

IN THE TOWN OF UNION
 Large Cotton Mills, one Knitting Mill and Dye Plant, one Oil Mill, two Furniture Manufacturing Concerns, Female Seminary, Five Graded Schools, Water Works and Electric Lights, Population 7,000.

THE UNION TIMES

OUTSIDE OF THE CITY
 Three Cotton Mills, one Knitting Mill, another building, Gold Mining, Famous Mineral Springs, Taxable value in and out of town \$1,000,000.

VOL. LIV. NO 17.

UNION, SOUTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 1904.

\$1.00 A YEAR.

Satisfactory Service.
 Our method of conducting business is calculated to insure you satisfactory service.
 Wm. A. NICHOLSON & SON, Bankers.

AN EXTRAORDINARY COLLECTION OF CARS.

An Appeal Enough to Make an Intelligent and Refined Horse Laugh.

The following appeal in behalf of the forthcoming Conference for Education in the South at Birmingham, made to what Mr. Robert C. Ogden, president of the conference, evidently regards as "the best South" and Mr. Carnegie as "the best-educated white element in the South"—an appeal enough to make an intelligent and refined horse laugh—was given appropriate publicity on April 4 in the columns of the Atlanta Journal:

WILL TRAVEL IN SPLENDID TRAIN.

IN SUMPTUOUS SPLENDOR THE MEMBERS OF EDUCATIONAL FUND WILL COME SOUTH TO DIVIDE GIFT TO SCHOOLS.

(Special Dispatch to the Journal.)

Washington, April 4.—Sixty members of the southern Educational fund committee are to arrive in Washington next week on their way south to inspect a number of small schools and school sites in several of the southern states. They are to make the inspection so they may intelligently disburse the million dollars recently contributed to the fund by John D. Rockefeller.

The most notable feature of the trip is the magnificence of the train on which the party is to make the trip. This train is to exceed in equipment the one on which the late President McKinley made his historic trans-continental journey.

The train is to consist of a Pullman composite car, containing besides state rooms, a Turkish bath room, barber shop and several other comforts; two of the finest Pullman dining cars; three cars containing nine state rooms, two Pullmans with seven state rooms; two drawing room cars and an eight-section observation car.

The cost of this extraordinary collection of cars daily is to be fifty dollars for each car, the money going to the Pullmans, and \$1.50 for every mile the train travels, this going to the railroad company for handling the cars. Meals are to cost one dollar each without extras, and sixty-eight persons eating three meals a day means a cost of \$204 a day. There are incidental expenses which railroad men say are to amount to about thirty dollars a day.

The party is to leave New York for Washington April 13. The train reaches here the same evening. The morning following the party is to go to Old Point Comfort, where rooms have been engaged at one of the finest hotels there at the rate of five dollars a day for each of the party.

From Old Point Comfort the educators are to visit Danville, Petersburg, Richmond, Charlottesville, Charlotte, Wilmington, N. C., Atlanta, Birmingham, Mobile, Nashville and Louisville and a number of intermediate towns and cities.

The party expects to be traveling on the railroad eighteen days. They are to look thoroughly into the educational requirements of the south and when they return to New York they are to announce how the million dollars is to be spent.

The combination of inexcusable ignorance in the headlines and red-dant journalism in the body of a piece of news bears all the earmarks of composition by the office cat of the Atlanta Journal under the inspiration of some "official" of the Southern Educational Scheme—possibly,

one who is latest described as in fact "the Southern representative of Robert C. Ogden of New York, president of the conference," and as must always be written in such connection, the partner of John Wanamaker of Philadelphia, expert in keeping Wanamaker to the front in other places than in paid advertisement at the top of the column next to pure reading matter in the newspapers.

The foreword is so bizarre, not to say vulgar, that it is worthy of a few words of comment. Of the same strain as the announcement sent from Atlanta two years ago in advance of the same party of "educators"—an announcement which inclined "not a few of the gullible to stand at cross-roads stations with buckets, bags and tin cups" catch some of the golden stream which they naturally believed the train was to vent, though there was nary a red for them—it is even more ill-informed and obsequious. What an effect the mere mention of a million dollars has upon some folks!

