

THE DARLINGTON NEWS.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1879.

THE PRICE OF COTTON.

The surest and safest indications all point to an early rise in the price of cotton. The reserve supply of cotton was exhausted before the present crop commenced to reach market; the present crop, it has already been ascertained, will not be as large as usual; the financial depression has come to a close, and there has set in a tide of renewed confidence and activity, enterprise and business prosperity; the price of almost every other article of commerce is either advancing or showing a tendency to advance; the highest authorities on the subject are predicting an advance in the price of cotton; and lastly all factors are uttering gloomy oracles and urging their patrons (*their slaves*) to send forward their cotton without delay. The rust, so general, is favoring cotton buyers by hastening the harvest. The probability is that during this month and October, the greater part of the cotton crop of the South will be hurried to market, thereby temporarily producing a glut and decline in price. The speculators will take advantage of this, and as usual, reap the immense profit of the advance in price, sure to take place later in the season. We do not advise our readers to delay the payment of their debts, but we feel no hesitation in saying, be not in a hurry to send forward your cotton, and hold at least a few bales for sale in December and January. It is a shortsighted policy on the part of factors, to encourage the farmers to a course that will deprive them of the benefits of that rise in price, so generally predicted by all the best cotton authorities.

TEACHERS' CONVENTION.

At the call of the School Commissioner a goodly number of the teachers, trustees and citizens assembled at the Court House on Friday last. The State Superintendent, Capt. Thompson, was present. The Commissioner took the subject of the meeting to be a discussion on the subject of the Public School System, its defects and the proper remedies. Capt. Thompson being introduced, entered the Convention with a full and forcible address on the subject of education, giving a general review of the different systems adopted by the States of Europe and America, with a full exposition of our own system, the difficulties under which the school officials had to labor, the means to be used to improve the system, the importance of separating public education from politics, and the benefit to the country already, and to be, derived from a proper working of the system. He spoke at length of the evils arising from a misconception of the true end and aim of a system of public education, showing under the present law, the amount of money was utterly inadequate for the purpose. This defect could be remedied by a system of local taxation. In confirmation of this he cited several instances among them the school in Winnsboro' and those in Charleston. His tribute to the past history of the South Carolina College was beautifully expressed, and he urgently brought forward the advantages to be derived from its reopening. His whole address was replete with the eloquence of a thorough scholar deeply interested in his work, and was a delightful literary treat. On the conclusion of his address the Commissioner called on the teachers appointed to make reports.

The first subject for discussion being, "The School System of South Carolina," an able and well written paper was read by Mr. C. A. Seabrook, followed by a general discussion of the subject.

In the next subject, the chairman being about a report was read by Mr. D. D. Evans, followed by a lively discussion on the value of the English Grammar as taught in our schools.

The chairman of the committee on "School Discipline" making no report a general discussion was carried on, the gist of which seemed to be that Solomon's rule in its active interpretation could not be improved. On this subject from the State Superintendent down, there seemed to be great unanimity.

There was no written report on "The blackboard as aid to teaching," but the subject was ably handled by Mr. Hardee, with some thoughts "jotted down by the wayside." It is to be regretted that so few reports were read, as from those presented it was evident that with full reports, the meeting would have been much more interesting and instructive.

Post Office Department.

The new series of the United States official *Postal Guide* will be issued in a few days from the Post Office Department. Among other interesting matters it will contain a list of persons conducting fraudulent lotteries and other schemes to defraud the public to whom payment of money orders and the delivery of registered letters has been prohibited by order of the Postmaster General, in compliance with the law conferring authority upon him in such cases.

The Postmaster General has ordered an actual daily count to be made in all the post offices of the United States from the 1st to the 7th of November of all letters, packages, postal cards, etc., deposited for transmission in the mails. Publishers of Newspapers are requested to furnish postmasters with the number of papers mailed by them within the time mentioned.

Township should make a careful census of their respective Townships giving the name of every man liable to poll tax. Mr. Boyd stated that by the efficient discharge of their duties by the Auditor and Treasurer, the amount collected from poll tax had been increased from \$1,700 to \$2,400, since they had been in office.

On motion it was ordered that the next meeting of the Convention be at Wesley Chapel, Lydia, the time to be appointed by the School Commissioner. On motion the Convention adjourned.

