

SOME DARK TEACHINGS.

A PLANTATION NIGHT SCHOOL FOR NEGROES BEFORE THE WAR.

Some Entertaining Recollections of the Times Before the Civil War. (From New York Commercial Advertiser.) As is well known, it was held to be against good policy in the South, in the old days, that the slaves should be taught to read. To teach them was, in fact, prohibited by law in most of the States. It would be an error to suppose, however, that none of them were so taught. For the master of the plantation was, in many ways, an absolute monarch—every potentate chose to judge for themselves how strict should be their obedience to general laws, how far they would allow themselves to be controlled by the Legislature in the internal economy of their little principalities.

Southern planters were in the habit of having such of their slaves brought to read as they chose—law or no law. I, myself, at the age of twelve, was principal of a school consisting of half a dozen of mine and others' slaves; and some account of my methods may interest the teachers, professors and other literati of our day.

The object of the school was the highest possible. Indeed, it was not a school, nor even a college; it was a theological seminary. All my pupils were preparing for the ministry. I remember with pride how thoroughly I drilled them in instruction. I made no effort to bull them slaves into accepting my dogmas, as proof of which I offer the fact that whereas I was then, as now, a sturdy upholder of Episcopalianism, every one of my graduates turned Baptist.

I held my school in the kitchen after supper. My pupils sat in a row on a bench, each of their number holding aloft a spluttering tuck of pine. It gave a strong if unsteady light; but was subject to this drawback: Being held near the head of whoever happened to be reading, it is more than probable that by overheating one lobe of the brain the symmetrical development of that organ was marred.

That, however, did not much disturb me, seeing that neither I nor I were aware that we carried lobes of any kind concealed about our persons.

From time to time, too, as the torch was passed up and down the line, drops of burning tar fell upon the hands, arms and necks of my students, diverting their attention, may, causing them at times to dance up and down the floor. Even so, a philosopher looking on might have dimly perceived how fairly good and ill are distributed, on the whole, in the best of all possible worlds, for the cook and her scullion, seeing these young theologians cowering and gnawing the patch from their rugged faces, gave forth a peal of free and easy laughter, so that things averaged up pretty well, after all.

This was not a free seminary—far from it. My patrons were drawn from among the most substantial citizens on the plantation. They were able to pay and I made them pay. No student of divinity could keep a seat on that bench without bringing me at the close of each month a dozen new laid eggs, worth, at that time, 12 cents; or that eight months' tuition cost exactly \$1. Preparing was not insisted on. Yet I cannot recall that on this account I was ever the loser by even an egg. As I myself raised chickens, I was very glad, too, when hens were dilatory in their laying, to let an account run over and receive at the close of two months a young pullet.

My wages were sweet—laugh not, my professors pulled up with full salaries, yet school principals rolling in luxury!

My discipline was that of those benighted days. The rod then prevailed throughout the length and breadth of the land, nor do I believe my class would have valued my instruction on an egg shell, even had I abolished it. But such a thought could not have occurred to a lad who had not thought it strange when his own teacher, having asked him if he was ready with his Virgil, and he replied, "not yet," had received three floggings. The first for not knowing the Virgil, the two following (with intervals of rest for the teacher) for not crying. So they stumbled along through their tasks, I kept up the count of their backs and shoulders. Neither they nor I would have heard without astonishment that there was any other way of stimulating diligence or quickening the brain. I suppose, however, that my thrashings could not have been very severe, for I remember that they were the occasion of great hilarity. This was especially the case when it came to the turn of Joe Nelson to recite. Joe was a famous stutterer. He was my youngest pupil, a broad shouldered carpenter, 20 years of age. He was exceedingly conceited and not a little vain—conceited as to his intellectual gifts and vain of his fascinations with the plantation damsels. These qualities, however, did not prevent him from being a thoroughly good fellow, and he and I were devoted friends as long as he lived. But my affection for him did not save his back from one single stroke of the peach tree shoot upon which I lightened my grasp as soon as he opened fire. My way was not to wait till the close of a session and then mete out the sum total of merited chastigation. In my seminary justice did not limp. At every trip there came a rap. Punishment trod upon the heels of error.

