bringing upon it enmity and opposition, as aggressive and destructive, from sources it should receive approval and cordial support, as progressive and co-operative.

It should be your duty to correct such erroneous impressions, remove such enmity and opposition, and secure for it approval and cordial support. To this much needed and desired end, allow me to most earnestly and emphatically invoke your deepest consideration and most zealous efforts. This opens too wide a field to be canvassed or discussed on such an occasion as this; and I can only do it here and there without detailed discussion, with such bare "suggestions for the good of the Order," as may form a basis, or ground-work from which and upon which, you may after mature deliberation and thoughtful consideration, formulate and add such measures and take such action as may seem to you wise and practicable; promoting the true interests of the Order you represent and of the whole people.

As to that I shall say to you under the head of agriculture, I don't think I can do better than adopt, as part of this address, the report made by the National Grange:

This is pre-eminently an agricultural nation. Agriculture is the greatest interest, creating the annual values, which when capitalized, is the wealth and supports all the other interests of the country.

road expense of try to compute existing properties, buildings, us, factories implements,

cattle and stock, railroads, turnpikes and shipping, government buildings—Federal, State and county—churches and school houses; add to all this the billions of dollars covered up and invested in bonds and stocks—National, State, county, municipal and individual—and then think that all this wonderful mass of values is the accumulation and capitalized profits from agriculture.

"Glance again over the agricultural records of this nation, and what do we see and learn?"

"In thirty years, from 1850 to 1880, the crops increase: Wheat, from 100,488,944 bushels to 450,483,137 bushels; corn, from 502,071,104 to 1,754,591,676 bushels; and cotton, from 2,469,093 to 6,539,021 bales. The estimates for 1885 being: wheat, 376,000,000 bushels; corn, 2,000,000,000 bushels; and cotton, 6,000,000 bales; these three alone aggregating in value \$1,132,000,000.

"An analysis would startlingly show how little of this immense accumulated profits and wealth has remained with the agricultural producers, and how many billions of dollars have gone to support and enrich other classes and interests. It would also show how agriculture as an art, science and pursuit has advanced and progressed with rapid and gigantic strides.

"Think for a moment of the radical changes in modes and implements of agriculture within the experience of your own generation, and it looks almost miraculous.

"From the foregoing, it would seem that the problem of successful agriculture was solved, and the wealth of the agricultural classes clearly assured. But is this so? No, alas! While agriculture as a science and a wealth-creator has advanced, and is still advancing at electric speed, supporting and enriching the government and aggregate people, still undisciplined statistical records, facts and your own experience show with painful plainness that the strictly pure agriculturists are not, either as individuals, or on the aggregate, growing rich.

"They, of all classes, still remain more under Eden's curse, 'In the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat thy daily bread'; and being made to do the extra sweating to provide bread and wealth and luxury for thousands and thousands who, during long lives earn nothing, and do nothing, but appropriate, and in riotous living, consume the capitalized profits and wealth squeezed from the sweating faces and 'horny hands' of the 'sons of toil.' An increase of production and crops by increased toil and progress in science, intelligence and skill, will not change the status or relieve the difficulty; for, as from year to year, from decade to decade, the profits and values from agricultural operations are increased and magnified, in still greater ratio is the proportion of the agriculturists decreased in the distribution thereof. Why is this so, and shall it continue? It would fill volumes to tell in minute detail, the numerous causes that contribute to establish the foregoing conditions. Feebly formulated it is: that by statute laws and operations of governments—Federal, State, county and municipal; that by the rules and customs of boards of trade and commerce; by corporations and syndicates; by associations and orders; and by numberless and diverse classes and interests; there has been a long, determined, systematically constructed and combined arrangement for each and all to estimate what, and how much, of these agricultural profits and wealth they respectively needed, or desired; then remorselessly and summarily to appropriate the same, regardless of the equity or justice of the division; or what would be left for the class that with anxious study and earnest labor produced it all.

Agriculture must be so unloaded of these onerous burdens that now encumber it as to render it possible for those engaged in it to make money and acquire wealth. This can never be done till the agriculturists who grow and produce the crops control the first sales of the same, and have them made in their interest. It cannot be till it is so arranged to take less wheat, corn, cotton and other agricultural products, or the money they sell for, to maintain and supply the governments of various grades, the railroads, the manufacturing, the banks and all other institutions and interests, both public and private, and thus leave a larger surplus as a support and dividend to the agriculturist upon his labor and capital.

