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## THE LIEN LAW.

The repeal of the lien law is one of the familiar subjects. It is debated in the General Assembly every year. Like many very important bills proposed such as "the dog law," it is introduced amid smiles, and a dubitative follows, and that's the end of the bill. "The poor man's friend" is the familiar argument used to kill a repeal of the law.

So much has been said on the subject that there remains nothing new. We believe it is generally admitted that it would have been better for the people as a whole had no such law been passed. It was passed in Radical days, and the purpose of it was to enable colored tenants to get provisious, and the result is that the tenants, not the colored ones only, but white ones too, have fallen into a sloven and careless system of farming. The one purpose of the man who runs on a lien is to plant enough cotton to pay his grocery bill secured by the lien on his crop, and he cares very little about what becomes of his landlord's land. Consequently the tenant buys all of his provisions, often at very high prices, and raises nothing to eat at home. His landlord's land has been neglected and what was once rich, fertile fields is now a barren waste covered with broom straw or in gullies, and practically worthless.

We believe that if a direct vote of the people could be taken on the question of the repeal of the law, that a large majority would be in the affirmative. Hundreds and hundreds of merchant's will give it as their opinion that the law has encouraged dishonesty, that many of them have been ruined by it, and that it would be better for them to repeal the law.

The repeal of the lien law will do much towards solving the overproduction in cotton. A lien on a crop to secure a grocery bill precludes the idea of raising anything to eat, and hence the tenant starts out with the idea that he must plant cotton, and generally the merchant as a prerequisite to making the advances demands that a full crop of cotton be planted, and then a mortgage on the mile and the crop must be put in to make up for the probable low price of cotton.

But the point will be made, of course, is the country ready for it? Can it start on a new line all at once? The answer is that necessity will provide a remedy. Nobody, as far as we have ever known, has ever been in Fairfield County. Mr. Fairley, of Orangeburg, cited a case in point, during the debate the other day. "He would relate a case he knew of. A farmer gave a lien year after year. He went backwards and was finally sold out, and lost his horse, mule, and all. The merchant who had run him for five years refused him advances. He went home and cried until he was weak. He braced up, went and got an ox from a neighbor. He gathered up old ploughs." He made rations for his family. "At the end of the year he had three bales of cotton and did not owe a cent on them, and to-day that farmer is pretty well off and does not owe a cent." Repeat the lien law, and all liens will have to do as Mr. Fairley's man, but like Mr. Fairley's farmer, they will not do until forced by necessity.

## THE PATTON REDISTRICTING BILL.

By hard and able work with justice to strengthen his case Mr. Patton has succeeded in passing his bill through the House, and if it shall pass the Senate it will be the end of the "shoestring Congressional Districts." As far as Fairfield is concerned, we do not think it will be any worse off in the new arrangement of the District, and we cannot say that it will be any better off for the change but taking the State as a whole the change sought to be made by the Patton bill is desirable. Fairfield under the Patton bill will be in what is nominated "The Wateress District consisting of Fairfield, Kershaw, Richland, Sumter, and Clarendon." The present peculiarly shaped districts, as is well known, was done to throw as many white voters in them as possible, and as the reason has ceased to exist it is absurd to continue the senseless divisions of the State. Under the present Constitution the negro vote is no longer a menace, and logical and sensible districts should be formed without chopping slices of a number of counties.

COL. W. A. NEAL has made a good record as a public official, but he had too much to do with "management" of somebody's campaign. In politics as soon as it is found out that a man is trying to be somebody else's man besides his own, that man is marked and his political career is soon ended.

There is no better medicine for the babies than Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. Its pleasant taste and prompt and effective cures make it a favorite with mothers and small children. It quickly cures their coughs and colds, preventing pneumonia or other serious consequences. It also cures croup and has been used in tens of thousands of cases without a single failure so far as we have been able to learn. It not only cures croup, but when given as soon as the croupy cough appears, will prevent the attack. In cases of whooping-cough it quietes the tough mucus, making it easier to expel, and lessens the severity and frequency of the paroxysms of coughing, thus depriving that disease of all dangerous consequences. For sale by McMaster Co.

