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THE DARLINGTON NEWS.

FOR US PRINCIPLE IS PRINCIPLE—RIGHT IS RIGHT—YESTERDAY, TO-DAY, TO-MORROW, FOREVER.

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DARLINGTON, S. C., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1886.

WHOLE NO 614.

JOB DEPARTMENT.

Our job department is supplied with every facility necessary to enable us to compete both as to price and quality of work, with every other of the cities, and we guarantee satisfaction in every particular or charge nothing for our work. We are always prepared to fill orders at short notice for Blanks, Bill Heads, Letter Heads, Cards, Hand Bills, Posters, Circulars, Pamphlets, &c. All job work must be paid for.

Cash on Delivery.

Selected Poetry.

A Georgia Volunteer.

Far up the lonely mountain side My wandering footsteps led, The moss lay thick beneath my feet, The pine sighed overhead; The traces of a dismantled fort Lay in the forest here, And in the shadow in my path I saw a soldier's grave.

The Darlington County Farmers' Club.

Pursuant to a call delegates from sixteen out of the twenty-four townships in the county assembled in the Court House on Thursday, October 7th, for the purpose of forming a County Farmers' Club. The meeting was called to order at 12 o'clock by Capt. W. E. McKnight, the temporary chairman, Mr. T. N. Rhodes acting as temporary secretary. Mr. A. W. Parrott moved that a committee of three be appointed on credentials. This motion was adopted, and the chair appointed as such committee Messrs. J. N. Parrott, J. D. Askins and G. W. Stith. After an interim of about twenty minutes the committee was ready with their report, which was read by Mr. J. N. Parrott. Fifty-seven delegates were declared entitled to seats in the convention, the roll having been called, forty-six of that number answered to their names as follows:

- Antioch—H. J. Coker, J. S. Coker. Cartersville—H. E. C. Fountain, J. M. Phillips, R. E. Hill, W. A. Lockhart. Cypress—M. W. Harris, E. H. Hearon, J. A. Vaughn, Ellis Parrnell. Darlington—W. H. Lawrence, W. E. Davis. Effingham—R. H. Fountain, N. T. Oliver, J. M. Revel, W. E. McKnight. Hartsville—G. M. Kilgore. High Hill—J. N. Parrott, C. A. Seabrook, B. M. Reddick, Thomas Humphries. James X Rhodes—J. D. Askins, Lamar—G. W. Stith, W. P. Carter, E. L. Gray. Levensworth—Horace Williamson, W. S. King. Lydia—W. R. S. Lawson, H. M. Josey, J. W. Beasley, A. W. Parrott. Philmetto—T. W. Smoot. Philadelphia—W. F. Wilks, G. D. Wilks, W. H. Dowling, G. I. A. Dowling. Stokes Bridge—J. H. Hicks, P. W. McKnight. Swift Creek—T. N. Rhodes, Sam. Odum, Jos. B. Rhodes, R. N. Howie. Timmonsville—J. O. Byrd, W. D. Kirven, Walter Vaughan. Dr. J. O. Byrd moved that the convention proceed to organize permanently, and that J. W. Beasley be elected President by acclamation. This motion was unanimously adopted, and Dr. J. O. Byrd and Mr. O. A. Seabrook were appointed to escort Mr. Beasley to the chair. Mr. Seabrook, in a few well-chosen remarks, introduced the President to the convention, and Mr. Beasley said:

"I thank you for the honor you have conferred upon me. When I came here to-day I did not expect it. I will do all in my power to advance the purposes of the Farmers' movement, and I promise that you shall never feel that your confidence in me has been misplaced. Some people say that the farmers don't know what they want and that Mr. Tillman does not know; but, we will try, anyhow, to find out before we are through. The sole object advocated by Mr. Tillman at Lydia was the establishment of an agricultural college. Some people cannot approve of all Mr. Tillman advocates, while others hold very extreme views. I hope that between the two extremes we will find a happy means. There is no reason why the farmers should stand aloof, but I know that I for one will not be led blindly by Mr. Tillman or by any one else. As your President, my purpose shall be to hold back should anything extreme be advocated. The general purpose of our

organization is a good one. It may become our province to discuss every important issue in the State. Suppose all the farmers in the United States should unite to remove the iniquitous tariff; why it would go like chaff from the summer threshing-floor. Let us try to drive away the clouds and gloom which are around us, and I hope that they will, ere long, disappear." (applause.)