But unless there has been a revolution in the plans and an explosive swelling of the exchequer, there is no fund of a million dollars to be divided by the "educators" of this extraordinary collection of cars. They were given a spurt three or four years ago by Mr. John D. Rockefeller's placing at their disposal \$100,000 a year for ten years. The flight of time and other things have disposed of \$300,000, leaving seven years for the south to be regaled by similar incursions into its midst, as it were.

Seriously, it must not be imagined that one cent of this fund is spent for the splendid train. The money for that, it is understood, comes from Mr. Ogden, who, several years ago, finding that with a passing away of the old abolitionists, interest in the "education" of Southern negroes was waning, began to take parties of friends having the public ear on little trips to Hampton and Tuskegee. But the philanthropy manifested in the train must in itself, solitary and alone, be an education for Mr. Ogden's "best South."

Think of it!

Imagine this "extraordinary collection of cars," costing fifty dollars for each daily, and consisting of a composite car, with a Turkish bath-room, a barber shop and "several other comforts," two of the finest dining cars, five stateroom cars, two drawing-room cars and an eight-section observation car, visiting Danville, Petersburg, Richmond, Charlottesville, Charlotte, Wilmington, N. C., Atlanta, Birmingham, Mobile, Nashville and Louisville and a number of intermediate towns and cities, to say nothing of Columbia, S. C., which it already panting, as the hart panteth for the water brooks, for a visit from the Conference for Education in the South in 1905!

What an education for the South this "extraordinary collection of cars" will be in itself!!!

It alone is worth more than the price of admission!!!

It must be "the most notable feature of the trip."

Whoever in that section among the "best-educated white element" ever saw before a whole train of nine

cars? How the Southern vocabulary will be enriched by such phrases as "composite car," "Turkish bath-room," "barber shop," "dining car," "observation car"—and costing \$50 per day for each car! Stupendous! Sumptuous!!! The mind staggers at its conception!!!

What an extraordinary collection of "educators," to have the temerity to bring with them their innocent wives and orphan children and to travel for eighteen whole and consecutive days of twenty-four hours each on this extra ordinary collection of nine cars, not including the locomotive and tender!!!!

They, too, will certainly be an "education" for "the best South." In vasty splendor, gilt edge and a yard wide—the wool being kept in the background for this occasion—a new genus is to be revealed. Picture the situation! Here are sixty-eight persons who think nothing of rashly stopping at one of the finest hotels at Old Point Comfort at the rate of five dollars a day for each and every one of the party, who, with the most distinguished aplomb (for diagram please consult the Atlanta Journal's office cat, or "the southern representative of Robert C. Ogden of New York," in fact), or going about as ravening wolves, will incontinently devour three meals a day at a cost of one dollar per meal per head, or \$204 per day for the sixty-eight individuals, and who, in addition, will spend thirty dollars per day for "incidentals."

There is an air of becoming mystery about that word "incidentals." The advance notice would be incomplete without it. But it may lead some statistical mind to divide thirty dollars by sixty-odd persons and to calculate that the quotient would average probably the price of three "extras" or of three of the "several other comforts" in that composite car at fifteen cents per, the conventional price in all first-class American establishments. Avaunt! Perish the thought! This extraordinary collection of cars takes itself too soberly and too seriously to be the subject of jest.

Extraordinary!!! Extraordinary!!! Extraordinary!!! Hurrah for—us!!!! Turn out. Southern folks, and accept in full the 5200 invitations to the "best south" to attend the Conference at Birmingham, and accept incidentally anything else that may be floating around free! Perhaps your turn to be one of the extraordinary collection of "educators" on "this extraordinary collection of cars" will come next year. Selah! But how keenly P. T. Barnum must regret that he is dead.—Manufacturers' Record.

THE SCHOOLS AND NOVEL READING.

The Habit of Fiction Reading Growing on Teachers and Pupils of Today.

The careful observer of modern tendencies and ideals can no longer close the eye to the seriousness of the problem presented by the present craze for fiction. Fiction reading is not merely a vogue, it has grown into a passion. It has already crystallized into an absorbing habit.