If any body in this part of the country owns any land which appears to smoke in rainy season, he may have cause to thank the up-and-coming Republican for the following curious information: "There is an interesting report in connection with a cement mill which is about to start up in Kansas. For years near Maize there used to be a large tract of smoking ground. It was good for raising cotton, but during and after a rain it would be covered with a mud which was so bad that no one knew what to do with it, and no one knew who owned it, and no one knew who had bought it. The cement lies on the surface in great quantities, and is worth \$10 a barrel." - News and Courier.

This is reproduced here for the benefit of any land owners in Fairfield who have land "which appears to smoke in rainy seasons."

## WORLD'S BEST LITERATURE IN SIXTY-SIX VOLUMES.

The Bible Student and Religious Outlook. Several libraries of "the world's Best Literature" have been recently published and advertised and bought extensively. We do not particularly admire these works. But the idea set us thinking, and we purpose publishing now of a other library of sixty-six volumes, which are in the much of all, and which may justly be styled "The World's Best Literature."

This is really a comprehensive library, of sixty-six works, by some forty different authors, including history, philosophy, poetry, fiction, law, essays, letters and religion. The writings are not confined to one age, but cover a period of 1,600 years. Moreover, the masterpieces here gathered together are the foundation and fountain head of most of the rest of the world's good literature. The most able of all the world's writers, with few exceptions, have acknowledged their indebtedness to these authors by continued quotation and allusion, if not by actual confession and tribute. No one who makes any pretensions to literary culture, can afford to neglect these writings. Dr. Wordsworth speaks thus of them: "The Bible alone, of all books in the world, addresses itself to the whole man. It exercises his memory, strengthens his reason, controls his passions, informs his judgment, regulates his conscience, sanctifies his will, enlivens his fancy, warms his imagination, quickens his hope, and animates his faith."

Others have testified similarly. Sir Wm. Jones wrote on the fly-leaf of his Bible: "I have regularly and attentively read these Holy Scriptures, and am of opinion, that this volume, independently of its divine origin, contains more nobly and beautifully, more pure morality, more perfect history, and finer strains of poetry and eloquence, than can be collected from all other books, in whatever shape or language they may have been composed."

Any one who is perfectly master of the literature in these sixty-six volumes, must have a cultivated taste, or in other words, literary culture. Where can historians be found so perfectly accurate, impartial, and dramatic-as to Prof. Rogers' words: "As Moses and the writers of Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, and the Gospels and Acts?" Calmly and majesticly the facts are narrated without comment to bias the reader. The shortcomings and falls and exegesis-sins of the heroic, wise, and good are told without concealment, qualification or apology. Yet nowhere do we find the dry, mechanical record of the annalist.

Or take heroic poetry combined with dramatic form, and where have we anything grander than the Epics of Job? Where can enduring poems be found than in this work? There can be no greater bursts of eloquence than are to be found in the prophetic

books in the Book of Psalms; no more beautiful and absorbing passages than in the parables; no more powerful reasoning than Paul gives us on occasions.

There is humor in Judges, wit and wisdom in Proverbs, sarcasm and satire in Galatians and elsewhere.

We are arguing on a lower plane for the excellence of the Bible as a field of study for literary culture, because we expect to help our readers who will follow us to better methods of study and a better understanding of the Bible, which is in truth a library of sixty-six volumes, inordinately bound into one.