"Agriculturists, to save themselves and their interests, must be the strongest and ruling class in the na-

tion, and strongly intrench and protect themselves against the weakening encroachments that depress and exhaust, and sooner and later, ruin those engaged in it.

"As it must supply the revenue, it must control its expenditure.

"No government can long retain its power; no people its happiness and comfort without a prosperous agriculture, and agriculture will not and cannot prosper unless it pays, and pays well those engaged in it.

"Here is the key note to the whole situation. Let agriculture be the source of profit and wealth, or rather secure the profits and wealth rightfully belonging to the agriculturists to them, and then no longer will be heard the doleful voice of the moaning farmer depicting the misery of his class; of the vain efforts to induce them to join the organizations and associations of their class; to induce the children to follow the avocation of the parents, instead of overcrowding the professions and other avocations, and flocking in countless herds to cities and towns.

"Unless you do this, agriculture must continue to languish and decline—the avoidance and contempt of the world—and you and your class must for generations to come remain the contemned serfs of any and all who, seeing your supineness, simply combine to use you.

"Farmers, awake to the exigencies of the situation, and sleep no more till your task is finished and your duty done."

Having become convinced that a continuance of Summer Meetings upon the present plan will not best subserve and promote the objects and interests of the Order and agriculture; I have obtained all the information I could as to the system and plan of the State and Inter-State picnic, held for the last twelve years at Williams Grove, Penn., and will at the proper time submit it for your consideration, along with a short report of my five days' attendance there last August, and the observations I made on it, and the impression it made on me.

Starting twelve years ago as a local Pomona Grange picnic of three hours duration, two speeches and a basket dinner, it has grown to its present mammoth dimensions of five days duration, one hundred thousand people attending, averaging twenty thousand per day; coming from twenty-five different States; densely covering fifty odd acres with buildings, machinery, stock and people, all working with perfect system and order; instituted, conducted and controlled entirely by farmers, strikingly illustrating what intelligent combination, cordial co-operation and zealous effort can accomplish, when resorted to even by farmers.

In any sound agricultural policy education should hold high rank and be liberally provided for. That education which will best train and make proficient for intelligent, progressive and successful agriculture, and consequently efficient and useful citizenship.

This training or education cannot be acquired in a short time or from any one agency or institution. It must start very early in life—in the home, the house and the farm. There, and there alone can the eye, the hand and the head obtain economically, purely and correctly the knowledge and skill that is essential to the practical farmer. No one institution under the name of school or college could cover, within any reasonable time, term, course, curriculum or cost the wide sphere and scope that is necessary to bestow a complete agricultural education.

A complete agricultural education includes almost all that is requisite in each and every specific profession or avocation, and but few things that are specifically taught and useful to the lawyer, doctor, merchant, engineer, architect, mechanic, chemist, geologist, botanist, linguist or scientist but is, in almost an equal degree, useful and advantageous to the active, intelligent, progressive and successful farmer. Instead of contracting the scope of agricultural education it should be expanded to the fullest possible extent. I most heartily wish that there was a first class agricultural college or institute in this State, thoroughly organized and fully equipped, to confer upon its pupils all that it is possible for such an institution to bestow. I shall at all times gladly and cordially support and advocate any feasible and practicable proposition or plan that will fully attain this much desired end, or make material although partial progress towards it.

As your officer, I am *ex officio* a trustee of the State University, and while I must candidly say to you, it

does not completely furnish such an educational institution as would be best for the agricultural educational interests of the State; yet, in justice to the trustees and faculty, it must be admitted, that they have done all that could be done for agricultural education in a literary university of very limited means; and in whose organization, agricultural education is an annex only. Whenever the legislature can be induced to establish an educational institution, purely agricultural; turn over to it the Federal land scrip educational fund, together with that under the Cullen bill and others, then supplement all this with liberal appropriations out of the treasury, sufficient to establish and support such an institution, to be conducted and administered in conjunction with the Agricultural Department, by a board of trustees composed of farmers, I shall hail its advent with joy! But don't throw away your half loaf, till you are assured of the whole one.

