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**RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD**

By Miss Laura Cromer

At a meeting of the Joseph B. Ker-shaw Chapter, U. D. C., held several weeks ago two papers of such excel-lence were read that The Advertiser was requested to print them. One of them "Reconstruction Period", writ-ten by Miss Laura Cromer, appears below. The other one, "Ante-bellum Days in the South," by Miss Laura Barksdale, will appear in a forthcom-ing issue.

**Reconstruction Period.**

When our fathers and grandfathers returned from the four years of war-fare, to find the homes they had left lying in ashes, and the cherished acres of land so pitilessly mutilated, it must have required more heroism and courage than we can imagine to set to work again to deliver them out of this state of chaos. But think of their horror when this beloved state, for which they had so freely shed their blood became known as "Military Dis-trict No. 2"! It is then that "Reign of Terror" in our country, common-ly called the Reconstruction Period, is said to have begun.

We reckon our reconstruction from 1865-1877, but readers of history will go back farther than that and tell us that the first spark was dropped among the rubbish of an incomplete government when the constitution of the United States was first adopted, and had slowly, but surely, been burn-ing its way through the great mass of sectional discontent and disagree-ments, until it burst into flame in 1865. The four years of blood-shed, just preceding, gave the real alarm of the mighty conflagration so soon to sweep over our land.

Virginia, New York and Rhode Is-land were the first to point out the fact that our constitution was defect-ive, when they refused to adopt it without claiming the right of seces-sion if desired.

The Missouri Compromise, and again the compromise of 1850 only served to strengthen this spirit of dissension that had been smouldering among our people.

Abraham Lincoln has been accused and abused if you please, as the father of Reconstruction, but history pre-sents facts in such an authoritative manner that one is compelled to recog-nize the abolitionists and that other infamous class of politicians, then known as Republicans, as the true progenitor.

To daughters of the Confederacy it seems superfluous to tell you what reconstruction means. You who have heard your parents tell of the blood-curdling incidents that took place dur-ing those days and who have followed by proxy that champion leader of white government, Gen. Wade Hamp-ton, as he and his "Red Shirts" blaz-ed the trail for those who were to live after him, know all too well the significance of this one word. It has been tested in our own state. A Latin word, divided into its several parts, first: Re, meaning again; second, con, meaning together, and lastly, the past participle of the very struo, meaning to build, or letter still, put. Combine these three, and we have: to put to-gether again. There we have the com-plete significance of the word before us, and please lay special stress upon that again.

You ladies know that it is a much simpler task to properly put together a new garment than it is to rip apart and make over an old one. And in making over an old one, we are oblig-ed to cut out some portions that are not necessary, and very often, insert folds of new material in order to fash-ion a modern garment.

Our government passed through the same process; and as South Carolina took the first step toward dissolving the union, she also took the first to-ward repairing it.

It would take too long to recount even a few of the affairs so closely associated with reconstruction in our state. Briefly I would say that such times always find candidates for of-fice who can supply the proper end-orsements of corruption and vice, to prey upon the hopeless victims. Our brave men, who had fought so gallant-ly for what they thought was right, were forced to stand aside and see such scallowags as Robert K. Scott, and Franklin J. Moses, Jr., occupy the chair that had held such men as the Pinckneys, Rutledges, Middleton, Pickens, etc., while three of our con-gressmen in Washington were negroes. And at home over half the members of the legislature were ignorant, treach-erous negroes, who stole the property of our citizens, and threatened the lives of not only our men, but our women and children as well.

This was all fearful, but the gross-est indignity heaped upon our brave men was their disfranchisement. Be-cause they had fought for a principle they deemed right, and to them sac-red, they were accused of treason to the Union, and denied the right to vote, while the illiterate and fendish

negro was invested with all the pow-er of his former master. Some of our ablest men were cast into Federal prisons, while negro soldiers, arrayed in the United States army uniforms, were placed in control of the affairs of our commonwealth.

President Johnson, a southern man himself, sought to bring relief to the state by appointing Benjamin F. Per-ry, of Greenville, as provisional gov-ernor on June 13, 1865. With the help of other citizens, Gov. Perry attempt-ed to set up a government in our state, but this failed on account of the in-terference of Federal soldiers, and it was then that affairs rapidly passed from bad to worse, resulting in the condition I have alluded to previous-ly.