Mr. T. N. Rhodes, having been nominated as permanent Secretary by Capt. McKnight, was unanimously elected by acclamation. Dr. J. O. Byrd thought that the next thing in order was the adoption of a Constitution and By-laws. On motion of Mr. J. N. Parrott, the following committee was appointed to consider this subject: Messrs. J. O. Byrd, J. H. Hicks, A. W. Parrott, J. D. Askins and R. N. Howie. The committee retired, and Mr. A. W. Parrott suggested that, to fill up the interim while waiting for their report, that Col. B. W. Edwards be invited to address the convention. This motion was seconded, but before it was put, Mr. Parrott, after a short conference with the President, withdrew it. Mr. J. N. Parrott thought it would be a good idea to use this time to elect two Vice-Presidents. This was agreed to, and Capt. W. E. McKnight was nominated by Mr. R. F. Hill and unanimously elected First Vice-President. Mr. W. P. Carter nominated Mr. W. S. King as Second Vice-President, and Mr. King was elected. Mr. J. N. Parrott suggested that the Vice-Presidents address the convention. This was adopted, and Capt. McKnight advanced to the front and made a few remarks. He said he would not attempt to make a speech but he congratulated the convention and himself on the number present. He said:

"When I went to the Farmers' Convention in Columbia last spring, this county was represented by only one small local club from a section of the county (Wardsville) which I consider the dark corner. I went to Columbia to inform myself on the subject of the Farmers' Movement, and while there was completely won by the generous and conservative spirit which I saw. I came home and thought the matter over, and there is no man more in favor of the Farmers' Movement than I am. Our very best men should be elected as delegates to the convention in Columbia. We should ask no more than our rights and should not ignore the rights of others. We should be put on an equal footing with other professions. This is no political organization. If I understand the Farmers' Movement, we can't, as an organization, take issue with any party or any body. It is our privilege as farmers to correct evils which surround us. We should inform ourselves on all the popular issues of the day, so as to vote intelligently. We should not try to vote in office anybody who is not the choice of the people. I think that by meeting often in clubs, and county organizations, by conferring and profiting by what we learn, we will soon be as proud of our organization as the lawyers and doctors are of theirs. Think about this matter, and if you come to the conclusion that the organization is a good one, give it your support and zealous membership." (applause.)

Mr. King, the Second Vice President, was then called for. He gave a brief but interesting outline of the proceedings of a farmers' club with which he was formerly connected, and thought it would be a good idea if the association now being formed would carry out the scheme pursued by that club, as he asserted that the things that he had learned there were of assistance to him in his business even to the present time. The speaker also stated that there was nothing political in the Farmers' Movement. "Let us," said he, "try to help ourselves and advance the interests of the farmers." (applause.)

At this stage of the proceedings the committee returned and submitted, through Mr. A. W. Parrott, the following Constitution and By-laws:

CONSTITUTION. ARTICLE I. This association shall be called the Darlington County Farmers' Club. ARTICLE II. Section I. The object of this association is to bring the agriculturalists of our county and State into a close relationship with each other, and, thereby. Section II. To promote our highest material and social interests and improve the cause of agriculture. To do this, it is proposed. Section III. To educate and associate, knowing that in this way, and in this way alone, can agriculturalists, as a class, be led to realize and appreciate the dignity and worth of their high calling. ARTICLE III. Section I. The officers of the Darlington County Farmers' Club shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, and a Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2. There shall be an Executive Committee, consisting of as many members as there are constituent clubs of this organization, the committeeman from each club to be named by his club. The President and Secretary shall be ex officio members of the committee.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS. An annual meeting shall be held on Thursday after the 4th Monday in September of each year.

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP. The membership of this club shall consist of four delegates, properly accredited from each subordinate club, constituents of this County club.

BY-LAWS. 1. The order of business shall be: 1. Calling roll; 2. Reading minutes of preceding meeting; 3. Report of committee; 4. Unfinished business; 5. New business; 6. Election of officers. 2. Elections shall be by ballot, the tellers appointed by the President, and the candidates receiving the largest number of votes, counted before the club, shall be declared elected.

3. After the regular business, the club may hear discussions, essays, or addresses, upon agriculture, but no religious or political discussion will be permitted, or anything calculated to mar the harmony of the club. 4. Each member will have the right to express his views fully upon any subject under discussion, but must do so courteously, and not indulge in rudeness. Breach of courtesy will subject the offender to reproof, and, if persisted in, he may be expelled by a vote of the club.