For fear that we will be considered as *ex parte* and biased in our estimate of the literary excellence of the volumes in this library, we will wish to come to the examination of our readers, we will close with the estimation of a literary critic, one thus biased: "We take the quota of Prof. Shuster's "Wis and Humor of the Bible." "As a particular book, the Bible is an unequalled source of literary inspiration. As a book of religious truth, it is supreme; but religious truth without any impairment of its value or obscurity of its meaning, may be studied from the literary standpoint; in fact, in the light of literary criticism, or tested by the usual canons of the scholar, it will appear more sacred, more beautiful, more divine. Never forgetting that it is the manual of religion, it is also the vehicle of the most wonderful literature in human annals, and precedes in importance all others. There is no book so composite in character and yet so harmonious in plan, so multiplex in styles and yet so educational in rhetoric and logic, as varied in content, and yet so progressive in philosophy and religion, as the Bible. Taken as a whole, it is a massive comprehensive, a revelation of the Infinite, as in its parts, it is a stimulus to the highest faculties of the human mind throughout the whole frame. Its parables are more compact than those of Herodotus, Gibbon or Macaulay; its poetry, whose key is a mystery, equals Homer, Shakespeare and Tennyson; its proverbs are unique clinches of wisdom, both in dexter and substance; its biographies excel those of Plutarch, Irving, Carlyle and Boswell; its chronicles of wars are superior to those of Julius Caesar, Wellington, Napoleon, and Ulysses Grant; its epistles eclipse those of Pliny, Madame Sevigne and Francis Bacon; its laws, in their ethical and spiritual import, are quite beyond Justinian, Blackstone and the English Parliament. Every classic of literature, every norm of wisdom, is in the Bible. It ministers to all tastes and arouses the slumbering intellects of all who can comprehend the difference between reality and fiction, and who incline to virtue rather than vice."

Ruskin confesses his indebtedness to the Bible, Homer and Sir Walter Scott for his mental discipline; Charles Reade pronounces the characters in the Scripture a literary marvel. Matthew Arnold daily read the New Testament in Greek for its style. Milton could not have written Paradise Lost without the Bible; Keats's wretched style is traceable to the New Testament. Job has taught the great art of construction, and David has sung an army to victory into the ears of the Philistines. The Book of Ruth is the model of idyl, and the Books of Esther and Daniel abound in incomparable dramatic elements; Job has plumped the statesman for oratorical flights; Jerome has opened the fountains of paths and sentiment in patristic souls; Ezekiel has furnished a useable style of judicial denunciation for the criminal

A COLONIAL VALENTINE  
To a Belle of 1770.

There's not a damsel in the town,  
But distanced is complete.  
B. Polly's her prim grave gone;  
This fits her form so neat.  
I wond' I were so golden pine,  
To clasps her frocks securely,  
Soo I might kiss her dimpled chinne  
When downe she looks demure.

Pabst  
Malt Extract  
The Best Tonic

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Wherever the Bible is in the hands of

lawyer. Of all books, whether rhythmic, logic, vocabulary, poetry, philosophy, history, or whatever be the end, the Bible should be first and most carefully studied, its literary spirit and form should be closely traced and described, and its truth should be reverently incorporated into the daily speech, thought and life."

With all this, Christians seeking literary culture will spend the Sabbath hours even reading Maria Corelli, Alphonse Daudet, or some sensational newspaper, while this library of the World's best literature rests idle on their shelves!

An Editor's Life Saved by Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

A CHANGE OF PASTORATES.

The following is an extract from a letter written by Rev. J. A. Ferris to the Baptist Courier and published in the last issue of that paper:

Winnsboro, Jan. 12.—I have just received and accepted a unanimous call to the pastorate of the church at Kershaw, S. C., and expect to begin my work there February 1st. From what I can hear of the place and could see during a brief visit, it seems to be a large field for usefulness, and I trust that I will make good returns for my time and labor.

The symptoms of kidney trouble are unmistakable, such as rheumatism, neuralgia, sleeplessness, pain or dull ache in the back, a desire to urinate often day or night, profuse or scanty supply.

Uric acid or brick-dust deposit in urine are signs of clogged kidneys, causing poisoned and germ-filled blood. Sometimes the heart acts badly, and tube casts (wasting of the kidneys) are found in the urine, which if neglected will result in Bright's Disease, the most dangerous form of kidney trouble.