Though there was not a full attendance of teachers and trustees, there was a good representation from all parts of the county. These meetings, taking place annually, will be productive of a great deal of good. By them the teachers will be brought together, subjects of interest discussed, erroneous ideas dispelled and much useful instruction received. With a most excellent State Superintendent, and a thorough scholar and active officer as County School Commissioner, it only remains for the trustees and the teachers to get out of the old rut and follow their councils, to make the school system of South Carolina, as regards Darlington county, a complete success. They are wide awake in the up country on the subject. Will the old Pee Dee section, the mother of Thornwell, Wilds, Evans and others of that ilk be found wanting?

SMALL GRAIN.

One of the best signs of the times is the rapidly growing area devoted by our farmers to crops of small grain. The number of new and costly mills put up within the county in the last year, demonstrates the great increase in the production of wheat. Until a few years past, it was believed that our soil and climate were not adapted to the growth of wheat; but now we know that we can produce wheat, in profitable quantity per acre, unsurpassed in the flour that it turns out in any quarter of the world. We will soon make all the flour that we consume, and ask none from abroad. Every year there is, too, a great increase in our oat crop. We have found, by experience, that it affords a better and more wholesome food for stock than corn, and can be planted and grown at less expense, and in greater quantity, per acre. Corn exhausts the land on which it is planted, and its profitable production can be sustained only by heavy and expensive manuring; while oats, followed by peas, and these last turned in after the frosts of the Fall, enrich instead of exhausting the soil. It is apparent that, in a few years, the planting of corn will be confined to a few highly manured acres, while the main grain crop of our farmers, will consist of wheat and oats. This will be a great improvement, without giving other reasons, the sowing and harvesting of small grain interfere less with the successful cultivation of cotton.

Railroad Extortion.

Editor Darlington News:

Why is it that the freight per hundred pounds from Charleston is so much higher on us, than on other sections? Take bagging for instance, to Camden the freight is twelve cents per hundred; to Darlington it is forty-five cents, or very near four hundred percent greater. Shall we stand such imposition longer? Please call attention to these facts in your paper and oblige. —COUNTRY.

[For the Darlington News.]

The Infinites.

BY T. C. WESTMILL.

However long material things may have existed as they are, we detect a design in their arrangement. The heavenly bodies are hung in clusters to a mathematical precision on an unerring law, that preserves their harmony. Each system has a centre of force of its own, and no outside influence interdicts to disturb, but rather helps to preserve the equilibrium of the whole. A comet darts around the centre of our system, then shoots off on its mysterious mission, but its home influence draws it back after an absence of five hundred years. Thus we get a glimpse of the vast regions beyond us, and the newest boy in

But let us make a further search, by whirling away among the stars, scattered along the pathway of infinite distance. The world soon loses its significance, and dwindles to a mere speck on the great curtain of the universe. Assisted by a telescope, one hundred million suns are brought in range of our vision, perhaps giving light and heat to an inconceivable number of planets and their satellites. Thus the secret of the existence of infinite numbers is told, and we pause to ask, what is beyond all we have seen? Are we to suppose those infinite regions are nothing but dark solitudes, untouched by the finger of Creative Energy? No; for the things that are seen are the prophecy of the existence of an infinite unseen. Then we ask, is there really no end? Has space no boundary? And if we were to suppose had a limit, the question would force itself upon us—what is outside? Still anxious to penetrate deeper into the overwhelming mystery, we call on Supreme Powers to unhinge a planet from the arbitrary law of centripetal force, that it may shoot off on a line of search, at a speed of eighty thousand miles an hour. How far will it go in a hundred years? In a thousand? In a million? But the planet's speed is too slow for such a mission. Then let us hitch on the wings of the morning; that its speed may be accelerated to twelve millions of miles a minute, and put it on the race with eternity itself; and still the answer returns—no end! no end!

And *eternity*? O ETERNITY! touch me where we may, on the lapsed wing of thy past, or any where on the unswept cycles of the future millions, and thy great centre alone is pierced, and the uncontradicted answer is still returned—no end! no end!

And is this all? Are we to suppose the unnumbered suns and systems, delineated with such a mathematical precision on the map of the universe, are unborn and unbodied realities from no greater cause? There let the Materialist hide his face in confusion, and let the atheist blush at any silly attempt to define the Motive Power of universal things.

Asheville, N. C.

Letter from Asheville.

Editor Darlington News:

ASHVILLE, N. C., September 5, 1879.

