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For the Anderson Intelligencer.

"The Free Common School System of South Carolina."

MR. EDITOR: This Educational System, as remarked in a previous communication, reminds one of a ponderous, complicated mill machinery, which is perfect in every part, but entirely inoperative, because the motive power necessary to propel it is wanting.

To illustrate. The system under consideration requires a multiplicity of officers, having enormous salaries to compensate them for supervising it, stating definitely when, how much, and by whom they are to be paid, but fails to provide funds to pay Teachers, forgetting that a school without a Teacher is like a mill without water!

Now, sir, we can scarcely refrain from indulging the belief that our sapient legislators, in the conception and concoction of this School System, had nothing in view—or, at least, this was the primary object—but a huge and complicated machine, so to speak, which, from the very nature of its multifarious parts, should require a multiplicity of superintendents to run it—of school officials to whom they would legislate salaries out of the hard earnings of a people already taxed enormously. This, sir, seems to have been the one great and absorbing idea! If not, how did it happen that they forgot to appropriate money to pay Teachers? Without money to pay for teaching, all the colossal, complicated school systems in Christendom are just as inoperative and useless as the mill without water to run it!

Hence, the great, the humane and the philanthropic institution of South Carolina so much talked of and loudly praised, called the system of "Free Common Schools," inaugurated by the philanthropists of Reconstruction, has proved one of the most significant failures of the age! Unfortunately for the poor unlettered children of South Carolina, their philanthropic patrons are always the most enthusiastic and self-devoted lovers of mankind when they themselves form the portion of mankind whose conditions are to be ameliorated! This system of "Free Common Schools" authorizes the State Treasurer to pay school officials annually, in the aggregate, a sum in quarterly instalments, of not less than \$35,000, while the sum set apart from the Poll Tax, paid to all the Teachers in the State, and that indefinitely, if ever, is only \$50,000!

We perceive that a resolution has been offered in the Legislature to amend the School Act. Now, sir, we are unprepared to, to what the proposed amendment is, or in what it consists; but the amendment most imperatively demanded is, to retrench the salaries of school officials, and appropriate money to pay Teachers; and not only appropriate, but pay! Remember, unless Teachers be paid, there cannot possibly be any schools, and therefore superintendents and commissioners are superfluous. Without water the mill cannot grind, it matters not how many well-paid millers there may be. And to make the system efficient, Teachers must not only be paid indefinitely—at a time nobody knows when—but they must be paid quarterly! Upon what apparent ground of fairness was it assumed that Teachers could wait for their pay indefinitely, but superintendents and commissioners must be paid quarterly?

Teachers' claims should not only be paid at the end of each quarter, but they should be paid by the County Treasurer. The paying of Teachers' claims by the State Treasurer in Columbia is an imposition upon both Teachers and the people. It is an imposition upon the people, because it enables the State Treasurer to use the school fund, aside from that for which it was designed—to pay the claims of Teachers of one County with the school fund belonging to another! It is an imposition upon Teachers because it subjects them to inconvenience and expense. A trip to Columbia, in many instances, would cost Teachers a sum of money equivalent to their claims. And the very accommodating (?) school officials in Columbia, not content with an enormous outside salary for superintending the mill, call upon customers for part of the grist—require Teachers to pay a certain per centage upon their claims before they can get the money!

The salaries of the school commissioner are the same in each County, except Charleston, in which County it is fifty per cent. more. This, in our judgment, is unfair, to say the least of it; for the labor required of the commissioner in some of the Counties is twice that required in other Counties. For instance, take the labor required of the commissioners of Anderson and Oconee Counties. The school fund of Anderson County the last scholastic year is \$4,858.89. This sum would pay, at five cents per day, the tuition of 435 scholars for one scholastic year. For superintending the teaching of these 435 scholars the Commissioner of Anderson County is paid \$1,000. The school fund belonging to Oconee for the same year is \$2,248. This, at five cents per day for teaching, would pay the tuition of 224 scholars for one scholastic year. For the supervision of these 224 scholars the Commissioner of Oconee County receives also \$1,000.

