



TO THINE OWN SELF BE TRUE, AND IT MUST FOLLOW AS THE

NIGHT THE DAY, THOU CANST NOT THEN BE FALSE TO ANY MAN.

BY KEITH, SMITH & CO.

WALHALLA, SOUTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1880.

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An Evening Prayer.

Now the day is over,
Night is drawing nigh,
Shadows from the evening
Steal across the sky.

Now the darkness gathers,
Stars begin to peep,
Birds and beasts and flowers
Soon will be asleep.

Jesus, give the weary
Calm and sweet repose,
With Thy tenderest blessing
May our eyelids close.

Grant to little children
Visions bright of Thee;
Guard the sailors tossing
On the deep blue sea.

Comfort every sufferer
Watching late in pain;
Those who plan some evil
From their sin restrain.

Through the long night watches,
May Thine angels spread
Their white wings above me,
Watching round my bed.

When the morning wakens,
Then may I arise,
Pure and fresh and sinless
In Thy holy eyes.

Glory to the Father,
Glory to the Son,
And to Thee, blest Spirit,
Whilst all ages run.

Visit To Toccoa Falls.

SENeca CITY, June 28th, 1880.
MESSRS. EDITORS: In order to please the women, and, by the way, I have lost all the hair off the top of my head in trying to please one, I am forced to attempt to write a description of an excursion which went from here to Toccoa Falls on last Saturday. I am forced to do something I never did before, forced by a woman, a mystery. "But when she will she will, you may depend on it, and when she won't, she won't, and there's the end of it."

Tench Cox used to say "of all the fools in this world the human family takes the lead," and I believe an old fool about women ought to be pensioned, for if it was not for them some women would not have any one to "make faces" at when they go to church, besides each other. Poor things! how I pity them, but I can't help loving them. I reckon it is out of compassion for them. Some folks haven't got sense enough to know they haven't got any sense, but I, having lost my scalp-lock, know enough to die a trying to please the dear creatures. But I'll be hung if I ever try to win one of them again with poetry. A dish of pork and beans, bacon or cabbage, or a bottle of pickles is far more winning to the women of the period than lines.

Well, I've got that much off my mind, and will begin by saying that on last Saturday morning our party, under the command of Dr. H. and lady and "Aunt Fannie" boarded the 6 o'clock train and with the parting admonition of Alf. Thompson to Jim McCoole, to take good care of the children, we shot away like an arrow for the falls and fun.

At Westminster I had the pleasure of meeting Cousin Susie Shelor, who took the train there for her home in Georgia. I spent the time very pleasantly till we arrived at Toccoa, watching for a chance to get in a word between the volleys that were passing between her and "Aunt Fannie." Isn't it wonderful how much two women can talk of to talk about when they meet one another, and more so when they get up to start home after a visit to one another. I also met at Toccoa Mr. James Cherry, a brother of Dr. Cherry, of our place, who had come back to see his brother and friends in South Carolina, after an absence of 40 years. He recognized me by my likeness to my grandfather, Col. Trimmer, an old revolutionist, whom he had known and loved in his early life. The few words the moments permitted him to say to me and the grip he gave my hand as the train moved off, amply repaid me for my visit to Toccoa that day.

When we got to the hotel, if we hadn't been already in high spirits, "Cousin John's" cordial welcome and hearty shake of the hand would have placed any one at ease. Dr. H. soon made arrangements with Ed. Cobb to carry the party in hacks to the falls for a very reasonable price. After going about a mile we crossed the Toccoa Creek, and kept crossing it so often that it seems as if it had been so badly scored by its tumble over the rocks above that it did not know which way to run. We soon arrived at the stopping place for the vehicles, some two hundred yards below the falls. We then proceeded on foot up the creek, carrying baskets, boxes, babies, &c., till we came suddenly in view of the falls and its surroundings present to the astonished beholder. All that I could say was, "Hurrah for Hampton!" and if that don't mean more than anything else, I don't know the English language.

A few moments were spent by the party in exhausting the vocabulary of words of admiration of this lovely spot, and then the young "cusses" grabbed the girls and started off to the top of the mountain and left me to take care of the women and children. I got my fiddle and played "Sweet Bye-and-Bye," and was determined to watch my chance to get it before long, too. I was in hopes the little ones would all go to sleep, but the little dickens, all but one, who was too powerful little, only got wider awake and tumbled into the creek and had a blamed sight more fun than I did, but I soon slipped off after the party at the summit. I at length got up some how or other, and after getting my breath sang "I'll hang my harp on a willow tree," though I didn't have any idea of doing such a thing.

