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THE COTTON HARVESTER.

A MACHINE THAT WILL PICK THREE BALES PER DAY.

Its Present Defects to be Remedied—No Chance of the Picker Being Used on the Next Crop—Mr. Mason Hard at Work to Perfect It.

In the Southern Bivouac for April is an extended description of the Cotton-picker or Harvester, accompanied by numerous illustrations, which concludes as follows:

The machine is absolutely harmless to the plant. No matter in what state or condition the plant is in, or what season the harvester is run over a row, no damage will follow. The writer saw Mr. Mason break the stems of over a dozen burs on a thickly-clustered stalk, until they were hanging by the finest filament, and after the picker stems had passed through not one was torn off. It seems almost miraculous that this could be, as they were attached by such a slight fiber. A dandy, bungling into that bush with his fingers, couldn't have helped tearing off half of them. Had the burs contained lint the ligament would have given way, of course, and the burr would have been jerked from its broken stem. But the machine has never been known of itself to break a boll or a bloom in the field. Wet or dry it does its work. I have seen cotton picked by it in such a wet and soaked condition that, when allowed to dry naturally in the sacks, it became as hard and caked as plaster of paris.

It has yet its defects, of course, and it is far from the object of this article to conceal them. The first is, that as at present constructed it can not work in cotton over five feet high. That can easily be overcome by making different sizes of the machine adapted to ordinary and to rank growths. Nine-tenths of the cotton, however, now grown in the South can be harvested with the present size.

Again, the machine sometimes drops a little cotton from the picker stems before they enter the box.

Also the cotton, as it passes up on the elevators to enter the sack, is sometimes blown off on windy days. This can readily be prevented by covers, which have never been put on except for the purpose of experiment, because Mr. Mason did not want any part of the interior workings of the machine hidden from view while he was studying and improving it.

In the fourth place, a boll is occasionally passed over and left ungathered. This occurs seldom, and practically is of little consequence, two trips generally cleaning a row thoroughly. When a boll is accidentally left it will be gathered at the next picking, for the planter can run over his crop so rapidly and so often that a boll left here and there is of slight importance. This frequent harvesting must also necessarily result in a better grade of cotton, as the fields can always be kept clean in advance of a rain.

Finally, the harvester sometimes fails to gather the lowest bolls when flat on the ground in the dirt. That is difficult to remedy without introducing complications which would seriously interfere with the working of the other parts of the machine.

But Mr. Mason is hard at work remedying, as rapidly as possible, these defects as they present themselves, and is confident of bringing the harvester's present capacity of two thousand pounds of seed cotton per day up to double that amount, or three bales per day, and of reducing the cost of picking to less than one dollar a bale.

And all this by one man and one mule!

It is impossible for the syndicate to place the harvester on the market in time for the next crop, as Mr. Mason will himself be compelled to wait until fall to test the changes he has now in progress. They are in no hurry, and do not hesitate to say that the machine will never be sold until its present defects are effectually overcome, be that time when it may.

But as these defects are trifling, and as even with them the harvester does excellent service, it is fair to conclude that Mr. Mason, having already accomplished the most difficult portion of his work, will not be long in presenting the public with a machine perfect in all its parts. When that time does come, the present declaration of the syndicate will be the best guarantee of the machine's actual efficiency.

Its cost has not yet been fully determined, as it is not known in exactly what shape it will be finally put upon the market. Mr. Mason states, however, that the price will at first probably be about equal to that asked for a substantial reaper or twine binder—perhaps less—say from two hundred to two hundred and fifty dollars. That will put them within easy reach of any one making twenty bales or upward.

The province of this article does not extend to the effect of the introduction of the cotton-harvester upon the industries of the South. Its description and history were all that was compassed in the scope of these pages.

