

# The Newberry Herald and News.

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## THE SEPTIC TANKS.

Up-to-Date System by Which Newberry Disposes of Its Sewage.

Mr. Editor:—An article in a late number of The Literary Digest upon "Sewage Disposal by Bacteria" gives some interesting reading to our citizens at this time. As a system of sewerage on this plan has just been inaugurated in Newberry by the commissioners of public works, under the superintendence of Engineer C. C. Beddoes, and as one of the best popular explanations of the system, we ask you to print the following extracts from the article:

"The study of the way in which the purification of sewage takes place in filtration, the investigation of the mechanism of the transformation of the nitrogenous organic matter into ammonia and then into nitrous and nitric acids by the successive action of various ferments, due to the researches of Schroesing and Hantz and of Winogradsky, has led the English to a sort of intensive filtration through a bed of slag of small dimensions. This constitutes the bacterial purification of sewage.

"It was the chemist Dublin who first applied this method practically. His process, first carried out at Sutton, near London, consists in letting the sewage to be purified stand for two periods of four hours each in basins, whose bottoms, properly drained by a system of pipes, are covered with a layer of slag 60 centimeters [about 2 feet] thick, the size of the fragments decreasing from the bottom to the surface.

"This is not at all filtration pure and simple. . . . It has been found that, contrary to what we might expect, there is no clogging of the layer of slag, and that after six months it is as clean as at first. This is due to the work of the bacteria in the sewage, which, . . . finding in the interstices of the slag the oxygen necessary for their life, literally burn the organic matter, transforming successively the nitrogenous substances into ammonia and then into nitrites and nitrates, which flow away with the water.

"Thus the purification of the sewage is effected by the very germs it contains, thanks to the presence of atmospheric oxygen; it is a process of oxidation in which the bacteria serve as intermediaries.

"Cameron has modified the method—we cannot say perfected it, for both the systems are in use, and the question of superiority has not yet been settled. In the hope of avoiding the clogging of the aerobic beds, Cameron lets the sewage ferment twenty four hours in a huge reservoir, the 'septic tank,' out of contact with the air. A very active fermentation develops: the water becomes covered with a layer that serves as a natural lid. This is broken here and there by discharges of gas, but according to the inventor this is not objectionable. The solid matter liquefies, and, in a word, the sewage becomes more ready for purification by the aerobic contact beds through which it is afterwards passed.

"Here, briefly set forth, are the two English processes that are offered as a new solution of the serious question of sewage-purification. They both have enthusiastic partisans and ardent detractors, numerous are the articles and books of which they have been the subjects.

"The system that employs for the purification of sewage the very bacteria that it contains, and that constitute its dangerous element, is evidently seductive. By it we confine within narrow limits of space and time the work of purification that is effected spontaneously in arable land and in watercourses into which cities discharge their sewage, as in the Seine, which is infested at Aarnares, but has become pure again at Meulan.

"At any rate, the bacterial purification of sewage constitutes one more step in advance, in the important domain of municipal hygiene. Thanks to it we shall be able to diminish the number of rivers that have been turned into sewers, where the sewage forms floating islands, and where the gas formed by putrefaction may

burn in flames six feet high, as in certain English streams."

The fearful contamination of the rivers and smaller streams in England and upon the continent, resulting from the sewage in available water courses, forced England in self-protection to pass very stringent laws against the emptying of sewage and other noxious materials from manufacturing establishments into any of the streams of the country. The old ways of sewage purification by chemical means in large vats or filtration covering large surface areas proved too costly and consumed too much time. Under this stimulus science and invention have brought to the front the septic tank system. And though many of its best features are patented, thus rendered costly, and will probably be greatly improved in the future, still it seems with its many advantages to present the best up-to-date plan for the disposal of sewage, especially for all interior cities and towns. It also simplifies the building of sewer systems, as it will no longer be necessary to have one continuous system, with deep cuts and expensive works to connect all portions of the city with the main sewer that may have to be carried some distance seeking a suitable outlet. The system may be set up into as many separate departments as advisable, each one with its own septic tank. The small building necessary for the tank would not attract any attention, and there need be no fear of its being a nuisance to adjacent property, whether used for business or dwelling purposes.

