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The Orangeburg Democrat.

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ORANGEBURG, S. C., FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 1879.

No. 13.

IS PREPARED TO DO ALL KINDS OF

Job Printing

CONFEDERATE STORY.

HOW A LETTER FROM HOME CAUSED A BRAVE SOLDIER TO DESERT.

At a recent political gathering in Tusculum, Ala., General Cullen A. Battle related the following story in the course of his speech:

"During the winter of 1863-64, it was my fortune to be president of one of the courts-martial of the Army of Northern Virginia. One bleak December morning, while the snow covered the ground and the wind howled around our camp, I left my bivouac to attend the session of the court. Winding along for miles, uncertain paths, I at length arrived at the court, at Round Oak Church. Day by day it had been our duty to try the gallant soldiers of that army, charged with violations of military law; but never had I, on any previous occasion, been greeted by such anxious spectators as on that morning awaited the opening of the court. Case after case was disposed of, and at length the case of 'The Confederate States vs. Edward Cooper' was called—charge, desertion. A low murmur rose spontaneously from the battle-scarred spectators as a young artilleryman rose from the prisoner's bench, and in response to the question 'Guilty or not guilty?' answered, 'Not guilty.'"

The Judge Advocate was proceeding to open prosecution; when the court, observing that the prisoner was unattended by counsel, interposed and inquired of the accused, 'Who is your counsel?' Supposing it was his purpose to represent himself before the court, the Judge Advocate was instructed to proceed. Every charge and specification against the prisoner was sustained. The prisoner was then told to introduce his witnesses. He replied: 'I have no witnesses.' Astonished at the audacity with which he seemed submitting to what he regarded as inevitable fate, I said to him: 'Have you no defence?' 'Is it possible that you abandoned your comrades and deserted your colors without any reason?' He replied: 'There is a reason but it will avail me nothing in a military court.' I said: 'Perhaps you are mistaken; you are charged with the highest crime known to military law, and it is your duty to make known the causes that influenced your actions.' For the first time his manly form trembled and his blue eyes swam in tears. Approaching the president of the court he presented a letter saying as he did so: 'There General is what done it.' I opened the letter and in a moment my eyes filled with tears. It was passed from one to the other of the court until at last all had seen it, and those stern warriors who had passed with Stonewall Jackson through a hundred battles wept like children. Soon as I sufficiently recovered my self possession, I read the letter as the defence of the prisoner. It was in these words:

"MY DEAR EDWARD—I have always been proud of you, and since your connection with the Confederate army I have been prouder of you than ever before. I would not have you do anything wrong for the world; but before God, Edward, unless you come home we must die! Last night, I was aroused by little Eddie crying. I called and said: 'What's the matter, Eddie?' and he said: 'Oh, mamma, I'm so hungry.' And Lucy, Edward—your darling Lucy—she never complains, but she is growing thinner and thinner every day. And before God, Edward, unless you come home we must die. YOUR MAMMA."

Turning to the prisoner I asked: 'What did you do when you received this?' He replied: 'I made application for a furlough and it was rejected; again I made application and it was rejected; a third time I made application and it was rejected, and that night I wandered backward and forward thinking of my home, with the mild eyes of Lucy looking at me, and the burning words of Mary sinking into my brain; I was no longer the Confederate soldier, but the father of Lucy and the husband of Mary, and I would have passed those lines had every gun in the battery fired at me. I went to my home; Mary ran to meet me; her angel arms embraced me; and whispered: 'Oh Edward, I am so happy! I am so glad you got your furlough!' She must have felt me shudder, for she turned pale as death, and catching her breath at every word, she said: 'Have you come home without your furlough? Oh, Edward, go back! go back!

back! Let me and my children go down together to the grave, but, oh, for Heaven's sake, save the honor of your name! And here I am, gentlemen, not brought here by military power, but in obedience to the command of Mary, to abide the sentence of your court!'"