School children conceal in their desks and text-books copies of Tip Top Weekly and stories of morbid sentiment or highly exciting adventure. The traveler speeds unconscious through a world rich in real life and vital with evidences of human activity and progress—too often rapt into a world of mawkish sentimentality and feverish unreality. Men and women alike—for it is not women alone—seek to shut out from the consciousness the realities of true life, to find relief from its ever present, often harrassing, demands by

absorption in a fictitious life that often depends for its charm upon an abnormal unhealthy stimulation of the imagination, or upon a deadening of the normal activities of the mind and moral sense.

This compulsion of the fiction habit has not escaped the notice of the thrifty man of business. Advertisements are thrown into the form of story; many magazines depend for their circulation upon the monthly service of a varied fiction diet, while the fakir of bogus wares and jewelry has invoked the story paper to open the way into homes for tons of his allumens for the unwary and fopish. The weekly output of such off from one town alone takes literally strains of mail coaches to start its journey of mental and moral undoing.

This picture is not overdrawn when applied to the mass of fiction and fiction readers—just the mass that the reader for enlightened citizenship, for a larger and saner life, must reckon with and strive to reach helpfully.

The novel is here to stay and to grow in its hold and influence. It is of all forms of literature the most truly adapted to the culture and education of the mass of the people out of the narrow provincialism into a knowledge and appreciation of the wider world life and of the problems that vitally concern this life. For those of limited environment, it may serve to broaden the field of vision by helping them to realize through the imagination and emotions the varied life of other lands and peoples. It may serve too to widen the circle of their acquaintance, to give a fuller, deeper insight into human nature through the development of character and the analysis of motives and passions. To many it may result in the stimulation of a dormant imagination and the freedom of the springs of thought else choked by the compulsion of a narrow life and a lot of labor.

This is the true literary form of democracy and to those whose culture and training make poetry a sealed book, an uninfelligible jargon, it may prove the open door to a higher intelligence and wider literary appreciation.

But the typical cheap story paper and paper-back novel of the news stand, or for that matter the mass of more expensive stuff with which the market is now flooded, can no more lead to these results or awaken a liking for better reading than a treatment of opiates and stimulants can restore a weak or diseased body to normal, healthful activity.

It would be futile to appeal to writer or publisher. With them novel making and publishing is a business controlled by the law of supply and demand. Few writers and still fewer publishers can be expected to be influenced by motives looking to the elevation of literature or the progressive cultivation of a higher literary taste.

The following extracts taken from a symposium of opinions may be rightfully regarded as expressing the views and attitude of the average publisher in regard to the present output of fiction:

"This production," says a publisher quoted in the March Critic, "is due entirely to the natural causes of supply and demand. The reading public demands new books and many of them. Publishers supply the demand. We should not say that there is any desire on the part of the publishers in general to check the publication of books. The publication or production of books is the business of publishers."

"The publisher," says another, "issues ten novels in the hope that one will succeed and not only pay for the

F. M. FARR, President.

J. D. ARTHUR, Cashier.

Merchants and Planters National Bank

Is not quite (?) the largest Bank on earth, but it continues to do business at the "Old Stand" successfully, as it has been doing for the past thirty-two years.

It is the OLD BANK in Union, It is the only NATIONAL Bank in Union, It has a capital and surplus of \$100,000, It pays FOUR per cent. interest on deposits, It has paid dividends amounting to \$196,800, It has Burglar-proof vaults and Safe with Time-lock, It is the only Bank in Union inspected by an Officer, It pays more taxes than ALL the Banks in Union combined.

We solicit your business, however large or small, promising all the courtesies that are usually extended by an obliging and carefully conducted Bank.

loss on the other nine, but yield him a profit besides. We do not think over-production can be materially checked."

In the face of this discouraging condition, fiction was never so potentially powerful for culture and education. There has never been a time when the novel writer has felt so keenly and deeply the art value and higher mission of this form of literature. The best talent of the day seeks, out of a rich and varied experience, to interpret life with fidelity and high seriousness. Every season witnesses the production of a few novels of enduring form and rare power—a few grains of wheat in a bin of chaff.