We would here inquire upon what grounds of fairness can this inequality be satisfactorily equalized? Upon what principles of justice can it be reconciled that two men, each equally qualified to perform the same kind of labor, and both are employed, and one is required to perform just one-half the amount of labor that the other is, yet he receives the same wages—the same salary?

Our plan, in regard to the school-commissioner's salary, would be simply this: Let the salary of each school commissioner be in proportion to the school fund of his County. Let the aggregate sum of all the salaries of the commissioners of the State be a certain well-defined per centage of the school fund of the State annually. Then let each commissioner's

salary be this per centage of the school fund of his County. This would pay each school commissioner in exact proportion to the amount of labor performed.

A few brief words in regard to the deleterious effect which this system has produced upon the cause of Education, will close this communication. It has in most cases engendered a belief in the minds of the people that all the tuition of their children would be hereafter paid for; but the fact is, none for the last year has been paid! Teachers are told by their patrons that they sent on the Public! Tell them the Public has not paid anything, and they reply that it is in consequence of the commissioner's not doing his duty; or that the Teacher has not urged his claims upon the commissioner, forgetting that the commissioner is not a bonded officer, and therefore does not handle a dollar of the school fund! Hence, competent teachers in many instances will abandon the field.

W. H. Townville, S. C., Jan. 2, 1871.

**THE STATE SURVIVORS' ASSOCIATION.**—We have received a printed copy of the proceedings of the first and second annual meetings of the State Survivors' Association, together with the eloquent address of Gen. John S. Preston, delivered before the Association in Columbia, in November last. The object and purposes of the Association are fully set forth in these proceedings, and to all who are ignorant of the part which South Carolina played in the great struggle, we commend the able and convincing report of the Executive Board, which shows, among other things, that this State gave to the Confederate cause at least one soldier for every vote cast for secession.

The Executive Board, with the assistance of Prof. Rivers, have compiled a roll of the names of 10,000 South Carolinians who died in service during the war between the States. There is, besides, a supplementary roll of 2,000 names collected from sources less authentic. These rolls the Survivors' Association now propose to publish by subscription; and if 1,000 subscribers at \$5 can be obtained, this great memorial of our dead, and valuable historical work for the State, will be secured. The plan is to publish two editions; the first with a preface inviting corrections and additions to be submitted to the Executive Board by the friends of those who fell; the second, with the additions and corrections thus made, in a better and more permanent form. A subscription of \$5 entitles the subscriber to a copy of both editions. The manuscript is ready for the printer, and the Board are about to canvass for subscriptions. There is not a family in South Carolina which will not find the name of a friend, a relative, or a brother-in-arms upon the roll of this legion of honor of the South Carolina dead, and we cannot doubt that the Survivors' Association will speedily obtain far more than the minimum number of subscribers required for perpetuating the memory and fame of those who poured out their blood for their State and the sunny South.—*Charleston News.*

**AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL JOURNALS.**—The managers of the Southern Virginia Agricultural Society have inaugurated the idea of substituting agricultural books and periodicals for the smaller premiums, hitherto paid in money. This is a move in the right direction, and we think the example might be followed by kindred societies to the manifest benefit of the farmer.

Agriculture has, within the last century, made rapid and progressive strides, and the severest of the sciences have been impressed into its service. Perhaps in no other department of human economy has there been a greater multiplication of books and periodicals than in the department of agriculture, and the needs of the farming community have never been more alive to the importance and dignity of their calling than at the present time. Yet the great mass of the agriculturists have not availed themselves of opportunities which have been and are daily being offered them. Hence too many, if not most, of these publications are, to a majority of the farming class, "seeded books."