If you decide that you will have a policy that will undertake to influence the opinions and platforms of political parties and the votes and actions of Federal and State Legislatures, then hasten to determine and define it so that it can be at once promulgated and disseminated among the masses of the people, and be thoroughly digested and understood before the usual biennial reorganization of political parties for the coming campaign. Prior to that you can freely discuss any and all questions of political policy or economy, subsequently nothing can be entertained or advocated except such as are approved by your party platform and conventions. So say now what you think for the greatest interest of yourselves and the whole people.

The laws governing national banks and currency discriminate against you in every way. Demand a change in this, and a law preventing sudden reduction and contractions in the currency. There is more need of a law to prohibit national banks reducing their issue below an established minimum than from increasing it above a fixed maximum. It is the sudden and arbitrary withdrawal of money from circulation in the fall that depresses the market value of your products while still in your hands unsold, while later undue expansion immensely enhances the profits of speculators and manufacturers.

Demand the repeal of the lien law, and demand the passage of a seven per cent. usury law. It is safe to say that the average rate at which goods are obtained under the lien law, is no less than fifty per cent. It is equally safe to say that no farmer who does not buy and sell, or in some other way supplement his farming operations, can pay safely more than seven per cent. for borrowed money. The only safe rule is to make your dollar before you spend it, and not to spend it before you make it, and all attempts to farm on fictitious credit under existing laws must prove delusive and disastrous.

I again most emphatically repeat, it is not enough to merely assert our principles. It is not enough for us to believe that "the first law of nature is to protect ourselves," but to demonstrate beyond the possibility of doubt our determination and ability to do it. Not at the expense of other legitimate callings, but we should understand what relation our avocation bears to the other avocations; what interests legitimate and proper the one has in the other, and the one owes the other and zealously see to it that we are not carrying burdens which are not ours by interest, or by right to bear. We owe this to ourselves and our calling from every standpoint; but especially in view of the magnitude of the interest in which we are engaged and the disposition on the part of other interests to lay burdens upon if should we be zealous of our own interests and our own rights.

Patrons, this is the time not only to think deeply, but to act wisely. Study well political economy. Study deeply and intelligently the relations existing between our calling and the general welfare, not forgetting what we owe ourselves and posterity, and having determined where we should stand, banishing all prejudice, practically act out our honest convictions. I do not want to be an alarmist, or a croaker, but feel it my duty to warn you that in the near future, if not at the next session of your State Legislature, it will be seriously advocated to remove taxation from all varieties of personal property, and concentrate and impose it upon lands.

It is seriously urged to repeal almost all the State Law that now protects the individual citizen from the ruinous extortions of public carriers and leaves him to contend hopelessly with the power, influence, and money of soulless monopolists. It is seriously contemplated to destroy such institutions and associations as have been established and are being operated for the benefit of agriculture—their usefulness has been already impaired, and most strangely these attacks are led and favored by men claiming to be and to represent farmers.

The farmers should have a policy as to the public affairs of the State. It should be simple, fair, true, honest, and just; doing injustice or wrong to none, and claiming or asking only what is right and proper for themselves. The starting point of that policy should be to insist upon the simplification and cheapening of the laws of the State. Let them be so plain and simple that the citizens of average education and intelligence can understand and safely construe them. Let the cost be so reduced as to place them within the reach of the poor man. Now our law is so complex that even the Supreme Court divides upon its construction—the Circuit Judges are at sea, and the Bar has as many constructions as clients may need and pay for. And its enormous cost precludes the poor man from its benefits or protection. Virtually making the law a privilege of the rich instead of a right of the poor. In a Democratic State and Republic, law and justice should be free to all, "without money and without price." But, to the contrary, each Congress and each Legislature increases the tyrannical power of the rich and helpless slavery of the poor.

