

The Abbeville Messenger.

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ABBEVILLE, S. C., TUESDAY, MAY 25, 1886.

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"R. S. G." on a Trip.

Receiving a kind invitation from friends at Lowndesville to attend the third Annual County Sunday School Convention, which was held there on the 7th, 8th and 9th of May, we accepted and started for "the seven hilled city" on Friday morning the 7th. Along the route to Lowndesville there is the very poorest prospect for small grain we have ever seen at this season. Much of the wheat will not make more than a bushel to the acre. We stopped a few moments at Dr. Bell's and enjoyed his well known hospitality. The doctor has a beautiful place. We reached Lowndesville just as the bell in the beautiful new Methodist church rang to assemble the Convention for the evening session. We found the following officers in charge of the Convention: Mr. George C. Hodges, President; Mr. Sturkey of McCormick, Secretary and Rev. Meadors of Ninety-Six, Statistician. About thirty delegates were present. Our venerable Sabbath School worker, Capt. Parks was offered the presidency of the Convention, but was unwell and declined. Mr. George C. Hodges was then unanimously elected to that position and made a most capital presiding officer, interspersing the exercises with pointed replies and pretty quotations.

The Sabbath Schools of the County were well represented. From nearly all of them there were written reports, showing them to be in fine working condition. The Secretaries of these schools are required to keep a roll of every scholar each Sabbath; then to send up the total number of scholars with all other facts to the Convention once a year. There are committees appointed along with the Superintendents to look up scholars. This seems to keep the schools full. The Convention discussed a great many practical questions connected with Sabbath School work. We were profoundly impressed with the conviction that this Convention was a great educator to the Sabbath School Superintendents and Teachers. He can here get the practical experience of the county in this work, with the many suggestions thrown out. There were quite a number of good talks and workers in the Convention which made the meeting interesting. We thought that perhaps the Sabbath Schools at Abbeville, C. H. made the best showing with Ninety-Six, Greenwood, McCormick and Lowndesville ranking close behind. The amount of money each school contributed was reported and many of them are carrying on Missionary work. The number of accessions to the church from the Sabbath Schools was given. The Convention adjourned late Saturday evening after selecting Abbeville as the next place of meeting. A unanimous vote of thanks was tendered the good people of Lowndesville for their kindness and full-handed hospitality. There were two good sermons each day. The presiding elder Rev. Smart of Greenwood had a severe attack of sickness on Saturday evening and the doctors were with him all that night. He was some better on the Sabbath. He is a most genial, worthy christian gentleman, of fine address. We formed some most pleasant acquaintances among members of the Convention and return thanks for the very kind courtesy extended us personally. We enjoyed the occasion. The meeting was interspersed with fine music led by Mrs. B. D. Kay and Mr. James T. Latimer assisted by Rev. Mr. Auld, Mr. B. D. Kay and others. Rev. F. Auld is the present pastor of the church. He is a most estimable christian gentleman and held in the highest esteem by his people.

Smryna church in which the Convention was held is a beautiful new building, finished off in the latest style and presents an imposing view upon its elevated site. We learn that Mr. Baker one of the staunch citizens of Lowndesville was very active in pushing the church to completion. It is very neat and tasty.

On Sabbath morning Mr. James Latimer, Sr. the excellent Superintendent of the Smryna Sabbath School presided at the Sabbath School mass meeting and introduced the speakers very happily. There were three addresses of about twenty-five minutes each. Mr. George Hodges and Rev. Meadors held the closest attention of the large audience. At the close of the addresses of the delegates, B. C. Kay came out from the audience and heartily thanked the delegates for their presence and their addresses. He had been in the Sabbath School work for fifty-three years. His voice has failed him and when in a whisper he told the audience that his "work was done" the audience was in tears. The Quarterly Conference met immediately after the adjournment of this meeting.

We want to speak of the great improvement in Lowndesville since we were there three years ago. On that trip we don't remember to have seen a single new plank in the place. But there is a wonderful difference now. What is the cause? The new railroad. We have always hoped these good people would get this road. Through their pluck and energy and through the great exertion of that good man, who never lived to see it, they now have the road, they enjoyed the prospect. This week they expect the track to be laid inside of the corporate limits. We took a ride out to where the track was laid

