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THE BURNING OF COLUMBIA.

A DARK CHAPTER OF UNWRITTEN HISTORY.

The Report of the Committee of Citizens Appointed to Collect Testimony—Scenes in the Stricken City—Incidents of the Night of Terror Caused by the Great Conflagration.

By J. P. Carroll, Chairman of the Committee of Citizens.

The Committee who were charged with the duty of collecting the evidence in relation to the destruction of Columbia by fire on the 17th of February, 1865, submit the following report: By the terms of the resolution appointing them the committee do not feel authorized to deduce any conclusion or pronounce any judgment, however warranted by the proofs, as to the person responsible for the crime. Their task will be accomplished by presenting the evidence that has been obtained, with an abstract of the fact established by it. More than sixty depositions and statements in writing, from as many individuals, have been placed in the hands of the committee. The array of witnesses is impressive, not merely because of their number, but for the high tone and elevated character of some of them, the unpretending and sterling probity of others, and the general intelligence and worth of all. The plain and unvarnished narrative subjoined is taken from the testimony referred to solely and exclusively, except so much as refers to certain declarations of Gen. Sherman himself, widely circulated through the public press, and to the ravages of his army in this State after their departure from Columbia; matters of such notoriety as, in the judgment of the committee, to dispense with the necessity of formal proof. The forces of Gen. Sherman's command while in Georgia seem to have anticipated that their next march would be through South Carolina. Their temper and feeling toward our people, a witness, Mrs. L. Catherine Joyner, thus describes: "The soldiers were universal in their threats. They seemed to gloat over the distress that would result from their march through the State. I conversed with numbers of all grades belonging to the Fourteenth and Twentieth corps. Such expressions as the following were of hourly occurrence: 'Carolina may well fear us; she brought this war on, and shall pay the penalty. You think Georgia has suffered; just wait until we get into Carolina; every man, woman and child may dread us there.'" Of Gen. Sherman himself the same witness informs us that, addressing himself to a lady of his acquaintance, he said to her: "Go off the line of railroad, for I will not answer for the consequences where the army passes."

A HARVEST OF DESOLATION.

The threats uttered in Georgia were sternly executed by the troops of Gen. Sherman upon their entrance into this State. For eighty miles along the route of his army, through the most highly improved and cultivated region of the State, according to the testimony of intelligent and respectable witnesses the habitations of but two white persons remained. As he advanced, the villages of Hardeeville, Grahamville, Gillisonville, McPhersonville, Barnwell, Blackville, Midway, Orangeburg and Lexington were successfully devoted to the flames; indignities and outrages were perpetrated upon the persons of the inhabitants; the implements of agriculture were broken; dwellings, barns, mills and ginhouses were consumed; provisions of every description appropriated or destroyed; horses and mules carried away, and sheep, cattle and hogs were either taken for actual use or shot down and left behind. The like devastation marked the progress of the invading army from Columbia through this State to its northern frontier, and the Towns of Winnsboro, Camden, and Cheraw suffered from like visitation by fire. If a single town or village or hamlet within their line of march escaped altogether the torch of the invaders the committee have not been informed of the exception. The line of Gen. Sherman's march from his entering the territory of the State up to Columbia, and from Columbia, to the North Carolina border, was one continuous track of fire. The devastation and ruin thus inflicted were but the execution of the policy and plan of Gen. Sherman for the subjugation of the Confederate States. Extracts from his address, at Salem, Ill., have appeared in the public prints, and thus he announces and vindicates the policy and plan referred to: "We were strung out from Nashville clear down to Atlanta. Had I then gone on stringing out our forces what danger would there not have been for their attacking the little head of the column and crushing it? Therefore, I resolved in a moment to stop the game of guarding their cities, and to destroy their cities. We were determined to produce results, and now what were those results? To make every man and woman and child in the South feel that if they dared to rebel against the flag of their country they must die or submit." The plan of subjugation adopted by Gen. Sherman was fully comprehended and approved of by his army. His officers and men universally justified their acts by declaring that it was "the way to put down the rebellion by burning and destroying everything." Before the surrender of our town the soldiers of Gen. Sherman, officers and privates, declared that it was to be destroyed. "It was," deposes a witness (Mrs. Rosa J. Meetze,) "the common talk among them (at the village of Lexington) that Columbia was to be burned by Gen. Sherman." At the same place, on the 16th of February, 1865, as deposed by another witness, Mrs. Frances T. Caughman, the general officer in command of his cavalry forces, Gen. Kilpatrick, said in reference to Columbia: "Sherman will lay it in ashes for them." "It was the general impression among all the prisoners we captured," says a Confederate officer, Col. J. P. Austin, of the Ninth Kentucky Cavalry, "that Columbia was to be destroyed."

SHELLING SOUTH CAROLINA'S CAPITAL.