What made it specially hard on poor Joe was that I could not see my way to allowing him to stutter through a reading lesson.

Then, too, it must be remembered to my credit that they were never found with their faces set as flint when there was question as to the fundamental tenets of the theology of their day. No one shall ever say that Gilbert ranked dancing or that Isaac ever held out hope of eternal wealth to the abandoned wretch who snail comfort in whistling a jig or patting Juba, that rhythmic memory of Africa's sunny strand.

Poor Joe never entered the ministry. He built houses instead. My father set him free before the war. At the close of that struggle he was not long in feeling that his genius did not find sufficient scope in fitting joists and nailing on shingles. He became a candidate for the Legislature, but before he could be elected he died. I had not seen him for years, but I feel that the world is not quite so bright for me as it would be were this old friend of my youth still among men. To the last, even after I was a man, he said that in his opinion he was my equal in natural capacity, and I am the last man in the world to dispute the proposition or to bear him a grudge for maintaining it. That he was not lacking in the instinct of historical criticism in the following story will show:

One day, years after he had been my pupil, as I sat reading in our library, Joe entered and asked me to lend him a book.

"What kind of a book do you want, Joe?"

"Well, M-m-m-marse Jack, I've been a thinkin' I should like to read a history book."

"All right," said I, and I began running my eyes along the shelves. Hume's, Macaulay's (Hibbert's, Rollin's), would they suit Joe? Just then my eye fell upon a large illustrated edition of "Robinson Crusoe." I handed it to him with a steady hand and unobtrusive countenance. He took it with many thanks and departed. A month or so afterward he dropped in again.

"Marse J-J-Jack, ain't historical kind of books what tell the truth?"

I could not help smiling at the simplicity of the question. I then explained to him, as best I could, that histories were often full of untruths touching things which had happened, while fiction was often equally full of truths as to events that had never occurred. Robinson Crusoe, I explained, was fiction, but a man so situated would have worn gaiters, and not trousers, talked to his parrot, or shot any cannibals that might have endeavored to roast and devour him. As I went on explaining a brighter and brighter light came into honest Joe's eyes, and at last he exclaimed: "Well, I kep' readin' and readin' and studyin' and studyin', and at last I began to sort o' mistrust that some o' them things war't true."

EARTHQUAKES ARE COMMON.

We Have Always Had Them and May Expect Many More.

(From the New York Tribune.)

An educator who has given much study to earthquakes and volcanoes is Professor John K. Rice, of Columbia college. He is a staidly built man of perhaps thirty-five, with a round and chubby face, a black mustache and more the air of a business man than a student. In talking with me in the Lincoln National Bank building, he remarked that in a long series of years each section of the country was visited by about the same average number of earthquake shocks. "The reason any new shock appears phenomenal is because the people forget the former ones," said the professor. "We have kept records of shocks in New England and the Middle States, and find that they come year in and year out with about the same regularity. The shock that is being reported from the west appears phenomenal to the people out there because they have no records back of a period of forty or fifty years, and within that period have forgotten occurrences of the same kind or have failed to record them. If some old miner alive whose memory runs back of fifty years he can tell them. As to the volcanic phenomenon in Arizona I have no knowledge except from the newspapers. The evidences of old volcanic eruptions exist all along the mountain ranges in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Nevada up to Oregon. I believe they are most numerous in Nevada."

When asked what the relative effect was on New York city of a shock like that experienced by Charleston, Professor Rice replied in substance: "In loss of life and property I should say the disaster would be a hundred fold greater. There is so much more property and so many more people in a small compass in this city that the results would be greater in proportion. Buildings in this city are run up to enormous heights, with great sheet iron facings. The streets, especially in the lower part of the city, during the day time, are crowded with people, and the falling of these decorative parts of structures would be exceedingly disastrous to life and limb. The fact that New York building is mostly done on rock foundation and that nearly all the great structures are put together with Portland cement instead of mortar might save the destruction of much valuable property, but all the cheaply built structures would suffer. The use of Portland cement has made buildings so solid that they can only be torn down by the use of explosives. Even in such structures an earthquake like that at Charleston would break the window caps and lintels, and prove very destructive."