and while there the cars came up with a load of material. Two passengers were to go back. In looking around this pleasant village we note the following improvement: Two beautiful new churches, the Methodist and the Baptist, both finished in the latest style and situated on nice sites. The Presbyterian church has just been neatly painted and is soon to have a new steeple erected. There are four business houses now in operation. Messrs. T. Baker & Son, Sherrard & Leroy, Cooley & Co., J. W. McConnel and Speed & Turner. We noticed the new dwelling of Dr. O. R. Horton just nearing completion. Mr. James T. Latimer has just erected a beautiful new house and remodelled one. Mr. W. M. Moore has repaired his dwelling and so has S. S. Baker. Mr. C. D. Watkins has remodelled and made a pretty home for his family. Mr. T. Baker has built a nice Drug Store to be occupied by Messrs Speed & Turner. The Presbyterian parsonage has been remodelled and renovated. Dr. Baskins has built two stores and expects to remodel his dwelling soon. Mr. James T. Latimer has in contemplation a new brick store, the brick are now being made. Mr. D. K. Cooley also expects to erect one right away. Other lots have been bought and houses are in contemplation. Mr. W. D. Masters is making the brick to build two nice brick stores with a Hotel above. Messrs. B. D. Kay & Co. have a saw mill and planing machine about ready to go to work. Messrs. W. S. and J. Masters are running a brick yard close at hand and expect to make four thousand brick. We learned that Mr. Geer of Anderson confidently expects to put up a Drug Store this summer. Dr. Morely is now running a good Hotel at which you can get all the wants of the inner man abundantly supplied. Our esteemed young friend, Mr. J. B. Franks is in charge of the school the place and is doing a good work. The educational advantages of the town should develop with its growth. Lowndesville ought to have a fine high school or academy. She has the material. It is very evident that new life and energy has taken hold of the "Hilled city," and that it is attracting people to it. The general impression is that Lowndesville will be a fine business place. It has a good surrounding country back it. Parties owning lots sell them at modest figures. They are public spirited and anxious for the town to build up. The depot has been located and the little breeze that arose over it has died out and the citizens will work harmoniously in laying the foundation of a prosperous town and cordially invite men and capital to come in until they make Lowndesville one of the proud cities of the up country.

Messrs. Editors: We heard nothing but good words spoken for you gentlemen and for the Messenger. Our friends Dr. Grier and Prof. Hood were inquired of very kindly. In company with my mother who was raised in this section we visited the Presbyterian cemetery, where lies a grandfather and a grandmother and an aunt and other relatives, all of the Speer family. A little work from loving hands would improve the appearance of some of the graves.

With the kindest recollection of Lowndesville and her citizens we started for home Monday morning after having spent a most pleasant time.

Ninety-Six News.

May 17th, 1886.

Missionary work is at present the bon ton of our town. Dr. H. D. Wilson favored our town last week with a professional visit. One who practices the latest in science and arts of dentistry is obliged to be welcomed to any community.

Fishing parties are the fashion of the day. Tight boots and tight coughs are the results. Many admirers of this sport told me of the wretched condition our branches and creeks are in. Logs and debris of any kind in profusion, obstructing the flow of water, forming stagnant pools, unhealthy even for a well seasoned alligator. Why do the State and local Boards of Health not enforce the law? The best, the most satisfactory thing we poor mortals have in this valley of woe, is good health; which unfortunately we can only understand and appropriate after we have lost it.

Our Baltimore drummer, Mr. E. S. Hale is preparing for his summer campaign in a grand style. We know all he visits will be glad to see him. Capt. R. J. Robinson, Superintendent of the McCormick Academy paid our town a short visit. He has more friends here than he suspects and we really envy the town of McCormick the benefit of this high toned gentleman and learned scholar.

Mr. Jeff. D. Moore at the last regular communication of Eureka Lodge No. 47, took his first degree. He stood the greasy pole comparatively very well. The future will show how he will manage the goat.

Mrs. Marie Rothrock, near Coronaca, presented my wife and baby each with a fan made by herself of feathers of the turkey, goose and other domestic fowls. We have travelled and seen many curiosities where the arts were cultivated to the highest degree, but we must confess we never saw anything coming up to

the piece of art as presented, in the shape of a fan. We are very thankful to the donor and proud of the Sunny South which produces such work of which even a queen would be proud and exclaim: "Our women now and forever."

Mr. J. N. King ex-Vice-President of the Abbeville Democratic Club of the memorable days of '76 and '78 told me that although an enthusiastic newspaper reader, he looks first over the local dots of his own home. That is right. I believe even every soul should have more interest in home than any other place. If the missionary societies would pay more attention to home affairs they would find more heathens, here than abroad: "Thou art so near and still so far."

Miss Florence Campbell, one of our pretty Southern maids is in town, visiting her sister Mrs. J. D. Watson.