But it, by its assistance, into the gloom and darkness enshrouding the Southern farmer of to-day, and in which he patiently gropes and toils from month to month and from year to year, one slender ray of hope, one feeble glimmer of the broad daylight beyond shall penetrate, bringing present cheer and solace, and the promise of unbounded possibilities for the future, and his load for a time be lightened, and "the cares that infest the day" be even temporarily put aside, this paper will have accomplished its mission, and its reward be ample indeed.

P. W. CANTWELL has a large stock of Guano Funnels which he will sell at very low prices.

ANOTHER COTTON PICKER.

What the United States Cotton Harvester Company Proposes Doing in the South.

The problem of picking cotton in the field has at last been solved, and during the coming season a number of machines which are now being manufactured under the patents of Mr. G. T. Bugg and owned by the United States Cotton Harvester Company, whose office is in the Cotton Exchange, will be in active operation. The exhibition which was recently given on the floor of the Exchange under very great disadvantages demonstrated that the machine would do the work it is intended for. Since that time work has been begun on the new and improved machines, and it is safe to say when they are completed they will pick fully 80 per cent. of the cotton in the field, once going over. There are also in course of manufacture small machines for planters who have only a limited number of acres under cultivation.

Under the most favorable circumstances the United States Cotton Harvester Company does not expect to sell outright many machines this season, but it is determined that the people of every section of the South shall have a chance to witness the working of the harvester on the plantations. Ocular demonstration is what the planters want, and they are to have it.

At the office of the United States Cotton Harvester Company Mr. Bugg, the President, said that the people of the South will not be disappointed this season. The machine will be put in active operation in the fall. Mr. Bugg has organized his company under the laws of the State of New York and has set aside a small portion of the stock for sale. The proceeds are intended to increase the manufacturing facilities of the company and for that only, for knowing that he has a good thing in the machine, Mr. Bugg intends to hold on to his interest.

Said a gentleman who has large interests in Mississippi and Louisiana and who has taken a great interest in the development of the machine: "No one knows better than a planter that the perfection of a machine for picking cotton in the South will be the salvation of that part of the country. Nothing is needed so much. I have seen many inventions tested for the first time, but I have yet to see one placed before the people for an initial test as far advanced as was the cotton-picking machine exhibited on the floor of the Exchange. It picked cotton and delivered it, and what more can be asked for on the first test. Of course there are some minor defects which are yet to be overcome, but that is always the case. Was there ever a thing made perfect at first."—New York Sun.

CAPTURED BY COWBOYS.

Desperate Encounter with Horse-Thieves in the Far West.

BISMARCK, Dak., March 24.—A party of cowboys came upon a number of horse thieves in the timber on the Missouri River banks, 100 miles north, and, after an exchange of several volleys from revolvers and rifles, the thieves gave up fight and attempted to escape. In this first fight of the outlaws Charles Braddock and Jack O'Brine were killed. The cowboys followed close upon the heels of the horse thieves, but a narrow strip of heavy timber prevented effective shooting. After a chase of a mile the horse thieves, four in number, found themselves in a clearing and turned to the rivers with hope of crossing on the ice. They had gone about forty rods on the ice when two of the animals broke through, and as the cowboys continued shooting no attempt was made by the horse thieves to save their struggling companions, who were carried beneath the ice on their horses. The remaining outlaws returned to the shore and throwing up their hands surrendered to the cowboys, who after tying their hands, fastened them upon the backs of ponies, took them away to Paris unknown, but it is supposed to their camp for an old fashion cowboy trial.

A Soldier Regains His Rifle.

Michael Daly, a resident of Brooklyn, formerly sergeant of company F, Sixty-ninth regiment, Irish brigade, New York State volunteers, two weeks ago addressed a letter to Mayor J. T. Baird, of Portsmouth, Va., asking for the address of the relatives of J. T. Jobson, a Confederate soldier who, he believed, lost his life at Fair Oaks in June 1862. Mr. Daly desired to send them a rifle which he had kept since that desperate engagement as a trophy. The name of "Jobson" was engraved on the stock of the rifle. The reply said that Mr. Jobson was still living, and was a resident of Richmond, Va. "He was, indeed, desperately wounded in the battle of Seven Pines, as we call it, or Fair Oaks, as you call it," writes Mayor Baird, "but he fortunately recovered." The battlefield trophy, the rifle of the wounded "boy in gray," will be duly forwarded to its brave owner.

