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MISCELLANY.

[FOR THE INDEPENDENT PRESS.]
One Hundred Years Hence!

BEING neither a prophet, nor the son of a prophet," we feel our inability in attempting to draw aside the veil that shrouds the dark and mysterious future; yet we cannot forbear entering into a speculative, or rather a prophetic theory, to give expression to our conceptions, though at the same time, feeling fully sensible to the profound consideration, that we "cannot tell what a day may bring forth," and that things to come can be seen only by Him "who never slumbers nor sleeps." One hundred years hence!—who can fully comprehend it? When the morn that shall usher in the last day of the next century, shall dawn upon creation, what scenes of wonder and interest will be disclosed! what wonders will open upon the startled view! what feelings of amazement will thrill the soul! Other tribes and nations, other than those who now inhabit the land, will be here, struggling amid the toils of time and sense—the great and renowned, the rich and the poor, every class now engaged in the arena of life, having then passed to the land of deep forgetfulness, will be together slumbering in the bosom of the earth—the splendor and magnificence of the present generation will be mouldering in the dust, and creation will then have assumed a different aspect from that which it wears at the present day! New and mysterious discoveries now in embryo will then have disclosed themselves to the eye of genius, and be contributing to the welfare and happiness of mankind.

The future must be judged by the past. That which has distinguished the one, will also mark and distinguish the other. As the past has been productive of genius, and remarkable for advancement in science, so it bodeketh promises of a brilliant future, of a brighter and more glorious day. Is it not plausible to suppose that days which are to come, will develop more of the hidden mysteries of science, which, applied to the works of art, will render them of unspeakable value to man? Might we not reasonably suppose the future is teeming with Philosophers, with Artists, Orators and Historians, who will shed abroad their unsullied reputations, and immortalize their names, as did those of ancient times? Will not other GALLIOS and FAUSTS, other FRANKLINS and NEWTONS spring into existence, and meet the gaze of an astonished world? To answer this negatively, would be absurd. For proof, we can only refer to the history of the past. Not only will the future, yea, the next hundred years display men of genius, who shall wear the laurel wreaths of honor and renown, but it will disclose thousands of useful and ingenious inventions, comprising every specimen of machinery, from the simplest models to the most mysterious and complicated engineering. Science will unfold more of the magic power of those inventions now in existence, and bring to light things never before revealed. It will usher into existence discoveries and inventions, that shall be equally beneficent to man, as the Printing Press, the value of which is inestimable, or as the Mariner's Compass, which is to the physical world what the Bible is to the spiritual world, or the Electric Telegraph, the worth of which words are not adequate to express. It will disclose inventions that will vie in strength with the unlimited power of steam, which being made subservient to the will of man, will perform at once the most imposing, and the most trivial services. A hundred years hence telegraphic communications will be in all probability established in every quarter of the globe, and the globe which the "gentle Peck" proposed to put around the earth in forty minutes, may turn out to be no "ideal cestus," but a tangible circlet of copper wire—a highway for the flight of human thoughts.

Then the occurrence of a startling event will literally electrify the world, for the lightnings will tell the tale from sea to sea, from island to island, and from continent to continent. How grand the thought that within one hundred years, the whole human race will be linked together by the agency of the electric telegraph! What barriers will it not o'erleap—what vast distances will it not annihilate! The vibrations of the pen of this wonderful instrument will eventually quicken the pulsation of the heart of the world!

When thought's highway from sea to sea
And o'er the trackless wastes shall reach,

Till all the human race shall be
One, in a universal speech!"

Science will also add to the almighty power of steam. Not only will it "drag the slow barge, or drive the rapid car," but it will accelerate and facilitate the toils of man in every department of life. Like electricity, it will annihilate time and space, and bring within our reach the most distant portions of the world. Not only will the earth tremble beneath its thunder, but the ocean waves will rock and roll before its power, and it will recoil from its vast expense, and become but a frith dividing us from our brethren of the Old World. Who will deny that ere one hundred years roll round aerial chariots will vie with the powers of steam and electricity in the transportation of produce from place to place? and who, looking from the past to the present, shall dare to say that a century hence will not confirm the prophetic musing—

"Or on wide-waving wings extended, bear
The plying chariots through realms of air—
Fair crews triumphant, from above,
Shall wave their fluttering kerchiefs as they move,
Or warrior bands, warn the gaping crowd,
And armies shrink beneath the shadowy cloud."

