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ESSAY ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

BY HON. R. F. SIMPSON.

In accordance with a resolution adopted at the Quarterly Conference of the Methodist Church for Pendleton Circuit, we give below an Essay by Maj. R. F. Simpson on the importance and method of Sunday School education:

To the Members of the Quarterly Conference for Pendleton Circuit:

Pursuant to the direction of your body, I have attempted to prepare an Essay on the proper mode of Education for children at our Sunday Schools. I feel no confidence that I shall be able to prepare anything that will meet universal approval; but if it may meet your approval, I shall be sufficiently gratified.

Before proceeding to the plan of instruction I shall propose, I had intended to say something to the great value of the system of Sunday Schools, not only to the pupils, but to society and the government. I find, however, to my hand, laudatory sentiments by Senator D. Webster, President Jefferson and Mr. E. Burke, England's great statesman, all famed for wisdom, whose opinions I know will be highly appreciated by you. Mr. Webster says: "The Sunday School is one of the great institutions of the day. It leads our youth in the path of truth and morality, and makes them good men and useful citizens. As a school for religious instruction, it is of inestimable value; as a civil institution it is priceless, and has done more to preserve our liberties than grave statesmen and armed soldiers. Let it, then, be fostered and preserved to the end of time." President Jefferson says that "Sunday Schools presented the only legitimate means, under the Constitution, of avoiding the rock on which the French Republic was wrecked, and Mr. Burke never expressed a wiser sentiment than when he said "a religious education was the cheap defence of nations."

How important, then, to use that manner of instruction the best calculated to secure and perpetuate the best blessings this institution is so well calculated to promote. The plan now in use is doing, and has done, great good, and all I would venture upon is, to amend the present system—to make it more perfect. And while I venture to strike out into what may be thought a new direction, so far as our community is instructed, I beg you will give to such views a fair examination before you decide upon their merits or demerits. Then to it at once.

I believe in the science of Phenology, which I explain thus: There is a muscle, called an "organ," in the brain, to answer to all the different parts of the mind; and further, that these muscles or organs of the brain are subject to the same laws of growth from exercise that the muscles of the body are. Now, we know that if an arm is tied up and not used at all, the muscles of that arm will shrink away, and the arm become useless. On the other side, the muscles of the arm of a blacksmith will grow quite large from constantly using the hammer. This is one of our Father's laws, given, too, with the kind intention to compel us to exertion, that both body and mind may grow strong, and be useful to our fellows. There are two organs, "Ideality and Eventuality," that indicate, when well developed, the possessor to have great facility in acquiring knowledge. These are called the intellectual organs. It is with the moral faculties our great concern should be. When the moral faculties are so far strengthened as to influence and guide the will, then the will, actuated through the intelligence, will control the animal passions. There are three organs of the brain, called "Benevolence, Veneration and Conscientiousness," more important in forming a good man and citizen than all the rest.

To Benevolence is assigned a disposition of kindness and good will to all, and disposes the possessor to pursue such a course of conduct as is suitable to the maintenance of social order. To Veneration is assigned a predisposition in the possessor to love and venerate his parents, and to feel profound respect for any one great and good. It is the source of natural religion, and produces a disposition to worship some superior power. This tendency manifests itself in every tribe of men yet discovered. Among the heathen, it is this organ, when not cultivated, that leads them to worship the sun and moon, deify men and worship animals, and leads to all sort of religious absurdities. Hence you will see the immense importance of cultivating this organ, by which the child may be taught who to worship.

To Conscientiousness is assigned the disposition to do justice in all cases. Its real function is to produce an emotion of justice or injustice, on the presentation of particular facts to it, by the intellect. When largely developed, it controls most of the other organs, and acts without partiality.

If these premises are admitted, the conclusion is inevitable that these are the organs that Sunday School teachers should bend their whole energies to develop. How to do this, though, is a question not so easily solved.

To cultivate Benevolence, I will give you the practice of a friend in an adjoining county, who has been very successful in attaching the scholars to the Sunday School. The children are induced by persuasion to bring every Sunday some little trifle that they labored themselves for—if only a piece of light wood, an apple, peach, broom, walnut or hickory-nut, blackberries, or whatever else, so it be something, that the child may be able to bring. These are all taken care of by the Superintendent, and at the proper time put up at auction, and the proceeds applied to the missionary society, or to purchase of books or papers for the school. The blackberries may be made into wine and sold for books. At Christmas have a "Christmas Tree." Induce the parents to aid in supplying this "tree," and especially have all the scholars to put something on it for some one of his or her school-fellows, which may be made known or kept secret as the giver may desire. Let this day be a holiday for the school. A May decoration of the Church with evergreens and flowers would afford another holiday highly interesting to the children. If the "Christmas Tree" should be furnished by the teachers and parents with apples, oranges, crackers, gingerbread, &c., the day would be made one long to be remembered by the delighted children.