The town council ordered an election for an Itendant, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of R. L. Prall, on Monday the 17th inst. Mr. J. D. Watson was elected.

Mr. W. S. Rogers our young friend and senior son of our brother, Jas. Rogers, Jr., has established a first-class cream and lemonade emporium, at No. 3 Miller Brick Block. He has furnished his establishment with taste and we write all, especially the ladies in these hot days upon us, to give the deserving young man a call. We know all will be pleased.

"East End" of the Press and Banner is right in all he says "Let us unite and do all we can for town and fellow citizens. Only in unity there is strength, surely not in quarreling about the Emperor's beard."

The Women's Missionary Society of the Cokesbury District South Carolina Conference met Friday 14th inst. Mrs. Herbert of Newberry, Vice-President of the District, presided and called the meeting to order. Rev. R. D. Smart, Presiding Elder, was to preach the opening sermon, but owing to his illness was unable to do so. Rev. W. A. Rogers took his place. Miss Lula Anderson, of Ninety-Six, was elected Secretary. Mrs. Humbert the corresponding secretary made her report. The conference is composed of thirty societies. All were represented either by delegate or letter. The reports were all very encouraging, showing much progress in the last twelve months. Number of members 686. Money raised \$484.61. Woman's Missionary papers 120 copies taken. Miss Mattie Calhoun was to deliver the address of welcome, not being present. Rev. M. adors delivered it and was responded to by Mrs. Herbert, of Newberry. These ladies, in connection with the M. E. Church South are doing a noble work for the great ruler of the Universe in China, Japan, Mexico, Brazil and other foreign countries. We notice present as delegates from Abbeville County: Miss Speer, of Lowndesville; Miss Ida Greene, of Greenwood; Miss Coleman, of Coronaca; Miss Lula Anderson, of Lebanon; Mrs. W. T. Jones, of Cokesbury; Miss Ella Major of Greenwood; Mrs. N. E. Turner, of Rockville; Miss McCord and the Misses Ellis of Hodges.

From Newberry: Mrs. Herbert, Newberry's valuable Post Mistress; Mrs. Waldrop, Miss Swindler, Miss Hattie Wisterman, Mrs. Longshaw and several other Newberry ladies whose names we failed to get. Mrs. Humbert we are told is the untiring worker in this good cause, who is always on hand when there is any work to be done for foreign fields. Saturday last was the children's day.

"There is something for children to do," is an old song, of course in any field and so in the missionary cause. What we heard was good and to the point. They were in earnest and surely meant all with their little understanding, they said: No hypocrits, no masks, among them all real!—all truth! I love to hear the little speeches, the very beginning of the development of the human mind. When little Norman, the not quite four year old boy of Mr. J. T. Miller with great physical effort climbed with his little dimpled hands the platform and said a sentence or two for the missionary cause; the audience could not but give him a hearty cheering. Keep up this spirit ye girls and boys, you who have to follow after us in the weary path through life and you will claim a higher station than we have occupied.

The following express packages in the office: J. P. Brooks, J. F. McGowan, J. C. Kipp, Lipscomb & Anderson, J. R. Wright, Dr. T. W. Chiles, Dr. H. N. Sloan.

The following letters lay unclaimed in the postoffice: Albert Boozer, Tucker Chandler, Aner Johnson, Robert Jones.

Mr. H. E. Blake, son of Dr. T. S. Blake living at the river place at Coronaca had the misfortune to lose his horse last week. The horse while jumping a ditch broke his leg.

Our Baptist Church was crowded Sunday night last with spectators to witness the baptism according to Scripture, Rev. Carter officiating. The Misses Sude Archie Bozeman, Lizzie Jones, Sue Moore, Louise Pratt and the Masters John Pratt, Willie Deloach, James Perkerson and Hiram Johnson after joining the church at the last protracted meeting, received the holy sacrament of baptism.

Don't forget the Stock show in August. VASNER.

Is the Party A Failure?

CHESTER, May 13 1886.

To the Editor of the News and Courier.

It is said of republics that the existence of two well organized rival parties therein is a necessity, and the nearer these parties are equal in power and representation the nearer is the approach to perfect health in the body politic. This has almost become an obvious truth and, therefore, the condition of South Carolina with only one party is not unalloyed happiness. The Democratic ship is becalmed and the sails its usefulness flap idly against the masts. Each year, like sailors in a calm we whistle for a political breeze. This has been too often tried, so that during the approaching canvass it will be hard to create a ripple of interest much less excitement. Since 1876 the party has existed in full power and compactly united, because of the continued attacks of the Federal Government on our election laws; that force being removed, the menace comes not from without, but from within.