Would that our ability were commensurate with our theme—that we could in reality unfold a few of the mysteries that reality must ere long disclose—but we shrink from the task, ere we become lost and bewildered amid the many labyrinths of futurity. "SOPEH."

[From the South Carolinian.]

The State Agricultural Society of South Carolina.

To Dr. John P. Barrat, Gen. James Gillam and Capt. Thomas Byrd.

GENTLEMEN: It was with a great deal of satisfaction that I observed in the Edgefield Advertiser, Captain Byrd's communication on the subject of a proposed State Agricultural Society. I wished then to give all the aid and encouragement I could to the project, but having before me the recollection of a signal failure in which I was associated, in December, 1853, when a meeting was called in the Capitol for a similar purpose, I thought it perhaps prudent for me to remain silent until the matter acquired some tangible shape. The newspapers of the State have generally given this great work the aid of a paragraph, which without other assistance, amounts to no more than a puff. Some, indeed, have devoted to the subject careful thought, and the arguments in their articles in its favor will hereafter become the foundation stones upon which the future structure will rest. Now, gentlemen, since you have made a public call upon all who should put their shoulders to the wheel, I fancy no one who feels an interest should remain silent, and hence shall trouble you with the perusal of my crude notions on the subject.

You are truly said that the hour has come for action in this matter. South Carolina is at even station in her industrial pursuits. She is actually, and rapidly, retrograding. Her old fields are enlarging, her homesteads are decreasing in numbers, her factories are standing idle, or languishing for want of home patronage, her stock is dwindling into ghostly anatomies of vital semblance, and her sons of energy are seeking the more remunerating, hence more genial, fields of the Southwest, upon which industry smiles by the sweat of the face of labor. Nor are we alone losing white population—have population, the true wealth of the State, will soon become stationary, in point of increase, within her borders, by the colonization and occupation of the rich planting lands of those favored regions. Should this be? Is old South Carolina still to furnish the elements of mind and labor to the fruitful forest lands, in which now the spirits of the wilderness reign? It is true our soil is poor—poor and infertile—fruits that careless system of indifference which caused our people to contemplate its gradual and certain deterioration, with no foresight for their future—which is our now. The glorious West, with soil as deep as its extent of acres was broad, stretched out in valley and prairie, many thousand hands to bid them welcome. Sylvan retreats induced expatriation, and the ties of fatherland, kindred and of hallowed association, were cast as sacrifices upon the altar of Mammon. We must no longer encourage the departure of the flower of our land, but by developing a spirit of improvement, and thereby increasing attachment to our homes, make the sons of Carolina proud to linger and to labor upon their natal soil. How important in this great work would be the workings of a State Agricultural Society! It would give a successful impulse to this spirit of improvement, and the easy and accessible routes of public travel would impress all persons visiting its annual fairs with the advantages which we enjoy over many sections boasting of richer and more productive soil. As long as our people consider that other sections of the country possess greater natural advantages than they do, they will continue restless and dissatisfied.