On the morning of the same day (February 16, 1865) some of the forces of Gen. Sherman appeared on the western side of the Congaree River, and without a demand of surrender, or any previous notice of their purpose, began to shell the town, then filled with women, children and aged persons, and continued to do so, at intervals, throughout the day. The Confederate forces were withdrawn and the town restored to the control of the municipal authorities on the morning of the 17th of February. Accompanied by three of the aldermen, the mayor, between 8 and 9 o'clock a. m., proceeded in the direction of Broad River for the purpose of surrendering the city to Gen. Sherman. Acting in concert with the mayor, the officer in command of the rear guard of the Confederate cavalry, Gen. M. C. Butler, forebore from further resistance to the advance of the opposing army, and took effectual precautions against anything being done which might provoke Gen. Sherman or his troops to acts of violence, or severity toward the town or its citizens. The surrender of Columbia was made by the mayor and aldermen to the first general officer of the hostile army whom they met, and that officer promised protection to the town and its inhabitants until communication could be had with Gen. Sherman and the terms of surrender arranged. By 11 o'clock a. m. the town was in possession of the Federal forces, the first detachment entering being the command of the officer who had received the surrender. They had scarcely marched into the town, however, before they began to break into the stores of the merchants, appropriating the contents or throwing them into the streets and destroying them. As other bodies of troops came in the pillage grew more general, and soon the sack of the town was universal. Guards were in general sent to those of the citizens who applied for them, but in numerous instances they proved to be unable or unwilling to perform the duty assigned them. Scarcely a single household or family escaped altogether from being plundered. The streets of the town were densely filled with thousands of Federal soldiers, drinking, shouting, carousing and robbing the defenceless inhabitants without reprimand or check from their officers, and this state of things continued until night. In some instances guards were refused. Papers and property of great value were in the vaults of the city banks, while the apartments above and in the rear were occupied by women and children, with their food and clothing. For a guard to protect them application was made by one of our worthiest and most respectable citizens, Edwin J. Scott, Esq., first to the general officer who had received the surrender of the town, Col. Stone, and then to the provost marshal, Major Jenkins. The response made to the applicant by the former officer, though standing idly in the crowd, was that he "had no time to attend to him," and the answer of the latter was, "I cannot undertake to protect private property." Between 2 and 3 o'clock p. m. Gen. Sherman in person rode into Columbia, informed the mayor that his letter had been received and promised protection to the town. Extraordinary license was allowed to the soldiers by Gen. Sherman.

SHERMAN'S ASSURANCE OF SAFEGUARD.

On the afternoon of the 17th of February, and shortly after his arrival in Columbia, the mayor of the town, at the reqest of Gen. Sherman, accompanied him on a visit to a lady of his acquaintance. While proceeding to her residence Gen. Sherman began to express his opinion very freely upon the subject of our institution of slavery. In the midst of his remarks he was interrupted by the sudden and near report of a musket; immediately before them in the direction they were going, they observed a group of Federal soldiers seeming to be excited, and upon approaching they saw a negro lying dead directly in their path, being shot though the heart. "Gen. Sherman," the mayor Dr. T. J. Goodwyn narrates, "asked of the soldiers 'how came the negro shot,'" and was answered that he had been guilty of great insolence to them, and that thereupon Gen. Sherman remarked: "Stop this boys, this is all wrong; take away the body and bury it." "Gen. Sherman," continues the mayor, "then stepped over the body of the negro and observed to this deponent that 'in quiet times such a thing ought to be noticed, but in times like this it cannot be done.'" General Sherman, resumed his conversation in relation to slavery, and no arrest was ordered or any censure or reprimand uttered by him except as above stated. About sundown, as the mayor deposes, General Sherman said to him: "Go home and rest assured that your city will be as safe in my hands as if you had control of it." He added that he was compelled to burn some of the public buildings, and in so doing did not wish to destroy one particle of private property. "This evening," he said, "was too windy to do anything." An esteemed clergyman, Rev. A. Toomer Porter, testifies that the same afternoon, between 6 and 7 o'clock, Gen. Sherman said to him: "You must know a great manly ladies. Go around and tell them to go to bed quietly; they will not be disturbed any more than if my army was one hundred miles off." He seemed obvious of the fact that we had been pillaged and insulted the whole day. In one hour's time the city was in flames. Meanwhile the soldiers had burned that afternoon many houses in the environs of the town, including the residence of Gen. Hampton and that of his sisters, formerly the residence of their father, and once the seat of genial and princely hospitality. Throughout the day, after they had marched into the town, the soldiers of Gen. Sherman gave distinct and frequent notice to the citizens of their impending calamity, usually in the form of fierce and direct threats, but occasionally, as if in kindly forewarning. A lady of rare worth and intelligence, and of high social position, Mrs. L. S. McCord, relates the following incident: "One of my maids brought me a paper, left, she told me, by a Yankee soldier; it was an ill-spelled but kindly warning of the horrors to come, written upon a torn sheet of my dead son's note-book, which, with private papers of every kind, now strewed my yard; it was signed by a lieutenant, but of what company or regiment I did not take note. The writer said he had relatives and friends at the South, and that he felt for us; that his heart bled to think of what was threatening. 'Ladies,' he wrote, 'I pity you; leave this town; go anywhere to be safer than here.' This was written in the morning; the fires were in the evening and night."