Resources of Russia.

The understanding of people in general is that Russia, head over heels in debt, finds it difficult to raise money to keep the wheels of government moving. The history of the most recent attempt at St. Petersburg to raise money disproves this and indicates quite a different state of facts. It was at first proposed that the new papal loan should be about \$30,000,000. Subscriptions were called for, and on the 12th ult. it was announced that ten times the sum required had been offered. Three days later dispatches from St. Petersburg stated that the enormous sum of \$1,200,000,000 had been offered, and that the government would take only \$60,000,000.

It is worthy of being noted that simultaneously with this loan rumors of a warlike nature are heard and that a war feeling not previously existing is now being kindled in St. Petersburg.

FARM TOPICS FOR THE MONTH.

Suggestions to Farmers who Wish to Make Farming Profitable.

A distinguished poet has made a certain young lady quite famous by having her on a particular occasion to sing: "If you're waking, call me early, call me early, mother dear; For I'm to be Queen o' May, mother, I'm to be Queen o' the May."

There is not much poetry, and even less romance, about it; but all the same the farmer who is called early and to stay late at his farm work for the next three months if he has any hope or expectation of succeeding in his calling. We know of no task-master more exacting and uncompromising than the average cotton and corn crop. Worked properly and the husbandman will reap his reward just as long as the rainbow hangs in the heavens or the promise of seed time and harvest remain; mismanaged and poorly executed work, and disappointment and failure are sure to follow. Early and properly executed work on the crop, to many people, seems, as far as all outward appearance goes, as being quite simple and easy, and they put this down as one of things about farm life that they are very familiar with, and that they thoroughly understand.

When to strike, how to strike, and where to strike is the veni, vici, victi of the farmer, and in our judgment it is the dividing line between the clothopper and the intelligent farmer. You may well call this month the middle station in the year's work. The crop are all planted and cultivation is about to begin if the preparation and planting has been thoroughly done; then the most troublesome part of making a crop is over with. The army is in the field; the ammunition is all distributed; the guns are unlimbered, and if the General handles the troops advantageously victory is assured; if he does not, General Lee will possess the land; he will come, he will see, and he will conquer.

Suppose you were to see a so-called planter giving one of his tenants a package of calomel, opium, quinine and a lancet—the four great agents in physicking him at the same time to go down and see what he begins to do for a sick neighbor; if the sick man died, would you say the medicine failed?

We see, year by year, owners of the soil giving men they call tenants land, mules, ploughs, guano, tools and seeds, and saying go down into my farm or plantation, and when I come again have me not ready?

When you consider this matter in all seriousness and candor, are you surprised that the patient—the land—is killed, and this false tenantry system has ruined thousands and thousands of acres of Southern land?

A man who proposed to go to a distant State to oversee work to Mr. Dickson and asked for a receipt for farm. He replied: "It is hard to transfer knowledge, and much harder to transfer art and judgment; my plan is to follow the laws that govern the universe. Plants and animals, when assisted with art and judgment, never will fail. This is the science of agriculture. Study bad practice as well as good, and learn of the latter the errors that you may avoid them. Read books until you become so perfect in theory and in the use of tools and machinery that you will have confidence and the nerve to act and act at once—not lose time running about to your neighbors to see when to do things and how to do it. Do not allow frost or wet or dry weather to cause you to doubt or dally. Fortify yourself with books before you begin; such books as will teach you everything necessary to your success, and do not forget that you can learn something from almost every profession. Book farming means for the farmer just what book learning does for the lawyer, merchant or physician. You must read and study, not only agricultural books, but all books that will apply in any way to that profession. You need the knowledge of general science to enable you to discipline your laborers to come to time, to move all at once, to know when to charge and when to retreat. You need the knowledge of a banker, when your money is made to know how to invest it. You want the knowledge of a bookkeeper, that you may keep your accounts correctly. You must know how to keep debtors and creditor accounts, get in debt and become bankrupt before they are aware of it. You must have some knowledge of mechanics and machinery in order to use them. If the farmer is ignorant, how can he instruct the laborer? You should have even a sufficient knowledge of law to know how to keep out of the courts. You should have some knowledge of commerce and trade, for you have to buy and sell.

