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UNION, S. C., MAY 13, 1906.

Mr. Bryan lets us know that he won't mind making a noise like a clover blossom if the Presidential bee buzzes his way.

We have heard of the Rump parliament and the Barbedone parliament of England. Now comes along the Barbedone parliament of Russia. Why cannot the United States add some other part of the human anatomy—a Back-bone congress for instance.

How about Union's monument to the Confederate dead? This is one of the few cities its size in the State that has no monument. Can Union, so loyal in every other interest, neglect this longer? The deeds of Union men in the days of '61-5 merit all that we can do. Shall we be called unmindful and unworthy?

A negro preacher, and drunk on the streets! This occurred in Union not long since. Poor fellow! but he is not the only one. If they knew how the white people wished to help them, and how they simply they would try harder to do better. And while we write, a negro is over yonder dying from a cut in the head received at a negro church festival. How hard turning influences, go to do right rather than our condemnation. When the negro can be made to see that the Southern white man is his friend, then he has reached the point where he can begin a wonderful development, and in time reach a plain that he never will reach otherwise.

Re-unions, councils, conventions, associations, conferences—galore! During the last week it seems that the South and, in fact, the whole country is having a record breaker in this line. The Cotton Growers' and Spinners' conference in Washington, the Bankers' Association in Greenville, the Travelers' Protective association in Columbia, the Methodist conference in Birmingham, the Baptist convention in Chatanooga, the Episcopal council in Anderson, the Democratic club in every county, the Odd Fellows and Pythians in their recent meetings and this week the Presbyterian Assembly in Greenville and the old soldiers in Columbia. We see here represented almost every interest of our commonwealth: viz. the political, social, commercial, industrial and religious. What does it all mean? It means simply that men are organizing interests and by concerted efforts hope to promote these interests. Man is a social animal and this combining of interests is natural and means progress.

THE CRIME OF THOUGHTLESSNESS.

The thoughtless individual is almost as great a misfortune as is the wilfully vicious. It fills one with honest resentment to hear some thoughtless fellow exclaim in the face of calamity caused by his own carelessness: "I forgot." From the man who thrusts his umbrella under his arm and punches out the eye of some unfortunate victim following in his rear to the man into whose hands the lives of hundreds of fellow-beings are intrusted only

to find the confidence misplaced goes up the sickly cry: "I did not mean to do it!" Of course not! But just the same some poor victim loses his eye or a number of people their lives. It is often a notoriously wicked thing not to think. A man has no business going about with a machine branded "a thinker," has a head, and forget to use it. We may feel a sort of pity for such a specimen, but the predominating feeling we have for such a man is contempt. A thoughtless blunderer fings down the stump of a burning cigarette and a score of people lose their lives and thousands of dollars worth of property are destroyed. Yet this sorry specimen will stand up before his fellows and say "I did not think?" That is just the trouble, and a grievous one it is, to be sure. We naturally expect men who go around with a head on their shoulders to use their heads. Then too, in matters that do not involve the question of life and death or the safety or loss of property, but yet have much to do with the well or woe of people we often see the wretched work of these same thoughtless individuals. They are of that large class of people who do not hesitate to use their tongues without reflecting how far-reaching in its consequences a spoken word may be. Some whispered word of slander goes out upon its blighting mission. Should the whisperer be confronted with the consequences of his sinful child he would probably say: "I had no idea it would work such destruction!" But it is the business of people to have an idea of consequences in such matters, and we feel contempt for people who do not have an idea along such lines. We expect people to have ideas, we demand that they use their faculties of mind, and it is poor reparation for a man to stand forth in the light of the results of thoughtlessness and say, "I did not think."

A TRIP TO ATLANTA AND CHATANOOGA

THE TIMES Editor last week made in Atlanta he attended for one night the great meeting of Torrey and Alexander, now in progress there. Dr. Torrey preached a plain, simple sermon. It might almost be called the place. There was nothing but certainty, of strong faith, was heard throughout the discourse. It is just here, one feels that the strength of this great preacher lies. He is, moreover, a master hand at organizing the forces. He speaks out strongly against the evils of society. He has no patience with the present day laxity of professing Christians. He believes and preaches the Bible from lid to lid. Mr. Alexander does not impress one that he has a very great voice, but he knows how to make an assembly sing. He literally pulls them into trying, and succeeds in getting the congregation to join in singing a new piece after a few minutes training.

In Chatanooga the greatest meeting ever held by Baptists came off. Thousands of Baptists attended the meetings. Great reports were heard from the secretaries of the various Boards, and the greatest reports ever heard from their missions in foreign fields were made. Along with attendance upon the convention, it was also the Editor's privilege to visit many points of interest in and around Chatanooga. Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Orchard Knob, the National cemetery and other points of interest were visited. One of the most thrilling experiences was a trip up the incline track to the top of Lookout Mountain. Part of the way the car is hauled up an incline of something like sixty or seventy degrees. When one remembers that ninety degrees is perpendicular, it is readily seen that this trip causes cold chills to travel up and down one's spine. One feels that if this first trip is safely made there will be no second trip, but knows if the first trip fails there will be no second trip.