On motion of Mr. W. H. Lawrence the constitution and By-Laws, as reported by the committee, were unanimously adopted as a whole. Capt. McKnight moved that a committee of five be appointed to nominate the ten delegates to the State Convention of Farmers to be held in Columbia on Nov. 9. Mr. J. N. Parrott thought that it would be more Democratic to select these delegates from the floor. After some discussion as to the method of choosing the delegates, it was decided that the nominations be made from the floor, and that the election be by acclamation. The following delegates were elected: Messrs. J. D. Askins, N. W. Harris, J. W. Beasley, W. P. Carter, J. O. Byrd, J. H. Hicks, W. E. McKnight, W. R. Davis, R. F. Humphries, and R. N. Howie. Messrs. Purman Hill, J. N. Parrott, T. N. Rhodes, G. W. Stith and A. W. Parrott were elected alternates.

Some discussion here followed as to where and in what way the Executive Committee should be called together, and as to whatever sections of the County in which there were no regularly organized clubs should be entitled to representation on the committee. It was finally decided that the Executive Committee should meet immediately after the adjournment of the club, and that delegates representing a section where there were no regular clubs should get together at once and nominate a committee man. Mr. A. W. Parrott asked whether the executive committee would meet with closed doors. Dr. Byrd argued strongly against this. He said there was no reason for meeting with closed doors; that this was no political meeting, and that there were no secrets connected with it. The chair announced that there was no motion on this subject, and the matter ended there.

Mr. A. W. Parrott offered the following preamble and resolutions which were unanimously adopted. "Whereas, a wrong impression seems to prevail in the county relative to the recent visit of Capt. B. R. Tillman, of Edgefield, to this community, therefore. Resolved, That Capt. B. R. Tillman's coming was induced by repeated solicitations and invitations on the part of the Farmers of Darlington County.

In speaking in support of these resolutions, Mr. T. N. Rhodes, the Secretary of the club, said: "Mr. Tillman happened to come to Darlington partly by accident, having been shown a letter written to another gentleman of his county, a correspondence was opened, and, after a strong invitation, he was induced to come, though he did so at great inconvenience. He had also been invited to Timmonsville, but he had declined, saying that he had Tillman's affairs at home to look after besides the politics of Darlington County."

The Secretary then read the following resolution adopted recently by the farmers of Newberry County, a copy of which had been forwarded to him. "Whereas, We the farmers of Newberry feel that the time for retrenchment and reform is upon us; and, whereas, the belief is general that the official positions of the county are more numerous than demanded by necessity or supported by economical administration of public affairs:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to investigate the charges which originated this belief; said committee, after having made a thorough examination to report to a called meeting of this body, at such time as may be designated by the proper authorities; and that the Secretary be instructed to correspond with all other county organizations, requesting them to take action in this matter, thereby securing unity of action at the State Convention which will be held in Columbia on the 9th of November, 1886.

When the Secretary reached the word "Newberry" in the first line of the above preamble he said that of course, that word would have to be erased and the word "Darlington" substituted. When he had finished reading, some one asked whether that was intended as a motion; the Secretary replied that he simply read it as a communication. Dr. Byrd then moved that it be received as information, which was unanimously adopted. As there was no further business, on motion of Mr. Kervin, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 o'clock.

The Executive Committee at once met. The question as to whether this committee was to meet in secret session had not been settled, so the reporter for the News asked Mr. Beasley, the chairman, for information on this subject. Mr. Beasley referred him to Capt. McKnight, who said that the meeting would be held with closed doors. The committee was in session for about two hours, and, on its adjournment, Capt. McKnight stated that nothing had transpired which could be given to the press. So what was done in those two hours may never be known.

TALKING TO TILLMAN.

Ransom's Reply to the Famous Farmer.

(From the News and Courier.)

I have not been in a hurry to answer Capt. Tillman's latest production, because I did not care to cause an explosion somewhere between Bopper's and Hamburg that might bring on another earthquake. In Capt. Tillman's present excited condition a prompt reply would have been dangerous to the community in which he lives, and I have some friend's living in that section of the State whose welfare I regard. Keep cool, Captain. For about one year you have indulged in harsh criticism of other people, and you should not get angry now if a small dose of your own medicine, slightly diluted, is administered to you.