Then the teacher might present every Sunday some short history of some poor orphan in distress—put it to the scholars, each one to say what he or she were actually brought before them; or various other incidents to make the organ of Benevolence grow, which may present themselves to a teacher's mind.

Reward tickets for good lessons or good conduct have long been in use, but unless followed by a present of a merit-book, soon wears out.

To cultivate the organ Veneration, reading scholars should be made to study the history of our Redeemer, memorizing parts of it every Sunday in the New Testament, and be instructed how good He was to children while on earth; that He, the Father and Holy Spirit constitute one God, and the only God, to love, worship and obey. The feeling in man which

prompts him to worship something is instinctive. Heathens worship beasts and birds. Why? Because they have not been taught to know the true God. Our children when born are as ignorant as the heathen. They must be taught, and taught right; and when taught to know the true God, and that from Him all our blessings come, and that eternal happiness after death is promised to those who love, honor and obey Him, then respect for parents, and all good men, will easily follow.

To cultivate the sentiment of Conscientiousness, otherwise justice, is more difficult; and I can only suggest that as the superintendents and teachers give their time and labor for the children's benefit without any reward, they should be taught justice demands from them that they try hard to study and obey the rules of the school; that if a book is given them to read, justice requires the book should be returned as soon as read, that another scholar may have it to read. Another means might be, to state cases now and then, either ideal or real, requiring a just decision; make them arbitrators, and have them to decide how the case should be determined. If wrong, instruct them right. A deterring superintendent or teacher will be able, if his mind is bent in this direction, to find many little incidents in school life that can be used to cultivate and strengthen the sentiment of justice.

They should be instructed, too, that all the organisms of man—both mental and physical—our Creator has affixed certain laws, intended to aid, foster and bring these organisms to perfection; and as God is just in all his dealings with his creature man, He has affixed a just punishment to every man or child for every violation of any of these laws, whether done through ignorance or intentionally. If they put their finger in the fire, pain is the sure punishment. And just so surely will the punishment follow in all cases of violation of these laws of God.

Mothers have great responsibilities in rearing their offspring. They most commonly for the first three or four years of a child's life, act in the capacity of the Sunday School superintendent as to their instruction, for during that time a child's time is usually spent at the mother's knee. All children, without any idea of stealing, so soon as they begin to crawl about, will lay hold of any pretty thing in their reach and cling to it. It is the mother's province to learn the child what it can safely take, and what it must not—what belongs to it, and what does not; and what belongs to its little brother or sister it must not take. In this way both justice and honesty are implanted into its tender mind, and its moral organs are cultivated in early life.

To illustrate the advantage to society of cultivating the moral organs, suppose an Island populated with 1,000 families of all ages, whose moral organs had been altogether neglected, so that not one had been altogether neglected, honor, veneration or feeling of justice. Remember, if you cut off one limb of a tree, the one left will grow faster; so with the organs of the brain. If the moral organs are neglected, the organs of theft, hate, &c., grow faster. If the intellect be sharpened while the moral organs are neglected, you are educating that man to do evil. He will feel no regard for the consequences of his acts, provided the injury resulting from them fall on others. Under this state of things what would be the condition of the society of these Islanders? The imagination shrinks with horror at a view of the murders, thefts, robberies, arsons and inhuman acts of injustice which every day might witness. This is no fancy sketch, for Africa is now the picture realized.

On the other hand, suppose another Island peopled with 1,000 families, whose organs of benevolence, veneration and justice had been highly developed and the evil organs dwarfed. How different would be the state of the society. All kind, all good, all seeking how to make others happy, all venerating their parents and their God, all seeking to do justice to all and in all cases, all loving God with all their hearts, and their neighbor as themselves, and in all transactions anxious to do unto others as they would have them do unto them.