"How is all this to be acquired? By reading and hard study, and making an application of the knowledge acquired. Knowledge is power in agriculture as well as in other things. And how are you to get knowledge? Only by reading, study and application. With knowledge you can use the land as well as the tongue more effectively.

"The three great essentials are: First, The theory (true plan) of farming. Second, The art of controlling labor and executing all work to the best advantage with least labor. Third, Last and best, success depends on a quick perception, wise judgment that seldom or never errs. How is this to be acquired, except by the use of books in conjunction with practice."

"In conclusion, to succeed you not only must be superior to your laborers, but you must be so far ahead of them that they shall know that your plans are wise, easy to put in practice and certain of success. Then they will follow you in a charge, as good soldiers will the best of General. The laborer must have confidence in the man who directs. How are all these qualifications secured? Through books, hard study, observation and practice."

Vitality of Great Men

Is not always innate or born with them, but many instances are known where it has been acquired by the persistent and judicious use of Dr. Hartor's Iron Tonic.

If a man, after exposure to the cold, be placed under a magnifying glass, the edge seems like a saw. Dipping it in hot water shows the little particles back into place, and makes the edge smooth.

SWORN TO LAY A GHOST.

THE LOVE LANE SPOOK AGAIN MAKES ITS APPEARANCE.

The Unhappy Habitude of a Cemetery Who Once Made an Appearance at the Devil's Dance Comes Forth and Scares Folks.

(From the New York Sun.)

Once again spooks have made their debut in Love Lane, and the superstitious citizens, particularly those of the Colorado maduro brand, who reside within the hailwicks of New Utrecht and West Flatbush, L. I., near the southwestern border of Greenwood Cemetery, and who are compelled to pass that marble city after dark, never consider themselves in full dress unless they have a pocketful of brick or wear carbines with flues like water mains.

If the neighboring darkies are to be believed, the spook can only be seen at midnight. At a recent meeting of the New Utrecht Watermelon Coterie, Pantry and Vestry, held near Farmer Berry's chicken press, eight of the members testified that they had timed the spectre by their watches. One of the secretaries, who is assistant organist and plays the chimes in the local colored church, and whose word is fully as good as his bond, said that he was the only man in the club whose watch was fit for anything but a tobacco box, as it was the only one that would give the time, but that the others had had their appearance of the spook down fine. He was with the others when they saw the spirit, and they all got so frightened that his watch stopped. He said that he was the first man home that night, and that the others forgot where they lived.

It is a difficult task to make the average colored citizen of the king's county believe that the present spook is not the same that is said to have appeared to the oldest of them in their younger days. Love Lane, which borders the Greenwood fence, has a legend to this effect: Long ago an aged darky, who had been performing as an executive in a banking house in Gowanus, was returning home during the dark hours of the morning. He had nearly reached the old toll gate, when Satan climbed over the fence or through it, and compelled the aged fiddler to play for him. The orchestra turned pale with fear, and his hair visibly unknit, until his hat looked as if it were built on stilts, but still he was compelled to scrape away for dear life. When his Satanic majesty had his sabbath breast sufficiently soothed he wound up the matinee by dancing a breakdown, and, dashing his hoof against a near by bowlder, disappeared in a spiral cloud of sulphurous smoke.

The stone is there yet, and the post-prime is still an awe-inspiring sight to the children and many of the older people of the town. The weird and hair-erecting stone is shunned after dark, and there are many who will tell you that his Majesty holds picnics there at about this season every year. He never appears in winter or summer, probably because of his aversion to extreme cold or dilute heat. It is a shuddery story to say the least.

Within the past few weeks the spook has reappeared on the scene of its old-time orgies, and has been seen by several citizens whose words can be relied upon, although they take no stock in the supernatural. A well known resident of the Eighth ward, whose place of business is near the Fifth avenue entrance to Greenwood, saw the spook one night last week. He was driving past the Fort Hamilton avenue entrance to the cemetery when the spectre showed up, causing his horse to shy. The spook appeared to come directly through the fence, in which there was no opening. It passed immediately in front of the horse, which suddenly stopped and rearing on its hind legs, the gentleman risked a shot at it. The discharge was greeted with a hollow, chuckling laugh, and the gentleman started his horse on a dead run toward home. He says that the figure or whatever it might have been had a dark cloak on and wore horns.