WAS IT A PRECONCERTED SIGNAL?

One of our citizens of great intelligence and respectability, Wm. H. Orchard, was visited about 7 p. m. by a squad of some six or seven soldiers, to whose depradations he submitted with a composure which seemed to impress their leader. Of his conversation with this person the gentleman referred to testifies as follows: "On leaving the yard he called to me and said he wished to speak to me alone. He then said to me, in an undertone: 'You seem to be a clever sort of a man, and have a large family, so I will give you some advice; if you have anything you wish to save, take care of it at once, for before morning this d—d town will be in ashes—every house in it.' My only reply was, can that be true. He said 'yes, and if you do not believe me you will be the sufferer; and if you watch you will see three rockets go up soon, and if you do not take advice you will see h—ll.'" Within an hour afterward three rockets were seen to ascend from a point in front of the mayor's dwelling. But a few minutes elapsed before fires in swift succession broke out, and at points so far apart that they could not have been communicated from the one to the other. At various parts of the town the soldiers, at the appearance of the rockets, declared that they were the appointed signals for a general conflagration. The fire companies, with their engines, promptly repaired to the scene of the fires and endeavored to arrest them, but in vain. The soldiers of Gen. Sherman, with bayonets and axes, pierced and cut the hose, disabled the engines, and prevented the citizens from extinguishing the flames. The wind was high and blew from the west. The fire spread and advanced with fearful rapidity and soon enveloped the very heart of the town. The pillage, which had begun upon the entrance of the hostile forces, continued without cessation or abatement, and now the town was delivered over to the accumulated horrors of sack and conflagration. The inhabitants were subjected to personal indignities and outrages. A witness. Capt. W. B. Standley, testified that several times during the night he "saw the soldiers of Gen. Sherman take from females bundles of clothing and provisions, open them, appropriate what they wanted, and throw the remainder into the flames." Men were violently seized and threatened with the halter or the pistol to compel them to disclose where their gold or silver was concealed. The reverend and beloved pastor of one of our churches, Rev. P. J. Shand, states that "in the midst and during the progress of the appalling calamity, above all other noises might be heard the demoniac and gladsome shouts of the soldiery." Driven from his home by the flames, with the aid of a servant he was bearing off a trunk containing the communion plate of his church (his wife walking by his side,) when he was surrounded by five of the soldiers, who requested him to put down the trunk and inform them of its contents, which was done. The sequel he thus narrates: "They then demanded the key, but I not having it, they proceeded in efforts to break the lock. While four of them were thus engaged the fifth seized me with his left hand by the collar and presenting a pistol to my breast with his right, he demanded of me my watch. I had it not about me, but he searched my pocket, thoroughly, and then joined his comrades who, finding it impracticable to force upon the lock, took up the trunk and carried it away. These men (he added) were all perfectly sober."

TWO-THIRDS OF THE TOWN IN ASHES.

By 3 o'clock on the morning of the 18th of February, 1865, more than two-thirds of the town lay in ashes, composing the most highly improved and the entire business portion of it. Thousands of the inhabitants, including women delicately reared, young children, the aged and the sick, passed that winter night in the open air, without shelter from the bitter and piercing blasts. About the hour mentioned (2 o'clock a. m.,) another highly esteemed clergyman, Rev. A. Toomer Porter, personally known to Gen. Sherman, was at the corner of a street conversing with one of his officers on horseback, when Gen. Sherman, in citizen's attire, walked up and accosted him. The interview is thus described: "In the bright light of the burning city Gen. Sherman recognized me and remarked, 'This is a horrible sight.' 'Yes,' I replied, 'when you reflect that women and children are the victimes.' He said: 'Your Governor is responsible for this.' 'How so?' I replied. 'Who ever heard,' he said, 'of an evacuated city being left a depot of liquor for an army to occupy. I found one hundred and twenty casks of whiskey in one cellar. Your Governor, being a lawyer or a judge, refused to have it destroyed, as it was private property, and now my men have got drunk and have got beyond my control and this is the result. Perceiving the officer on horseback he said: 'Colonel Andrews, did I not order that this thing should be stopped?' 'Yes, General,' said the Captain, 'but the first division that came in soon got as drunk as the first regiment that occupied the town.' 'Then, sir,' said Gen. Shermrn, 'go and bring in the second division; I hold you personally responsible for its immediate cessation.' The officer darted off and Sherman bade me good evening. I am sure it was not more than an hour and a half from the time that Gen. Sherman gave his order before the city was cleared of the destroyers." From that time until the departure of Gen. Sherman from Columbia (with perhaps one or two exceptions) not another dwelling in it was burned by his soldiers, and during the succeeding days and nights of his occupation perfect tranquillity prevailed throughout the town. The discipline of his troops was perfect, the soldiers standing in great awe of their officers.