The first consequence of having but a single party, practically without an antagonist, was the establishment of primary elections to determine the choice of candidates for members of the Legislature and all county officers, including those offices the appointment to which is the exclusive prerogative of Governor. These primary elections are now an institution in the State, and upon their results the fate of candidates absolutely depends, and the general election is merely used to record the results, and have the sanction of the law. All interest is centered in the primary elections, and the vote is large because the candidates must necessarily enter the arena of contest, their friends and partisans are aroused, and it partakes of all the excitement of an election with opposing parties. The choice of candidates required by Democrats at these elections is cheerfully acquiesced in, and, therefore, they are generally preferred to conventions. At the general elections the attendance and the vote gets less and less each election for very obvious reasons, and it will not be a matter of surprise if some day it is announced that at certain remote polls in the counties no one but the managers have voted.

The situation of inertness in which the Democratic party of South Carolina finds itself has produced a movement recently fraught with most incalculable danger to the State, if the result had been as feared. The Farmers, Convention recently assembled at Columbia, under quite a specious disguise, was really projected to assail the Democratic party and its recognized leaders; and it would have been a success in that way but for the fact that the farmers of South Carolina love the party of their fathers, and know that in the absolute, irrevocable union of its members depends the safety and life of this State, and, knowing this, they could not be used for any hostile purpose. It is, however, useless to deny the fact that some of the utterances coming from that convention had truth and reason in them, and have taken hold of the minds of those who by their votes, will determine the complexion of the next Legislature, and the choice of our State officials. It is true that the business of agriculture is not now remunerative, mainly due, however, to its being carried on under a system of ruinous credit, and to the disasters of three years with the crops.

It is true that the present machinery of government as organized under the Constitution of 1868, so far as the county governments are concerned, is too expensive a system for a poor people, but it is not true that the State Government executive, legislative and judicial, is carried on in extravagance. It is true that there is need and opportunity for retrenchment and reform, but it is not true that State taxation is excessive, but on the contrary it is quite moderate, and the burthens of which the farmers complain arise in many counties—as in this county—from self-imposed railroad taxes and generally from the expenses of the county governments.

It is necessary that the Democratic party should take heed of all the well-founded complaints announced by the Farmers' Convention. That convention was composed, with but a half dozen exceptions of Democratic votes and of

those who represent quite a majority of the votes of this State.

In consequence of the enmity of the Republican party of the North, the hostility of the Federal Government and the unhappy political complications at home, the policy of the Democratic party since coming into power has been one of expedients; intended to be purely temporary and to bridge over some present difficulty. In the General Assembly it may be said practically not to exist; the party caucus is gone, the party lash hangs idly upon the walls; and it is has not infrequently happened that important general laws, vital to the interests of the people, have been determined by the votes of the handful of colored Republicans in the Senate and House. This cannot longer be. The Democratic party needs a more perfect organization, and it must announce its State policy on all important measures. To meet the present condition of public affairs requires a bold and not a timorous policy. We have no party discipline, every attempt to create new issue and new political instrumentalities.

The most vital matter of organization which suggests itself is the subject of primary elections. They have grown up outside of the Constitution of the Democratic party; have been adopted as a system by the action of the county conventions of the various counties, and in no two counties are the rules alike. It is clear that the whole subject should be regulated by the supreme authority of a State convention to adopt one common harmonious set of rules to govern them. It was suggested at the Farmers' Convention that the candidates for all State offices, including the Governor, be chosen by a direct primary vote, and also members of Congress. This proposition involves a distinct revolt from the system of State conventions. It seems impracticable, nay, impossible, to carry this effect, yet the idea has taken much deeper root in the minds of the people than many suppose.

The duty is imposed upon the Democratic party to consider this matter well and to announce itself distinctly, and, if any beneficial changes can be made in the method of choosing our highest officials, to adopt it. There is an evident demand that the manner of selecting candidates should be popularized, and I venture to propose a change in that direction. For example: It should be required of the candidates for Governor that early in the season they address the people at the various Courthouses in the State, and that the county conventions to choose delegates to the nominating convention shall not be assembled until such canvass is ended. This will bring the candidates face to face with the people, and thereby arouse public interest and save us from dying of stagnation, which is our present danger. An amicable contest among candidates for political offices has become a necessity. The same course should be pursued in the Congressional districts. It will there give an opportunity for all the candidates in each county to be heard, and break up this intolerable practice of every county having its own candidate, every candidate nominating his own delegation to the Congressional Convention, and every such delegation being sworn to stick to its own man, resulting in a deadlock, and a resort to that most discreditable piece of legerdemain called the "Hat game."