In view of the progress and developments in agriculture, it has now become absolutely necessary for the intelligent farmer to keep himself thoroughly posted therein. We know that the cost of a well supplied agricultural library, or even of the larger publications separately, is an impediment, if not a barrier, in the way of a great many, but happily for all, the valuable periodicals are published monthly in all sections of the country especially devoted to the interest of the farmer, and at such moderate rates that few, if any, engaged in the cultivation of the soil can honestly declare their inability to meet the required outlay in view of the great benefits they will and must necessarily reap from their perusal.—*Richmond Whig.*

**SOME FACTS CONCERNING THE SPOTSWOOD.**—The burning of the Spotswood Hotel, in Richmond, says the New York Post, under circumstances of such appalling calamity, removes from that city a building more closely associated with the conduct of the war of the rebellion than any other, the State Capitol alone excepted. It was at the Spotswood Hotel that Jefferson Davis first took lodgings upon the removal of the Confederate Government from Montgomery to Richmond, and throughout the whole struggle it was the headquarters of the most prominent men in the Southern service when they came to the city. From the portico of the hotel all the fiery orators of the time addressed the excited multitude, and the latest news of the fight was always first received and made known at that point. The tidings of Bull Run were proclaimed on the night of the 21st of July, 1861, from its windows.

Strangely enough, the waves of the vast fire of April, 1865, which laid the greater part of Richmond in ruins, were stayed at the corner below the Spotswood Hotel, sparing the building, which immediately became the place of abode of the greater number of the Federal officers who entered Richmond with the victorious army of the Union.

The hotel was not called Spotswood, as might be supposed, in memory of the truly great Colonial Governor of Virginia, Alexander Spotswood, but in honor of the father of the capitalist who erected it, whose baptismal name was Spotswood. It was built about eighteen years ago, and was a large and comfortable establishment, with a fine facade upon the principal street of the town.

The fearful loss of life attending the fire, the intense cold of the night, the rapid progress of the flames, and the utter inability of the firemen to check them, or to rescue the victims, make up a picture of horror supplementing only too well the disasters of fire, flood and falling buildings which have within so short a time brought sorrow upon Richmond.

— In Texas they call a sister's beau a brevet brother-in-law.

LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 1871.

**SENATE.**  
The Senate met at 12 m., and was called to order by the President. The roll was called, and only ten members answering to their names, there was no quorum. The Sergeant-at-Arms was directed to bring in absent members. After waiting till half-past 12, and not obtaining a quorum, the Senate adjourned.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**  
The House met at 7 o'clock p. m., and was called to order by the Speaker. The roll was called, and the Sergeant-at-Arms sent to bring in absent members. A quorum was announced, and the House proceeded to the transaction of business.

Mr. Myers gave notice of a bill to amend an Act to organize and govern the militia of South Carolina.  
Mr. Gary gave notice of a bill to require the School Commissioner of Kershaw County to erect school houses.  
Mr. Haged introduced a bill to provide for the granting of divorces. Read and referred to the Judiciary Committee. Also, a resolution to appoint a committee of five to be known as the Committee on Charitable Institutions.—*Adopted.*

Mr. Ramsay introduced a bill to provide a place for imprisonment for persons under five years of age. Read and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The following bills were read a second time, and their enacting clauses stricken out: To authorize the Land Commissioner to purchase lands on the islands of Edisto and Wadmalaw, South Carolina; to prevent persons charged with crime from being brought to trial when absent from Court; to regulate and secure Clerks of Circuit Court their fees and costs in civil suits; to admit Wm. S. Tillinghat, to practice law in the Circuit Courts of this State; compelling farmers and planters to build fences around all cultivated lands.

A bill to provide for the erection of sufficient fences, and keeping the same in repair, was made the special order for Tuesday next, at half-past 1 o'clock.  
A bill to protect the rights of parents, and to prevent the procuring and carrying from the State, persons under the age of twenty-one years, was made the special order for Wednesday, at half-past 1 o'clock.

A bill to authorize the purchase for the State of a manuscript compilation of the Penal Statutes of the State, made by E. B. Seabrook, Esq., of the Charleston bar, was made the special order for Thursday next, at half-past 1 o'clock.