Capt. Tillman has almost literally verified my prediction, that he would decline to discuss the questions he himself raised, and give the readers of the News and Courier instead a column or two of Billing-gate. I missed the quantity, as he had only about one column, but exhausted himself in that effort and made up in quality what he lacked in quantity. He boldly asserted, in his unwarranted and venomous attack on me, that if I desired to defend the department of agriculture he would guarantee to give me "enough." He did not say enough of what, but if he meant, as I suspected, enough of vulgarity he has kept his word; but if he meant enough of the discussion concerning the department of agriculture he has, as usual, failed to redeem his pledge.

It will be impossible to follow Capt. Tillman through this second tirade, and it would be entirely out of place to do so, as your readers have doubtless had "enough" of this sort of discussion. I may be pardoned, however, for noticing some of his statements, but, before doing so, beg to remind Capt. Tillman that he has so far only made one specific charge against the department of agriculture, that in regard to the analyses of fertilizers, and the public know the disposition of that matter.

In this last communication Capt. Tillman says that I made an unprovoked attack upon him and, almost in the same breath, declares that he had previously told me that I was a "mercenary scribbler fighting for my clerkship." Does this not constitute a provocation? He goes on to say that I did not deny the "damning charges" that he made against my character. Is it no provocation for a man to make "damning charges" that are untrue against another? But he says I did not even deny these "damning charges." Well, having impeached the credibility of the witness, a denial of his charges was rendered unnecessary.

But Capt. Tillman goes on to show to the people why he could not challenge, use nature's weapons or engage in a street fight with me to punish me for my "insinuations" against him. Constituting himself judge, jury and defendant, he tries this question and renders a decision in his own favor. "Physically," he says, "I am not his equal." Unfortunately for Capt. Tillman he has placed himself in such a position before the people of South Carolina that all of his statements require

proof. This one is like unto the others that have gone before and similar to those that are come hereafter. But Capt. Tillman says that he has also been assaulted by the members of the board of agriculture and the commissioner. So far as I am aware only two members of the board and the commissioner have ever noticed him. One of these members weighs about 250 pounds, the other is about Capt. Tillman's size, and the commissioner stands six feet two inches. Were these gentlemen more than his equals "physically?" I am sure that I do not know how Capt. Tillman can gratify his pugilistic propensities, unless by the ancient method of lengthening or shortening a man until he has been enlarged or reduced to Capt. Tillman's dimensions. But I can assure him that I am not a "warrior, doughty" or otherwise, and peace does not disturb my rest.

I do not doubt Capt. Tillman's statement that under some circumstances his answer would have been a "challenge." He is fond of challenges, but when his challenges are accepted he somehow or other manages to make it understood that he did not mean them. For instance: He challenged me to defend the department of agriculture. I thought I accepted. He replies by calling me ugly names and making faces at me. But, stop, what has become of Capt. Tillman's grand reformation in all this discussion? For the past twelve months or more he has been promising the farmers of South Carolina that he would lead them out of the wilderness, reduce their taxes, reorganize the State Government, and oust that "slow and debase crowd" at Columbia. He would, in short, work a revolution. Oh, how are the mighty fallen! The whole crusade has ended in a war on an insignificant clerk in one of the departments, "a merenary scribbler fighting for his potaters." Verily, the mountain has brought forth the mouse.

He does manage to gasp, dramatically, at the close of his letter that "from the mountains to the sea the clans are gathering and will meet the oligarchy at Philippi." What clans, Captain! and what oligarchy? and what are the clans going to do with the oligarchy when they meet it? and what do they want to meet the oligarchy for? Of course, it is no use to ask Capt. Tillman to be a little more definite right along here if there were any use in doing so. I would ask that favor at once. If this "mercenary scribbler" belongs to that oligarchy and the clans "from the mountains to the sea" are going to meet that oligarchy at Philippi, with any felonious intent, this part of the oligarchy proposes to remain right here in Columbia. It is unreasonable to ask him to go out of his way for such a purpose. But, perhaps, we are to understand from this expression that Capt. Tillman, the Brutus of this play, will meet the ghost of his reformation at Philippi, and end the war by falling on his sword. Such an inglorious ending! Though some have left their country for their country's good, in this manner, I am afraid, our modern Brutus is not such a patriot. But the idea of a Moses being revealed as a Brutus!