William Pye, who was formerly a stockholder under the old fashioned track sheets in the gin and tansy days of the turf, but who is now a junk man, is a resident through the country town, is a fanatic in his assertion that he has seen the spook on several occasions. He remembers the old legend of Love Lane, and says he can bring scores of citizens who have since indulged in involuntary introductions to his spookship. Numerous other residents of the neighborhood are willing to testify to a like encounter.

A resident of Windsor terrace in West Flatbush also saw the spook, and says that it was garbed in black, wore horns and had hoofs. He says that he was returning home the other night and when near the "Devil's Stone" the vision appeared to rise up out of the ground immediately in front of him.

"I was almost reared to death," he said, "but plucking up courage I threw a stone at it. The stone went clear through it and I could see the hole it made."

This last assertion may be something of an exaggeration due to fright as the gentleman admits he was so scared that he lost his hat and was in such a hurry that he didn't stop to pick it up.

A South Brooklyn florist whose business interests in the cemetery will not permit of his name being used said: "There's something strange on the other end of the cemetery, but I can't explain it. I've seen it myself, and so have a number of my friends. I think possibly it is somebody who is endeavoring to play a prank on the weak-minded. A party of us are going to solve the matter some night this week, and we expect some fun. If it is a spirit it will stand no chance with us as we are used to spirits. Yes, I have heard of the Devil's Stone and the legion connected with it. Who hasn't? We always let the stone have the road all to itself after dark when I was boy."

Lively times are ahead for the spook when the party, which will be composed of a number of Eighth ward politicians and business men, make the proposed raid some night this week.

Many of the dressy new hats and bonnets are trimmed entirely with ribbon.

BILL ARP TALKS.

His Views on Slavery—Judge Hiram Warner.

(From the New York Tribune.)

A quaint and pleasant talker of the old school is Major Smith—"Bill Arp"—of Atlanta, Ga., who was here the other day to deliver a lecture. The Major was a slaveholder in his younger days, having received three families of negroes, some twelve persons in all, as a wedding portion of his wife. In talking about the slave question, he said: "This talk that the South lost \$400,000,000 by the emancipation proclamation is all nonsense. I am prepared to show that the South did not lose a dollar. In all my experience as a slave-owner, if I ever made a dollar by their labor I do not know it. We got their labor in exchange for their food and their clothing, the rearing of the young and caring for the old. We get their labor for the same price now without having the burden of responsibility for the young and the aged and the sick. We need to pay their doctors' bills; now they pay their own. The difference is already seen from the fact that many men are accumulating wealth through the employment of negroes who never get ahead a dollar in the slave days, although they were owners of many slaves."

In chatting about Northern men Major Smith remarked that many Northern men had gone into the South to make their homes there during the slavery period who attained distinction, among others he cited Judge Hiram Warner, a native of Vermont, who occupied the highest judicial position in the State of Georgia for thirty-seven years. "It is a curious phase of human nature," said Major Smith, "that as old age comes creeping on the incidents and scenes of boyhood come impressively to the mind. It was so with Judge Warner. I remember talking with him in his old days, when he told me he was going to Vermont to see again the green hills and the wooded slopes and the trout streams and the trees under which he looked in his boyhood days. He became a part of the South, but he had not forgotten his old home in the North."

Chat With the Ladies.

Pompadour silks are recommended for dress frocks for young girls.

The safest colors for cheap portieres are olive-green and brick red.

Wide Directoire reverses appear on many of the imported French frocks.

Apple green and chestnut bronze is a color combination favored in Paris.

Short backs and long front tabs are the distinguishing marks of new wraps.

Long folds of ribbon give decorative effect to black and colored lace overdresses.

India silks and foulards will be the rivals of China silks and pongees this season.

We have taken note of some children's toilets which struck us as particularly tasteful.

Combination costumes are not so much worn as usual. Silk is made up by itself and woollens also.