The gay season here is at its height, and by far the gayest that has ever been. Every one who has been here this season has been agreeably surprised. In response to this appeal J. Gould, the great stock gambler and broker of New York, forwarded a check for five thousand dollars with a telegram to the president of the Howards to go ahead with the good work, and he (Gould) would foot the bill. Gould is chief owner of the New York *Tribune* and a Republican of the Stalwart type, but this is certainly generous and manly in him, and the whole South should feel grateful to him for this noble deed to the relief of our suffering brethren.

The Rev. W. S. Plummer, D. D.

This venerable man of God, who is so much beloved by the people of Columbia, has recently celebrated his seventy-eighth year. He is still very vigorous, and time seems to have dealt kindly with him. He is still a cogent writer and a convincing and eloquent preacher. His contributions are constantly to be seen in religious periodicals, and though not as prolific a writer as he was in his younger days, still his pen is by no means idle. He has written twenty-nine volumes and ninety-one tracts, which have been published in New York, Philadelphia, Richmond and Memphis. Dr. Plummer has been spending the summer months with his friends in New York and Pennsylvania, but he is expected home in a few weeks, when he will again enter upon the discharge of his duties as professor in the Columbia Theological Seminary.—*Columbia Evening*.

Post Office Department.

The new series of the United States official *Postal Guide* will be issued in a few days from the Post Office Department. Among other interesting matters it will contain a list of persons conducting fraudulent lotteries and other schemes to defraud the public to whom payment of money orders and the delivery of registered letters has been prohibited by order of the Postmaster General, in compliance with the law conferring authority upon him in such cases.

The Postmaster General has ordered

an actual daily count to be made in all the post offices of the United States from the 1st to the 7th of November of all letters, packages, postal cards, etc., deposited for transmission in the mails. Publishers of Newspapers are requested to furnish postmasters with the number of papers mailed by them within the time mentioned.

Conley and Tenant, commanding a

Splendid view of the French Broad and Svannanoa Rivers, and Cumberland range of mountains. Beau-catchers over-hanging the Town of Asheville, Arden Park, Elk Mountain, the highest peak in this section, commanding, probably, the most magnificent view, with the exception of Black Mountain. Alexander's ten miles down the French Broad, famous for the first fifty years or more as a hospitable stopping place for travellers, and made celebrated by "Christian Road" in the "Land of the Sky" for its "Flannel cakes."

The road from here to Alexander's is almost the entire way, immediately on the bank of the "much-roaring" French Broad, and surpassingly beautiful, especially by moonlight. Now let me close with a little hint to the young folks who may come here next season, if they would reap the full benefit of their trip. First if they have any religious scruples about dancing they must get rid of them speedily and learn to dance well. Secondly, they ought to be able to ride horseback with confidence and grace. Thirdly, they would be pleasant and advantageous to be able to speak the French language. Fourthly, if they have any small local prejudices or extra-pedophilic ideas, it would be well, on leaving, to take a look at the "Savannah River," and then return, for this kind of luggage will be found inconvenient to take around on a summer tour.

Now, none of these rules are necessary for a pleasant time, but simply auxiliary.

PUBLIC SCHOOL MATTERS.

The Meeting of the State Board of Examiners—What they Did and What They Declined to Do.

[Columbus Register, Sept. 4.]

The State Board of Examiners closed its session yesterday.

During their two days' sitting they decided fully the operations of the present school law, and decided, after careful deliberation, not to recommend any change in it at this time, it being their opinion that all necessary changes in its operations can be made under the general authority given to the State Board of Examiners under the school law. Considering that the present law is beginning to be understood throughout the State, and the people being familiar with its provisions, no advantage was to be gained by changing it. Some of the obstacles in the way of an efficient public school system are to be found in the Constitution of the State. These, of course, cannot be removed by the Legislature, and the board were of opinion that the present school law was well adapted to the present condition of things.

The board were satisfied, however, that the annual examination of the large number of teachers in the public schools of the State requires more labor of the country board of examiners than those gentlemen should be expected to perform without compensation. In view of the high character of the gentlemen forming these boards and for the purpose of retaining their services, it was decided to make the following order with regard to examinations:

That, in all cases in which first grade certificates have been granted to applicants upon the second series of questions for 1879, the county boards of examiners shall have authority to renew said certificates annually for a period of time not to exceed three years, provided that the holders of such certificates shall give to the county boards of examiners satisfactory evidence of continued good character and efficiency as teachers.

In like manner county boards of examiners shall have authority to renew second grade certificates annually for a period of time not to exceed two years.

All applicants for third grade certificates to be examined annually as heretofore.

