

The Barnwell Sentinel,

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by THE NEW SENTINEL PUBLISHING COMPANY
—AT—
BARNWELL, S. C.

OMAS CARROLL SIMMS, President
Jno. K. SNELLING, Sec.-Treas. and General Manager.

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All communications must be signed by the writer, not for publication, but as an evidence of good faith, and top-most the newspaper.

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TOWN THOROUGHFARES

John Jasper of the "sun do move" fame might also have said that towns do move. At any rate one of the growing pains experienced by small towns is in the contracted streets through which its vehicles move. This condition prevails not only in the smaller towns, but also in some of the largest cities. In Baltimore a few years ago the city was put to a great expense in order that it might broaden two of its principal streets.

Our streets suited well the days before the handsome carriages with negro drivers gave place to high powered automobiles, and when the slow moving wagon and mules had no thought of being supplanted by the motor truck. Public utilities such as telegraph, telephone, and electric wires must run through the streets, and their poles encroach on ground that is already too little for the growing traffic. It is well known that any dog that runs on the streets is sooner or later killed by an automobile. The wonder is that such accidents happen only to dogs and not to children or older people. We have come to recognize the danger of grade crossings with railroads. Almost every week tells the story of some automobile wrecked and its occupants killed by the train. The danger is but little less on the narrow streets where they cross each other. In many cases this danger is increased by the shrubbery growing in the corners of the yards which prevents the approaching cars from being seen by each other.

Small towns do not enjoy the skill of trained road engineers and are not able to bear the expense of paved drains to carry off the storm water. The consequence is that on many streets that space which is so sadly needed for passing vehicles is lessened by unsightly ditches which in some cases have grown into gullies. Clothes may make the man, but it is always true that no town can be any more beautiful than the streets. The beauty of any handsome residence, with spacious and well kept lawn with its flowers and gravelled or paved walks is always heightened or lowered by the meanness or wealth of the street on which it fronts. It may also be said that the sense of beauty held by the town as a whole is more clearly seen in its streets than anywhere else.

OLD FASHIONED MOTHERS.

What has become of the old fashioned mothers of our country? Their pictures enlarged from tintypes or deguerotypes of former days now adorn the best room in the house or have been hidden away by some

granddaughter who is ashamed that her friends should see any of her ancestry.

The old fashioned mother was the nearest approach to perpetual motion in her day. She was a true housewife when there were no labor saving inventions as today. Everything domestic bore the impress of her housewifely hand. Her family knew that no butter, biscuits, milk or anything else were anywhere as sweet as hers. Her beds were the most comfortable. In some cases she took the garden under her own hand and where her husband was poorly blessed with the filthy lucre she shared her labors on the farm. In many cases she inherited or was taught the knowledge of simple remedies and was the family physician. Her treatment was often heroic and very successful. Among the negroes her skill as a doctor was regarded as but little less than miraculous. The clothing of the family fell to her charge. In some cases it was her duty to card, spin and weave the cloth from which the garments were made. In her leisure she wrought out on the family loom counterpanes of beautiful design, and strongly made.

Somehow she found time for raising of children. The boy's clothes may not have fitted him very well, but she did fit him closely with an ideal of manly and Christian character that he could never shake off. She believed that children were like cotton, "they must be worked fast or they would get away from you." Many a boy found that his mother's lap when used in connection with her slipper was not a bed of roses, but she used it to great advantage, and raised men. Her daughters were not acquainted with diamonds and millinery creations of today, but she managed to give them a physical beauty which added to her stamp of character made them the finest mothers and sisters in the world. The old fashioned mother was a centre of hospitality in her community, and was regarded as the friend of white and black, high and low.

She had more to do than her daughters, but somehow she found a place for her Bible and her daily prayers to God. Woe betide the youngster whose playfulness conflicted with her daily hour of prayer. Each day of the week she was a queen, but it was on Sunday morning that her regal power shone supreme. Everything moved obediently to her command until all her tribe were marshalled into their accustomed seat in church. Then if ever they were expected to show the standard of family training.

She never took kindly to automobiles or electric lights. She always preferred cool water from the north side of the spring or well to that cooled by ice. In some few cases she felt safer with candles than with kerosene lamps. She made men and women who to her dying day were glad to obey her slightest wish. We have gained in many things but the countryside is poorer today because the old fashioned mother is no more.

THE CHARLESTON RACE RIOT.

An account of this unfortunate incident which occurred in Charleston last Saturday night will be found in another column of this issue. Our purpose here is merely to comment on some of its self evident lessons.

Charleston has always had a large negro population. It has for a number of years enjoyed the presence of army and navy men. Soldiers from Ft. Moultrie and sailors from the navy yard are by no means rare visitors to the city. How comes it about that the peaceful relations of so many years are so rudely broken at this time and upon so small a provocation?

Two reasons suggest themselves, both of which grew out of the recent war service. Many men went into the naval service during the war because they believed that their big and courageous spirits would find a wider field there for daring service than could be found elsewhere.

They were looking for action. Now that the war is practically over these men chafe under the humdrum daily round of camp life. They have become restless at the delay which holds them in the service, and their military discipline rests more lightly on them than on men who have served for years. It wouldn't take a large provocation to start something with them.

It is also an open secret that the service rendered by the negroes in this war has added serious features to the already complex problem of two races living in such relations as in this state. Rome wasn't built in a day, but some of the more unwise members of the negro race forgot all the good that had been accomplished in the past fifty years. The ill effects of slavery, emancipation and reconstruction can not be wiped out at once, but if the solutions of racial problems be left to the best judgment of the sanest leaders of both races these problems can be most quickly settled. Otherwise it will be an instance of confusion worse confounded.

The time has come when those who lead the negroes should show the high ability of leadership in an wholesale restraint. On the one hand those negroes who have come back from association with the lower classes of French and continental women and who have told their associates here of the things done and seen there should either have remained there or kept silence here. Swifter than lightning will be the vengeance meted out to the offender who feels that the war has brought the millennium to the negro race. We are neither prophets nor sons of prophets, and therefore can tell only what we have seen and heard of the widespread restlessness among certain ill advised negroes, and of the firm determination of the whites to maintain white supremacy. We do not believe that the mass of negroes will countenance the reckless deeds of thoughtless and ill-advised members of their race, but the whole race is in danger of suffering for them, because there is a widespread opinion among the whites that we are going to have trouble with the negroes on account of war conditions. We do not believe that this opinion has any foundation in fact, but it is the sacred privilege of negro leadership in every community to prove that it is baseless. It is also the sacred privilege of white leadership to exercise a wise discernment and not hold the negro race responsible for the excesses of a few misguided individuals.

Inasmuch as each community is responsible for itself in these matters, and has troubles enough of its own without carrying the skillet of other people, we confidently believe that the wise leadership of both races in Barnwell county will see to it that the harmonious relations of the past shall in the future become even better.

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—Adv.

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