With the exception of a manhole in the receiving vat, that can be opened if necessary, but is sealed up air tight, there is no opening for the escape of either gas or odor. The sewage enters at one end of the building, directly from the sewer pipe, and after purification emerges through an escape pipe at the other end—clear water, free from all odor.

The commissioners, after careful consideration, upon the recommendation of Engineer C. C. Beddoes, having adopted the septic tank system for the sewage disposal, and having seen its successful action so far, now feel satisfied that the future will approve their selection and justify their action.

James McIntosh,  
Chairman Board Public Works.

## THE GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION

Given to the General Assembly, Officers and Clerks—A Most Elegant Entertainment

[News and Courier.]

Columbia, February 12.—Quite the most important event of the week in official society, and one that will be of interest to the whole State, was the first reception given under the new regime at the Governor's Mansion. Tonight Governor and Mrs. Heyward gave an elaborate reception to the members of the General Assembly, the State officials and all the clerks and private secretaries in the State House. The whole of the lower floor of the Mansion was artistically decorated with palms and potted plants, and thrown open to the guests. Just inside the drawing room doors stood the reception committee, consisting of Governor Heyward, Mrs. Heyward and the other ladies of the household, Miss Martha Campbell, a sister of Mrs. Heyward, and Miss Lucille Johnson. Lieutenant Governor John T. Sloan also assisted in presenting the guests and seeing that they were entertained. In the library was seen a flag which was of great interest. It was the South Carolina State flag, which had been sent by this State to wave over the Capitol of Texas at the inauguration of Governor Lammam, who is a native South Carolinian.

Delightful music was furnished during the evening by the Columbia Orchestra. The refreshments consisted of everything that was dainty and delicious in the way of ices and cakes, and everything that was comfortable and congenial in the way of cigars and other smokes.

## IMPRISONED FOR LIFE.

Pitiable, but Deserved, Fate of W. G. Rivers, a One-Armed Confederate Soldier.

[News and Courier.]

St. George, Dorchester County, February 11.—W. G. Rivers, white, was sentenced to life imprisonment in the State Penitentiary by Judge Watts, presiding in the Court of General Sessions for this county, yesterday.

Mr. Rivers is 64 years old, a veteran of the civil war, who lost his left arm in the Second Battle of Manassas. He was convicted of the murder of George F. Ahrens, a former Charlestonian, whom he shot to death in the public road, four miles from Ridgeville, on the 21st of December, 1901. The testimony in the case showed that Rivers, otherwise amiable and peaceable, was an ugly customer when on one of his periodical sprees and his neighbors were afraid of him when he was indulging this unfortunate weakness.

The principal witnesses against him were his father-in-law and sister-in-law and the wife of the deceased. Rivers had been to Ridgeville on the day of the shooting and had imbibed a considerable quantity of what the community calls "Bull ens," otherwise known as "Fast X." On his way home he indulged in lurid vocal pyrotechnics, stopping in front of the Ahrens home and making himself offensive.

Some children were passing in the road and Mrs. Ahrens undertook to remonstrate with the old man and requested him to go on home. Rivers drove off in a fury, proceeded to his home half a mile distant, returned with his gun—an old muzzle-loader—stopped in front of Ahrens's gate and got out of his buggy with the gun, cursing Ahrens and his wife in the vilest terms and saying he had come to kill somebody.

Mrs. Ahrens went in the house and brought her husband's gun, but he told her to put it down, as he didn't need it, but would quiet the old man and send him off.

Putting down an axe handle, on which he had been working, he walked out of his gate, Rivers to behave himself and put up his gun before it got him into trouble. Rivers had his gun raised all the time—caught under his shoulder with a hoop he had fixed in the stock so that he could manage it with his one hand—and when Ahrens came within ten feet of him he emptied a load of small shot in his left groin.

After the shooting the two men clinched and Mrs. Ahrens grabbed the gun and beat Rivers over the head with it, nearly putting an end to him. Rivers was tied by one of the neighbors and left in the road for a few minutes, when he untied the rope with his teeth and, jumping in his buggy, made his escape. He was found next morning in the corn house on his premises, sleeping in the shuck with a half-emptied bottle lying by him.

The father and sister-in-law, who lived just across the road, witnessed the entire affair and testified against the defendant, controverting his version of the affair that Ahrens had attacked him first. Ahrens was a rheumatic cripple. The jury were out three hours, finally agreeing on a verdict of murder, with recommendation to mercy. Messrs. Wolfe & Connor appeared and did all that could be done for the defence.