Every officer of that court-martial felt the force of prisoner's words. Before them stood, in a beatific vision, the eloquent pleader for a husband's and father's wrongs; but they had been trained by their leader, Robert E. Lee, to tread the path of duty, though the lightning flash scorched the ground beneath their feet, and each in his turn pronounced the verdict—guilty. Fortunately for humanity, fortunately for the Confederacy, the proceedings of the court were reviewed by the commanding General, and upon the record was written:

'HEADQUARTERS A. N. V. The finding of the court is approved. The prisoner is pardoned and will report to his company. R. E. LEE, Gen.'

During the second battle of Cold Harbor, when shot and shell were falling like torrents from the mountain cloud, my attention was directed to the fact that one of our batteries was being silenced by the concentrated fire of the enemy. I hurried, and when I reached the battery every gun, with one exception, had been dismantled, and by it stood a solitary Confederate soldier, with blood streaming from his side. As he recognized me, he elevated his voice and said: 'General, I have one shell left. Tell me, have I saved the honor of Mary and Lucy?' I raised my hat. Once more a Confederate shell went crashing through the ranks of the enemy, and the hero sank by his gun to rise no more."

Long Engagements.

There is a great deal to be said against long engagements, particularly by the lady interested, as it is she who must bear all the small annoyances caused by gossiping friends. 'Why doesn't John marry Sarah?' asks Mrs. Grundy. 'They've been engaged these five years. Evidently he's in no hurry to give up his freedom.' These and other remarks come to Sarah's ears, and she finds her position a trying one. Indeed, many of the difficulties and quarrels of lovers are the results of a protracted betrothal. The state of the engaged can never be thoroughly satisfactory to them. They are kept in an exacting mood, which often breeds unfounded jealousies. They enjoy the bliss of loving and being loved, yet they are not quite sure it is going to last. Somebody else may come along and capture the heart they so highly prize. Therefore, engaged people are apt to exchange their vows frequently, both for the pleasure of listening to what they know and to gain new assurances that they are first in each other's affections and immovably fixed there. This period of joy and trial may be extended for a reasonable time—for months, and even a year or two—but after that there is the danger of a break in the engagement which may be beyond healing. It is best for all parties concerned that marriage should follow an engagement without delay. But if for any good reason an early marriage is not practicable, engaged people must be very patient with each other. If they are too exacting, and so much preoccupied with their sentiments that they neglect their ordinary duties, they are apt to get into a morbid state, which will result in the estrangement. A long engagement, to reach a happy ending, must flow on in a peaceful course. Numerous quarrels will finally separate the most tender of lovers.

According to letters from the Cape, Cetewayo, the Zulu King, is as merciful as he is bloodthirsty. I have known him to kill fifty women and children to feed his golden eagles. As brave as a lion, he will fight until he dies, and if he only sees a scratch on one of his warrior's backs when they return home he is put to death, as Cetewayo thinks he must have turned from the enemy and thus received the wound."

A ship lately took to Africa eight hundred gallons of rum and one missionary. The proportion of rum to missionary seems rather large, but the Hottentots probably know what they are about.

Rail Road Men vs. Printers.

UPPER ORANGEBURG, March 18, Editors Orangeburg Democrat.