The board also yesterday, as advertised, held an examination of applicants for teachers' State certificates. Four applicants presented themselves—one white and three colored—and after a rigid examination, certificates were granted to them. The examination included algebra, natural philosophy and physiology, and the board express themselves as much pleased with the proficiency exhibited by the candidates. The good results produced by the persistent efforts of the board to raise the standard of scholarship among teachers have already been seen throughout the State, and it is believed that the action of the State Board with regard to the issuing of certificates will, while it relieves the County Boards of much unnecessary work, excite an increased spirit of emulation among teachers to obtain the higher grades of certificates.

It may be of interest to know what kind of people visit here. As to locality and in the order named, South Carolinians, Georgians, North Carolinians, Louisianians, a large sprinkling from the Southwest generally, and lastly a sprinkling from everywhere else. As to characters among the ladies, they are the fashionable young ladies who seek gay pleasure, and have charms that they are not content shall bloom only for the denizens of their native cities and towns; then come the mama's with nearly grown daughters and sons who come to initiate them, give them a real jolly time and make for them acquaintances that are eligible and pleasant; and that may be advantageous hereafter; and the middle-aged ladies and matrons who seek a few weeks relaxation from the arduous, taxing and knowing cares of the Southern house keeper. As to the men we have first the young gentlemen of society, second the older gentlemen of society, and thirdly, the oldest gentlemen of society, among whom can be found the lawyer who desires a brief respite from briefs; the doctor who wants to find a little of the health that he has been so liberally dispensing to others; the politician who desires to make his bow in a white cravat and silk hat to his distinguished constituency, the half-grown boy who wants to see how to do next season, and then the dear boys who will go anywhere to see something new. The ladies are the fashionable young ladies who seek gay pleasure, and have charms that they are not content shall bloom only for the denizens of their native cities and towns; then come the mama's with nearly grown daughters and sons who come to initiate them, give them a real jolly time and make for them acquaintances that are eligible and pleasant; and that may be advantageous hereafter; and the middle-aged ladies and matrons who seek a few weeks relaxation from the arduous, taxing and knowing cares of the Southern house keeper. As to the men we have first the young gentlemen of society, second the older gentlemen of society, and thirdly, the oldest gentlemen of society, among whom can be found the lawyer who desires a brief respite from briefs; the doctor who wants to find a little of the health that he has been so liberally dispensing to others; the politician who desires to make his bow in a white cravat and silk hat to his distinguished constituency, the half-grown boy who wants to see how to do next season, and then the dear boys who will go anywhere to see something new. The ladies are the fashionable young ladies who seek gay pleasure, and have charms that they are not content shall bloom only for the denizens of their native cities and towns; then come the mama's with nearly grown daughters and sons who come to initiate them, give them a real jolly time and make for them acquaintances that are eligible and pleasant; and that may be advantageous hereafter; and the middle-aged ladies and matrons who seek a few weeks relaxation from the arduous, taxing and knowing cares of the Southern house keeper. As to the men we have first the young gentlemen of society, second the older gentlemen of society, and thirdly, the oldest gentlemen of society, among whom can be found the lawyer who desires a brief respite from briefs; the doctor who wants to find a little of the health that he has been so liberally dispensing to others; the politician who desires to make his bow in a white cravat and silk hat to his distinguished constituency, the half-grown boy who wants to see how to do next season, and then the dear boys who will go anywhere to see something new. The ladies are the fashionable young ladies who seek gay pleasure, and have charms that they are not content shall bloom only for the denizens of their native cities and towns; then come the mama's with nearly grown daughters and sons who come to initiate them, give them a real jolly time and make for them acquaintances that are eligible and pleasant; and that may be advantageous hereafter; and the middle-aged ladies and matrons who seek a few weeks relaxation from the arduous, taxing and knowing cares of the Southern house keeper. As to the men we have first the young gentlemen of society, second the older gentlemen of society, and thirdly, the oldest gentlemen of society, among whom can be found the lawyer who desires a brief respite from briefs; the doctor who wants to find a little of the health that he has been so liberally dispensing to others; the politician who desires to make his bow in a white cravat and silk hat to his distinguished constituency, the half-grown boy who wants to see how to do next season, and then the dear boys who will go anywhere to see something new. The ladies are the fashionable young ladies who seek gay pleasure, and have charms that they are not content shall bloom only for the denizens of their native cities and towns; then come the mama's with nearly grown daughters and sons who come to initiate them, give them a real jolly time and make for them