This feeling of dissatisfaction is incompatible with a spirit of improvement, for men will not bestow time and labor upon the preservation of land which they expect to abandon. Anxiety to move—even if it be, like the terrapin, with all his wealth upon his back—becomes the predominant feeling, and the good work stands still. It should be our province to convince the people of the State that all our lands are valuable, and if we do this the work of improvement will then manifest itself. Are not all the lands in middle and upper South Carolina valuable? Compare their enhanced price with former valuation, look at the comforts enjoyed by our citizens, where they have health, pure air, crystal water—and contrast these with the bayou, mosquitoes, cholera and yellow fever, which scourge the Southwest! Look, too, at the facility with which the rapidly multiplying lines of railroads here convey the products of the soil to market—and think of some of our old friends out West, who, because their magnificent rivers don't happen "to rise," suffer for the luxuries, and even the common necessities of living. Are not all these things worthy to be weighed in the balance of life? When life, too, is so short, and its rational pleasures at best, and under the most favorable circumstances, may be compared to a cup of bitter waters, sweetened with but few indulgences and little satisfaction. Here, where every man is near to the highways of the world—where business or pleasure finds an easy transit to distant points—where honesty is still respected and virtue admired, revered and cherished—here, say we, is land in which to build and beautify homes—here to cherish those we love—here to do one's part in the grand life's ever active battle—here to lay our bones beside the honored graves of our fathers.

Yes, gentlemen, we believe that the institution you propose, will in a great measure counteract the evils and injuries done to the State, from the causes adverted to above; but to do this successfully, requires great energy, labor and foresight. Our old State Agricultural Society was ridden to death, in connection with aspirations for office. Poor old horse—and rider too—may you rest in peace. We have no purpose which the resurrection of your now almost forgotten existence would serve. It was a gas society, which—like all existences of allotted periods—lived its time, and was no more. The objects of a State Agricultural Society should be of a higher aim than to elevate any one connected with it—save in the legitimate pursuit of an industrial calling. To merely benefit the recipients of premiums, is not alone the object for which such rewards are offered. The premium is only the active agent which puts vitality into execution, and inducing competition—thus elevates the mass of observers to the same perfection in theory and principle, which the successful exhibitor has attained and developed to the satisfaction of the country. Its influence does not stop here—but observers take home the lessons which their eyes have stored up, and conversations and discussions will follow, setting inquiry on foot, and benefiting ultimately scores who never visit such rural jubilees.

Here the best breeds of animals can be inspected, and the proper selections made, without running the risk of a venture, which might be unsuited to our climate and modes of feeding. The most valuable and best adapted grains and vegetable products, with the most successful and economical modes of culture, would be before the eye of those who wished improvement in this line. The exhibition of the domestic and manufactured fabrics of the State, would give lessons to the different sections, which could not fail in being profitable. The neat handiwork of the fair sex, always gracing such exhibitions, like the light clouds which veil heaven from our gaze, are great examples, and the tasty patterns are speedily disseminated into the most remote hamlets and rural homes. The arts in taste, mechanics, and every class of ennobling toil, will bring their useful specimens, and labor-saving implements and machinery will be ready to aid the toiler to enlarge his operations, with remunerating influence. Not to such things alone do we look for all the improvement—but a society properly regulated, soon disseminates a mass of information, which will be reliable texts upon which to predicate future action.—The general intercourse between all parts of the State—the instructive interchange of opinions upon all matters of industrial improvement and progress—would alone compensate for the erection of the proposed association, independently of the solid advantages which would accrue to those who went into it, in order to benefit the country, whilst they inform themselves.

The management, details and arrangements of raising the means, proper location, and other incidentals, are important matters to be looked into; but I would extend the limits of this communication too far, were I to give you my particular views upon these things. My whole heart and exertions shall be with you, and I hope to see the true "bone and marrow" of the State in the Capitol, on the second Wednesday of August next. Let the people from every nook and corner send up delegates, and where none are appointed, let public spirited men "come up on their own hook." Every man counts one in this work, and all will be welcomed in the spirit of brotherhood.

With my best wishes for your success, I am, very sincerely,
A. G. SUMMER.
RAVENSCROFT, S. C., June 20, 1855.

[From the Cassville Standard.]
The Science of Heat.

The Sun the primary source of heat.—Heat is the sensation of warmth. The sun is the principal source of heat. The heat of the sun differs from artificial heat, in that of the former passes readily through glass, while the latter possesses the property only in a small degree. Sun-shine is detrimental to combustion: the reason why is not known with any degree of certainty, but fires are never so bright when the Sun shines on them. It is supposed by some writers that a chemical effect is produced upon the air in contact with the fire which impedes the progress of the combustion.