There is one subject, however, although not connected with the manner of Sunday School instruction, is yet of great and growing importance, and is really at the foundation of all Sunday School operations, and that is how to raise funds for their support. Having suffered from this difficulty myself, and not being able to offer a satisfactory remedy, I can only make a suggestion. Inasmuch as the parents have not been taught the necessity and justice of giving aid to Sunday Schools, even for their own children, it would seem that the only way to bring about the proper feeling is to learn the children, by bringing little gifts every Sunday, to create a fund to support the school. There are about every residence a few old rags, walnuts, hickory-nuts—in some places, pecans, sedge grass, small patches of grass that may be made into hay, broken pots and ovens, and many other things that go to waste, because what can be found of these articles at one place are not worth taking to a market. But if each scholar could be induced to pick up and wash clean such rags as could be found about his house, say only one pound, 40 scholars might bring 40 pounds, which, at 25 cents per pound, would be \$1. If each scholar would make and bring a sedge broom, 40 brooms would be worth 25 cents per dozen, or in all 75 cents. Say each scholar brings one quart of walnuts, hickory-nuts or pecans, 40 quarts make a bushel worth \$1. And so with blackberries, fruits and many other articles. Besides the benefit of the money which could be thus picked up from what would otherwise be wasted, this practice would not only cultivate habits of industry among children, but would exercise the intellect in thinking over what they could next take to school. A man can do no good thing without making some sacrifice. When a child has to labor to make these little gatherings, to that extent he makes a sacrifice of his labor. A sacrifice always insures a blessing. And finally this process, well carried out, and coppers included in the gatherings, would not only make all the scholars producers, but would enable each school to provide its own support.

I have thus drawn, what I at first designed, that is, a mere draft of a plan.

—An eccentric citizen of St. Louis died recently and left in his will \$1,000 to a man who, ten years before, had run away with his wife. One of the last things he said was that he never forgot a favor.

—The Atlanta Sun asks: "Why are we not to-day the richest people in the world?" The Louisville Journal presumes it is chiefly because there are other people in the world who have the advantage of us in point of property.

—Cotton, it is said, will keep for a long time without change. Thus, at Columbus, Georgia, no difference was noticeable in the appearance of the staple in bales of cotton that had been in the warehouses there since 1866; and at Augusta, Georgia, a bale was sold recently which had been in a warehouse for eleven years, and which, though presenting an oily appearance, brought as high a price as new cotton of similar grades.

LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1871.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 12 M. The Committee on Judiciary reported upon the following: Favorably upon a bill to amend section eighteen of the code of procedure; unfavorably upon bills authorizing Clerks of the Courts to perform the duties of Commissioners in Equity; to amend an Act to regulate the fees of Probate Judges and other officers; to establish Coosawhatchie County; to provide for the appointment of Trial Justices, and organization and jurisdiction of their courts.

A bill to authorize the formation of and to incorporate the Savannah Valley Railroad Company, was passed and ordered to be sent to the House. The road is to extend from Hamburg to Anderson, with a privilege to the company of building branches to connect with other roads.

Mr. Leslie presented a preamble and resolution from citizens of Chesterfield denouncing the action of the House in ejecting their members, Messrs. Hough and Evans, from their seats; which was read and received as information.

Mr. Corbin arose and said that he was compelled to sympathize, from evidence given before the Committee on Privileges and Elections, with the citizens of Chesterfield, who had been grievously wronged by the action of the House; and a blow had been struck the Republican party which was calculated to do it serious injury.

Mr. Whittemore introduced a joint resolution to authorize the Committee on Legislative Library to employ John T. Sloan to collect and collate the papers and documents relative to the Legislative history of the State, now lying in the basement of the library of the University.

A bill to amend an Act to define the jurisdiction and duties of County Commissioners, was read by its title and referred.

Mr. Wimbush introduced a bill to abolish the Sixth Judicial Circuit and to re-organize certain other circuits therein named. The bill gives Chester and York to the Fourth Circuit, Lancaster to the Fifth and Union to the Seventh; Marion from the Fourth to the Third, and changes the time of holding court in various Counties.

A House bill to permit William L. Wood to adopt Napoleon B. Smith, change his name and make him his heir, passed to a third reading. Also, a bill to authorize the formation of and to incorporate the Tugaloo and Chattanooga Railroad Company.

The following passed: Bill to release the lien of the State in a certain lot of land in Charleston; joint resolution appropriating \$47,000 to extend the State Lunatic Asylum, and a bill requiring the State Treasurer to pay County Treasurers the appropriation of the State school fund for their respective Counties.