Thin silks mixed with tulle and lace for evening wear are very popular additions to a summer wardrobe.

The favorite color for graduation gowns are rose, blue, Nile green, and, of course, heliotrope.

Indoors little girls wear frocks in the shape of a pelisse, loose and straight in front and completed at the back by a plait in the skirt let in between two seams. A silk cord or ribbon sash goes round the waist.

Fine woolen tissues are streaked with silk or a lighter shade, forming stripes or squares, and a small pattern of silk dots, clover leaves, or small flowers of silk, imitating embroidery relief, is scattered all over upon the dark ground.

Extremely pretty capotes for the spring are composed of birds' wings. Sometimes the wings are dyed of all colors; sometimes they are left of their own natural tint; they cover the capote almost entirely, with the exception of a small puffing of silk or crepe at the back.

Some of the new woolen novelties have woolen grounds in light or dark shades of pure colors, on which in high relief are lines of pink and frise flower designs in natural colors and realistic to a degree in treatment. These goods are high priced, and intended only for parts of plain wool costumes.

White combinations of plain and fancy figured goods, often in strongly contrasted colors, remain extremely popular. Many handsome dresses are made of the same color throughout, but of two fabrics, and for these refined toilets exquisitely fine cashmere and moire are especially favored.

In the new fancy woolen materials introduced for the spring and summer season we remark that small white patterns irregular white stripes form a sort check pattern, in others large white dots are scattered over plain or striped colored grounds.

Costumes of imperial serge, camel's hair, vicogne, triot cloth and of fine canvas patterned fabrics, without limit, will be in great demand, made up in combination with velvet-striped fabrics of every description, or with skirt and bodice trimmings of fancy colored satin surah, figured with quaint geometric and

In the Sandown mantle of cloth a corsetlike check in tones of fieldmouse has its cape sleeves defined by a braid about five inches in width in a dark shade of brown. This bordering band is drawn over the shoulder in folds, suggestive of braces, then carried in flatness over the back to terminate on the skirt with a cluster of rich and massive pommerette balls.

The novelties in lace finches might be tersely described as an ingenious manipulation of squares. Each one is due to a small handkerchief of that form, either in cream or ecru, the surface of which is almost covered by open work cuttings or lace. These handkerchiefs are folded so as to give distinct and appropriate to each corner, and with the assistance of ribbon, is achieved so effectively that the four corners often appear entirely with ribbon.

THE INTER-STATE COMMISSION.

An Important Letter Defining the Powers of the Commission as to Certain Cases.

The Inter-State Commission has made public an important letter addressed to the Minnesota & Northwestern Railroad Company, defining the powers of the commission as to certain cases and explaining why it is found impossible to accede at once to the urgent appeal of the road for relief from the long and short haul clause of the law.

The letter, written by Chairman Cooley, says it is generally accepted that the fourth section was designed to establish the general law that more must not be charged for a shorter than for a longer haul and to permit exceptions in special and peculiar cases only. Before the passage of the law railroads were sole judges as to what circumstances or conditions justified such practice and the law evidently meant to take this discretionary power out of the hands of the railroads and was passed in the belief that incidental injuries resulting from its enforcement would be more than offset by the interest of the public good. The commission is as much bound by the law as are the carriers, and has power of discrimination only so far as it is its duty to do. The law contemplates that there may be some special cases in which general good requires suspension. But such cases are obviously exceptional ones. Special and peculiar circumstances and where only general causes operate the general law must be left to its general character, however serious may be the consequences to particular roads. The law makes it clear that any suspension granted must be after an investigation, satisfying the commission of the peculiar and exceptional circumstances rendering it necessary. The jurisdiction of the commission was meant to be broad and general and it can grant no suspension simply on the apprehension that enforcement would prove harmful or upon the unestablished assertion that it has done so. Congress must necessarily have realized that some disturbances and injury would be caused by the law and Congress alone can be looked to for the remedy or modification. The claim that the commission has power to suspend the places which were evil consequences are found gives the commission general dispensing power inconsistent with sound principles of government and of which Congress gave no hint. If the clause in its general operation proved generally and equally mischievous on all directions, the commission, instead of having greater power to suspend, would be deprived of power for the reason that there would be no exceptional cases for it to act upon and therefore none coming within its discretionary authority. But there are of course exceptional cases and it is made the duty of the commission to determine what these are. This must be done by the investigation upon which the commission has entered. Where an application for temporary suspension is based on such general principles that many others would have to follow, the commission has best reasons for declining to grant it. The letter is not designed to give any intimation as to the permanent course of the commission, as its policy has been determined upon. The commission declines its regret that any injury is inflicted by the law and promises to give such complaints proper consideration.