Especially noteworthy and discriminating has been the academic appreciation of the novel as a form of literary art, and as an effective means for the interpretation of life. Critics, teachers of literature, novelists themselves—leading craftsmen of their guild—have written entertainingly, suggestively, discriminatingly, at times illuminatingly, of its art value, development and growth.

By the aid of these and still more by direct acquaintance with the great masters of fiction, many have come to feel, if not to discriminate, the true and enduring qualities of fictive literature, and to gain from these entertainment and enrichment of experience. But what of the masses who must read but know not how or what. These know or care little about critic or academic writer. What they seek, in their untrained, undirected taste, is a maximum of entertainment with a minimum of effort. And from present indications the ratio of increase in this class is far greater than among appreciative, discriminating readers.

The problem, therefore, is not one of production, it is not even one of academic enlightenment. It is as vitally and compellingly a problem for the school as any other now demanding serious thought and careful solution of teacher and educational leader.

Aid and suggestion may and should come from without. Magazines and reviews that aspire to constructive leadership can give material aid by admitting into their columns no review of a novel that is not frank and discriminating. (Not a few have suffered from over-confidence in the judgement of our leading periodicals.) The college can and should do its part by offering systematic courses in the study of fiction. Academic critics have already contributed largely to the helpful reading of fiction. They could still further and more effectively aid by preparing, out of the fulness of their own study and experience, suggestive outlines and special studies for the help and guidance of the teachers of our schools.

For the problem after all depends for its solution upon the teachers in our public and graded schools. They alone touch the millions who largely constitute the fiction-reading class, who create and control the demand upon writer and publisher. From the school these millions gain the ability to read. With the school rests the opportunity to cultivate in

most of these young readers a taste for sane, wholesome fiction by introducing them through a systematic course of reading and study to the best type of imaginative writing.

Failure on the part of teachers to apprehend the growing danger of indiscriminate fiction reading would be inexcusable; neglect of their opportunity through indifference or disinclination to personal effort would come perilously near to criminality. —A. G. REMBERT, in the Educational.

THIS STATE'S SECESSION.

Original South Carolina Document is Discovered.

A dispatch from Belvidere, N. J., to the New York Times, says:

Accident has brought into possession of Mrs. John Robinson of this place a time-stained document, which in spite of its faulty construction, is regarded as South Carolina's original ordinance of secession from the Union. Mrs. Robinson found the paper under the backing of a picture frame she bought at a recent sale.

brought to the North by an old Union soldier. It is the theory that the record was stolen from the State House at Columbia and poked away in the picture frame for hiding. The document reads:

The State of South Carolina: At a convention of the people of the State of South Carolina, begun and holden at Columbia on the 17th day of December, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and sixty, and thence continued by adjournment to Charleston, and there by divers adjournments to the 12th day of December in the same year.

An ordinance to dissolve the Union between the State of South Carolina and other States united with her under the compact entitled, "The Constitution of the United States of America."

We, the people of the State of South Carolina, in Convention assembled, do declare and ordain, and it is hereby declared and ordained, that the ordinance adopted by us in convention on the 23rd day of May, in the year of our Lord, seventeen hundred and eighty, whereby the constitution of the United States of America was ratified, and also all acts and parts of acts of the State under the name of the United States of America is hereby dissolved.

Done at Charleston on the 20th day of December, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and sixty.

D. F. Jamison,

Delegate from Barnwell and President of the Convention.

About two hundred names are signed after that of the president of the convention.

Robbed the Grave.

A startling incident is narrated by John Oliver of Philadelphia, as follows: "I was in an awful condition. My skin was almost yellow, eyes sunken, tongue coated, pain continually in back and sides, no appetite, growing weaker day by day. Three physicians had given me up. Then I was advised to use Electric Bitters; to my great joy, the first bottle made a decided improvement. I continued their use for three weeks, and am now a well man. I know they robbed the grave of another victim." No one should fail to try them. Only 50c, guaranteed at F. O. Duke's drug store.