A bill to regulate the granting of writs of *habeas corpus* passed to a third reading. The bill provides that all applications for writs of *habeas corpus* or bail shall be made to the Supreme Court or a Justice thereof, or to a Circuit Court or a Judge thereof. Applications must also be made to the Judge of the Circuit in which the applicant is confined, unless in cases of his absence or inability. Also, a bill to regulate the disposition of fines and penalties imposed and collected in criminal cases by Courts of General Sessions and Trial Justices.

A bill to amend an Act to provide for the next general election and the manner of conducting the same, was made the special order for to-morrow, at one P. M.

The enacting clause of a bill to provide for the election by the people of County Auditors and Treasurers, was stricken out.

A bill requiring County Treasurers to attend each polling precinct to collect taxes was laid on the table.

A bill to regulate the manner of drawing juries was taken up and passed to a third reading. The bill provides that the County Treasurer, Auditor and chairman of the board of County Commissioners, shall constitute a board of Jury Commissioners, who shall prepare every January a list of persons well qualified to act as jurors, to be not less than one from every twenty voters, nor more than one from every ten, from whom jurors are to be drawn.

At 2:30 P. M., the Senate proceeded to the hall of the House to elect a Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit.

JOINT ASSEMBLY.

The joint assembly of both Houses met, agreeably to concurrent resolution, at 2:30 P. M., for the purpose of electing a Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit.

Mr. Ramsay nominated Col. Montgomery Messers. Byas and Singleton.

Mr. Small's nominated General S. McGowan. Mr. Corbin, after a few highly complimentary and well put remarks, withdrew the name of Mr. Earle, and seconded the nomination of Gen. McGowan.

A vote was then taken and resulted in the election of Mr. Montgomery Messers, who received 88 votes; Gen. McGowan received 38 votes; whole number cast, 129; scattering, 3. The joint assembly then adjourned.

The Senate returned to its chamber, passed a joint resolution to pay the mileage of members of the State Board of Education, and then resolved itself into executive session.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 12 M. The Committee on the Judiciary reported back a bill to define the duties and jurisdiction of Trial Justices.

Mr. Smith offered a resolution that the standing committees report on or before Saturday next on all matters now before them. Adopted.

The Committee on Ways and Means reported back a bill to fund the city debt of Charleston incurred by subscription to railroads. Also, reported favorably on a bill to create a debt of the State to be known as the sterling funded debt, to be used in payment of past indebtedness of the State. Also, upon a bill to erect a monument to B. F. Randolph and Wade Perin. Also, upon a bill to amend an Act to provide for the conversion of State securities. Also, upon a bill to fund the *nulla bona* claims of sheriffs. Also, favorably on a bill to compel County Treasurers to receive County checks in payment of taxes. The rules were suspended and the bills passed to a third reading of crime were taken up and its discussion occupied the time of the House to the hour for the meeting of the joint assembly, and afterwards till adjournment, at 3:30 P. M.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1871.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 12 M. A bill to establish a new judicial and election Court from portions of Edgefield, Barnwell, Orangeburg and Lexington, was made the special order for to-morrow, at 1 P. M.

The following were read and referred: A bill to abolish the Sixth Judicial Circuit; and a bill to authorize Clerks of the Court to take testimony in certain cases.

A concurrent resolution was sent from the House instructing the Clerks of both Houses to draw pay certificates for the members and employees of the General Assembly from February 1 to March 1, inclusive. Adopted.

The following passed: Bills to regulate the manner of drawing juries; to regulate the granting of writs of *habeas corpus*; to regulate the disposition of fines and penalties by the Courts; joint resolution to appoint trustees of the De La Hove free school, in Abbeville County.

A bill to regulate the measurement of timber and lumber in the city of Charleston was indefinitely postponed.

At 3:30 P. M., the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 12 M. The Committee on Ways and Means reported favorably on a bill to release the lien of the State upon a lot of land in Charleston.

The special committee to examine the accounts for fitting up the hall of the House and committee rooms, reported upon the same, recommending that the bills, amounting to the sum of \$90,556.31, be paid; after a lengthy discussion, it was decided inadvisable to have the accounts itemized and printed; the accounts were ordered to be paid. The debate on this matter occupied the greater portion of the day.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 23, 1871.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 12 M. An Armin introduced a resolution, which was adopted, protesting, on the part of the Senate, against the resolution, yesterday adopted in the House, ordering the sum of \$90,556.31 to be paid for fitting up the House, and instructing the State Treasurer not to pay out any moneys on account thereof.