In your issue of the 14th instant you hit the employees of the South Carolina Rail Road some hard blows; rating them next to 'salt water tars' for swearing and drinking. Now, Messrs. Editors, I think you do an injustice. It is customary to believe that a 'tair' is generally an abandoned character and not fit for society or anything else, except his calling, all of which I believe to be true; but as to the employees of the South Carolina Rail Road I must materially differ with you. They are, as a class, an honorable, industrious and business set of men, connected with the best families of our State. Moreover those who occupy positions of trust, have risen to them on their merits. As to their intemperance I will wager that the employees of the road are as temperate as any class of laboring men in the county, and I believe, numbers considered, more so than will be found in the newspaper fraternity. How often do you see a drunken rail road man that would not be drunk anywhere else had he the means? How often do you hear of a drunken engineer or conductor drenching his train or colliding it with another train? How often do you know of an employee of the South Carolina Rail Road being dismissed on account of their intemperance? True it is that most rail road men indulge to some extent, and there must in reason be some excuse for them, working in their various capacities all times of day and night, and in all kinds of weather. The same excuse will apply to your profession, who frequently work 'till the wee sma' hours.' Besides this, my dear sirs, I can point you to a great many of the employees—from track hands to conductors—who are total abstainers from the poison. Several of whom reside in your town. I think you should feel convinced that you have done an injustice to the rail road class. Of course, Mr. Fisher, or any other head of a business as vast as the South Carolina Rail Road, is not expected to keep a habitual drunkard in his service.

You 'hit 'em again about 'working awhile and fishing the balance of the day.' I can speak only personally concerning this. But if the fish will bite it is a temptation—enough to tempt Mr. Fisher himself—he will admit that.

I agree with you that Mr. Fisher should observe, and caused to be observed, the Sabbath day. But this is a question that will admit of a broad argument. A great many contend that it is right and a public necessity to run the passenger trains on the Sabbath. I am of a different opinion. Please don't despise the poor rail road men, as they have a hard enough time without being pitched into by the press. Au revoir, SUBSCRIBER.

Female Masons.

Speaking of female Free Masons, the Montpelier, Vt., Argus says: 'We see it stated that only two females were ever initiated into a Free Mason's lodge, one Mrs. Aldsworth, in North Carolina, and the other a Mrs. J. B. Babington, in Kentucky. We opine this is a mistake, for tradition has it that during the war of 1812, or thereabouts, a Miss Hathaway was initiated into one of the lodges on the northern frontier of Vermont. The lodge was held in an upper room, which was lathed, but not plastered, overhead, and Miss Hathaway, with the curiosity peculiar to her sex, determined to find out the secrets of Masonry, and so, previous to the opening of the lodge, quietly ascended into the attic of the lodge-room to take advantage of the crevices to listen to and observe the scenes enacted below. Whether frightened at the antics of the goat or horrified by the hot grid-iron application, or not, we are not informed, but by some mishap she missed her foothold and came down through the lathing in the midst of the ceremonies, to the utter astonishment and dismay of the actors. Deeming discretion the better part of valor, they thought it wise to shut her mouth by a solemn obligation, which she kept to the close of her life.'

Judge Kershaw, in his charge to a jury in Greenville court, said: When he was a young man it was considered cowardly to carry concealed weapons.

A WORD FOR THE HOGS.

OUR CITY COUNCIL STRAINING AT GNAZES AND SWALLOWING CAMELS.