acquaintances that are eligible and pleasant; and that may be advantageous hereafter; and the middle-aged ladies and matrons who seek a few weeks relaxation from the arduous, taxing and knowing cares of the Southern house keeper. As to the men we have first the young gentlemen of society, second the older gentlemen of society, and thirdly, the oldest gentlemen of society, among whom can be found the lawyer who desires a brief respite from briefs; the doctor who wants to find a little of the health that he has been so liberally dispensing to others; the politician who desires to make his bow in a white cravat and silk hat to his distinguished constituency, the half-grown boy who wants to see how to do next season, and then the dear boys who will go anywhere to see something new. The ladies are the fashionable young ladies who seek gay pleasure, and have charms that they are not content shall bloom only for the denizens of their native cities and towns; then come the mama's with nearly grown daughters and sons who come to initiate them, give them a real jolly time and make for them acquaintances that are eligible and pleasant; and that may be advantageous hereafter; and the middle-aged ladies and matrons who seek a few weeks relaxation from the arduous, taxing and knowing cares of the Southern house keeper. As to the men we have first the young gentlemen of society, second the older gentlemen of society, and thirdly, the oldest gentlemen of society, among whom can be found the lawyer who desires a brief respite from briefs; the doctor who wants to find a little of the health that he has been so liberally dispensing to others; the politician who desires to make his bow in a white cravat and silk hat to his distinguished constituency, the half-grown boy who wants to see how to do next season, and then the dear boys who will go anywhere to see something new. The ladies are the fashionable young ladies who seek gay pleasure, and have charms that they are not content shall bloom only for the denizens of their native cities and towns; then come the mama's with nearly grown daughters and sons who come to initiate them, give them a real jolly time and make for them acquaintances that are eligible and pleasant; and that may be advantageous hereafter; and the middle-aged ladies and matrons who seek a few weeks relaxation from the arduous, taxing and knowing cares of the Southern house keeper. As to the men we have first the young gentlemen of society, second the older gentlemen of society, and thirdly, the oldest gentlemen of society, among whom can be found the lawyer who desires a brief respite from briefs; the doctor who wants to find a little of the health that he has been so liberally dispensing to others; the politician who desires to make his bow in a white cravat and silk hat to his distinguished constituency, the half-grown boy who wants to see how to do next season, and then the dear boys who will go anywhere to see something new. The ladies are the fashionable young ladies who seek gay pleasure, and have charms that they are not content shall bloom only for the denizens of their native cities and towns; then come the mama's with nearly grown daughters and sons who come to initiate them, give them a real jolly time and make for them acquaintances that are eligible and pleasant; and that may be advantageous hereafter; and the middle-aged ladies and matrons who seek a few weeks relaxation from the arduous, taxing and knowing cares of the Southern house keeper. As to the men we have first the young gentlemen of society, second the older gentlemen of society, and thirdly, the oldest gentlemen of society, among whom can be found the lawyer who desires a brief respite from briefs; the doctor who wants to find a little of the health that he has been so liberally dispensing to others; the politician who desires to make his bow in a white cravat and silk hat to his distinguished constituency, the half-grown boy who wants to see how to do next season, and then the dear boys who will go anywhere to see something new. The ladies are the fashionable young ladies who seek gay pleasure, and have charms that they are not content shall bloom only for the denizens of their native cities and towns; then come the mama's with nearly grown daughters and sons who come to initiate them, give them a real jolly time and make for them acquaintances that are eligible and pleasant; and that may be advantageous hereafter; and the middle-aged ladies and matrons who seek a few weeks relaxation from the arduous, taxing and knowing cares of the Southern house keeper. As to the men we have first the young gentlemen of society, second the older gentlemen of society, and thirdly, the oldest gentlemen of society, among whom can be found the lawyer who desires a brief respite from briefs; the doctor who wants to find a little of the health that he has been so liberally dispensing to others; the politician who desires to make his bow in a white cravat and silk hat to his distinguished constituency, the half-grown boy who wants to see how to do next season, and then the dear boys who will go anywhere to see something new. The ladies are the fashionable young ladies who seek gay pleasure, and have charms that they are not content shall bloom only for the denizens of their native cities and towns; then come the mama's with nearly grown daughters and sons who come to initiate them, give them a real jolly time and make for them acquaintances that are eligible and pleasant; and that may be advantageous hereafter; and the middle-aged ladies and matrons who seek a few weeks relaxation from the arduous, taxing and knowing cares of the Southern house keeper. As to the men we have first the young gentlemen of society, second the older gentlemen of society, and thirdly