Mr. Whittemore introduced a bill to retire and cancel the hypothecated Blue Ridge Railroad bonds. The bill sets forth that \$1,100,000 of the bonds have been hypothecated to secure a loan of \$300,000, and provides for the redemption of the same by the State Treasurer. Also, a bill to repeal the Act granting State aid to the Blue Ridge Railroad Company, and a bill to create a sinking fund for the liquidation of the public debt of the State. The bill provides for the assessment of an additional tax sufficient to raise the sum of \$100,000 each year, to be applied to the purchase and retirement of the bonds of the State; and makes the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company of New York agents for the sinking fund.

The committee appointed to investigate the affairs of Blue Ridge Railroad Company made a report, which was ordered to be printed and lie over under the rules. The report embodies the testimony of Gen. Harrison, Gov. Scott, H. H. Kimpton and J. L. Neagle.

The Governor became very angry in the course of the investigation, and pitches into the Legislature pretty heavily. Among other things, he says: "I know of the fact, or have been told so by a hundred different persons, that money had been paid to get a certain report through at the last session. I want to say: Do you suppose that if our Saviour would come here with a bill ever so good, and want to get it through, or it was thought best to get up a committee to investigate him, do you suppose he wouldn't be crucified again if he didn't pay something to prevent it? That railroad has been conducted as judiciously and economically as possible. I won't charge this committee, but the committees that have been gotten up heretofore were simply for the purpose. It was publicly stated by the members that composed them that they didn't get enough out of the Blue Ridge Railroad when the bill passed, and they were determined to get something out of it now. They met three or four days and wouldn't make a report. It was plain what their object was. I learned afterwards that they privately demanded of the President of the road \$500 apiece. There were six of them. I told General Harrison, before I would pay them a cent I would let Blue Ridge go to perdition. He differed with me. He thought it was better to subsidize them; for if those bonds were blackened at that time, it would destroy their value. As there could be nothing else done to protect Mr. Steers, it was better to do this. When the bill came up, a member of the House came to one of the parties and said: 'That report can't go through until I get \$500.' You may bring up any kind of a bill, and the committee can make a report that will damn the character of any one connected with it." The Governor also stated that Leslie had proposed to withdraw the injunction he had brought to stop the endorsement of the bonds if \$25,000 would be paid. The report shows that the following disposition has been made of the bonds: Deposited with Loan and Trust Company, New York, \$2,792,000; pledged to H. H. Kimpton for advances, \$700,000; pledged to Henry Clews for advances, \$500,000; in hands of Messrs. Gourdin & Cameron, \$8,000—total, \$4,000,000.

A joint resolution to sell the State lands in Darlington for \$4.38 per acre, was, after long discussion, laid on the table. The land had been purchased by one Lunney, agent of the Land Commissioner, for \$4.38, and charged by him against the State at \$7.75 per acre, and the money drawn from the Treasury—some \$6,000 was realized by the swindle—and Lunney in a sworn statement shows that R. J. Donaldson was connected with him in effecting the fraud, and received half the profits. During the debate strong personalities were indulged in by Messrs. Leslie and Corbin against each other, the latter throwing up the Land Commission affairs to the former, and he charging Corbin with swindling the State in the framing of the code of procedure. Upon a proposition by Leslie to "call it square" between them, Corbin replied: "When I've stolen as much as you, I'll be willing to call it square."

A House bill to establish a new Judicial and Election Court from portions of Barnwell, Edgefield, Lexington and Orangeburg, to be known as Aiken County, was passed to a third reading.

The following were ratified: An Act to require the State Treasurer to pay County Treasurers the apportionments of the State school fund due their respective Counties; joint resolution to provide for the payment of the mileage certificates of members of the State Board of Education; an Act to supply the deficiency in the appropriation for free schools, for 1870; to protect the rights of parents and prevent the carrying from the State of persons under twenty-one years of age; to provide for the protection of persons, property and the public peace; joint resolution that Canby school fund be appropriated to free school fund; joint resolution authorizing the purchase of certain volumes of State reports.

The following passed and were ordered to be sent to the House of Representatives: A bill authorizing the County Commissioners of Spartanburg, Greenville, Pickens and Oconee, and the authorities of certain towns in those Counties to provide means to meet the interest on certain bonds; a bill to enforce the payment of the poll tax, and a bill to authorize the formation and incorporation of the Tugaloo and Chattanooga Railroad.