TIMOTHY AND CLOVER.

Questions About Them Answered by an Experienced Cultivator.

RODOLPHUS, COLLETON CO., S. C., April 25, 1887.

Hon. A. P. Butler, Commissioner—

Will you kindly answer the following:—

1st. Can timothy and red clover, when as is grown further North, be successfully grown here?

2d. Should they be planted in Fall or Spring?

3d. What manures would you recommend for them?

4th. Should they be grown together or separately to secure best results for hay?

If they can be grown, I wish to experiment fully, and if results are satisfactory, plant them extensively for hay. I am not well enough acquainted with this section to know, but from what I can see, it appears that these grasses should be cultivated here, and thereby save the freights on hay from distant points.

If you will kindly give me all necessary information on the subject, you will greatly oblige, yours truly,

C. H. MORFETT.

Questions like the above very frequently come up for decision. In localities where the timothy and red clover grow successfully, they are of such great value to the farming interests that only repeated failures can deter those who have known them elsewhere. Our country comprises a vast extent through many degrees of latitude and great diversity of soil and climate. It cannot be reasonably expected that throughout these varying conditions any particular agricultural product can be successfully cultivated. The grasses and clover (what are generally known as the agricultural grasses) cannot be profitably grown in the lower portions of our State. They have often been tried, and in garden spots and other favored localities may succeed tolerably well, but they can never be used for field culture or for large areas.

Nature is very bountiful, and leaves no region uncared for and without its equivalents. Along the sandy belt of low country of this State, of Georgia and Florida, the grasses and clovers of more Northern latitudes cannot be successfully cultivated, but we have excellent substitutes in the cow peas and vetch for hay or for soiling, and the millets and sorghums for the same purpose or for the silo, Bermuda grass and Means grass for permanent pasturage and for hay, and the annual crab grass and crowfoot, both of which make the very best of hay.

These are some of our substitutes. Each and every region is blessed by the bountiful Providence, and it is the part of wisdom to make use of those products which are best adapted to each region rather than to struggle against unnatural conditions.

H. W. HAYMOND.

Young and middle aged men suffering from nervous debility, premature old age, loss of memory and kindred symptoms should send in orders to Messrs. J. C. Watson & Co., 100 Broadway, New York, for Dr. Watson's Kidney and Bladder Pills.

The General Assembly of the Southern Presbyterian Church met at the Grand Assembly Church in St. Louis, Mo., Saturday, Dr. Boyce, of Huntsville, Ala. the retiring Moderator, opened the session by a review. At the close of these opening offices were closed for the evening year. Dr. Boyce, of Atlanta, was elected Moderator of the session then adjourned to the Moderator time to make the usual prayer. The session was the commencement of South.

KELLY ON THE SOUTH.

HE PUBLISHES HIS OBSERVATIONS OF PROGRESS IN THIS SECTION.

The Pennsylvania Congressman Predicts a Great Future for Us—He Calls it a "New South."