A Young Lady Killed.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., March 25.—Information has been received of the death of Miss Gill, a Boston tourist on an Oklawaha steamer Wednesday. The steamer struck a tree in a sharp turn of the river and the jar broke off some rotten limbs which fell on Miss Gill's head, crushing her skull. She was sitting on deck between her father and mother. The former was struck by a limb and rendered insensible, but was not seriously injured.

Baby Carriages, Wagons and Velocipedes at Jos. Eros', the best medicine to give to baby's and children's fresh air, a baby carriage or Velocipede will save you perhaps a doctor's bill.

FOR BROOMS, BASKETS, BRUSHES, BOWLS, BATH BRICKS, BALSAMS, &c., go to P. W. Cantwell.

SAM JONES ON SOCIETY.

The Evangelist Forgets Himself, and Goes a Step Too Far.

Sam Jones has been preaching to the women of Chicago. In his sermon he attacked the German, and the News reports him as saying: "Mothers and fathers close their eyes to this debauching of their daughters, and it goes on and on, and the world becomes worse and worse. I heard a society man asked how the ladies were dressed at a German not long ago. His reply was that he did not look under the table, and the ladies had no clothes above it." Considerable displeasure was evident from the appearance of the ladies, and Mr. Jones said: "Oh, you look innocent now, and feel offended, but you know I am telling the truth. And we pulpits have closed our mouths to all this, and almost sanction such things. No wonder the world is going to the devil. Mothers, teach your daughters to say 'hands off.' Teach them to keep themselves undefiled. Teach them to lead a pure life and the world will be pure. But you must first be pure yourself, for you can not teach purity unless your own hearts are holy. I know this is the fashion now. The people and newspapers may throw it in my teeth that I am from the swamps, and ain't half bred, but the people in the swamps are not half so mean as those in Chicago. If we were educated we could take lessons in wickedness from Chicago for years to come. If I should tell the people in Georgia of the wickedness of Chicago they would say: 'Sam, you haven't quit lying yet.' I don't know the misery of society. I never was in it and my wife was never a society woman. I hope society won't let us in: it is impossible for a society woman to be pure. I never saw a reformed society woman yet."

A COLLISION ON THE RAIL.

Two Locomotives Telescoped on the South Carolina Railway.

A collision between the Charleston-bound Augusta passenger train, Conductor Webb, and an outward-bound freight train, Capt. Goodwin, occurred about one-quarter of a mile this side of Sineath's Station, a few minutes after 6 o'clock yesterday morning. The usual place of meeting is at Sineath's, and the accident is probably owing to a faulty time-piece in the hands of one of the conductors. The passenger train people claim to have been on time, with the right of way. The freight train people evidently thought the same thing, and came on with a full head of steam. All hands on both engines jumped into the water when they saw the accident inevitable, the engineer of the passenger train reversing his engine first, however. The result was a wreck. The passenger engine being at a reverse, drew itself out of the wreck, its forewheels off the rails, smokestack gone, and its entire front badly battered, when its engineer quickly boarded and stopped her. The engine of the freight train suffered by far the most injury. Its forewheels were driven under its firebox, while the body of the engine diagonally across the track. The tender was jerked completely from the track and thrown over on its side, the first box car telescoping the engine. There was no injury, excepting to a few crossties, done to the track, and nobody was hurt.—News and Courier March 25.

Evangelist Jones in Demand.