Although claiming to be no theologian, I nevertheless propose to inscribe what some of us believe the inspired writer's meaning was when the words 'straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel' were made to constitute a part of the Sacred Scriptures. He evidently intended us to understand that many of us commit grave offences which we regard as too trivial to merit Divine chastisement, while the small sins of others were seen through magnifying glasses, and thought to be much more heinous than our own. With this preface your writer desires to call the attention of the City Council to what he together with many others regard as a great public nuisance. We are informed that long ago an edict was promulgated, strictly forbidding all swine alias hogs, the privilege of the public streets of this city, simply because the animal was regarded as too unsightly to understand, and too much filth was left in the wake of their perambulations for the comfort of the promenaders of this city. In fact perhaps some of the people of this city are afraid of hogs in any shape, except with cut throats, cleaned skins, and their flesh subjected to culinary treatment. Then and only then it may be that some of the over-modest people of this city would consent to come in contact with this cloven-footed, but anti-cut chewing quadruped—Why, my friends, your writer was under the impression that the major portion of the population of this city were gentiles; but anti-swineism seems to be so popular, as makes it almost a miracle that this despised creature has not long ago, been driven headlong down the hill into the Red Sea, alias Edisto, and choked, drowned, or exterminated in some way. Yes, if ever neighbor Ned ventures across the corporate limits of this city for the purpose of paying a social visit to his brother, or for looking after something for the inner-self, he is at once arraigned before Council of this city and made to answer for such misdemeanor, and should his master fail to appear, pay any damages, growing out of Ned's intrusion or would-be sociability, he is put up at public auction and sold away from master, friends and relatives forever. Poor Ned, beware how and when you show yourself upon the boulevards of this city. Public opinion is against your enjoying the privileges allowed other quadrupeds, while the constitution and by-laws of this city explicitly say you must keep your distance. But how stands the case with old Brindle, the highly favored citizen of this city? Go where she will, do as she willeth, all is well, provided she finds her home in time to fill the milk-maid's morning and evening bucket. In the interval every street, every alley, every yard, yes almost every garden are at her disposal. Should the poor countryman happen to visit this city, and bring along something for his hungry and tired horse, of course, old Brindle, must have her share, and should the stranger not perfectly understand the habits and customs of the bovisitic species of this city, and leave his forage in a non-convertible place it is considered no breach of the constitution and by-laws of this city should she willfully and forcibly break through and steal. No, no! this intrusion is perfectly constitutional, and no one dare molest nor make her afraid. If she wills to lay herself down upon the side walks of this city, why, of course, the morning and evening promenaders must pass around. Any attempt at molestation is an open violation of the constitution and by-laws of this city, and has been so considered from time immemorial. With these few hints your writer begs most respectfully to ask in behalf of his friend and himself, that in-as-much as so much legislation is going on all over our wide republic locking to the regulation of social equality among the higher order of animals, that the framers and executors of the constitution and by-laws of this city so legislate as to bring Ned and Brindle more on an equality socially, and if need be, morally and politically, so that both be kept alike within their owner's enclosures, or allowed to walk side by side if they please, where ere their inclinations lead

them. As for myself I prefer the former arrangement, and sincerely trust we echo the sentiments of the supporters, executors and maintainers of the constitution and by-laws of this city. HIPPOCRATES.

A Good One.

During the first year of the war, says a Vermont paper, when change was scarce and some large firms were issuing currency of their own, a farmer went to a store in a neighboring town and bought some goods, and gave the merchant a five dollar bill, of which he wanted seventy-five cents back. The merchant counted it out and handed it over to the farmer, who looked at it a moment and inquired: 'What is this?'

'It's my currency,' said the merchant. 'Wall, taint good for anything where I live,' said the farmer. 'Very well,' said the merchant, 'keep it until you get a dollar's worth, and bring it to my store, and I will give you a dollar for it.'

The farmer pocketed the change and departed. A few days after he went to the same store, and bought goods to the amount of one dollar, and after paying over the identical seventy-five cents he took out a handful of pumpkin seeds, and counted out twenty-five of them and passed them over to the merchant.

'Why,' said the merchant, 'what's this?'

'Wal,' said the farmer, 'this is my currency, and when you get a dollar's worth bring it to my place, and I will give you a dollar for it.'

Wofford College.

In pursuance of a call published in the county papers, a public meeting was held in the Courthouse on Wednesday 12th March, inst., to devise ways and means for putting the building of Wofford College in thorough repair for next Commencement, the 25th Anniversary of the Institution. On motion of Maj. D. R. Duncan, Maj. John Earle Bomar was elected Chairman and T. Stobo Farrow, Secretary.

The Chairman explained the object of the meeting and short speeches were made by Prof. W. W. Duncan, J. B. Cleveland, Esq., and Capt. J. W. Carlisle, urging the necessity of the repairs and advocating subscriptions for that purpose. After which subscriptions were called for and \$305 subscribed by those present at the meeting.

Mr. W. K. Blake moved that a committee of five be appointed to wait on the citizens of the town and solicit subscriptions, which was adopted. The Chair appointed on said committee, Messrs. W. K. Blake, A. A. Foster, Charles Petty, J. A. Hennessee, and W. I. Harris.