Caloric.—When we touch a substance hotter than ourselves, a subtle invisible stream flows from the hotter substance and produces on our nerves the sensation of warmth. This stream is called caloric, and is the agent which produces the sensation of warmth, but heat is the sensation of itself. This caloric is not equally distributed over the globe, for at the equator the medium or average temperature is 82-1/2 degrees while at the poles it is believed to be about 13 degrees below zero.

Electricity, the second source of heat.—Electricity, like heat, exists in all matter; but it is frequently in a concealed state and can only be developed by friction; hence, its name from the Greek word *electron* signifying amber, which, it was discovered by the Greeks, possessed when rubbed the property of attracting other bodies. This property is possessed by many other bodies. If you rub a piece of paper with India rubber the rubber will adhere to the table. A piece of common brown paper may be made to stick fast to the wall by drying it for a moment at the fire and then drawing it once or twice between your knees. In both cases electricity is excited by friction. Brushing the hair for a long time produces an itching of the head, because the friction of the hair brush excites electricity in the hair, which consequently becomes over charged and irritates the skin. Cats rub their ears before a rain, because the air is full of vapor and its humidity (piercing the hairs of the ears) produces an itching sensation, or it may be because the air is over-charged with electricity, producing a corresponding over-charge in the hair of the cat. This over-charge gives the hair a perpetual tendency to become ruffled and the cat keeps rubbing her coat and ears to smooth the hair down.

Electricity, like heat, is in itself invisible, though it is often accompanied by both light and heat. It is sometimes attended by a peculiar odor known as *Ozone*, resembling sulphur and phosphorus. This odor has been observed in the air during thunder storms.

The Aurora Borealis is supposed to be produced by the electric fluid passing through air of different densities. The most rarified air produces a white light, the drier air, red, and the dampest yellow streaks.

Lightning.—Lightning is accumulated electricity discharged from the clouds. There are three causes which produce this electricity in the clouds: the evaporation from the earth's surface, the chemical changes which take place on the earth's surface, and currents of air of unequal temperature, which excite electricity by friction, as they come in contact with each other. When a cloud overcharged with electric fluid, approaches another which is undercharged, the fluid rushes from the former into the latter, until both are equally charged. Sometimes mountains, trees and steeples float near, and the electric fluid sometimes rushes out of the earth into the clouds. Lightning clouds are of various heights. Lightning is with one of their edges, while others are as high as four or five miles above it. Those from which electricity is discharged during a thunder storm are, however, rarely more than seven hundred yards above the surface of the earth. On a fair day, the clouds are often four or five miles above our heads, but their average height is from one and a half to two miles.

Lightning is sometimes forked because the lightning-cloud is at a great distance, and the electrical current is diverted into a zig-zag course by the powerful resistance of the air, the current flying from side to side in order to pass where there is least resistance. Sometimes, in very severe storms, the flash will divide into two or more parts, and there will be as many flashes of forked lightning seen at the same time. When the cloud is near the earth and the current meets with but little resistance, it is not divided, and the flash is straight. Sheet lightning is either the reflection of distant flashes not distinctly visible, or else several flashes intermingled. Sometimes the flashes assume a globular form, which is the most dangerous form of lightning.

A flash of lightning is generally followed by a pouring rain, because the flash produces a change in the physical condition of the air, rendering it unable to hold as much water in solution as it could before; consequently, a part is given off in heavy rain. It is generally followed by a gust of wind, because the physical condition of the air is

disturbed by the passage of the lightning, and wind is the result of the disturbance. In summer, lightning is frequently unattended by thunder, because the clouds are so far distant the sound of the thunder is lost before it reaches the ear. Sometimes the earth is overcharged with electric fluid and returns some of it to the clouds; this is called the "returning stroke." There is more lightning in Summer and Autumn, than in Spring and Winter, because the heat in the two former seasons produces great evaporation, and the conversion of water into vapor always develops electricity.