A bill regulating the per diem and mileage of grand and petit jurors, was indefinitely postponed.  
The Senate bill to provide a salary for the office of Lieutenant Governor of the State, was made the special order for Monday, at half-past 1 o'clock.

The House adjourned to meet to-morrow at 12 m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 1871.

**SENATE.**

The Senate assembled at 12 m., the President in the Chair.

Mr. Whitmore presented the petition of sundry merchants of Timmonsville, praying the passage of a bill to abolish the lien law, to take effect on the 1st day of March, 1871; referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.  
Mr. Whitmore, from the special committee appointed to consider and report upon the message of the House in relation to the impeachment of Judge T. O. P. Vernon, reported a resolution, that the Senate will take proper order thereon, of which due notice shall be given the House. Ordered for consideration to-morrow.

Mr. Whitmore gave notice of the introduction of a bill to amend an act entitled "An Act providing for an assessment and taxation of property."  
Also a bill to amend an act entitled "An Act to define the jurisdiction and duties of County Commissioners."

Mr. Cardozo introduced a bill to amend an act entitled "An Act to establish a State Orphan Asylum." Ordered for consideration to-morrow.

The following were also ordered for consideration to-morrow:

By Mr. Corbin, a bill to amend an Act entitled "An Act providing for the general elections and the manner of conducting the same," approved March 1, 1870; also, a bill to increase the salaries of the Justices of the Supreme Court; also, a bill to authorize aliens to hold property.

Mr. Whitmore introduced a resolution, requesting the Committee on Education to report as soon as Tuesday, upon the report of that committee, relative to the amendment to the act to establish a system of free common schools, which was recommended to that committee for their consideration. Ordered for to-morrow.

The report of the Committee on the Judiciary on a bill, providing for the protection of persons and property, and the public peace, and to tax real estate for the expense, was agreed to, and the bill ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

A bill, authorizing circuit judges to hold courts in other circuits than their own, was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.  
On motion, the Senate adjourned at 1:10 p. m.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

The House met at 12 m., Speaker Moses in the Chair.

The reading of the journal being dispensed with, and their being no reports from standing committees, the call of counties was made.

Mr. L. Cain, from Edgefield, gave notice of the introduction of a bill, to prevent persons from holding more than one office of trust in the State, at one and the same time.

Mr. P. Rivers, from Edgefield, gave notice of the introduction of a bill to prevent accidents to rafts and flat boats, in the rivers of the State.

Mr. L. Cain, from Edgefield, introduced a resolution, that the action of the House whereby the enacting clause of a bill admitting Wm. H. Tillinghat to practice in the courts of the State, was stricken out, be reconsidered, which was adopted.

Mr. Smart, from Fairfield, gave notice of the introduction of a bill to provide for physician's lien on crops.

Mr. Singleton, from Sumter, introduced a resolution that from and after the 9th instant, the House meet at 11 A. M., and 7 P. M., which was laid upon the table.

A bill to renew and amend the charter of the

town of Spartanburg, came up for a second reading, (the 6th Section of the bill coming first before the House), which, after discussion as to amendments, entered into by Messrs. Reddish, Duncan, Thompson, Lee, Byas, Smith and others, and as to powers to be conferred upon town wardens, was made the special order for Wednesday next, at 2:30 p. m.

A joint resolution, to authorize Placidia Adams to take an appeal to the Supreme Court of the State, without executing an undertaking for costs and damages, was made the special order for Friday next, at 1 p. m.

Mr. S. A. Lee, from Edgefield, presented certain claims against the State for rent of school houses, which were referred to the Committee on Claims.

A bill to renew and extend an act to provide a mode by which to perpetuate testimony in relation to deeds, wills, choses in action, and other papers destroyed or lost during the recent war, and a joint resolution, authorizing the Governor to commission a Coroner for Beaufort County, were ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

A bill to regulate the right of traverse, was made the special order for Monday at 2:30 p. m.  
A bill to prevent and punish vagrancy was indefinitely postponed.