Mr. Jones is in constant receipt of requests to visit various cities, and has many engagements already made. He has recently been visited by the Rev. E. P. Cowan, of the Third Presbyterian Church, and the Rev. J. C. White, of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Pittsburg, who represent six denominations and seventeen churches, and who urge him to pay that city a visit. A delegation from Cleveland has also been trying to secure his services for a campaign in that city. On May 1, Mr. Jones will begin work in Baltimore in response to a request signed by some of the most noted pastors and laymen of that city, including Bishop O. W. Wilson, of the Methodist Church South, and the leading pastor of the Methodist, Baptist, the Presbyterian and the Episcopal denominations.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

A Lake Suddenly Disappears.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 25.—Advices from the Sandwich Islands say that the volcanic phenomena on March 5, 6 and 7, and which were accompanied by a large number of earthquake shocks, resulted in the total disappearance of the new lake at Halemanman and in the extinction of the fire in the crater of the volcano of Kilaua. These phenomena are believed to be the precursors of a grand outburst in the near future, either in Kilaua or Mauna Loa. Some persons, basing their views on the observations of Professor Agassiz, believe that the disappearance of fire is a prelude to the total extinction of the Kilaua volcano.

Three Men Killed.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., March 25.—A special to the Advertiser from Calera reports an explosion to-day of the boiler of the Calera Land Co's saw mill. John Robertson, the engineer, Jessie Silgreen the superintendent and William Fletcher, a laborer, were killed, and J. W. Thomas and three others were badly hurt. All the killed and injured were white. The loss is \$5,000. No insurance.

Disabled for Life.

CHARLESTON, March 25.—In the game of base ball to-day between the Charleston and Philadelphia clubs, Bryan, the Manager and center fielder of the Charleston club, broke his knee cap and Lanson, the catcher, his finger. Bryan will be disabled for life. Lanson's injuries are not serious. The game resulted in favor of Philadelphia.

Get a copy of Eros' Album. Writer's friend only 10 cents; worth \$1.

CAROLINA CONGRESSMEN.

CHANGES LIKELY TO BE MADE IN THE DELEGATION.

J. W. Perry to Oppose Dibble in the First, Henderson Against Tillman in the Second, Aiken to Ask a Return.

COLUMBIA, March 27.—Very little has been said in the newspapers of this State in regard to the Congressional nominations. It is true a great deal has been said on the subject of a new deal, but this has been understood to apply chiefly to the State House and court house officials. There are some indications, however, that changes may be made in the Congressional delegation also.

In the first district it is estimated that Mr. Jennings W. Perry, of Walterboro, will oppose Mr. Dibble; in the second, there has been some talk of bringing out a candidate in opposition to Colonel Tillman, possibly ex-senator Henderson, of Aiken; in the third, it seems pretty well understood that Colonel Aiken will not be in the field owing to his physical condition, which has been such as to prevent his attendance in the present session of Congress. Hon. George Johnstone, of Newberry, has been mentioned as a possible "fidee in this district."

Congressman Hemphill has been remarkably successful in securing appointments for his constituents and has thereby preserved his popularity, and will doubtless have a walk over. General Kennedy's appointment as Consul to Shanghai possibly removed a formidable competitor. So far I have heard of no opposition to either Col. Perry, in the Fourth district, or Mr. Dargan, in the Sixth, and as they are serving their first terms they will doubtless be re-elected. But there are able and ambitious men in both districts who may consent to allow the use of their names before a Democratic Convention.

Col. Elliott opposed Smalls in the black district in the last election, merely to bring out the votes of the Democrats of that section of the State. He will hardly consent to sacrifice himself again for the good of the party, although he is a true patriot, and can always be counted on to make his personal interests subservient to the public good. But it may be said that Smalls will have no opposition from the Democrats. He may be opposed by politicians in his own party. There are no members of it, however, distinguished enough to have attracted much notice, except Williams, of Georgetown, and he is altogether too honorable a man to suit the tastes of the Republicans in the black district. Smalls then is pretty safe.