On motion of Dr. R. M. Smith, the Chair was authorized to appoint Committees of three in each township in the county to solicit subscriptions. —Spartanburg Herald.

Whipping Post.

The whipping post is said to have worked well in Virginia. Cases of petty larceny and the criminal charges of the State have sensibly fallen off since its adoption, and the Senate stands by the lash by a decided majority, on a motion to repeal the law sanctioning its use. A colony of 900 negroes working in a Pender county, N. C., quarry, have voluntarily adopted the whipping post to suppress thieving among themselves. The jury of their own choice finds the guilty out every time, and the plan seems to be a success in keeping things straight. Missouri and several other States are now considering the advisability of employing the same means to punish the petty thieves and other scamps who fear no penalty as much, and just now the tide seems to set toward the whipping post as more effective with petty criminals than confinement or fines.

The whipping post, as a punishment for petty offences, is demanded by some of the Texas papers. One case is mentioned in which a negro was indicted for stealing a box of sardines, valued at fifteen cents. It cost the county one thousand dollars to send him to the penitentiary. Such costly punishments are a little too much for the Texans and they think a liberal application of the lash would control these petty criminals. We agree with Texas papers.

What a Carolinian Did in Texas.

VANCE'S FERRY, S. C., March 18.

Editors Orangeburg Democrat:

Allow me to make a little correction in the article in your last paper in regard to Dr. H. J. Avinger, of Avinger, Texas. He left the town of Orangeburg on the morning of the 22nd of January, 1855, and arrived in Texas and located for the practice of medicine on the 8th of February, 1855, in Cass County. Two years afterward he returned to South Carolina and married Miss Martha Hooker, and returned to Texas in May, 1857. A short time after his return to Texas, he bought a tract of unimproved land, about one and a half miles from where he first located. He improved it in 1858 and moved on it, and is living on the same place yet, having never moved but the one time. He practiced medicine for seventeen years, in the mean time commenced to merchandise, and buying up small and well improved farms, in all of which he was very fortunate and soon accumulated a handsome fortune around him. In 1872 he was the nominee of the Democratic party in the 8th Senatorial district, composed of Marion, Cass, and Bowie counties, for State Senator. At that time the State was in the clutches of the Radical party, and they were unwilling to surrender, but were beaten by the Democrats for the first time after the war, and the State passed into the hands of the Democratic party after a desperate struggle. He was one of the thirteen Senators that the Radicals tried to expel in order to retain control of the State, but were unsuccessful. In 1876 a Railroad was built by his place, he made a donation of \$1,000 to the Road, he secured the depot on his place and near his residence, since which time he has made considerable improvement, and has built with his own means alone a neat little village and owns the whole town. Besides a valuable lot and building in Sulphur Springs, Hopkins County, Texas, and bank stock in the National Bank of Jefferson. He left South Carolina with \$132 in his pocket and owed \$450 borrowed money, which was used to complete his medical education, which was paid out of his first earnings in Texas. The above is a short statement of what has been done by Dr. H. J. Avinger, a patriot of Orangeburg's sons and a true patriot of old Carolina. D.

Revising the English Bible.

The revision of the English (King James') Bible, now in the tenth year of its progress, has been termed 'the great work of the century'—whether appropriate or not remains to be seen. Two years more will be required to finish the task, when the new version will be submitted to the world and be subjected to criticism. From the beginning, in 1870, the English Church and the great universities gave their ripest scholars to the task, and the American talent, co-operating with them, was selected with equal care. The commission have worked with entire harmony, and the proposed changes are only adopted after a full consultation, and a substantially unanimous agreement. The members have pledged their honor to reveal no part to the public until the whole work is completed and published. German scholars are at the same time at work upon the revision of Luther's Bible, and the German and English revisers are in complete accord. But great as the authority is with which the revised work will be placed before the world, it would be assuming too much to say that it will be adopted without question. There are a good many conservative people who will still be inclined to cherish among their treasured household gods the family Bible of the fathers.