At 3:45 P. M., the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 11:15 A. M. A resolution by Mr. Byas, that the regular order of business be suspended during the remainder of the session, was adopted.

A bill to facilitate the punishment of crime was taken up as the unfinished business of yesterday and passed to a third reading. Also, a joint resolution authorizing the employment of J. S. G. Richardson, Esq., to publish the decisions of the Supreme Court for the last three years.

The House then took up the appropriation bill on its second reading and discussed to 4:10 P. M., when it was passed to a third reading, after certain amendments.

A motion to adjourn was lost, and the House proceeded to the consideration of a Senate bill to release the lien of the State upon a lot of land in Charleston, owned by the South Carolina Institute, for the promotion of art, mechanical ingenuity and industry; which was made the special order for to-morrow, at 1 o'clock.

Pending the discussion of a bill to provide for the election of Justices of the Peace, the House adjourned, at 5:20 P. M.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1871.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 12 M. Mr. Leslie rose to a question of privilege, and asked to have read a portion of the testimony made by Gov. Scott before the Blue Ridge Railroad Committee, as reported in the *Phoenix* of to-day, and which reflects upon himself in stating that he offered to take \$25,000 to stop his prosecution against the Blue Ridge Railroads. The article was read. Mr. Leslie then rose and said, first, that the testimony of the Governor was untrue; and, second, that it was a most advantageously opportunity to attack him, but I will restrain myself, being satisfied that from what I have shown, it is impossible for the charge against me to be true. I must say, however, that it scarce becomes a man of the Governor's record to impugn my integrity—he who was himself the father of the Blue Ridge swindle, to fund the bills of the Bank of the State—of which he owned \$40,000 or \$50,000, purchased at five cents on the dollar—and who has ever been engaged since his induction into office in using his official influence, and secretly and openly bringing all undue means to bear upon the Legislature, in order to effect his private and personal ends. His charges, however, cannot injure me, for my character has been already blasted with the people, and they have a right to think me a rascal; but I rest confident that when the true statement of the conduct of the Land Commission is had and published to the country, my reputation will not suffer in comparison with the host of those who now are the loudest in denouncing me.

Mr. Whittemore introduced a bill to sell at public auction the lands of the State.

A bill to amend an Act to fix the salaries and regulate the pay of certain officers was postponed to next session.

The enacting clause of a bill to repeal an Act to repeal the usury laws of this State was stricken out.

Mr. Hayne introduced a concurrent resolution to pay Judge R. F. Graham the unexpired portion of Judge Carpenter's salary. Adopted.

A bill to create a sinking fund for the payment of the public debt of the State was made the special order for to-morrow, at 1 o'clock P. M.

A bill to amend an Act providing for the next general election and the manner of conducting the same, passed to a third reading. Also, a bill to amend an Act to better protect the holders of insurance policies. Also, a bill to amend an Act to regulate the fees of Sheriffs and other officers.

A bill to provide for the construction and keeping in repair of public highways and roads was postponed to to-morrow.

The House sent to the Senate a bill to make appropriations for the year 1871, which was read the first time.

A bill to incorporate the Clafin University and State Agricultural College was taken up, and pending its discussion, the Senate resolved itself into executive session.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 12 M. The following bills were read a third time and passed: Bill amendatory of an Act organizing and governing the militia of South Carolina, and a bill compelling County Treasurers to receive County warrants and checks in payment of County taxes, with amendments.

The following were ordered to be engrossed for a third reading: Bills to repeal an Act to amend an Act providing for the assessment and taxation of property; to amend an Act to define the criminal jurisdiction of Trial Justices; to amend an Act to define the jurisdiction and duties of County Commissioners; to fund the *nulla bona* claims of Sheriffs and ex-tax collectors; to vest in the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives power to call extra sessions of the General Assembly.

A bill to provide for the appointment of a State Geologist and assistant, was postponed till the next session.

A bill to abolish the right of dower was passed to a third reading. Also, a Senate bill to release the lien of the State upon a lot of land in the city of Charleston, owned by the South Carolina Institute, for the promotion of art, mechanical ingenuity and industry, and take a similar lien upon the new hall erected by said South Carolina Institute.

A bill relating to the Greenville Railroad Company was taken up and debate ensued, the ayes and nays being called some thirty or forty times upon different motions, and upon the passage of the several sections to a third reading. About thirty-five members fought the bill, section by section, until 10 o'clock P. M. when it was passed and ordered to be engrossed. The House then adjourned.