After awhile the party came down to the base of the falls, and danced and courted and flirted and kicked up generally, making me fiddle for them till the time came for dinner. Then I was astonished, as I ever am at women, how they can put away so many things in a basket, and how they can think of so many good things and get them up for picnics and weddings, &c. After we had done our best to diminish the inexhaustible supply of solid substantial and delicacies and drank a cup of coffee which the good Doctor had provided at a neighboring house, every one vied with each other in doing this, that and the other in making each other happy.

Just after dinner we had a grand thunder storm, from which we took refuge in a shanty near by. We met here an artist from Atlanta, who is doing the falls and surroundings, and anything else which presents itself, and who remains about a month. During the storm he took an umbrella and rubber coat and was briskly engaged in some work near the falls. During the morning he was engaged in sketching, and the several parties who were standing or sitting in the neighborhood were transferred to his book. One of our party, a young fellow who always manages to cut me out some girl came up with his head decorated with ferns and flowers. The artist remarked, "You have a beautiful head dress." It was a great relief to me to at once observe to the artist, "This fellow's head has just bloomed; in time, perhaps, it may bear some fruit." And another little red-headed rascal, who had taken the fattest and finest looking lady in the party, and stuck to her all day, was sitting on a large rock for some time. I told him the artist had taken the picture of the lady as a shepherdess and her infant son while they were sitting there. Afterwards during the day the boys frequently asked him if he wasn't old enough to drink buttermilk. But every one took the jokes, &c., in good humor and out of the many picnics, &c., that I have been at in my life I never saw as pleasant a one. I can't describe the falls, and won't try to do so, but I say God bless our party, from the oldest one to the little red-headed baby, who, I believe, was the happiest one, if possible, of the whole party.

At 3 o'clock we left the falls with regret and stopped at the Garnet Springs on the way back and spent a few minutes in enjoying the delicious water. If we had had time we would have been pleased to have stayed the remainder of the afternoon at this delightful place. Here there is a nice shed for dancing and croquet ground, all in nice order.

We arrived in Toccoa in due time and spent the afternoon in various ways; every one as suited them best. "Aunt Fannie" and I visited some relatives and were shown around the place by another cousin of hers, the incomparable Glenn, who is a wide awake Georgia farmer, who drives a sulky plow on the finest plantation in Upper Georgia. He expects to come to Seneca shortly and the ladies are informed that he is a "good catch."

Toccoa is a beautiful place. They have saved their shade trees and planted others. I observed some very pretty houses and many flowers, a sure evidence of refinement. Two parks are being improved, one by the railroad, the other by the town. The melody from a brass band was heard during the time we remained. Toccoa is a wide awake place. The people are united. They seem to know each other and are trying to make each other happy.

I wish I had space in your columns to do justice to Toccoa, to its improvements, its clever people, its visitors and its beautiful surroundings, but I haven't got the space, so I'll bid adieu to it with a God's blessing on "Cousin John" and the whole town.

o'clock train, and parted with friendships formed and friendships strengthened which time cannot affect, and with the hope of again taking such another trip with a party who were so kind to each other, and to me, I am thine forever and yours truly,

B. P. S.

Our Public School System and its Effects Upon Us.

Speech Delivered at South Union on the 18th of June, by Wm. P. Calhoun, Esq.

I have selected a subject upon which much has been said, both pro and con; but it is one that is of great importance to us, since it is so woven in with our country's prosperity or decline. Much depends on it and consequently we cannot be too familiar with it. One reason why I have selected this subject as a suitable theme to address you upon to-day is, that not long since I was in a crowd of men and the subject was brought up, and I think that every one professed ignorance about it and my object to-day is to endeavor to throw some light on the subject, at least one side of it, and I will do as much as I can with it as the limited time I have to treat of it will permit.