There are two kinds of electricity, positive and negative. The flash always proceeds from a positive body; that is one overcharged with electric fluid. When the clouds are in a positive state of electricity, the lightning passes from them to the earth; when they are in a negative state, it passes from the earth to them. They are said to be in a positive state when they contain more of the electric fluid than usual, and in a negative state when they contain less than usual.

Petrification of Human Bodies.

The American Medical Gazette for May contains the following curious account of the petrification of human bodies:

In the old Cathedral church of Bremen is a vault, the atmosphere of which possesses the peculiar property of preserving from decay all bodies that may be placed therein.

Visitors are shown eight human bodies, besides a number of cats, dogs, monkeys, birds, &c., all of which, by mere exposure to the atmosphere, have become dried and free from all offensive effluvia; resembling, in appearance, coarse parchment.

The body nearest the door is that of an English Major, said to have lain here one hundred and eighteen years.

The second is that of a German student, who lost his life in a duel. The hard, dry flesh still shows the subtle wounds on his throat and arm. His body has been here 170 years.

The third is that of a Swedish Countess, whose body has remained free from the lot of common mortals for 140 years.

The fourth that of a Swedish General, who was killed in the "Thirty Year's War," and whose throat still exhibits the mark of the wound of which he died.

The fifth is that of his aid-de-camp, who lost his life at the same time, by a cannon ball striking him in the side. The destruction of the parts is plainly visible.

The sixth body is that of a workman, who fell from the steeple of the church when near its completion—four hundred years ago—and broke his neck. Owing to this accident, the peculiar properties of this vault became known; for the body of the deceased workman was laid in this vault for a few days, and having evinced no signs of decomposition, the singularity of the fact induced the authorities to permit it to remain, and here it has remained during all that time.

The seventh is the body of an English lady, who died 130 years since of a cancer on the lower jaw; the ravages of the disease are still perceptible in the ulcerated flesh.

The eighth is the body of a working man, who has lain here for sixty years.

In a marble sarcophagus, standing in the middle of the vault, are said to repose the mortal remains of the Swedish Chancellor, Van Englebrechten; but they are not permitted to be exposed to public view, on account of some still surviving relatives of the family.

Each of these bodies retains to a great degree the appearance peculiar to itself in life. Thus the Swedish General was a short, round faced man, inclined to corpulency; his aid-de-camp was a slender, well-proportioned man, in the prime of life. As in general appearance, so also in facial expression do these bodies differ; the parchment-like skin, though drawn tightly over the bones, still shows something of the manner in which the muscles beneath once worked.

The only reasonable solution of the peculiarity of this result (for no other church possesses it) that I have heard of, is that here all the plumber's work of the building was executed, in melting and otherwise preparing the materials of the roof. We can only suppose, then, that the entire chamber became so surcharged with lead, that it has continued ever since to give forth vapors, which, forming an antiseptic chemical compound of lead, have operated upon the cadavers exposed to its influence.

N. L. CAMPBELL, M. D.,
Surgeon of the Stearns Washington.

IMPRISEMENT FOR DEBT.—The new law of Massachusetts, abolishing imprisonment for debt, went into operation on the 4th instant. There were nine poor debtors who were set free by the new law, to enjoy their freedom and celebrate the anniversary of their country's independence. Besides the above freed ones, over two hundred captives, imprisoned for non-payment of fines and costs, were set free by orders from the police court.

Our Internal Improvements.

In 1828 there were 3 miles of railroads in the United States; in 1830 41; in 1840 2,187; in 1850 7365; in 1853 17,317.

In 1853 Great Britain had 7,886 miles of railroad; Germany 5,340; France 2,480. According to this estimate, we had in 1854, at the time the census report was made up, over 1,800 miles more of railroad than Great Britain, Germany and France combined.

The number of miles of railway now in operation on the surface of the globe is 35,480, and of this amount the Eastern Hemisphere has 16,890; the Western 18,590.