Revels, the negro Senator from Mississippi, proved, the other day, that he had far more good sense than his brother Senators of the white race, by denouncing the clause in the District School bill which provided for mixed schools. He declared that "this effort of Legislatures to foist social equality upon communities, was the very thing that operated disastrously to the negro race." Such fanatical resolutions that Canby school fund be appropriated to free school fund; joint resolution authorizing the purchase of certain volumes of State reports.

The following passed and were ordered to be sent to the House of Representatives: A bill authorizing the County Commissioners of Spartanburg, Greenville, Pickens and Oconee, and the authorities of certain towns in those Counties to provide means to meet the interest on certain bonds; a bill to enforce the payment of the poll tax, and a bill to authorize the formation and incorporation of the Tugaloo and Chattanooga Railroad.

At 3:45 P. M., the Senate adjourned.

IMPORTANCE OF READING AND STUDY.

Lord Derby, in addressing the pupils of Liverpool College, remarked that in these days, and in this country, very few men can give themselves up altogether to study, and in few cases the fragments of time that can be saved out of a busy career are available for strenuous mental culture. It was not, however, so much time that was wanted; a man will always find time for what really interests him. But energy is each of us a limited quality; and we cannot blame or wonder at the wish to rest altogether after a good day's work. Yet knowing all this, and feeling it myself, I do say, to every young man whom I am now addressing, whatever your pursuit may be, however active, however absorbing, don't—unless you are willing to forfeit one of the most lasting of human enjoyments—don't, if you can possibly do so, allow yourself to lose your taste for reading. It is a bad thing to have the brain always filled with one's own narrow personal concerns or, what is one degree worse, with the small personal concerns of one's neighbors. It is a great gain, putting it in the lowest point of view, to be able to pass at pleasure out of the eternal round of petty duties and trivial arrangements, to observe, with however an unpracticed eye, the marvellous arrangements of nature, or to live in the lives and follow the thoughts that have interested and instructed successive generations of mankind. It often appears to me, in the present day, that we are a little too apt, in all classes, to look upon our own selves as mere machines for what is called "getting on," and to forget that there are in every human being many faculties which cannot be employed, and many wants which cannot be satisfied by that occupation. I have not a word to utter against strenuous devotion to business while you are at it. But one of the wisest and most thoroughly cultivated men whom I ever knew retired before the age of fifty from a profession in which he was making an enormous income, because, he said, he had got as much as he or anybody belonging to him could want, and he did not see why he should sacrifice the rest of his life to money-getting. Some people thought him very foolish. I did not. And I believe that the gentleman of whom I speak never once repented of his decision.—Exchange.

SPEAKING SLIGHTLY OF WOMEN.—At a recent dinner in New York, at which no ladies were present, a man, in responding to a toast, "Women," dwelt almost solely on the frailty of the sex, claiming that the best among them were little better than the worst, the chief difference being in their surroundings. At the conclusion of the speech, a gentleman present rose to his feet and said:

"I trust the gentlemen in the application of his remarks, refers to his own mother and sisters, not ours."

The effect of this most just and timely rebuke was overwhelming; and the maligner of women was covered with confusion and shame.

This incident serves an excellent purpose in prefacing a few words on this subject.

Of all the evils prevalent among men, we know of none more blighting in its moral effect than the tendency to speak slightly of the virtue of woman. Nor is there anything in the young men are so thoroughly mistaken as in the low estimate they form of the integrity of women—not their own mothers and sisters, thank God, but of others, who they forget, are somebody else's mothers and sisters.

Plain words should be spoken on this point, for the evil is general and deep rooted. If young men are sometimes thrown into society of lewd women, they have no more right to measure all other women by what they see of these than they would have to estimate the character of honest and respectable citizens by the developments of crime in our Police courts.

Let young men remember that their chief happiness in life depends upon their faith in women. No worldly wisdom, misanthropic philosophy, no generalization can cover or weaken this fundamental truth. It stands like the record of God himself—for it is nothing less than this—and should put an everlasting seal upon lips that are wont to speak slightly of women.

LIFE INSURANCE.—It is but a little more than twenty-five years since the first life insurance company became profitably established in the United States. Others followed in due time, and their business has rapidly increased. We have now upward of seventy companies, insuring the lives of some seven hundred thousand persons. Every day the system is becoming better understood and appreciated; but yet there