Dropping all badinage, there are some things in Capt. Tillman's letter that deserve more serious consideration. He asks if I have forgotten writing the Augusta Chronicle a rumor that Governor Sheppard was not Capt. Tillman's choice for Governor, and that he had written Col. Coker a letter offering to deliver the keys of the State House to him if he would endorse the farmers' movement. No, I have not forgotten the circumstance. Captain Tillman does not deny writing such a letter, I did not assert it as a fact. I only repeated, as is customary with reporters, a rumor that had very general circulation and credence. I did not criticize Captain Tillman's reported action in the matter, nor charge nor intimate unworthy motives for such action, nor seek to convey any meaning not contained in the words quoted. He was at liberty to vote for whom he pleased, and he could not have supported one more worthy to fill the highest position in the State than the able, pure and courteous gentleman and statesman from Darlington. I have not forgotten, either, that when the break occurred in the convention, Capt. Tillman changed his vote from Sheppard to Coker, although on the call of counties to record the changes he announced that there were no changes in the Edgefield delegation. These were circumstances which gave a color to the rumor that he favored Col. Coker's candidacy. He must discover some insinuation more infamous than this that I have made against his character to justify his charge that I was "repeating lying rumors calculated to do him an injury."

Capt. Tillman asks why I should go out of my way to defend Prof. Joyner, or give my opinion as to which of them I believed. The matter did not concern me, he says, and "was a small thing at best." I shall endeavor to explain this to his satisfaction.

Col. Butler and Prof. Joyner had both denied Capt. Tillman's statement. He continued to repeat it. As an employee of the department of agriculture, and naturally feeling a deep interest in its success, I said in the Augusta Chronicle that so long as Capt. Tillman used this statement, as he was doing, to prove extravagance in the expenditures of the department, he was making use of an argument that was unfair and untrue. It was a matter that came properly under my notice as a correspondent, and would probably have been noticed even if I had had no connection with the department of agriculture. If Capt. Tillman had said then that Prof. Joyner was mistaken, and put the matter where he now seeks to put it, as a question of veracity between Prof. Joyner and himself, I might not have expressed any other opinion about it. But he failed, for about a month, to take any notice of it whatever, and continued to repeat the statement at U. S. News, Newberry and probably elsewhere. I could not understand how any man with a proper regard for the truth could pursue such a course. He was certainly repeating an untrue statement that benefited himself and injured others. As Prof. Joyner could have had no reason, so far as I could see, for making such a statement to Capt. Tillman, and knowing myself that it had foundation in fact, and that Capt. Tillman did have an object to serve in making it, it did not require much time for me to decide whom I should believe.

What did Capt. Tillman do when he found that these denials were tracking him down? Instead of confining himself to a simple explanation of the matter, he denounced both Prof. Joyner and myself, saying to me, that I was a clerk that had sold my principles for an insignificant public position; that I had repeated lying rumors concerning him, and had prostituted my position as a journalist. There was not a word of truth in any of these allegations, and he has thus, in order to relieve himself from the position in which he found himself by his first misrepresentation, been guilty of making three others of a similar character.

Capt. Tillman may consider it a "small matter" to use a statement, without foundation, for the purpose of abusing men who administer public trusts and disburse public funds but I was not "graduated in that school of gentility," however high it may stand in his estimation. The "Columbia Ring" has been the watchword of every disappointed politician in South Carolina for many years. The cry has passed on the people of the State, and the men who make use of it have been rebuked so often that it is unnecessary to notice this charge of the existence of a mythical band, that has been such a nightmare to those politicians whose pretended claims for political preferment have been so often ignored. It is another of Capt. Tillman's sweeping, glittering generalities, that he is so fond of using in his "slashing articles" for the papers.