## The Legend of St. Valentine.

(Exchange.)

A long time ago there lived a man named Valentine. He was a good man and he longed to do some great work to show that he loved God. He was a monk and lived in a house with other monks, who were each able to do some beautiful thing for God. He could sing very sweetly; another could paint the most beautiful pictures; another was a doctor who made the sick well; and another was so wise and had read so many books that people came from far away to ask him questions and get his advice.

Valentine wished so much that he

might find something he could do. He could not sing, nor paint, nor doctor sick people, nor was he very wise. One day he sat thinking about it and feeling very blue and discouraged, when he heard a voice say clearly, "Do the little things, Valentine. That will bring the blessing." He wondered what were the "little things" but the voice did not tell him. It left him to find out for himself.

Now, Valentine had a garden. None of the other monks had so fine a garden. It was full of the most beautiful flowers and Valentine loved them so and tended them with such care that they grew better there than they did anywhere else. He used to give flowers to the children and to poor people and to everyone. He loved to give and when anyone had a birthday he would hang a little gift on the door and leave it to be found in the morning. Everyone loved him because he loved everybody and even the little birds were not afraid of this gentle man.

## SKETCHES BY EX-CONFED.

He Writes of People of Ante-Bellum Times.

Mr. John Davenport taught school at Mt. Zion in 1854. He was the father of Mr. J. L. C. Davenport. Mrs. Mary Werts taught in 1855. A. M. Anderson taught in 1856. My recollection is that he was from the lower part of the State. He was a fair teacher but had his favorites in school and some of the students were treated very badly. One boy took especial pleasure in furnishing music for the daily dance; the boy's mother (a widow Henally) heard of the daily performance and concluded she would take a hand, and when she left the schoolhouse Mr. Anderson was a cheap looking man. Mr. John Johnson taught in 1857. Mr. Johnson was an excellent teacher. He went west afterwards, and was in the Confederate army and visited the 3d Regiment near Drainsville, Va., in 1861. In 1858 59 our school interest was changed from Mt. Zion to near Samuel Spearman's place in No. 8 Township. This change gave this scribe a walk of nearly four miles each day besides the daily dance. Mr. E. P. Chalmers was the teacher and was considered by the patrons one of the best teachers of his day; but I am frank to say that if a teacher of this day and time would treat the children as Mr. Chalmers did his students, there would certainly be a dance right. I was whipped each day. If I was doing right I was whipped; if I did wrong I was whipped; it did not make any difference. I was whipped every day. One day at noon some charges were made against me. These charges I proved to be false. Then he whipped me. I told him again the charges were false and he beat me. I told him again the charges were false and I really thought he would kill me. I was an orphan boy and had to take what was given me. I was now 15 years old, and the year 1859 closed my school days. I do not mean to reflect on Mr. Chalmers. He was a good citizen and intended to do right, but the patrons wanted the teachers to flog the children and their wishes were carried out.

In 1862 Mr. John Reeder taught at Mt. Zion, and Mr. W. D. Reeder followed him in 1863. The last named was a whipper and had quite a time with the boys; they resisted, blow for blow, and that was a stormy year for the teacher. With these exceptions all the parents of the children who went to school at Mt. Zion have crossed the river. The exceptions are Mr. Levi Slawson, who lives near Prosperity now; Mrs. Lizzie Neel, who lives in Laurens County, and Mrs. Nancy P. Reeder, now of Greenwood. What has become of the children then so full of fun and frolic? Some were killed in the Confederate service; some have gone to other counties and States, but many have "crossed the river to rest under the shade of the trees."

In 1865 the school house was torn down, and I do not suppose any one can tell the exact spot on which this school house stood. X. Confed.

## CRUM MAY BE REJECTED.

Committee Reports Unfavorably on His Nomination. Six Democrats and Two Republicans Vote Against Confirmation.

[News and Courier.]

The Republicans joined with the Democrats on Thursday in authorizing an adverse report on the nomination of Dr. W. D. Crum, colored, who was appointed collector of the port of Charleston.

The Senate committee on commerce, to whom the nomination of Crum was referred, took a formal vote on the nomination without debate and the result shows that six Democrats and two Republicans combined to spare the white citizens of Charleston from the infliction of a colored collector of customs; while seven Republicans, true to their party predilections, felt constrained, several of them against their better judgment, to vote to sustain the colored man whom the President had nominated for the office.