THE INCENDIARIES SOBER.

That Columbia was burned by the soldiers of Gen. Sherman, that the vast majority of the incendiaries were sober, that for hours they were seen with combustibles firing house after house, without any affectation of concealment, and without the slightest check from their officers, is established by proof full to repletion and wearisome from its very superfluity. After the destruction of the town his officers and men openly approved of its burning and exulted in it. "I saw," deposes the mayor, "very few drunken soldiers that night; many who appeared to sympathize with our people told me that the fate and doom of Columbia had been common talk around their camp fires ever since they left Savannah." It was said by numbers of the soldiers that the order had been given to burn down the city. There is strong evidence that such an order was actually issued in relation to the house of Gen. John S. Preston. The Ursuline Convent was destroyed by the fire and the proof referred to comes from a revered and honored member of that holy sisterhood (the Mother Superior) and it is subjoined in her own words; "Our Convent was consumed in the general conflagration of Columbia, ourselves and pupils were forced to fly, leaving provisions, clothing and almost everything. We spent the night in open air in the church-yard. On the following morning General Sherman made us a visit, expressed his regret at the burning of our Convent, disclaimed the act, attributing it to the intoxication of his soldiers, and told me to choose any house in town for a convent and it should be ours. He deputed his Adjutant-General, Colonel Ewing, to act in his stead. Colonel Ewing reminded us of General Sherman's offer to give us any house in Columbia we might choose for a convent. 'We have thought of it,' said we, 'and of asking for Gen. Preston's house, which is large.' 'That is where Gen. Logan holds his headquarters,' said he, 'and orders have already been given, I know, to burn it on to-morrow morning; but if you say you will take it for a convent, I will speak to the General and the order will be countermanded.' On the following morning, after many inquiries, we learned from the officer in charge (Gen. Perry, I think,) that his orders were to fire it unless the Sisters were in actual possession of it, but if even 'a detachment of Sisters' were in it it should be spared on their account. Accordingly we took possession of it, although fires were already kindled near and the servants were carrying off the bedding and furniture in view of the house being consigned to the flames."

A DOUBT ABOUT ACTUAL ORDERS.

Although actual orders for the burning of the town may not have been given, the soldiers of Gen. Sherman certainly believed that its destruction would not be displeasing to him. That such was their impression we have the authority of a personage not less distinguished than the officer of highest rank in the army of the invaders next after the commander-in-chief himself. The proof is beyond impeachment. It comes from the honored pastor of one of our city churches, Rev. P. J. Shand, to whom reference has already been made, and it is thus expressed in his written statement in the possession of the committee: "As well as I recollect, in November, 1865, I went in company with a friend to see General Howard at his headquarters, in Charleston, on matters of business. Before we left the coversation turned on the destruction of Columbia. Gen. Howard expressed his regret at the occurrence, and added the following words: 'Though Gen. Sherman did not order the burning of the town, yet somehow or other the men had taken up the idea that if they destroyed the capital of South Carolina it would be peculiarly gratifying to Gen. Sherman.' These were his words in the order in which I have set them forth. I noted them down as having great significance, and they are as fresh in my remembrance as they were immediately after they were spoken. My friend (whose recollection accords fully with my own) and myself on our way home talked the matter over, and could not but be struck by the two following facts: First, that although Gen. Howard said that Gen. Sherman did not order the burning, he did not state that Gen. Sherman gave orders that the city should not be burned. Second, that it was surprising if General Sherman was opposed to the burning that his opposition should have been so disguised as to lead to the conviction on the part of his soldiery that the act, so far from incurring his disapprobation or censure, would be a source, to him, of "peculiar gratification." The cotton bales in the town had been placed in the centre of the wide streets in order to be burned to prevent their falling into the possession of the invaders. But upon Gen. Hampton suggesting that this might endanger the town, and that as the South Carolina Railroad had been destroyed the cotton could not be removed, Gen. Beauregard, upon this representation, directed Gen. Hampton to issue an order that the cotton should not be burned. The proof of this fact is to be found in the written statement of Gen. Beauregard himself. Accordingly, and in due time, the order forbidding the burning of the cotton was issued by Gen. Hampton and communicated to the Confederate troops. The officer, then acting as Gen. Hampton's adjutant (Capt. Rawlins Lowndes,) speaks as follows: "Soon after Gen. Hampton assumed command of the cavalry, which he did on the evening of the 16th of February, he told me that Gen. Beauregard had determined not to burn the cotton, as the Yankees had destroyed the railroad, and directed me to issue an order that no cotton should be fired. This I did at once, and the same order was extended to the cavalry throughout their march through South and North Carolina." The general officer commanding the division forming the rear guard of the Confederate cavalry (Gen. M. C. Butler,) deposes: "That he was personally present with the rear squadron of his division; that Linut.-Gen. Wade Hampton withdrew simultaneously with him, with a part of this deponent's command, and that Gen. Hampton, on the morning of the evacuation and the day previous, directed him that the cotton must not be set on fire, and this order, he adds, was communicated to the entire division and strictly observed." A clergyman, highly esteemed at the North, as at the South (Rev. A. Toomer Porter) thus testifies: "General Hampton had told me at daylight, in answer to the question whether he was going to burn the cotton: 'No, the wind is high; it might catch something, and give Sherman an excuse to burn the town.'" "Between 8 and 9 o'clock on the morning of the 17th of February," deposes the mayor, "General Hampton, while sitting on his horse, observed some cotton piled not far off, in the middle of the street. He advised me to put a guard over it, saying: 'Some careless ones, by smoking, might set it on fire, and in doing so might endanger the city. From that hour I saw nothing more of Gen. Hampton until the war was over." "Not one bale of the cotton had been fired by the Confederate troops when they withdrew from Columbia. The only thing on fire at the time of the evacuation was the depot of the South Carolina Railroad, which caught fire accidentally from the explosion of some ammunition." This is the statement of Gen. Beauregard himself. It is sustained by the testimony of the officer, high in rank, but higher still in character, who commanded the rear guard of the Confederate cavalry (Gen. M. C. Butler,) and is concurred in by other witnesses, comprising officers, clergymen and citizens—witnesses of such repute and in such numbers as to render the proof overwhelming.