Africa has 25 miles of railroad; Spain 60; South America 60; Panama 31; Sweden 75; Italy 170; India 100; Island of Cuba 359.

New York has expended over \$94,000,000 in railroads; Pennsylvania over \$68,000,000; Massachusetts over \$55,000,000; Ohio over 44,000,000; Maryland over 28,000,000; Illinois over 25 and Indiana over \$22,000,000; Georgia over \$16,000,000; New Hampshire over \$16,000,000; Vermont over \$14,000,000; Virginia over \$12,000,000, and South Carolina over \$11,000,000.

The total cost of railroad construction in the United States is \$489,603,128. The funded debt was \$130,000,000. The gross earnings were \$38,356,632. The number of railroads in the United States is 396. Miles in construction now 12,526.

Ohio has in operation, 2,367 miles of railroad; New York, 2,345; Pennsylvania, 1,464; Massachusetts, 1,283; Indiana, 1,127; Illinois, 1,062; Georgia, 884; Virginia, 673; Connecticut, 669. Illinois is now constructing 1,945 miles of railroad; Ohio, 1,678; Virginia, 1,180; Missouri, 963; Pennsylvania, 987; Indiana, 748; Tennessee, 669; Alabama, 659; New York, 546.

Pennsylvania has 64 railroads; Ohio, 46; Massachusetts, 43; New York, 32; Illinois 25; Virginia, 21.

New York has 880 miles of canals; Pennsylvania, 936; Ohio, 921; Kentucky, 486; Indiana, 367; Virginia, 189; Maryland, 184; New Jersey, 147; Massachusetts and Indiana, each 100; Louisiana, 101.

There are 4,798 miles of canals in the United States. A report of 2,358 miles of canals shows a total cost of \$54,676,936. There were in 1853, 89 telegraphic lines, with 23,261 miles of wire, but at the present time it is supposed, that there are over 30,000 miles of wire.

Montgomery (Ala.) Times.

A Beautiful Sentiment.

"The moon looks calmly down when man is dying.

The earth still holds her way;
Flowers breathe their perfume, and the winds keep sighing;

Naught seems to pause or stay."

—Clasp the hands meekly over the still breast—they've no more work to do; close the weary eyes—they've no more tears to shed; part the damp locks—there's no more pain to bear. Closed is the ear like to love kind voice, and calumny stinging whispers.

O, if in that stilled heart you have ruthlessly planted a thorn; if from that pleading eye you have carelessly turned away; if your loving glance, and kindly spoken word have come—all too late!—then God forgive you! No frown gathers on the marble brow as you gaze—no scorn curls the chiseled lip—no flush of wounded feelings mounts to the blue veined temples now.

God forgive you! For your feet, too, must shrink appalled from death's cold river—your faltering tongue asks: "Can this be death!" Your fading eye lingers lovingly on the sunny earth; your clammy hand yields its last feeble flutter.

O, rapacious grave! yet another victim for thy hopeless keeping! What! no words of greeting from the household sleepers? No warm welcome from a sister's loving lips! No throbb of pleasure from the dear maternal bosom!

Silent all!

O, if these broken limbs were never gathered up! If beyond death's swelling flood there were no eternal shore! If for the struggling bark there were no port of peace! If althwart that lowering cloud sprang no bow of promise!

Alas for love if this be all
And naught beyond—on earth.

GALLANT ROBBER.—Accounts from Mexico state that the diligence between Toluca and Morelia had been stopped by robbers, and the passengers plundered of about \$2,000. The affair was done in the most genteel manner. A lady passenger had a ring of great value on her finger, which one of the robbers strove in vain to get off. Finding he could not succeed, he begged the lady to keep her bauble in remembrance of him.

THREE WONDER.—Never I reach Heaven," said the eminently pious Dr. Water, "I expect to find three wonders there. First, to meet some one not expected to meet there; second, to miss some whom I had expected to find there; but third, the greatest wonder of all, will be to find myself there!"