After the routine work of the committee had been cleared away Chairman Frye called up the Crum case. No one seemed disposed to discuss the subject further and Chairman Frye ordered the roll to be called as to whether or not the nomination of Crum should be reported favorably to the Senate.

Those in favor of confirmation were: Senators Frye, Elkins, Gallinger, Depew, Penrose, Hanna and Mason. Those against: Jones, of Nevada, Republican; Perkins, of California, Republican; and the following Democrats, Vest, Barry, Turner, Martin, Clay, Mallory—S. Nelson was absent. Thus the famous vote of the electoral commission of 1876, which decided the Presidential contest of Hayes against Tilden in favor of the former was repeated in the Crum case to-day.

By this action the Crum case goes to the Senate with an adverse report. It is a very unusual thing for the Senate to reverse the action of its committees on matters of this character. Senator Mason was the only member of the minority who indicated an intention of carrying the fight into the Senate. He was a recent visitor in Charleston, where he was invited to address a Republican meeting. His reception there was anything but friendly, for he states that he was obliged to address an audience of about three or four hundred negroes in the open street because no hall could be rented for his convenience. Later in the day he said that in view of the strong sentiment in the committee and also in the Senate against the confirmation of Crum he would probably waive his right to bring in a minority report.

Prior to the meeting of the committee this morning your correspondent called at the White House and had a talk with the President regarding the Crum case. It is no violation of confidence to say that the President freely expressed himself to this effect. In the first place, he said he had not attempted to influence the vote or the opinion of any Senator regarding the Crum nomination since it was presented to the Senate. He added that he simply desired that a direct vote should be had upon the nomination of Dr. Crum. If he is rejected he said he would endeavor to suggest the name of somebody who would be more acceptable to the people of Charleston. He was emphatic, however, in declaring that any attempt to postpone indefinitely or "dodge" a direct vote on the nomination so as to defer action until after Congress adjourned, would be met with a prompt re-nomination of Dr. Crum as a recess appointment.

The views of the President were brought to the attention of Senators prior to the meeting and were largely responsible for bringing action upon the nomination today. It was the programme of the opposition to Crum to defer a final vote until some future day but there seemed to be a general disposition among the Senators, and especially leading Republicans, to endeavor to put a

quietus upon the discussion of the race question by disposing of the nomination at once. Several members of the committee, who felt constrained for partisan reasons to vote for the confirmation of Crum, privately expressed their approval of the action of the majority of the committee.

The fact that Dr. Crum was once before rejected by a Republican Senate, when appointed postmaster at Charleston during the Harrison administration, had considerable weight with Republican members of the Senate, who deprecate the untimely and, as they express it, injudicious agitation of the race problem in the South.

## LEGISLATURES IN ARMS.

South Carolina's Struggle in 1876 Recalled by the Conditions in Colorado.

[A. B. Williams in Richmond News.]

We do not deny that there is a deplorable lack of law and order and the requirements of civilization in some parts of the South; but there are others. We read in the newspapers of members of the Colorado Legislature sitting at their places with huge revolvers decorating their desks and surrounded by guards prepared to resist by violence and bloodshed the attempts of a certain faction of Republicans claiming to be members of the same body to enter the halls.

The situation is curiously like that in South Carolina in 1876. Democrats and Republicans each claimed to have a majority of the House, and each organized under its own Speaker. On a certain day the Democratic members marched to the State House, headed by Col. J. L. Orr, now the respected and staid president of one of the largest cotton mills in the State, who knocked aside the door keeper and led his cohorts in. The rival bodies occupied the same hall, the Speakers sitting side by side, two nights and three days, as we recollect. The United States troops were at the front door, and while they would not eject the Democratic claimants they refused to give permission for any of them to go out and return. Consequently, these legislators were kept locked in the chamber for the time indicated, along with their Republican opponents, everybody armed to the teeth, and expecting trouble to break loose each minute. A member from each House addressing and recognized by his own speaker and speaking at the top of his voice was a common incident of this nerve-cracking period. Reporters and others who had the right to go in and out of the chamber freely smuggled in Winchester rifles, the barrels thrust down their trousers legs and the butts under their waistcoats, for the Democrats, each of whom had an average of three revolvers, besides the gun wrapped in his blanket or overcoat, and probably the Republicans were equally well provided.