Brothers, it is always painful and embarrassing to any man of sensibility, to discuss his claims to merit a good record. I hope you will excuse my presuming upon your long, close and cordial association in this Order, and your oft repeated evidences of respect and honor conferred upon me, to make a very few personal remarks. Born and reared in a family that, though numerous, never had, until the present generation, a professional member; I, following the bent of my breeding; have spent my life, and until the last three years, gained my entire support as a farmer. Before the war I was a life-member of your State Agricultural Society and chairman of the committee on agriculture in your Legislature. Since the war, I was elected by you in 1874 lecturer, and in 1876 Master; serving, as you know, without a salary or pay. For three years I was chairman of committee of agriculture in the State Senate, and a life-member of your State Agricultural Society. This is my record as a representative of agriculture, and all I have officially done is in print. On your estimate of me and this record, I propose to stand, without descending to notice, in the papers or otherwise, the unjust and baseless insinuations, whether emanating from wild fanaticism, senseless blather-skiting, or mendacious malice. In 1878 the Legislature made the Master of the State Grange *ex officio* a member of the State Board of Agriculture, and in 1884 a trustee of the State University.

In 1882, I was elected by the people and as a Democrat, Secretary of State; the many and very diverse duties devolved upon this latter office I have tried to discharge zealously, faithfully, and honestly, and this I believe my bitterest enemies admit. For this service I receive the same pay that was given to my predecessors without complaint by any one, and will doubtless, be given to my successor.

There is no connection whatever, between the office of Secretary of State and that of Master of the State Grange; and underhanded attempts to falsely confound the two to my detriment cannot be considered fair, truthful or honest.

But, friends, enough, and too much of this. Whenever charges are preferred against me to you, you will try them and a true verdict give. Till then, I shall continue the even tenor of my way with silent disregard for all maligners.

"In comfortable circumstances": two lovers occupying one arm-chair.

Diamonds are always regarded as vulgar by persons of refined tastes and limited means.

The office should seek the man, it is true, but as a general thing it doesn't. Indeed, it doesn't have to. The man saves it the trouble.

Columbia's Opportunity.

With the railroad tide sweeping on all around us, it is not as we will, but as we must. Let us look at the railroad situation all around us. Let us begin with Charleston. Whilst the old city seems asleep, there is somebody moving on the board for her, and we are glad to see it, for it is not a comfortable thing to see the old city die like a rat in a corner.

What does the Entawville Road mean for a new and important connection for Charleston? With this road at Elree in Orangeburg County, it taps a most fruitful country, hitherto without any railroad facilities. At this point the new road, as measured on the State map, is fifteen miles from the Congaree, crossing between Fort Motte and Kingville, and just twenty miles from a direct connection with the Camden branch at Wateree Junction. From the Wateree Junction to the forty-one mile station is exactly fifty miles drawing through a splendid country. From the Congaree trestle to the forty-one mile station is forty-seven miles. From Wateree Junction by the present route via Kingville and Orangeburg to the forty-one mile station is sixty-eight and a half miles. Here, then, would be a saving of eighteen and a half miles to Camden and a good country opened up the whole way. But from the forty-one mile station by the present route to Congaree, it is 60½ miles; the new route is 47 miles, showing about 14 miles saved without a stick of trestle to build. But at Camden by this valuable connection, Charleston sits ready to make connection with the Monroe, N. C. route, or the Shelby, route pointing for Camden. If it becomes the interest of Kershaw and Lancaster County—as it undoubtedly will be—to go to Monroe, N. C., as that line may swing on through Chester and Abbeville to Atlanta, we see the new Charleston Camden line is ready to strike for Monroe, 50 miles distant, with the counties of Kershaw and Lancaster behind the link. Here, then, we find a new Charleston line tapping the Robinson system at Monoc, all to the advantage of the North Carolina-Virginia system, and very greatly to the advantage of Charleston. But this line would pass twenty-five miles East of Columbia.

Charleston has another string to her bow, and one looking to taking the wind out of the sails of the Columbia, Newberry and Laurens charter. This scheme is a road running from Orangeburg to Gilbert Hollow, pointing directly for Prosperity and Newberry. The road will undoubtedly be built. Orangeburg very properly takes a great interest in it. The Lexington townships are fully alive to its importance to them. The South Carolina Railroad engineers surveyed the road for the parties at interest and it is generally understood that the road is going to be pressed right through.