Congressman Kelly, of Pennsylvania, who has just returned to Washington from an extended tour through some of the Southern States, began last March, in an interview with a Star reporter, records his observations of progress in that section of the country and predicts a great future for the New South. Mr. Kelly said: "In 1873, when I visited Florida, the people there seemed to be without hope or aspiration, but for the last six or seven years the State has taken a position in the first ranks of the New South. The people are energetic and confident of the future. From Keeseeville City and Rock Lodge, I visited farms on the lands reclaimed by the Drainage Company on native alluvial fields and after a careful inspection, I am prepared to say that Florida is destined to a higher rank among the agricultural States of the Union. The rich soil is being intelligently cultivated with great profit. When I left Florida it was for a season of rest at Annapolis, Ga., one of the new cities that has grown up in the mineral regions. From Annapolis I made excursions to other towns in Alabama and in Georgia. After a month's stay at Annapolis, I turned my steps toward Tennessee, passed last days most pleasantly at South Pittsburg, which as Annapolis has just done, will soon surprise the country by establishing itself as an industrial centre of large proportions and great activity. Every where throughout the mineral regions of the South enterprise and property are moving hand in hand, nor is this prosperity confined to the New South, but to its mineral regions, though the poverty and destitution which characterize the people of the old South, still prevail to a considerable extent. In her cotton fields there is a large boom of enterprise and improvement which is rapidly carrying that. Those which have caught the spirit of progress do not longer plow their fields with single man teams. They have learned the value of deep plowing and of following the chull plow by a heavy subsoil plow. They continue to grow some cotton, but not open the surface of exhausted fields, and they diversify their crops. I am speaking now of the progressive agriculturists—the representatives of the New South. The fields of wheat, rye, clover and other crops. And to save their old time "guano" bills, as they call bills for manufactured fertilizers, they turn under grain crops and add that with manure from stock and well fed herds of cattle.

"The great boom of the South is near at hand, and it will not be confined to the mineral regions of that section of the country, but it will include the agricultural regions as well."

In response to questions Judge Kelly said that the evidences of progressive farming were not confined to any State or country, but were visible in places all over the South. In the vicinity of the Ohio he saw the most advanced agriculture, he says, the farms were the most beautiful and thrifty. Within five miles of Annapolis, Ala., he saw some of the finest herds of Jersey cattle and one of the largest and cleanest dairies he had ever inspected. It was built up and owned by a native of Alabama. Near Rome, Ga., he saw herds of cattle and dairies that would do credit to Pennsylvania or New York.

Justice Woods' Successor.

In connection with the probable choice of a successor to the late Justice Woods, of the United States Supreme Court, it is remarked that some of the candidates already named will probably be handicapped by the fact that they are from States which now have one or more representatives on the supreme bench, and a candidate from a State having no such representative will most likely be preferred. While Justice Woods lived Ohio had three of her sons in the Supreme Court—the Chief Justice and Justices Matthews and Woods, though the latter nominally was appointed from the South, where he had lived but a brief time before his elevation to the highest of our judicial tribunals. So Ohio is not likely to be favored again, which will count Judge Hoody out. Of the other associate justices the senior, Judge Miller, from Iowa; the next, Justice Field, from California; Justice Bradley, from New Jersey; Justice Harlan, from Kentucky; Justice Gray, from Massachusetts and Justice Blatchford from New York. The South alone has all sections of our country being entirely unrepresented, many think a candidate from any part of the South, Kentucky excepted—because that State already has a representative on the Supreme Court bench in Judge Harlan—is most likely to be the successful one.

Four of the present judges—the Chief Justice, Justices Miller, Field and Bradley—are now old enough to be eligible for retirement whenever they feel disposed to profit by the law permitting them to retire on full salary. Except the four named and Justice Harlan, who is now but 64 years of age, Justice Field, the present Justice, was served as long as any man. Chief Justice Waite and Justice Miller and Field are each 71 years old, and Justice Bradley is 74.

The Southern Presbyterian.

The Southern Presbyterian Church met at the Grand Assembly Church in St. Louis, Mo., Saturday, Dr. Boyce, of Huntsville, Ala. the retiring Moderator, opened the session by a review. At the close of these opening offices were closed for the evening year. Dr. Boyce, of Atlanta, was elected Moderator of the session then adjourned to the Moderator time to make the usual prayer. The session was the commencement of South.

These are some of our substitutes. Each and every region is blessed by the bountiful Providence, and it is the part of wisdom to make use of those products which are best adapted to each region rather than to struggle against unnatural conditions.

H. W. HAYMOND.

Young and middle aged men suffering from nervous debility, premature old age, loss of memory and kindred symptoms should send in orders to Messrs. J. C. Watson & Co., 100 Broadway, New York, for Dr. Watson's Kidney and Bladder Pills.

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