All these symptoms and conditions

are promptly removed under the influence of Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root.

It has a world wide reputation for its wonderful cures of the most distressing cases.

No one need be long without it as it is so easy to get at any drug store at fifty cents or one dollar. You can have a sample bottle of this wonderful discovery, Swamp-Root, and a book telling all about it, both sent to you absolutely free of mail. Send your address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., and kindly mention that you read this liberal offer in THE NEWS AND HERALD.

The Ravages of Grippe.

That modern scourge, the Grippe, poisons the body with its fatal germs, so that no home is safe from its dangers, so that multitudes have found a safe protection against this dangerous malady in Dr. King's New Discovery.

When you feel a soreness in your bones and muscles, chills and fever, with sore throat, pain in the back of the head, catarrhal symptoms and a stubborn cough you may know you have the Grippe, and that you need Dr. King's New Discovery.

It will promptly cure the worst cases, kill the inflamed membranes, kill the dangerous germs and prevent the dreaded after effects of the malady.

Price 50 cents and \$1.00. Money back if not cured. A trial bottle free at McMaster Co.'s drug store.

NOTHING ON THE ROADS.

It is two late for this general assembly to distinguish itself by establishing a safe and definite road system for the State and to build for itself a monopoly which will endure while the State exists?

We have had in South Carolina a century and a half of government which could not be civilized, twenty-two years of which were devoted to the cause of "reform" government. Our reports from everywhere say that the roads are to-day worse than they have ever been. Millions of dollars of the money of the taxpayers have been spent on them, and yet the taxpayer can not use them without serious danger to his neck, his horse, and his running gear. Because we have had some days of rain the people in the country are compelled to stay at home, road bound. They can not venture out for business or pleasure.

How long will we continue this folly? Why should we continue it?

We have got to come down to rock and rock placed on scientific road building principles. The work must be done some time. Why not begin now?

Five hundred convicts with the help of material and the regular road labor of the counties could do an enormous amount of road building work in a year. The roads they would build would be worth vastly more to the people of the State, now and hereafter, directly and indirectly, than their labor could yield on State farms or in hire by leases. We would not care where or how they began, so they began. They might build a broad, hard, enduring road, straight through the State from the North Carolina line in Spartanburg, Greenville, Pickens, or Oconee to the coast of the Atlantic, or from Charleston or Port Royal, or they might build across the State or begin in Columbia and build out twenty miles to each point of the compass. It would make no difference where they began. If they built 200 miles a year they would complete 2,000 miles in ten years and would add vastly to the value of property and the comfort of living and save thousands of dollars in horse flesh, vehicles and time whenever they went.

The Romans built roads which are good after twelve centuries of hard use. We can build roads to a good. This is Ezekiel's year to make a beginning.

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## A COLONIAL VALENTINE

To a Belle of 1770.

There's not a damsel in the town,  
But distanced is complete.  
B. Polly's her prim grave gone;  
This fits her form so neat.  
I wond' I were so golden pine,  
To clasps her frocks securely,  
Soo I might kiss her dimpled chinne  
When downe she looks demure.

And when upon ye windy square  
By thought chance I met her—  
We're "thine" and "thine" each other  
there—

(Sure bugge no' was "weener")

It ben'f'le his ebb and ebb  
Between my glazey steedie  
I cannot help but hope withal,  
Since we are "Fair ones" alreadie.

How often have I longed to looke  
Within ye silken Shaker  
That bends above ye singinge-book  
Of this most lovelie Quaker;

But ah, her plie reprobres

My all-to-arduate passion—

I fear sometyme—  
My spirituous.

I very world is fashion.

For in this citie where ye Penn—

Above ye sword hath honour,

Ye rascals of King George's menne

Had best not gaze upon her;

For tho' I am a manne of peace,

And tho' my heart is tender,

I'd challenge all ye Colonies

If need were