As I remarked above, our public school system, if it can be called a system at all, is of vital importance to us as a people. Knowledge is a good heritage, and you cannot leave your children a better legacy. It is a legacy that no one can be deprived of, and it is an investment that pays good interest. Does the system meet the demands of the times and are your children under it receiving a sufficient legacy? If they are, it is a good thing, if not, then we should try to better the condition of things and give them a proper legacy. But, however, I hope that you will be better able to judge of this matter before I get through. All I ask is that you give the matter your consideration and weigh it for yourself. The public school system has been in use for some time in various countries. I am not able just now to give dates, but they are immaterial since they do not affect us here. It has been tried in various ways, with more or less success, with the less predominating. It sprang rather from communism than anything else and a desire to make education universal, that is, to extend it to all classes of persons, especially, though, to the poorer classes—to those persons who were not able to educate their children. This, no doubt, may have been the primary object, and the real foundation of the public, or as it is sometimes called, the free school system of education; and take it in this light it is a good idea. Germany, England, Scotland, France—all have their public schools, and in Germany the attendance is compulsory. It has been more or less successful in all these countries under their various systems. Especially has it been successful in Scotland. It would be useless for me to undertake to explain the systems of other countries. We are a peculiar people in America. We think that we can do just as well, as we have done, and better too, on our own hook, as other nations. We must have our ways about everything. So we have a system of public schools, worked on what is known as the "American system," and I am sorry to say that with all our boasting as to our inventive genius, we have not invented a sufficient public school nor have we improved on those of any other country. The idea is to make education universal as possible, to reach all classes and conditions of persons. To raise our standard, and to make the masses as intelligent as possible, to overcome superstition and ignorance; to improve society and prevent crime; we have laws in this State purporting to regulate the management and conduct of our public schools, but the only part of them that are enforced is the collection of inadequate taxes for their support and the election and maintenance of the officers required by law to carry the system into effect. The law requires that schools shall be kept open for at least six months during each year. Now take the schools throughout the State and you will find the average time to be nearer three than six months, and the law still further provides, that as soon as a system of public schools are established, that the attendance shall be compulsory, and it still further provides that a normal school shall be established, within five years after the adoption of our present constitution, which shall be open to all persons who may wish, to become teachers. These are good provisions and they are of great importance in properly conducting our schools. In fact, free public schools cannot be carried on successfully without them. But when will we have these provisions passed? When will we have a perfect system of free public schools? When will we have a normal school? How can we enforce the compulsory clause? As the matter now stands we will never have them. The public is giving it too little consideration. It is a dead issue as it now stands and I am unable to see how it is to be resurrected and put in a healthy condition. You will find a great many who will join issue with me in this matter, and I ask them only to look into it for themselves. They perhaps have only looked at it as to the temporal aid that they receive from it and not at it as it affects the State or their country. This subject has been, as I remarked in the outset, variously discussed both pro and con, but never, it appears, satisfactorily. There is no doubt but that it can be improved immensely, but whether it can ever be made to meet the contingencies of

that time only can or will answer definitely. Let us see how we are getting along with it. You may contend that our public system is working an immense deal of good. That it saves you so much money every year in the way of tuition and that it enables some of your neighbors to give their children an education, or at least a part of one; but nine chances out of ten you never look farther. There you stop and there is just where you should commence to think. You go thus far in the dark. Now let us raise the curtain a little and see what is behind the scenes. We should not let the first glare from the footlights blind us and pronounce a false an excellent tragedy. To make our schools successful we must have educated persons to teach them and we must pay them for their services promptly, otherwise you will not be able to retain the services of competent teachers. From this not paying the teachers a living salary, from this dependency on the pittance from the public funds to keep our schools up, we have not that class of men that we should have at the head of our schools and as a consequence the School Commissioners have to take such as present themselves and we have to make the best possible shift we can under the circumstances. Then again men that are perfectly able to send their children to school screen themselves behind our so-called public schools and keep their children at home to grow up in comparative ignorance. It acts, I suppose, as a balm to their consciences and they go on apparently satisfied with—yes, I must say it—the positive injury that they are inflicting upon their children. If all this does not spring from this system of public schools what does it spring from? Allow me here to remark by way of a side note, that according to my ideas, besides the training that a teacher should secure in a normal school, his qualifications should embrace Latin, Greek and German. How often now a day do you find men teaching who cannot read intelligently or grammatically? You are doing your child a positive injury by patronizing such a man, and what does this spring from? Why from our cheap free school system. You may now ask how are we to attain this degree of efficiency? I answer, that we cannot do so in a day, nor years. We must pay more school tax, make the attendance compulsory for a specified period and establish a normal school for training teachers how to teach and we will in part remedy it. Now let us look at the six months clause, that we all know to be a failure, from the simple fact that the schools are not kept open more than three months during the year. No child under the sun can go to school three months out of the year and get an education. He will be more apt to advance like a crab backwards. Now can you contend that this is advantageous to us, or rather does it not work to our detriment. It has been remarked by some one writing on this subject that, "The dish from which all are to sup may be wide, but it cannot be deep." The trouble with us now is that our public school dish is too wide, without sufficient depth. It would cost a great deal of money to deepen this dish, and I fear the State will never undertake it. A teacher, I contend, cannot teach more than forty pupils well, if that is not too many, but under the present system he has to take all that apply and he must necessarily feed them from a shallow dish, never mind how great his own mental powers. A man is but a man and he is able to accomplish daily just so much and no more, and we ought not to blame a man when he is over-taxed for about three months out of the year, for feeding his pupils from a shallow dish. Another requirement of the law is, that the schools be kept open six hours daily. It had better required half that time and put proper men or rather competent men at the head of the schools. I do not desire you to understand me as condemning unconditionally our public school system, but on the contrary, I believe that when properly conducted that great results may be accomplished. But what I am condemning is the workings of it as we now have it in South Carolina. Neither do I intend to nor can I censure our school officials for the manner in which the system is managed. They do the best they can with the material in store. The incumbent, Mr. Hugh S. Thompson, Superintendent of Education, has done much to put things in a proper working order. There has been a great improvement since 1876, at which time the State was rescued from the band of plunderers that had charge of it, and we may still hope that the improvement will continue. Let us come right home now and see how it is with ourselves. As you all know I have been teaching near here for two and a half years and consequently I have had a chance to make some observations. You have here at South Union, as we have in Fair Play, a large number of children. Both places may be denominated good localities for schools, and besides, the people are as able to educate these children as anywhere else in the county, and they appear to appreciate the necessity of educating them, and they do perhaps receive more attention than any others. I tell you, though, candidly, that I believe if it was not for the public money, taking it upon the whole, the rising generation would receive an education fifty per cent better than it is with it. Men who are able to educate their children will ask you, as soon as you mention school to them, "When does the public money set in, when will it stop?" and they will patronize the school so long as the pitiful sum is being paid by the County. They seem to lose sight of the fact that it is not the public money that they should consider, but the welfare of the child, you will be surprised no doubt when I tell you that