HOW THE COTTON WAS FIRED.

The fire at the South Carolina Railroid depot burned out without extending to any other buildings. Shortly after the first detachment of Gen. Sherman's troops had entered the town, and while men were seated or reclining on the cotton bales in Main street, and passing to and fro along them with lighted cigars and pipes, the row of cotton bales between Washington and Lady streets caught fire, the bales being packed, with the cotton protruding from them. The flames extended swiftly over the cotton, and the fire companies with their engines were called out, and by 1 o'clock p. m. the fire was effectually extinguished. While the fire companies were engaged about the cotton, an alarm was given of fire in the jail, and one of the engines being sent there the flames were soon subdued, with slight injury only to one of the cells. About 5 o'clock in the afternoon, as deposed to by a witness (Mrs. E. Squire,) the cotton bales in Sumter street, between Washington and Lady streets, were set on fire by Gen. Sherman's wagon train, then passing along the cotton. But that fire was soon extinguished by the efforts of the witness referred to and her family. "I saw," says a witness (John McKenzie, Esq.) "fire-balls thrown out of the wagons against Hon. W. F. De Saussure's house, but without doing any damage." No other fires in the town occurred until after night, when the general conflagration began. As already stated, the wind blew from the west, but the fires after night broke out first on the west of Main and Sumter streets, and to windward of where the cotton bales were placed. "The cotton," it is testified and proved (Ed. J. Scott, Esq.,) "instead of burning the houses, was burned by them."

Gen. Sherman, as has been shown, on the night of the 17th of February, and while the town was in flames, ascribed the burning of Columbia to the intoxication of his soldiers and to no other cause. On the following day, the 18th of February, the lady to whom reference was previously made (Mrs. L. S. McCord) at the request of a friend, having undertaken to present a paper to Gen. Howard, sought an interview with that officer—second in command of the invading army—and found Gen. Sherman with him. The narrative of a part of the interview is as follows: "I handed him the paper, which he glanced at, and then in a somewhat subdued voice, but standing so near Gen. Sherman that I think it impossible that the latter could help hearing him, he said: "You may rest satisfied, Mrs. ——, that there will be nothing of the kind happening to-night. The truth is, our men last night got beyond our control; many of them were shot; many of them were killed; there will be no repetition of these things to-night. I assure you there will be nothing of the kind; today will be perfectly quiet.' And it was quiet—peaceful as the grave—the ghost of his predecessor." "The same day (18th of February) Gen. Sherman," deposes the mayor, "sent for me. I went to see him about 1 o'clock. He met me very cordially, and said he regretted very much that our city was burned, and that it was my fault. I asked him how? He said in suffering ardent spirits to be left in the city after it was evacuated, saying: 'Who could command drunken soldiers?' There was no allusion made to General Hampton, to accident, or to cotton."

THE SUFFERING CAUSED BY THE FIRE.

On the succeeding day—Sunday, February 19, 1895, the mayor and six of the citizens visited Gen. Sherman in ordor to obtain food for the subsistence of the women and children until communication could be had with the country. Gen. Sherman, upon that occasion, talked much. "In the course of his discourse," deposes one of the gentlemen (Edwin J. Scott, Esq.,) "he referred to the burning of the city, admitting that it was done by his troops, but excusing them because, as he alleged, they had been made drunk by our citizens, one of whom, a druggist, he said, had brought a pail full of spirits to them on their arrival. Again, on our leaving the room, he expressed regret that the liquor had not been destroyed before his men entered the place; but he never mentioned or alluded in any way to Gen. Hampton or the cotton, nor gave the slightest intimation that they were instrumental in the destruction of the city. At that time," deposes the same witness, "the universal testimony of our people was that Sherman's troops burned the town. Since then I have been in the habit of daily intercourse with all classes in and about Columbia, high and low, rich and poor, male and female, whites and blacks, yet I have not met with a single person who attributed the calamity to any other cause." "If," he adds, "a transaction that occurred in the presence of forty or fifty thousand people can be successfully falsified, then all human testimony is worthless." As evidence of the general distress and suffering which resulted from the sack and burning of our city, and the desolation of the adjacent country, the committee refer to the fact established by unimpeachable testimony, that for about three months daily rations, consisting generally of a pint of meal and a small allowance of poor beef for each person, were dealt out at Columbia to upwards of eight thousand destitute people.