Consideration of resolution (by Mr. Reddish) to require, on January 6, 1871, a report from the Land Commissioner, came up, and was amended by striking out "6," and inserting "15," so as to read by January 15th, and adding a clause, which caused much discussion, requiring the advisory Board to report upon the whole transactions of the Land Commissioner by that date.

On motion, the House adjourned at 3:15 p. m.

**The Necessity for Legislative Reform.**

Whatever may be the party name, under which the present Legislature was elected, or whatever its constituent elements, it certainly owes some responsibility to the people of the State, and the public sentiment of the civilized world.

Heretofore, the advent of its power has meant high taxation, extravagant expenditure, and an utter recklessness of the public welfare. More than this, the previous Legislature was openly and confessedly venal. It was against this condition of things that the Reform Party protested. Its whole desire and purport, was to obtain an honest and pure government for the State, a constitutional administration of its affairs, and a degree of financial confidence which would invite capital and develop the various industrial, agricultural, and commercial pursuits of the State. The objects to be attained were worthy of the highest aspirations of the patriot, and the most earnest efforts of the intelligence and education of the community.

But an election law, without a parallel in the history of all well regulated elections, proved too potent for right. The real utterance of the ballot was suppressed. In short, fraud overruled the expression of the real sentiment of the State. This is not now done. The press of the Republican party have, since the election, condemned the law, and demanded its repeal with as much vigor and earnestness as the Reform Party did during the canvass. That the election law bristles all over with fraud is now admitted to be true, and acknowledged on all sides.

Under its influence, however, the election took place, and the Republican party triumphed. It has obtained the power over the finances, the credit, and the legislation of the State. But still it is amenable to the public judgment. The Legislature, however, by whatever party elected, are but the servants of the people, and must be held to a strict accountability. During the canvass the leaders of the Republican party declared that, in case of their re-election, there would be retrenchment and economy in the finances, the reform of all abuses, and a conservative administration of the State Government. These promises have not been kept. They have thus far been words to the ear, but broken to the hope.

Before the war a three weeks annual session of the Legislature, with a proper attention to business, was amply sufficient for the adjustment of all the affairs of State. Then members received but three dollars a day.

The present Legislature, at a pay of six dollars per day to each member, met on the fourth Monday in November. It adjourned for two weeks, for the holidays, during all which time the pay of its members continued, as if in actual session, and it has literally transacted no regular business of importance. It does seem as if with the majority the only desire is to draw out by delay the session long enough to save sufficient for their support for the residue of the year. In other words, that the public treasury, realized from the heavily earned taxes of an oppressed people, is just so much matter of spoil and private appropriation.

The Legislature has, since its session, it is true, elected a United States Senator, a Judge of the Supreme Court, and a Judge of the First or Charleston Circuit. Beyond this it has not transacted any of the legitimate business before it, with the exception of the Tax Bill, and this, so far from reform, is more onerous and oppressive than any previously passed. Instead of a mitigation, we have an increase of taxation. The people are ground under the forms of law to the very dust, when, as of old, it was declared "there shall no straw be given you, yet shall ye deliver the tale of bricks."

While capital is prevented and labor depressed, the public funds are wasted, and the burdens of the Government increased. Such a condition of things can, if persisted in, have but one end, a complete ruin and disaster. It never was intended that any party should support itself out of the public treasury. It never was designed that the Legislature should protract its session, and adjourn as it pleased, so as to be maintained for the rest of the year at the common expense.

Such a course is utterly inconsistent with the general welfare. It is in the face not only of sound policy, but of right. The worst of all oppressions is that which is conducted under the forms of law. No party can afford to despise this truth without openly avowing itself to be the enemy of the State and the people.—*Charleston Courier.*

— Young men who go to see young ladies, have adopted a novel method of obtaining kisses. They assert that, on the authority of scientific writers, that the concussion produced by a kiss will cause the flame of a gas jet to flicker, and easily induce the dame to experiment in the interest of science. The first kiss or two the parties watch the flame to see if it flicker, but soon become so interested in the experiment as to let it flicker when it wants to.