Next time the Editor makes a visit to Chatanooga, he hopes to make it in company with some old soldier who can give thrilling descriptions

of the many points of historic interest. Even without such a companion, one feels that the ground upon which he stands is sacred.

UNION BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

It is always painful to have to chronicle the story of a fellow-man's downfall. One feels that if it was just to the readers to cover up such matters it would be best that nothing be said of such things. However, a public trust betrayed is a very different matter from private, personal affairs. The shortage of Mr. W. W. Hughes as treasurer of the Union Building and Loan Association came as a great surprise to the citizens of Union. He has held positions of trust for many years, and had very many warm friends. It is a real grief to these friends that matters turned out as they did. It is the old story of "speculation" that thus claims another victim. The net of this great monster closes about its victim so silently and invisibly that before he is aware of the situation every avenue of escape is cut off. There is such bright prospect of gain in such ventures that one is blinded to the dangers that must invariably enter into all such transactions. The increasing evils of "speculation" make it imperative that we condemn the thing and warn the public of the almost certain failure that must follow upon the heels of the speculator. But of this enough. The writer personally feels grieved that Mr. Hughes has fallen into this destroying demon's grip. And while he himself said "I am alone responsible," it yet remains that he is not alone responsible. A public conscience that tolerates and even favours the existence of "bucket shops" and that looks complacently upon all manner of gambling is not without its share in the guilt. A public conscience that condemns such transactions only when failure and ruin enters a victim's life is largely to blame for these calamities. There should be a complete and unwavering one of whatever name on the part of the public. There would then be less of such sad occurrences as the one recorded in this editorial. But of this enough. What of the Building and Loan Association involved in the case? The members of the association will stand together it is believed the situation can be saved. It is certain that all paid in has not been lost. To drop out now means further loss. In perhaps two years the association can recover itself. Besides, we are informed that from this time on the payments are to be made through the Merchants and Planters Bank each month. This management will safeguard the funds. Many years ago a treasurer of this same organization was found short in his accounts, but the whole matter was finally worked out and little loss sustained by any one individual. It is to be hoped that in the present case the same result may follow. Moreover, it is not unlikely that some of the lost money may be recovered from the Security Company that for many years carried Mr. Hughes. It is true that this bond was allowed to lapse about the first of the year. But the shortage must go back for several years, and such shortages it is thought would have to be covered by this company. A few words in conclusion: While these failures are discouraging, they should not be allowed to paralyze a community. They should not even be allowed to destroy our faith in our fellows. The whole business world is run upon faith. The wheels of the whole concern must stop if we lose faith in our fellow-men. Let us take the situation calmly, and with every possible safeguard for the avoidance of such an occurrence in the future that can be had, let us face the future hopefully and unflinchingly.

Anderson's power house on the Seneca river was destroyed by fire Friday, May 11th. In some way the wires caught fire and set the woodwork burning. The city of Anderson was in total darkness for three nights. There was no insurance to cover loss.

Excelsior Mill Notes.

I have been on the hunt for some furniture but to my disappointment past the ordinary, except the loss of a small baby at Mr. Coleman's, I think a grandchild of the Mr. and Mrs. Coleman.

Some two or three families pulled stakes and left for other parts, hoping, I suppose, to find a more congenial climate; or perhaps they are looking for a place where bread, butter and cheese grow on trees, and hence be able to live without so much toil, or they may be hunting, like the young man who wrote to Henry Ward Beecher, for an easy place. But the answer of the reverend gentleman to that young man was: "The grave was the only place he could refer him to." So we think the better plan is to hang on; just stick to your bush if you hope to ever get your basket filled.

Now as to work in the mills, I think where one follows this line of work for a living: just simply locate; make this your home; work a garden, keep your own cows, and, if possible, raise some chickens; live economically; lay up some money for a rainy day; and by all means send the children to school until they are at least fourteen years old. Then you will not find the very sad state of the children the writer did a few days ago, when he found two young men who could neither read nor write. How confused their ideas when asked by this scribe where they were raised; the answer was "in the cotton mill." I shuddered at the thought of children growing up in the mills without being able to so much as read. I asked myself what of the future of our cotton mill children. I hope the day may soon come when we will have a compulsory education law in all our Southland. JoJo.

Dr. Pell, of Converse, to Speak.

Mr. Jeffries has secured Rev. R. P. Pell, D. D., president of Converse college, to make the address at the closing exercises of the graded schools. Dr. Pell needs no introduction to people of South Carolina, and Union is glad of the opportunity to hear him. The exercises will be on Friday morning, June 1st, at 10 o'clock in the Central school building. The public are cordially invited.



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