The committee have designed by the preceding summary of the more prominent events and incidents connected with the destruction of Columbia to present only an abstract of the numerous depositions and proofs in their possession. The proprieties imposed upon them by the very nature of the duties to which they have been assigned have precluded their doing more. In the evidence thus collected may be read in all its pathetic and heartrending details the story of the tragic fate that has befallen our once beautiful city. Impressed with the historic value of the proofs referred, to, and their importance to the cause of truth, and with a view to their preservation, the committee respectfully recommend that they be committed to the guardianship of the municipal authorities and be deposited with the archives of the town, trusting that in after and better times they will yet be found effectual as well to vindicate the innocent as to confound the guilty.

Facts Learned From Drought.

Before the drought of this year is forgotten let us take a brief review of the lessons it has taught us, so we may impress them on our memories and profit by them in the future.

1. Droughts are of incalculable advantage to the soil. They are to the earth what sleep is to the human body, "tired nature's sweet restorer." While the surface of the earth is parched with heat, by the mysterious force of capillary attraction, various fertilizing properties are continually rising from the subsoil, which but for the heat and drought in the surface would have remained below. The rising of the oil in the lamp wick, to supply the place of that which is consumed by the flame, is a familiar illustration of this process. If any farmer doubts the fact, let him notice the wonderful recuperation of the crops since the rains have fallen and let him account for it upon any other hypothesis if he can.

2. Before the 10th or 15th of July droughts are not dangerons. Up to this date they are in one or two respects like bomb shells; they make a great show and produce alarm and demoralization, but do very little execution. The splendid crops now growing all over our country prove this fact.

3. It will not do to stop work on account of dry weather. The editor of this paper very correctly observed, in his recent trip to Welford, that more corn was injured by not receiving the last working, than by the dry weather—a fact which many farmers are now realizing to their sorrow.

4. Corn should be replanted, notwithstanding there may be no missing hills. It requires both a silk and tassel to make an ear of corn. These die very soon in dry weather, but when the rains come, the stalks if not completely exhausted, will throw out fresh silks, and these silks will make ears, provided there are any fresh tassles within reach to furnish the pollen. If there are no such tassles these efforts to make ears must prove abortive. A close inspection of any field of early corn to this time, will convince any one of these truths. We should have a stalk, then, about every fifteen feet square, planted two or three weeks after the main crop to furnish pollen in case a drought should kill all the old tassels.

5. The best provisions against drought are deep and thorough preparation, plenty of distance, liberal manuring, leveling the rows so as to save every drop of the partial showers that usually fall in time of a drought, and rapid and thorough cultivation.

He who will remember the above facts and reduce them to practice will hold his hand against any ordinary drought. —*Carolina Spartan.*

— Europe promises to be for all time to come a profitable market for our surplus apples.

If there is anything in the 'survival of the fittest' Dr. Bull's Baltimore Pills must be 'counted in;' they have lived long and do better work than ever.

— There are now only about 500,000 members of the patrons of husbandry in the United States. At one time the organization numbered nearly a million.

"THE BLOODY" BATES.

Revolutionary Incidents Connected with Spartanburg County.

Spartanburg Spartan.

Never was *sobriquet* more justly earned than this scoundrel assassin did the one attached to his name. He was known by it throughout the Revolutionary war, and died with it ringing in his ears. Born and brought up in the mountains of the Carolinas, he sought to lead the Indians, at the commencement of the Revolutionary war, on his old neighbors, friends and kindred. He strove to surpass his savage followers in all their horrible atrocities on the Whigs in the upper parts of Spartanburg and Greenville. After committing many outrages on the thinly settled citizens of this region of country, he came to the house of a Mr. Sillman, on Pacolette River, who had been living there for a number of years with his family. As soon as Bates and his Indians made their appearance, those of the family who were at home attempted to make their escape. They were immediately fired on by the Indians, and a son of Mr. Sillman's then a young man grown felled to the ground. He was shot through the body, and supposed for some time to be dead. But Bates discovered whilst plundering the house that he was alive, and he ordered one of his savage band to dispatch him. As the Indian approached him, young Sillman raised his hands and implored for mercy; but the savage was as insensible to mercy as he was ignorant of the language in which he was addressed. Instead of mercy, he first stamped his foot on the face of the white man and drew his butcher-knife and thrust it in the breast and side of his victim. Sillman swooned away, and was again left for dead.