A funny story is being related in private circles of a young married man who was going to Elizabeth, N. J., on the evening of a late masquerade ball 'on business,' and could not, therefore, escort his wife to that festivity. The naughty fellow went to the ball of course, and flirted desperately with a lady in a white satin domino and mask, followed her home, and discovered the lady to be his mother-in-law. The joke was so good that he could not help telling it, and he says he 'never; well, hardly ever,' was so surprised in his life.

Each leaf has a colony of insects grazing on it like cows in a meadow.

POLITICAL PERSECUTION.

RINGING WORDS THAT APPLIED AS MUCH TO OUR COUNTY AS ANY OTHER.

It is a singular and, at the same time instructive contrast touching the Federal election laws, when we behold some of our best citizens under indictment for offences against these laws, to see the 'notorious' fraud perpetrators, from Madison Wells down to the smallest Radical official, sporting with unblushing cheek the rewards of their political villainies openly before the faces of men. Notwithstanding the utter staminate of the whole political trick, put up upon the free citizens of the country, by which a supervisor like Davonport can opportunely 'catch and cage' the white men by the thousands in New York, and thus handily hold them by the throat until after the 'pitch' of election, we find really good men carried away by the political necessity of such nefarious partisan laws.

Many of the best and most law-abiding citizens of Richland County are under indictment for election offences, and they will be tried before Judge Bond, who, to say the least, recognizes party fealty to the full, and by juries packed by the test oath law, so that in no sense can our people be said to be tried by their peers. Under these circumstances it seems plain that our fellow-citizens, who, happening to be in official position, and made the mark of Republican spleen, and will thus be made to suffer vicariously for the Democratic party at large, should not be allowed to encounter all the expenses of these trials. It is enough that they should encounter the loss of time in their avocations, the risk, and the personal inconvenience incident to such trials, and the public should come to their relief in employing the ablest and most experienced counsel to watch the cases through the courts, so that these men shall not be sacrificed to the mania of a spoiled and ragged witness to be bled at fifty cents a head, whilst the lean and hungry Cassius, flitting at once the position of assistant solicitor and defeated candidate for Congressional honors, wrecks his vindictive spleen upon those whose political activity balked his aspirations.

It will not do to rely simply upon the innocence of our fellow-citizens thus hunted down by Radical minions. Their very innocence may prove the great offence to such men, and induce the 'taller' swearing against them. We have seen this game played too often to have deceived in this matter. We have seen the most innocent and innocent people put on trial in the Klux, Klux cases and pursued to the death by the law hounds of the Federal courts. Our own people could hardly believe their eyes at the cases put up for the occasion against men who had lived a life-time of virtuous and offending conduct under their very eyes, and yet who were hauled out of their beds in the dead hour of night and trotted to jail by treaty Federal squads. Again, it is essentially unnecessary, if these political trials are intended as campaign documents, that we should sift them through and through with the best legal advice possible, and not hesitate a moment to come up now and do our duty against the demands of 1880. Be ye harmless as doves but wise as serpents.—Columbia Register.

They were sitting in an open bog on the cross road, and bounded on one side by the wood and on the other by an orchard. The first we heard was, 'Now stop. Will you will miss my hair.' He laughed, and she broke out with, 'You don't love me one bit.' The hug he gave her would have made an anaconda turn pale, and as she threw up her head for breath, he said, 'I am strong, eh, girl?' 'Yes, you are, but I don't think you are as strong as you used to be.' And then we felt weak and left them.—College Bell.

The Atlanta Constitution says that Redpath and other apostles, including the Hon. Eli Perkins, are to be engaged in composing a bible for use among Republicans. The object of this is to get a version of the ten commandments that will be satisfactory to the members of the party.

The farmer should take every advantage of the weather, and let nature do all she will for him.