Mr. Perry, who may oppose Colonel Dibble, is the Solicitor of the district, and is a young lawyer of considerable ability. Senator Henderson, of Aiken, is one of the most successful lawyers in South Carolina, and his friends have great faith in his future, but it is a matter of much doubt whether he will oppose Col. Tillman, who is deservedly popular with the people and strongly entrenched in his district. Col. Aiken being practically out of the race, there will be a "go-as-you-please" fight in that section. Hon. George Johnstone, who may be a candidate, is one of the most distinguished lawyers in Carolina, and probably the best equipped politician in the State. He is handsome, polished in his manner possessing a certain amount of personal magnetism, a ready debater and a natural orator, qualities which eminently fit him for the high and honorable position of a Congressman. He would make a splendid Representative. He stands a fine chance for the nomination, unless some candidate appear, which is probable, who will inherit the vote of the Granger element that has heretofore constituted Col. Aiken's strongest backing. The race in this event, will be interesting.

The young men are apparently leading on all the great questions before the people. Hemphill in Congress on the money problem, J. J. Dargan on the tariff and Ben. Tillman on agricultural matters. Whether they are right or wrong in their positions on these great questions, there is no doubt about the fact that they are the leaders of thought in South Carolina to-day. I say this not to disparage the veterans who have rendered the State such splendid service, and who are still, by reason of their vigorous manhood and intellectual attainments, capable of maintaining the fame and glory of the State, but merely to show that the coming generation is imitating their great virtues, and will in proper time worthily wear the honors bequeathed them by such noble predecessors.—Richland in Augusta Chronicle.

Ex-Judges Come to Blows.

Two ex-judges, one an ex-supreme court and the other an ex-circuit judge, got so heated in the trial of a case in the superior court at Greensboro', N. C., recently, that they came to blows in open court. Judge Clark was presiding, and he promptly vindicated the honor of the court by fining them one hundred dollars each, which he required to be paid right then and there. The two combatants were ex-Judge Ruffin and ex-Judge Schenck. Judge Clark told them that were it not for their silvery hairs and he a young man he would have made their punishment thirty days in jail in addition to the fine.

Served Him Right.

After the local option election in Milledgeville, Ga., last week the colored voters, who were generally on the victorious "wet" side, paraded the shouting offensive and incendiary streets. A white saloon keeper named Kreutz led the procession, and he was waited on next day by a committee of citizens and told to leave within twenty-four hours. He left and the next night a largely attended meeting of white and colored citizens adopted resolutions endorsing the action of the committee,

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION.

Effort to Take the Life of Houston's Mayor.

GALVESTON, TEX., March 24.—A special from Houston says: An attempt was made to assassinate Mayor Wm. R. Baker last night under peculiar circumstances. Mayor Baker is running as an independent citizens' candidate for re-election against D. C. Smith, the Democratic nominee, who is being supported by the labor organizations. The canvass has been signalized by numerous acrimonious discussions. Last evening Baker, with others, attended a colored Baker campaign meeting, near the Howard Oil Mills, in the 4th ward. About 8:30 o'clock, with Judge Brasher, Edward Jenison and several colored men, he started to walk some distance to the outskirts of the town where another meeting was being held. After crossing the Sabine at the bridge, a high, lonely structure, the party emerged on the south side, when a horseman riding a gray horse rapidly approached, and asked:

"Is Mayor Baker in that crowd?" "Yes, what do you want with me," asked the Mayor as he left the party and walked toward the horseman in the middle of the road.

"I have some private business with you," said the rider, and he asked Baker to walk down the road a short distance. As they started away the man said: "Will you withdraw in favor of Smith?" "You must be joking," replied Baker.