children are receiving anything like a thorough education. During the time the public schools are open the schools are full and everything looks cheery, but as soon as they close where are we? You all know this, and I am only wasting your time repeating it. Over two thirds of our schools close after the three months public term to remain closed for nine months. Is this not progressing like that inevitable crab backwards? This is certainly a reversed order of things. It should read open nine months and closed three. The amount paid per capita by the county will not average two dollars, and this same two dollars is causing many a child to grow up in comparative ignorance. When I see the evils of the public system of education booming up before me daily, and when I have been dealing with it in this State and Georgia for nearly four years, can you ask me to praise it, and say that it is a good thing? Can you ask me to pander to public sentiment? If this people would only receive the public funds as an aid, and not depend upon it to educate their children, then I would say that as far as it went it was good, but right here is the trouble and right here is where the mischief is done, as I have before shown you. It is too much dependent upon. We can look upon it only as an aid and in no other light. It is an effort by the State to create a stimulus for the advancement of her educational interests. Call it by any name you choose and you can make nothing more out of it. We should appreciate the effort. We should all love our country, and we should rejoice in its prosperity. I want to see it grow in refinement, religion and morals. The essential prop to this is education. Besides we want a good healthy government, and the prop of this education. We want to overcome superstition and ignorance, and we want to free our land of crime and the way to accomplish this is through education. The cry is we must have farmers to represent us. Then the school be, too, then the farmers must be educated. The county needs all the intelligence that it can get and we need it among no other men as much as the farmers, since they are the bones and sinews of the country. They are the ones that are suffering most from our free public school system. I want them fully to appreciate this fact, that it may arouse them properly to their duty, for from the people must come the improvement in the system. This is a Democratic country and all laws come from them. They are the ones to raise the cry of dissatisfaction or approval, and when public sentiment once flows in the same direction, it sweeps everything before it. You may have as many Superintendents of Education, as you please, but they are powerless without the aid and co-operation of the people. If I have appeared harsh to day or if I have placed too high a standard on educational matters, at least higher than you think it is in our power to reach, ascribe it to a desire on my part to see our old State improved—to see individual man raised far beyond the level of the brute creation—to create a desire among us to keep toiling onward and upward to get you to look at this public school system in its proper light to benefit these children, for they are the ones that are suffering from it. Now I beg every one here to day to think less of the few dollars expended in the education of their children, and to think more of the amount of their real advancement. Lay aside the idea that the public school system is efficient, enough alone to give your children a proper education. But in the meanwhile discuss this subject among yourselves, and try to make every one understand that it is inefficient as it now stands to support in the true sense of the word free schools. Our public schools are generally called free schools, but this is a misnomer. In conclusion allow me to state that I have not gone into causes and effects. My time would not permit me to do so, but I have only jotted down a few facts which may serve as grounds for thought. Let us hope that the system will continue to be improved and that in the near future we will have a perfect system of free schools that every South Carolinian will be proud of.