In his exasperation Capt. Tillman has so far departed from his usual rule as to make one more specific charge. While I have had no discussion with him regarding the general expenses of the State Government, I have taken the pains to see how far this charge can be sustained. I find that it must go for the way of all others. He said that the taxes for State purposes were \$320,000 more in 1885 than in 1880, and adds that he is relying on the comptroller general's reports to sustain his assertion. I have obtained from the comptroller's office statements showing the expenditures for various purposes for the fiscal years 1879-80 and 1884-5, from which it appears that these expenditures for 1879-80 amounted to \$791,700.85 and for 1884-5 to \$883,915.90. The difference being \$92,215.05. The increase is due to the improvement on the State House, the appropriations to the University and Citadel, and the election expenses. Capt. Tillman, therefore, only made a mistake of \$227,785.05 in \$320,000. Capt. Tillman has so far made two specific charges. One against the department of agriculture and one against the State Government. Specification No. 1. The South Carolina College offered to make analyses of fertilizers for the department at a cost of five dollars each. Capt. Tillman's witness, Prof. Joyner, Charge disproved by his own witness. Specification No. 2. The taxes for State purposes were \$320,000 more in 1885 than in 1880. Capt. Tillman's witness, reports of the comptroller general. Charge disproved by his own witness. Captain, we are waiting with interest for Specification No. 3, but as you have been more than one year formulating the two mentioned, we may not look for another soon. We "Swashbucklers," we "Oligarchy," we "Hessians," we "Mercenary scribblers," we "Potato fighters," we—call us anything, Captain, only give us specific charges in or-

der that we may have an opportunity of showing you up in your true colors.

A word to the people of South Carolina: Has this man suggested one practical remedy for any of the burdens of taxation that may possibly exist? Will not the execution of any of the plans he has proposed entail additional taxation? He has possibly succeeded in estranging one part of the people from another, and creating discussions that time will hardly remove; he has denounced the Government, the professional and the business men, and told the farmers, in effect, that they and all the farmers they have sent to represent them in the General Assembly have been, and are, a lot of helpless idiots, unable to care for themselves. He has found but one man in all this broad land able to redeem the State from this pitiable condition, and that individual is himself. It is for the people to say whether this man shall continue to characterize the Government they have installed as "imbecile," and pursue his course of groundless denunciation. The men they have elected to office are but the servants, and subject to removal at the will of the people. So long as they are allowed to remain in office they are entitled to the confidence of their constituents. If they do not command this confidence they are safe, sure and speedy, and should be applied unflinchingly. But if they are in office by the free choice of the people, whoever prefers unfounded charges against them should be rebuked by those who put them there.

I have been advised that I should close this communication by declining to have further controversy with Capt. Tillman. I am told that his influence is great among the farmers, who believe that he has championed their cause, and that any criticism of him is resented as a personal affront, and that further controversy will only serve to increase his popularity and give him greater notoriety.

Fair play is a jewel, and one that has always had a conspicuous place in the diadem of South Carolina. The people who own the soil of this grand old Commonwealth, the descendants of those men who made her name famous in peace and war, have inherited all the virtues of their noble ancestors, who were not the men to strike before they heard. I have an abiding faith that no man, however great his powers of persuasion may be, can so change their nature as to make them contempt one of their fellow-citizens because he has the courage of his opinions. The time has passed in South Carolina, if it ever existed, when our people would blindly follow any man, no matter how great his pretensions. The days of hero-worship are over, and having the fullest faith and confidence in the ability of these people to distinguish the real from the ideal, the rights from the wrong, and to do justice at all times and between all men, I feel that I can confidently decline the advice so kindly given me and trust to the facts already developed, and those to come hereafter, to prove the justice of my position. Capt. Tillman cannot distort opposition to him and his method into opposition to the farmers of the State, nor can he pervert a personal quarrel of his own seeking into an attack upon agricultural associations. Men are sometimes led away by passion, and occasionally misled by misrepresentation, but time sets all things right, and when that vindication comes the people will be unable to find words strong enough to express their contempt for a man who, presuming upon their confidence in him, has misled them. Believing this, I am willing to forget my personal feelings in this matter and discuss with Capt. Tillman any subject with which I am familiar that will prove of any interest to the people of South Carolina. I decline, however, to bandy words further with him or to engage in any merely personal controversy. The people do not care to know, in this connection, which of us graduated in a "school of gentility." They have a right to know whatever either of us can tell for the public good and I am willing to do my humble part in this direction. I have also been advised that I am assuming too much in offering to discuss the department of agriculture with any one, that this is the duty of the board of agriculture and the commissioner. In reply to this I have only to say that the officers of the department have already said all they deemed necessary in this matter, and are amply able to say more if the occasion arises, and that the people of the State have the right to put any of their employees on the witness stand. I accept this position. I do not seek to defend where defence is unnecessary, but only as a subordinate in one of the important departments of the Government, express my willingness to communicate any information for the public good of which I may be possessed.

L. A. RANSOM, Columbia, Sept. 30, 1886.