— During the discussion of the amnesty resolution in the North Carolina Legislature a few days ago, favoring a Radical remarked that he was willing to "endorse the individual application of Zeb Vance, Joe Lee, or Joe Lee," to which Mr. Jones, a Democrat, replied that the "devil had certainly been under no disabilities in North Carolina for the last two years. He was in nearly every office, and his cloven foot could be seen in almost every act done by the party so lately in power."

**How the Greenville and Columbia Railroad is Managed.**

The Greenville and Columbia Railroad is a standing wonder; a source of mingled amusement and indignation. Financial storms and exasperating frets have periodically brought it under the weather. It was one of the Greenville trains, if rumor is right, which stopped for an hour between two small stations in order that the engineer and conductor might go blackberrying. And, talking of blackberrying, it was on the line of the Greenville Road that the "martyr" Randolph met his doom." The line itself is as crooked as a hissing snake or a woman's temper, and if the information which reaches us is substantially correct, the trail of the serpent is over it still.

When the General Assembly came to the rescue of the Greenville and Columbia Railroad, about two years ago, it was hoped that the huge concern was fairly lifted out of the slough. But things got no better very fast. A Ring was formed to buy up the stock of the company and obtain its control. The stockholders sold their stock for next-door to nothing, and then found that some of their dear friends had pocketed a bouncing commission. The money with which the stock was bought was said to come out of the State treasury, and in the Ring were Senator C. P. Leslie, Joe Crews, and other birds of a feather. A new president and a new superintendent were installed, and the whole prospect was pronounced to be exceeding lovely.—Freights were to be reduced. Running time was to be lessened. Palatial cars and unapproachable locomotives were to be put on the line. The up-country was glad and all the State wondered.

What came of it? Accident followed accident with startling rapidity. No one offered to buy out the Ring. The old story of the King of Siam and the white elephant was played over again, and the Ring would doubtless be glad to get rid of their bargain at any reasonable price. With this part of the eventful history, we have, however, nothing to do. The question is: Does the Greenville Road give proper accommodation to its customers and to the people of the up-country? If we are correctly informed, the answer must be emphatically, No!

The agent of a Baltimore house, who has been buying cotton on the line of the Greenville Road, states that at every station cotton is piled up hill-high awaiting transportation. The road has not sufficient rolling stock, and cannot take the freight which is offered. Nor will the road, as we are told, give "through" receipts. The cotton, therefore, lies at the depots at the risk of the owners, and in the absence of receipts, the Charleston factors will not make any further advances. The consequences are most disastrous. Planters cannot meet their obligations, nor can they obtain the means of carrying on their planting operations. Large numbers of planters at Newberry and other points are wagoning their cotton to Augusta, involving a large expense and inflicting a direct and heavy loss upon this city. Our informant adds that words are inadequate to a full expression of the damage done to the planters and the commercial public by the obstructive slow coachism of the Greenville Road.

These are the facts as they are given to us. They demand investigation and explanation, and it is hoped that, if the present management cannot run the road, some other management will be found, who can, at least, carry it on at a better pace than a walk.—*Charleston News.*

**THE PEOPLE'S LANDS—WHERE ARE THEY?**  
—The landless people of this State have been told that the State has purchased for them nearly one hundred thousand acres of land, and they have vainly searched for it, asked its price, and sought to settle on it. Nobody can find it; certainly nobody can occupy it. Where is it? What is it? What is its price?

We were told by the Surveyor six weeks ago that nearly all of it was surveyed into small tracts. We were told by the Land Commissioner and by members of the Advisory Board, that it would be ready for distribution before the holidays, and that the people should all have a chance at it. The holidays are at hand. We have seen no public notice of one single tract as ready for occupation. We have yet to find one citizen who has this autumn settled on land belonging to the State, under the law. We do not believe that anything worth speaking of has been done by the Commissioner of the Advisory Board.