The Indians having loaded themselves with plunder, left the house.

Not long after the departure of Bates, Mrs. Sillman returned and found her son still breathing. Terrified and alarmed with the apprehension that the savages would again come back, and moved by that maternal love which is the strongest and most deep-rooted affection of the human heart, she took up in her arms the mangled body of her son, and made the best of her way with it to the swamp, not far distant. After washing the clotted blood from his head, breast and side, she went in search of assistance and protection. Some of the neighbors who had escaped the Indians and Bates, returned with her, and in her fright, confusion and alarm, she was unable at first to lead them to the place where she had concealed her son. After some search, however, the spot was discovered, and the young man found to be yet alive. He received all the attention that his family and neighbors could bestow, and, wonderful to say, recovered, and was living at the time of my visit to the battlefield of the Cowpens! In after life he wore his hair combed forward in such a manner as to conceal the scalp.

After his outrages in Spartanburg District, Bates divided his band of savages, and sent one portion of them to attack Mill's Station in North Carolina, whilst he led the others to Gowen's Fort in Greenville. Those who were dispatched to the former place, found the station wholly unprepared for an attack. The greater part of the garrison was dispersed in the neighborhood, and the fort fell an easy capture in the hands of the Indians. When they first made their appearance, Mrs. Mills was sitting with an infant in her arms suckling at the breast. She was shot at through the interstices of the logs of the fort, and the ball passed through the head of her babe and the breast at which it was sucking. A more shocking and dreadful sight cannot well be imagined.

The news of the capture and massacre of this station was carried that evening to Captain John Earle, who immediately raised his company and went in pursuit of the Indians. They were tracked into the mountains, when the savages, finding themselves pursued, set the woods on fire and dispersed, which precluded the possibility of further pursuit.

Bates and his party proceeded to Gowen's Fort in Greenville, which, after a short but vigorous defence, was surrendered on condition that the unfortunate captives were to receive protection from their savage assailants. But no sooner was Bates in possession of the fort, than recreant to his word of honor and all the feelings of humanity, he ordered a general and indiscriminate massacre of all the prisoners. A most shocking butchery ensued of men, women and children. Neither age, sex nor even his own kindred were spared. But few made their escape, and they in a horribly mangled condition Mrs. Thompson, the wife of Abner Thompson, Esq., made her escape after being scalped, and was still living in Greenville in 1830, venerated with her husband for their moral worth and Revolutionary services.

Amongst those who were killed was the Motley family, all but one son, who lived to avenge in a signal manner the murder of his relations. Some of the garrison were not executed immediately, but reserved for a more cruel death. Amongst this number was young Motley. This young man, after being made to witness the murder of his father, mother, brothers and sisters, was taken for the purpose of being burnt to the stake. All the horrid preparations for such a fate were in readiness. He was stripped of his coat, waistcoat and shirt, and one Indian was unhitching his knee-buckles for the purpose of taking off his breeches, when he discovered Bates. Motley and Bates had been raised together, and an appeal was made to their old acquaintance and former friendship, but all in vain. Bates was insensible to all feelings of friendship and humanity. In fact, he possessed all the vices of the savage without any of his virtues. He was cowardly and treacherous, as well as vindictive and revengeful in his purposes.

The reply of Bates to Motley's appeal for protection was, "Damn you, I have nothing to do with you!" At that instant Motley received a blow which felled him to the ground, and as he arose he determined to make an attempt to escaped, hoping that he would be shot or an end put to his life at once. As he broke to run he was shot in the thigh, but notwithstanding this wound, he effected his escape by means of the bushes and reeds growing on the creek close by. He ran several miles and got to the house of a tory whose wife protected him.

Major Gowen, who was also in the fort, was taken with some others to the mountains for the purpose of being killed at leisure, and in such manner as savage ferocity might suggest. The negroes were taken off by the Indians and Bates for the purpose of making property of them. An opportunity occurred during the night of despatching one of these negroes, a trusty servant of Maj. Gowen's, to Captain Parson's, who lived somewhere in that section of country. The Captain immediately collected a company of men and followed on until he overtook the Indians. They were completely surprised and routed. The prisoners were all released and returned to their homes in safety.

Many years after the close of the Revolution, and when country courts were established in the upper country, Bates returned from the Cherokee country, where he had taken refuge, and stole a horse. He was pursued and captured and securely lodged in Greenville jail. His captors recognized him as "the bloody" Bates. Motley heard of Bates being in Greenville jail whilst plowing in the field. He immediately left his plow, girded on a pair of horseman's pistols, and went to Greenville Court House. Col. Carter, a gentleman of high character and great popularity, was Sheriff of Greenville at that time. Motley demanded of him the keys of the jail, which the Colonel refused to give him. He told the story of Bates murdering his father, mother, brothers, and sisters, and presented a pistol at the Colonel's breast. The keys were given up, and Motley entered the jail. He seized Bates by the throat and emptied the contents of it into his heart. Bates fell dead, and was taken from the jail and buried on the lot now belonging to Col. Hoke's estate adjoining the public square.