Should we fail to stand up to the Lexington Fork, Prosperity, Newberry and Laurens people in the Columbia, Newberry and Laurens charter, the Gilbert Hollow line will immediately hold out proposals to the Prosperity and the Newberry people and press right on for Laurens. That is the meaning of the Gilbert Hollow connection through and through. Here is another Charleston line, threatening Columbia twenty miles West of her. So far as the Chester-Abbeville link is concerned, we see another air line road sweeping across the State fifty miles north of us. The Register pointed out two years ago the feasibility of this Abbeville-Atlanta route. There is much in it for the localities interested, and we can't blame people for looking after their own interests, even though it should cut the dirt from under our feet. We have got to take care of our ourselves, or nobody will do it for us.

Again, Greenville is pressing for a route to the sea by her new narrow gauge road, and is already at work upon it. All the roads that have been undertaken in the State thus far have gone through to completion, with the exception of the Spartanburg and Asheville road, which is now being pressed to completion.

Augusta is putting out another narrow gauge feeder for Carolina trade, passing through Edgefield to Newberry and on. We see, then, on every hand how it is that everything is looking to sapping the trade that we must depend upon for an existence.

Fortunately for us, we have got a charter covering all that was in the Carolina Midland, if we will only make the most of it. But Charleston

is pushing from Orangeburg to Gilbert Hollow to take the whole scheme out of our hands if we balk in the furrow. This Gilbert Hollow route is the very route by which Mayor Courtenay proposed to flank Columbia two years ago.

But we have got the Lexington Fork and Prosperity and Newberry and Laurens people on our side.

We have got a charter that will carry us within twenty miles of Franklin, Tennessee, right through the Fork, Prosperity, Newberry, C. H., Laurens, C. H., Piedmont, Hasley, Pickens, C. H., to the Northwestern corner of the State on the direct route to Franklin, N. C., which is the strategic point for the Northwest and Southwest connections. Ninety-tenths of the way from the head of the Keowee, three miles above the mouth of the Big Estate, to Franklin, some thirty-two miles, is river course running directly on an air line for Franklin.

From Columbia to the Northwestern corner where the course of the Chatahooga leads up to the Sugar Town branch to the Tennessee is just 137 miles. Thence to Franklin twenty-three miles. There is no reason why this distance should be increased to 10 per cent. for practical route. The route from Columbia to Franklin 176 miles. At Franklin we would be sixty-two miles by air line from Knoxville, and eighty-three from Cleveland, Tennessee. Following the bend of the Tennessee by the Maryville route to Knoxville, we have some ninety-five miles to Knoxville. But by taking a more direct route from Franklin to Charleston, N. C., and on to the head waters of the Little River, we find a route of seventy-five miles. From Franklin to Cleveland, Tennessee, by the Hiwassee and its Northern branch, the practical route would be possibly one hundred miles. The people of Bradley and Polk Counties of Tennessee, and of Cherokee, Graham and Clay, in the Northwestern corner of North Carolina, are already alive to this Cleveland connection.

With the road finished to Franklin, there could be little doubt that the counties of Knox and Blount in Tennessee, and Swain and Macon in North Carolina, with a present population between them of 76,000, and an assessed property valuation of \$11,000,000, could, in county and individual subscriptions, raise \$500,000. Now, from Columbia to Franklin, we see that at everything hinges on Richland county. This county has no debt, and if we propose to lay hold of this matter in earnest we should put our shoulder to the collar at once and lead off with a 6 per cent. county subscription on our assessed valuation of \$6,000,000. This would raise \$360,000. To this should be added \$40,000 individual subscription. We should thus step in the arena with \$400,000.

The Fork, in township and individual subscriptions, should give \$100,000; Newberry, \$150,000; Laurens, \$150,000; the four interested townships in Greenville and Anderson, \$40,000, and Pickens, \$60,000. This foots up, including individual subscriptions, \$960,000 to an assessed valuation of \$20,000,000 in the counties and townships interested. This would give, for the 175 miles to Franklin, \$5,173 per mile. It is confidently believed that \$8,000 per mile will build, iron and equip the road, thus showing a shortage of \$500,000, and should the people of the rest of the route between Franklin and Knoxville do their share in subscribing \$500,000, there would possibly be \$500,000 shortage or that part of the route. In the hands of a large corporation the road could evidently carry that much of mortgage debt, if it was worth building at all. So far as we, in South Carolina, are concerned, if we put up the money to carry the road to Franklin, there is no trouble about getting a powerful corporation to take up the scheme and carry it to Knoxville, so that we will have a South Carolina trunk line from Knoxville to the sea under one management. If the people of Columbia and Richland see things as we do they must see that this is the biggest thing ever offered Columbia, and through her to Richland county. Seize this opportunity, and we no longer occupy a second-hand position, but stand boldly out as one of the most important centres of the trade in the whole South. This of itself will make immediate use of our great water power and assure Columbia's future for all time.