And now thousands who wanted lands are making other arrangements for the coming year. The lands of the State remain unsettled, the State receives nothing in taxes, and must, itself, meet the interest on the money paid out for those lands. Are not the people justified in declaring that the Land Commissioner and the Advisory Board are utterly indifferent alike to the welfare of the State, the interests of the Republican party, and the prosperity of the people?

For ourselves, we have lost all further hope in the Land Commission. In design it was beneficent; in execution it is a costly failure and fraud. Let such measures be now devised as will take the State out of the land business as quickly as possible, and with the least possible loss. Some good has been done, but compared with the means employed, the results are contemptible. Let the State close up the Land Commission, realize what it can from unsold lands, add the deficit to its public debt, and be henceforward wise enough to keep forever out of the land business and every other business.—*Charleston Daily Republican.*

**STARTLING HOMICIDE.**—Our community was thrown into unwonted excitement on Monday morning last, by the intelligence that Capt. George Butler had been killed by a young man named Winslow Hamilton. Capt. George Butler was an elder brother of Genl. M. C. Butler, who, having spent the greater portion of his manhood in the West, returned to South Carolina after the close of the war, and two years ago settled in our District, on Savannah River, near the plantation of Ex-Gov. Pickens. Winslow Hamilton is quite a young man, scarcely grown, the son of one of Capt. Butler's neighbors. Between Mr. Hamilton, the father, and Capt. Butler there arose on Sunday evening last, a quarrel, in the yard of the former. The son rushed from the house, took part in the altercation, and ending by shooting Capt. Butler dead. The latter was a gentleman of high character, and though not so generally well known among us as the rest of his family, was popular and beloved. It remains to be ascertained to Greenville, his birth-place, for interment. Young Hamilton has not been arrested.—*Edgefield Advertiser.*

— A correspondent of the *Rural New Yorker* offers this remedy for burns or scalds: "The most efficacious remedy ever tried was to apply common starch just moistened with cold water and spread on a cloth to effectually cover the wounded part. A little girl who was badly scalded was instantly freed from pain by the above remedy. Keep the starch moistened and in a few hours the inflammation will be gone, leaving the scalded part perfectly white. After the inflammation is out, apply a linen cloth dipped in sweet oil. It is a speedy cure."

**Religious Tournaments, Building Churches, Starting Preachers, &c.**

A respected correspondent writes to know our opinion about the propriety of holding tournaments for the purpose of assisting the building of churches. The subject had never received our consideration because we had not heard of tournaments in the character of financial religious devices. We had heard of benevolent balls and pious lotteries and sanctified bazaars, but not of consecrated tournaments. Now we believe as Paul did about some common practices in his day, that tournaments are nothing at all to religion. If a number of young men think it worth while to spend months in training to compete with one another in the noble trial of poking a broom-handle through a curtain-ring, and if the contestants in this pretty game can call themselves "knights" and their play a "tournament," without a keen sense of the ridiculous; in short, if the burlesque of the old knightly contests can be enjoyed, we see no impropriety in more than in any other juvenile trivium. When, however, balls are added to the tournament, we have very great objections to them. They then savor very strongly of evil. We abhor balls, and particularly public balls. They are evil, and only evil, to body, mind and spirit. In expressing an opinion about tournaments, we are really considering the balls which follow, and which are to the girls the greatest attraction. The very innocence of young men makes them unable to comprehend the evil of these dances, and their very common ignorance of more rational enjoyments makes them enjoy the animal exercise and nervous exhilaration of the ball.