Motley returned home and lived in Greenville for many years. No one thought of prosecuting him for killing Bates. All applauded the act and honored Motley for doing it. About the same time a similar execution took place at Ninety-Six. Gen. Butler, of Revolutionary fame, went into the Court House and took a notorious tory assassin from the prisoner's, box after he had been acquitted of stealing a horse, and carried him out and hung him to a tree in the court yard. Judge Burke was presiding in Court, and when the wife of the prisoner appealed to him to save her husband, he replied, "Before God, my good woman, if I were to attempt to do so, they would hang me too.

B. F. PERRY.

Sans Souci, July 22, 1879.

"My Darling's Blind."

A lady entered a car on the Oakwood road one day the past week leading a little girl perhaps four years old. The mother sat down and fitted the little one to the seat beside her. The child was nibbling at a bit of cake or sugar, now and then turning her face, full of childish love, up to her mother and murmuring some unintelligible words of affection.

Opposite to the mother and child sat another young lady, who often smelled a fresh rose which she held. The innocent little one before her attracted her attention, and natural kindliness of the sympathetic woman's heart prompted her to at once offer the fragrant flower to the budding lily opposite. So she leaned a bit forward and spoke:

"Baby want the posey?"

But the child seemed not to hear. Perhaps it was the moving car that prevented. Then she spoke a little louder, and held the flower forward temptingly—

"Baby may have the posey."

The mother heard, for she looked toward the other lady and smiled—and oh! such a look of heartfelt gratitude of motherly love, yet saddened with such an expressive tinge of sorrow as is seldom seen. And still the lady of the rose pressed upon the little one the acceptance of the flower.

"Baby take the rose," holding it almost to the child's hands. And now it seemed she was heard, for the blue eyes turned full upon her would-be patron, and then in a moment she strongly drew toward her mother's face. The lady with the flower showed her bewilderment in her look, while a pained expression flitted across the face of the mother, who leaned forward and whispered just a word—

"My darling is blind!"

Then the whole sunless, darkened life of the fair little being—fair as the flower which had been offered to her—came up before the mind. All beauty shut out forever! For her no foliage-strewn, flower-studded scene to follow the bleakness of winter. No looking with awe into the mysterious depths of the night sky, sparkling with glittering, twinkling star gems, for over those blue eyes the Creator, in the mystery of His designs, had hung the impenetrable veil. No expectant gaze toward the mother's face for the gentlest smile that ever soothes a childish trouble; only the blind passage of the little hand over and over those features, for one moment's sight of which that growing little one will often willingly offer years of existence. For her the birds will sing; the lovliness of form and feather are not. For her while the babbling stream may make mysterious music, dimpled waves and winding reaches and verdant banks do not exist.

How bitterly vivid all this as the lady opened the little hand and shut within it the thornless stem of the rose, now bearing a tear in the petals.

And there were other swimming eyes in the car.

WANTED A SPECIMEN.—They were sitting in the office of Engineer DeHass yesterday afternoon, that is, a few of Burlington's most worthy officials, when a *Hawkeye* reporter intruded upon them in search of news. There was a positive declaration from each individual that he knew nothing. After a few moments' commonplace remarks, one of the gentlemen told a story. This reminded another official of a little incident in his experience as a school-teacher. He said: "I had a small microscope in the school, and I thought I would entertain the children with it one afternoon. I had heard that a louse was a wonderful thing under a magnifying glass, so just before school was dismissed at noon, I told the children that I wanted a big, fat louse, and that for the finest and fattest one I would give fifteen cents. Well, sirs, I dismissed that school, took my dinner and went over to a corner to eat it. I had my lunch nicely laid out, and had just got started, when I noticed a little six-year-old come in the doorway, and start toward me with his right hand extended and a triumphant expression lighting up his little countenance from ear to eye and back again. He marched right up to me, and as he got within reaching distance, unclosed his hand, and said: 'There, teacher; there, I got him,' and with that he deposited a fine, fat gray-back alongside of the lunch. He was about to start off, when in came a little girl in the same manner, walked up with her head down, her thumb in her mouth, and laid down two. Well, they began to come in then right along, until about seventy-five were crawling around before me. I told the children to take them out, and save me two of the best of them. Then they gathered them up and took them away; but, gentlemen, I ate no more dinner. It took a week's salary to pay off the various fifteen cents I had promised, and when the debts were all paid, the study of animated nature in that direction was suspended for the present." Here the official paused and looked around for the "next," but no one offered to go one better, and soon the news-seeker quietly withdrew.—*Burlington Hawkeye.*

Settlement of a long dispute.—Physicians have at last come to the conclusion that the best medicine for teething children is Dr. Bull's Baby Syrup.

An Extraordinary People.

At the meeting of the British Association at Sheffield on Aug. 23, the well-known African explorer, Commander Cameron, who was received with applause, apologized for not having his paper prepared, but he did not believe, in detailing the manners and customs of the people of Urua, in