But we must move, we must not huddle. We must take the lead in this thing, not to wait for others to do it. We must act now or take a back seat, and take it for all time. Let our people say what they will do, and say it quickly before the opportunity is gone.

A Profitable Industry.

A correspondent of the Wilmington Star gives some figures as to the profits in fruit canning. He shows that the small outlay of \$500 will give a respectable start in the business. A partnership can easily be formed with a skilled person who will set his work against the money invested and await sales. Even better sales many commission merchants stand ready to advance ready money enough to operate the factories. The profits are very great. There is a constant demand for the goods, and another advantage is that they will always keep fresh and pure. Stock held over from one year to another will not spoil and there is no loss in this way. The work is easy and suited to delicate persons and females. It is simple and no long years of training are required.

South Carolina is well suited to the business. We have the climate for an abundance of fruit, and cheap labor is at hand. There is certainly more money in it than in cotton at present prices. Suppose we take the canning of corn as an example as there is always a demand for it and there would be no trouble in buying at our own doors. Say we could make ten bushels to the acre, and, counting waste and loss, we could can twenty-five quarts to each bushel or 250 quarts to the acre. Five dollars would cover the cost of raising the corn and ten dollars the cost of getting it to market. We would have twenty dozen cans at \$1.25 per dozen, as it now sells at wholesale, which would give \$25, or a clear profit of \$10 for the acre or \$1.00 per bushel. In the calculation it will be observed that we estimate the cost at the highest figure and make a large allowance for waste and loss. The cans of corn now on sale do not hold a quart by any means. They weigh about 1½ pounds while there are 56 pounds of shelled corn to the bushel. So we have made due allowance.

Corn is not the only product in which there is a large profit. All garden vegetables and all fruits and berries can be counted. Neither need the factories be idle in winter for beef and meats of all kinds could be had, on which the profits are even greater.

In New Jersey and Delaware the business is so remunerative that nearly every farmer gives it attention. They buy cans, already prepared, at wholesale, and travelling tinsmen make the rounds when engaged and every household realizes a big profit from what we waste.

To get material no outlay of cash would be required but could be paid for in toll. It will prove a paying industry to any one who undertakes it in time. We have agitated it many years but could get no farmer whose ambition extends only to a tag on a sack of guano to give heed to our words.—Abbeville Medium.

A Farmer Speaks.

EDITOR SPARTAN.—The farmers' meeting last Monday, was called to appoint delegates to the Farmers' State Convention, to meet in Columbia to perfect a farmers' organization.

The object of which organization is to perfect, and advance the farmers' interests. The character or kind of protection that we will likely receive from this organization will depend on the character of the organization itself.

If it is allowed to be made a political machine, then we do not want it, because we do not need it. The Democratic party is good enough for us and we have it already to hand.

Let this farmers' State organization secure for its benefit, the very best talent available, and let this talent be so used as to lead, direct and consolidate our forces.

When this is accomplished then we will be ready to consider any subject that may present itself and we are not ready until this is accomplished. Our danger lies in allowing ourselves to be drawn into politics. Let our delegates be on their guard and let them give their attention wholly to perfecting the farmers' organization.—B. in Carolina Spartan.

Noted Men who Wrote and Fiddled.

We don't know that we ever had in this country a great sailor who fiddled. But we have one who writes novels. History will record that Admiral Porter's naval work was as good as his literary work was bad. Jefferson was an excellent fiddler. It was recorded of him that it was by the excellence of his fiddling that he won his wife from two formidable rivals. But he was, in reality, a many-sided man; there were few branches of knowledge with which he had not some acquaintance. The great Conde wrote very fair poetry, and Julius Caesar, as everybody knows, thought he was greater as an orator than as a soldier, though his speeches were really poor stuff.