Several rods from the starting point the assassin pulled up his horse and Baker placed his left hand on the horse's mane as if to listen, when suddenly the Mayor was greatly startled by the flash of a pistol in his face, which blinded him for a moment. Three shots were fired in quick succession. Baker dodged to the ground, and the would-be assassin, who evidently thought he had killed the Mayor, rode hastily away. He was followed by Judge Brasher and Mr. Jenison, who opened fire on him. Investigation developed the fact that the horseman had watched the Mayor's party leave the first place of meeting and had followed them by a circuitous route. The Mayor is uninjured. He is sixty years old and one of the wealthiest men in Harris county. He is not a politician and never drew his salary as Mayor. He is unmarried and accepts the position as a means of occupying his time.

ASSASSINATION IN ROCK HILL.

Charged with Using the Mails for a Fraudulent Purpose.

ROCK HILL, March 24.—About the 1st of November last a young man came to this place and registered at Gorden's Hotel as W. M. Henry, stating that he was from near Lynchburg, Va., and that he wished to engage in Mercantile business. In a few days he left the town and shortly returned with a young girl, whom he claimed as his wife. He then rented a dwelling-house for one year. Since his stay in our town he has had very little social intercourse with the people, which created suspicion, and to-day he was arrested by Deputy United States Marshal, C. J. Pride, Jr., upon a warrant sworn out by W. C. Boykin, United States postoffice inspector, charging that J. J. Smith, alias W. M. Henry, alias John Andrews, alias E. E. Turner, alias W. H. Martin, did use the United States mail during the year 1886 by opening correspondence with one or more persons for the purpose of defrauding them by selling or offering to sell them counterfeit money of the United States of America in violation of section 5,480, Revised Statutes of the United States. When arrested he had on his person about \$1,200, which was examined by Capt. Allen Jones, an expert, who pronounced the bills genuine. He is now undergoing an examination before United States Commissioner C. J. Pride and the evidence is considered very strong against him. He rented two lock boxes at that place, one in his name and one in the name of some one else. I can learn no further news, as the commissioner asked that all the citizens leave the room, which, I think was uncalled for.—News and Courier.

Redmond's Gallantry.

While Major Redmond is known as the "Moonshiner's Chief" he is also noted for his gallantry to the fair sex. While riding in a wagon going over to Georgia the other day, in company with another man from this county, when near Townville, a crowd of ladies in the road, his companion used disrespectful language. Taking the reins and driving hastily by, the Major asked the fellow what he meant by such conduct. Receiving an impudent reply, Major Redmond kicked him out of his wagon and left him to retrace his steps homeward on foot, while he drove on, taking his extended trip alone.—Easley Messenger, March 26.

A Socialist's Den.

While searching for a murderer on Wednesday the Chicago police found a queer looking trunk in a cottage in West twentieth street. On opening it they found a pink book entitled "Revolutionary War Knowledge—The art of Using and Making Dynamite, Gun Cotton, Explosive Mercury, Bombs, Incendiary Implements and Poisons." The contents were as indicated by the title and the trunk contained a number of infernal machines evidently made by the directions. The house was occupied by Germans, and is supposed to have been the headquarters of a gang of socialists.

A Curious Freak of Nature.

CATSKILL, N. Y., March 23.—Reuben Van Tassel is a farmer at East Durham, Greene county. To-day people from all round the country side flocked to his place to see a freak of nature. The curiosity is a young lamb which has one head, three ears, two bodies, and eight legs.

SWEEP BY THE FLAMES.

KEY WEST, FLORIDA, ALMOST DESTROYED BY FIRE.

The City Aroused at 1 O'clock Monday Night—Private Houses, Stores, Warehouses, Churches and Government Buildings Destroyed at One Fell Swoop.

KEY WEST, FLA., March 30.—A fire started in the San Carlos Theatre this morning at 1 o'clock, and is still burning and beyond the control of the firemen. A fresh wind blowing from the south caused the fire to spread, and already five blocks in the centre of the city have been destroyed. The fire will probably go to the harbor. The Episcopal and Baptist churches have been burned, together with thirty other buildings, stores and residences.