Now, to give balls for church purposes, is simply to profess to do evil that good may come. But it is not true. Nobody holds tournaments for church purposes. The effort is not only to tax the church for the tournament, but only to get the money for the tournament that would not otherwise be given, but in bribing the church to sanction amusements of doubtful propriety. We are opposed to all these profane acts of aid from the opposite party. They take far more from us in virtue than they return in coin. There are no communities in this country too poor to provide themselves with places of worship. For many years this house where we are writing was the only Methodist preaching-place for this neighborhood. The house was large enough for Asbury and the great men of old to do the work of their apostleship in it. Any community can build a comfortable log-cabin or shed, in a few weeks, that would accommodate them for hearing preaching. But people are not satisfied with the necessities of life in religion more than in other things. We all want to have churches finer than we are willing to pay for. We are sensitive about our "respectability" in this matter, and we subject ourselves to the mortification of begging from and getting under obligations of recognition and respect to men and men's inventions really obnoxious to us.

There is another thing on our mind about church-building. We are measuring our success by the number of churches we are building, oblivious of the fact that we are starving the preachers to build them. It would be a curious calculation, and the result of it would be startling, to estimate how much of the small salaries allotted to our preachers in the Baltimore Conference has been held back because of the expense of building churches. Now, we would be glad to see churches built everywhere they could be used, but we protest against building them at the cost of the preachers. The first necessity is not a church, but a minister; and the minister should be adequately supported. We know circuits where the ministry are so pinched that their life is intolerable, and they are preparing to leave the work; yet the people are building churches, and building them with the money due to the preacher. Dear friends, let us be plain with you. God owns the ministers. They are His servants. He hires them to you for wages, the amount of which you fix yourself; and you are that man, you to man and God. It is not optional with you to pay or not to pay. The official members who promise it are bound to use all possible efforts to procure it from the people. We confess we are more concerned about the support of the ministers than we are about building churches. They are for the convenience of the people, and will be provided, but preachers are to be a large extent forgotten.—Their wants are not obtrusive. The people are not made uncomfortable by their privation. But we may rest assured that if a congregation should build a church as big as St. Peter's, and neglect a proper provision for their preacher, the splendid place of worship would be of little use to them. "Do unto others as you would that they should do to you," is a very large part of religion, and the part about the genuineness of which there is least difficulty in decision. Depend upon it, if we do not love (not sentimentally—for the Bible does not know anything about sentiment separate from facts)—if we do not love our minister, whom we see, we do not love His Master, whom we do not see; and when we send away our preacher in debt and destitution, because we have not paid what we promised him, "inasmuch as we do it to the least of these, we do it unto Him." Many will say, in that day, "Lord! Lord! we built churches, we raffled for dolls, and went to tournaments, and danced at balls, and started preachers, for Thy sake." But the King shall say, "When I was a hanged-up ye gave me no meat."—*Baltimore Christian Advocate.*

**AT THE TIP-TOP HOUSE.**—A party of scientific men have established themselves for the winter on the top of Mount Washington, in New Hampshire, where for months they will be isolated from the rest of the world, and will experience all the rigors of an arctic climate, in addition to the fury of winds whirling along at a velocity of 100 miles an hour. The party consists of Professor J. H. Huntington, of Dartmouth College, Assistant State Geologist; S. A. Nelson, of Georgetown, Mass.; A. F. Clough, photographer; and a telegrapher. The building occupied is sixty by seventy-two, and twenty-five feet high. The main room is twenty-five by eleven feet, lined with triple thickness of felt, and thickly carpeted. Six months' provisions and abundance of coal have been provided. Snow-shoes have also been sent up to be used in cases of emergency. The United States Government, the Coast Survey, and the Smithsonian Institute have all manifested an interest in the enterprise, and all needed instruments have been furnished for scientific purposes. The War Department has furnished telegraphic supplies, meteorological instruments, and three miles of Kite telegraph cable, which is affected by weather less than the ocean cables. This connects with a common wire at the base of the mountain, and daily reports of the weather will be sent to the world. It is expected these reports will benefit commerce by enabling the shipmaster to determine, a day beforehand, that a storm is coming; or, during a storm, that fair weather is at hand—and thus forewarn him of destructive storms, and keep him safely in port, or save a day's time by enabling him to anticipate the conclusion of stormy weather and get sail at once.