MINNEAPOLIS, July 1.—The boiler of the Lake Minnetonka pleasure steamer Mary exploded with terrible effect at 6:25 A. M. to-day at the Hotel St. Louis while the steamer was on the way to Waysale to take on board a hundred excursionists. The three men were killed and five wounded. The steamer was completely wrecked. This is the third boiler of the same manufacture which has exploded on the lake within three years.

The only proper thing to do with a horse that has the glanders is to shoot him. He can't be cured, and he is constantly spreading the disease among horses, and even men. In some countries it is unlawful to drive a glandered horse.

He was informed that a lady had called to see him in his absence. "A lady," he mused aloud, "a lady." Upon an accurate description he suddenly brightened up and added, "Oh, dot vas no lady; dot vas my wife."

If I have ever used any unkind words, I am sorry, said Mr. Smiley reflectively, "I took them all back." "Yes, I suppose you want to use them over again," was the not

Platform Adopted by the National Convention of the Democratic Party, June 22nd, 1880.

The Democrats of the United States in Convention assembled declare:

First. We pledge ourselves anew to the Constitutional doctrines and traditions of the Democratic party as illustrated by the teaching and example of a long line of Democratic statesmen and patriots and embodied in the platform of the last National Convention of the party.

Second. Opposition to centralization and to that dangerous spirit of encroachment which tends to consolidate the powers of all departments in one, and thus create, whatever be the form of government, a real despotism; no summary laws; separation of Church and State for the good of each; common schools fostered and protected.

Third. Honest, honest money, strict maintenance of public faith; a currency consisting of gold and silver and paper convertible into coin on demand, and tariff for revenue only.

Fourth. Subordination of military to civil power, and general and thorough reform of civil service.

Fifth. The right to free ballot is the right preservative of all rights, and must and shall be maintained in every part of the United States.

Sixth. The existing Administration is the representative of a conspiracy only, and its claim of right to surround the ballot boxes with troops and deputy marshals to intimidate and obstruct elections, and the unprecedented use of the veto to maintain its corrupt and despotic power, insults the people and imperils their institutions.

Seventh. The great fraud of 1876-77, by which, upon a false count of the electoral votes of two States a candidate defeated at the polls was declared to be President, and for the first time in American history the will of the people was set aside under a threat of military violence, struck a deadly blow at our system of representative government. The Democratic party to preserve the country from civil war submitted for the time in the firm and patriotic faith that the people would punish this crime in 1880. This issue precedes and dwarfs every other. It imposes a more sacred duty upon the people of the Union than ever addressed the conscience of a nation of freemen.

Eighth. We execute the cause of this Administration in making places in the civil service a reward for political crime, and demand reform by a statute which shall make it forever impossible for a defeated candidate to bribe his way to the seat of a usurper by billeting villains upon the people.

[Nine was read again in response to demands, and was received with applause.]

Ninth. The resolution of Samuel J. Tilden not again to be a candidate for the exalted place to which he was elected by a majority of his countrymen and which he was excluded by the leaders of the Republican party, is received by the Democrats of the United States with sensibility, and they declare their confidence in his wisdom, patriotism and integrity unshaken by the assaults of a common enemy, and they further assure him that he is followed into the retirement he has chosen for himself by the sympathy and respect of his fellow citizens, who regard him as one who by elevating the standards of public morality and adorning and purifying the public service, merits the lasting gratitude of his country and his party.

Tenth. Free ships and a living chance for American commerce on the seas, and on land no discrimination in favor of transportation lines, corporations or monopolies.

Eleventh. The amendment of the Burlingame Treaty. No mere Chinese immigration except for travel, education and foreign commerce, and carefully guarded.

Twelfth. Public money, public credit for public purposes solely, and public land for actual settlers.

Thirteenth. The Democratic party is the friend of labor and the laboring man, and pledges itself to protect him alike against capitalists and the commune.

Fourteenth. We congratulate the country upon the honesty and thrift of the Democratic Congress, which has reduced public expenditures forty millions a year, upon the continuation of prosperity at home and National honor abroad, and above all, upon the promise of such change in the administration of the government as shall insure us genuine and lasting reform in every department of the public service.

A Irishman on the zebra: "Phat kind of a baste is that—the mule wid his ribs on the outside of his skin entirely?"

Philadelphia clergymen state that the commandment against swearing was gotten up before croquet was invented.

A wife should preserve the honor of her husband's name, or frequently that is all he has over given her worth mentioning.

Planting flax for the production of linseed oil and lint is proposed to be tried near San Antonio, Texas, where flax grows wild.

Sixty-three thousand people are in Russian prisons. Those who are out of prison are beginning to regard themselves as