What a dramatic moment it was for the seventy odd weary and red-eyed white men who had been expecting during all the hours of a long night to engage at any moment in a fight in a locked hall with their Republican and negro opponents reinforced by hundreds of deputy sergeants at arms, when the murky and chilly dawn of the December morning was suddenly cut by the sharp, familiar rebel yell. Both factions adjourned to the windows and looked out on a line of red shirts, many of them Confederate veterans, double quickening in swift cadence up the steep hill from the special train that had brought them in. These were the advance guard of 5,000 of the same kind who arrived before noon—clattering in on horseback at full speed, singly and by squads, tumbling hurriedly from regular and special trains, eager to fight anything or anybody for Wade Hampton and white rule.

But that was twenty six years ago, and the fight was for a principle, and involved the very life of the State. This affair in Colorado is a mere squabble over a United States Senatorship, probably with a good deal of boodle involved in it. So far as the morality and respectability and civilization of the transactions are concerned, South Carolina appears to have very much the better of it.

## REMARKABLE TURN IN KING CASE.

Man Wanted in Florence for Murder of Sam Rogers, Who Was Captured in Denmark.

(The State)

Denmark, S. C., February 12.—Wm. C. King, wanted in Florence County for the killing of James Rogers and the wounding of James Rogers, was caught here today.

The firm of Mayfield & King, composed of Senator S. G. Mayfield and Wm. C. King, tobacco planters, has been dissolved by the arrest of the latter.

Our intendent and chief of police being wide awake, saw in the Mr. King, expert on tobacco planting, the man wanted in Florence County for murder and notified the sheriff that he was here. Mr. Thos. Burch arrived here this morning at an early hour from Florence and from description given him said at once it was the man wanted. Expecting that King would give trouble to those trying to take him, and knowing that he would be armed and knew the Florence sheriff at sight, it was decided for Mr. Burch to remain out of sight and let our plucky deputy, Capt. Hunter, arrest the man. Deputy Hunter was assisted by C. J. Baxter, and expecting trouble they had to do their work quickly. King was armed as expected, having a pistol in the inside pocket of his vest. Before going to arrest King his room was visited and in it was found a Winchester rifle, which he brought with him here, and this was taken possession of by the sheriff.

Mr. King tells your correspondent that he went direct to Sumter after the killing, from Sumter to Columbia, and thence to Denmark, where he has been ever since; also that he intended going back to Florence in time for court. It seems strange that he should use his correct name here, but it is true that no one thought to ask him his first or given name. Says he thinks Senator Mayfield should put in a good word for him.

Mr. King, I learn, called on Senator Mayfield Tuesday morning after his arrival here and represented himself as an expert on tobacco raising and made a bargain with the senator to plant 10 or 12 acres on shares, he to do all the work and Mayfield to furnish the land and fertilizers. Mr. King was progressing nicely with his new farm when the law steps in today. It is hoped the senator will succeed in getting another partner to carry on this work, for it is believed that our soil is the very thing for tobacco.

Florence, S. C., February 12.—William King, who killed Samuel Rogers and seriously wounded James Rogers, near here two weeks ago, was captured at Denmark today by Sheriff Burch and is now in the county jail here.

## Four Babies at a Birth.

Mrs. Stanislaw Sphyhalski, of Toledo, Ohio, gave birth on Sunday morning to two girls and two boys. The children are all alive and healthy. The mother, who weighs 200 pounds, has been sitting up helping take care of the babies.

Mrs. Sphyhalski is only 22 years old, but has a wonderful record as a mother. When 16 years old she gave birth to twins, who lived ten days. They were taken out one stormy night for baptism, and it is thought the cold resulting hastened their death.

Three years later, while the couple lived in Detroit, she gave birth to triplets, but they all died when very young. Nine months and sixteen days ago, she gave birth to a single child, which is a strong healthy infant today, although small.

The new children weigh five pounds each for the boys, and three and six pounds for the girls. They have been named Sam Jones, Theodore Roosevelt, Helen and Dorothy.

A telegram giving information was sent to President Roosevelt on Monday afternoon by a local newspaper man. The father, a carpenter and a youthful-looking man, has been out of work nearly all the winter.