Over fifty houses have already been burned, including the Masonic Hall, three or four cigar factories and the bonded warehouse with nearly a quarter of a million dollars worth of tobacco. Officers from United States steamers Brooklyn and Powhatan have been blowing up some of the houses with powder. There is no water supply, the cisterns being mostly dry. It is now settled that the fire will not stop until it reaches the harbor. It is now entering the business part of the city, destroying buildings containing heavy stocks of goods, and the loss will be very great. It looks now as though the Hotel Russell would succumb shortly.

The fire is working north. Its track has been so peculiar that it is difficult to foretell the result. The indications are that it will skirt the beach, taking the wharves and warehouses of Philbrick & Tift, Curry's warehouses having already been consumed. This will bring it to the United States naval depot and customhouse. The buildings, with the exception of three warehouses mentioned above, are constructed of yellow pine, and the heat is so intense as to drive the firemen away. This added to the lack of engines and water supply, will probably result in the total destruction of the city. The buildings of prominence consumed so far, are Sawyer's, Babcock's, Gato's, Perry's, Bart's, Patterson's, United States Marshal Williams's, Lester & Brown's private residences, the San Carlos Theatre, the stores of Somellian & Hayman, dry goods; Otto drugs; Sariolo, dry goods and groceries, Bartlum, groceries; Brooks, livery stable; the cigar factories of Seidenberg, Delapino, Sorin, Canal's and Wolf's and the Russell House.

NOW, AND THEN.

Are Taxes Higher Now than Under Lincoln?—What Congressman Aiken Says.

COCKESBURY, March 22, 1886. Editor Press and Banner:

Your issue of the 17th contained an article under the signature of "Backwoods," in which I find the following expression: "Taxes are as high now as they were in Radical times."

If the newspapers of the State are to be credited, there is considerable unrest amongst the majority class of our citizens. Conventions, both county and State, are advertised to be held and the farmers, at least, propose by this means to right their wrongs, if any there be; but, sir, if these wrongs are of a kind suggested by the remark quoted above from "Backwoods," it would be far better that the farmers should not convene. That writer either did not pay taxes in Radical times, or he has lost his Radical tax-receipts. I suppose I was not taxed differently from other men, and yet my Radical tax-receipts, vary from \$254.00 under Scott to \$289.00 under Moses; whereas not a tax-receipt since 1876 has gone beyond \$110.00, whilst in all these years my taxable real estate has been the same, and the personality has been changed but little.

I think it well the farmers should meet in convention to make known their grievances, but let them do so in calmness, and with truthful facts before them. Let them consider the lien law, and see how an act conceived in charity has been by long abuse executed in extortion. Let them inspect the assessor's books and see whether taxes are equitably levied throughout the State. Let them estimate the amount and value of property which by law, justly or unjustly, is exempt from taxation. Let them investigate all the minor taxes, and see whether they do not in the aggregate amount to a grievous burden. For instance, why should a farmer feed his cattle on cotton seed meal exempt from taxation, whereas if he feeds his crops on the same article he is taxed for the privilege. Let the farmers look into the agricultural department of the State and learn whether or not it is worth the money paid for it. If it is not, make such necessary alterations in the administration of it as will make it an honor to the State.

These and many other topics, peculiarly agricultural, are legitimate subjects for investigation by farmers, at the same time no other interest will be in the least antagonized. For the farmer to array himself against other classes would be such folly that I do not suppose that such steps will be tolerated in any of the conventions now so soon to be held. Very respectfully,

D. WYATT AIKEN.

Tom Hamilton Dead.

CHARLESTON, March 25.—Thomas Hamilton, ex-member of the Legislature of this State, died at Beaufort yesterday. Hamilton was a member of the Legislature in 1876, and was one of the three colored members who first gave in their adhesion to the Hampton government and secured a quorum for the Democratic House of Representatives.

Birthday and Easter Cards at Jos. Eros'. Dolls, Toys and Chinaware of all kinds.