It seems to me imperatively necessary that a Democratic Convention should assemble early in July to consider all these matters of organization, and also to put forth some decided utterances about things of general interest to the people, such as education, the interests of agriculture, the question as to the finances of the State and county governments, taxation, and generally of retrenchment and reform. Such a State Convention, composed not of representatives of a single class, but of the entire people, backed up by all the time-honored authority and dignity of the Democratic party, will infuse new life and concentrate all the elements of strength within the party itself, and, with renewed vigor, our political affairs for the ensuing year will be carried on to a happy and harmonious result.

Large line ladies and misses opera slippers at Haddon's.

Our new kid button boots for ladies and misses are fast becoming the most Latest New York fashions in millinery record this week at Haddon's.

"Moses" Tillman's Convention.

LANDSFORD, S. C., May 8.

To the Editor of the News and Courier:

"The Farmers' Convention" having met and officially sanctioned the plans of Farmer Tillman for the regeneration of the State, and as these plans embraced in the eleven resolutions introduced and passed by Capt. Tillman, may well be considered the work of the Convention, it may not be unbecoming in a simon-pure farmer to say what he thinks of them.

To the first, "that the Legislature establish a real agricultural college, separate from the South Carolina College and modelled on the Agricultural College of Mississippi," &c., I heartily agree.

To the second, "that the institution be under the control of the State board of agriculture, who shall receive bids for its location from the several counties." I do not agree, but think that it should be controlled by a board of trustees, elective by the Legislature once in four years, of which board the Governor should be ex-officio president and the commissioner of agriculture ex-officio a member.

To the third, "that experimental stations established in connection with the agricultural college." I would suggest that this matter be left to the discretion of the board of trustees.

To the fourth, "that Congress be memorialized to pass the Hatch bill appropriating \$15,000 annually for this purpose," &c., I most decidedly object, partly on the ground of its being indirect taxation and partly because if this is to be a State institution, demanded by and organized for South Carolina farmers, South Carolina farmers ought to pay for it squarely, openly and knowingly.

To the fifth, "That we protest against the money for the agricultural college being under the management of the present board of trustees." I will say that until we get the "agricultural college" I cannot see who else is to handle it, and when we do, that money will rightfully belong to the new college.

To the sixth "that the trustees of the agricultural college be chosen, not by the Legislature but by a State convention farmers," &c., I protest, as this would indeed be the most offensive kind of class legislation, especially when considered with the proposition to make the secretary of this board virtually a State officer. It would be about as sensible and as fair for the lawyers to insist that the attorney general of the State be elected by the Bar Association. I cannot believe this resolution to have been seriously intended for adoption.

To the seventh, "that the privilege tax on fertilizers be doubled to raise funds for the proposed agricultural college," and the eighth, "that the inspection of fertilizers be made more thorough and effective." I object, again, on the ground of indirect and dishonest taxation, and because, further, that the proceeds of such tax being uncertain and fluctuating in amount, it would form a poor basis for the support of a permanent institution, and as to the eighth, I have yet to learn that the inspection of fertilizers is not as thorough and effective as the means at hand will allow, and at least amply sufficient to protect any intelligent purchaser.

To the ninth, "that the Citadel Academy be abolished and the money now appropriated to it be devoted to raising the standard and improving the equipment of the South Carolina College." I will say that the people of a State that is paying a voluntary tax of more than \$300,000 on property for common school purposes should not grumble at the small additional amount required by our present system to finish what they have so well begun, and any rate, if the total appropriation is not to be reduced, we might very well continue to divide it between existing institutions. I would further suggest that I have heard of no demand for increased appropriation for the South Carolina College, and that when the proposed "real agricultural college" is established it may become so popular that we can even venture to reduce the appropriation both for the College and Citadel.

To the tenth, "that the State establish a school for girls," &c., I am in hearty accord, and am willing to pay my part of the tax necessary to support it handsomely.

To the eleventh, "that a committee of one from each Congressional district be appointed to present the matters in these resolutions to the General Assembly," I would say that the executive committee appointed by the Convention to organize the farmers and keep up the agitation until after the election will take care (by securing the selection of those only who hold the views expressed in these resolutions) to render the eleventh resolution "void and of no effect."

Returning to the seventh resolution I would suggest that, as this is to be a farmers' college, that it be supported by a direct tax on the property of farmers, that is to say on the real estate assessed for taxation outside of cities and towns. And I for one am willing to pay any reasonable assessment necessary for that purpose. W. R. DAVIS.