Daniel H. Chamberlain, although a man not to be admired, was the first to bring any real relief, and he pointed out to the people that it would be im-possible to have a desirable, or even bearable, government with the ma-jority of the voters negroes.

It required Gen. Wade Hampton to teach the negro his place in southern politics. With his election in 1876, and not till then, did the people realize any permanent relief. He brought the state entirely under the control of white voters.

It also required quite a sacrifice on the part of this noble gentleman to take up this work. It was forced upon him by the people of his state and when he realized that duty and patri-otism called him, he forgot self, and considered only the welfare of his fel-low-men.

And thus it was with a number of others, who were asked to be loyal to their country after the fight had end-ed. This country did not float the same flag over their heads as the one they had so recently lost, but have you ever heard of a single in-stance where one of our fore-fathers was guilty of loathing that flag? Did not the red in those stars and stripes represent the identical virtue as por-trayed in the stars and bars? Was not the white of one as pure as the other? And as a common bond of fellowship and sympathy we insert the blue, and combine the red and white of the other two.

Doubtless there were tears in many a strong man's eyes as he folded away the tattered flag that floated the stars and bars, but there were patriotism and heroism in his heart when he un-folded the bright banner of red, white and blue, and acknowledged it as his own. His blood has obliterated Mason and Dixon's line. There is no north or south now. We belong to one coun-try, and we are proud of this great land of ours.

Now we realize that in union alone have we accomplished more than any other country in the same length of time.

There are still a few who allow their prejudice to overrule them, and cher-ish a resentment toward the north of our country for the acts of some of their most unprincipled representa-tives during those dark days of re-construction. They should know that the north was mortified because of these same acts, and if the natural state of confusion that necessarily follows war, had not existed, these fearful affairs might have been pre-vented.

Now the majority of our people know that we raise the cotton and the north manufactures it—that is, our surplus, for the south is fast grow-ing in the manufacturing industry; our fertile lands do not furnish food for our people alone but our brother farther north as well.

We are gathered together daughters, to perpetuate the noble lives of those who fought for the southern cause, and this we shall always do; for these are worthy the emulation of our broth-ers, sons, and husbands; but all have also learned the value and beauty of true patriotism, and far be it from us to plant one seed of prejudice in the mind of any one who loves his "Own, his native land."

**IT'S SO EASY TO END CATARRH.**

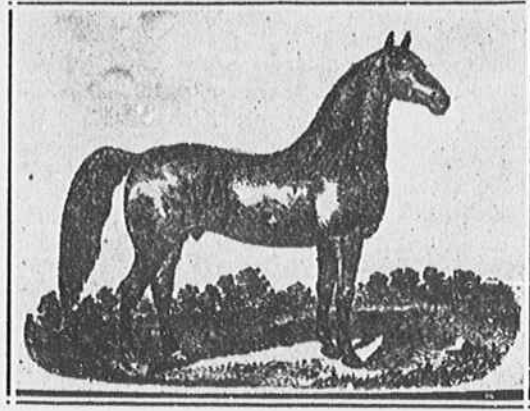
Go to the Laurens Drug Co. and say I want a HYOMEI outfit—take it home—open the box—pour a few drops of HYOMEI from the bottle into the little hard rubber inhaler—breathe it for five minutes and note the refresh-ing relief—breathe it four or five times a day for a few days and catarrh and all its disgusting symptoms will gradually disappear.

HYOMEI contains no opium, co-caine or other harmful drug and is sold on money back plan for catarrh, asthma, croup, colds, coughs and catarrhal deafness. Complete outfit \$1.00—extra bottles if needed 50 cents at Laurens Drug Co. and druggists everywhere. Simple instructions for use in every package—you can't fail to banish catarrh if you follow in-structions.

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**R.M. Eichelberger**

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N. B. The following schedule figures are published only as information and not guaranteed.

*54	53	Station	52	*55
8:20 a m	2:12 p m	Lv Laurens Ar	2:12 p m	7:55 p m
8:44	2:35	Clinton	1:50	7:35
9:32	3:20	Newberry	12:56	6:44
9:50	3:34	Prosperity	12:42	6:26
11:15	4:55	Ar Columbia Lv	11:15	5:00
	6:20	Ar Sumter Lv	9:41	
	10:00 p m	Ar Charleston Lv	6:15 a m	

\*—Trains 54 and 55 run solid between Greenville and Columbia daily except Sunday. These trains stop at Garveys St. Station, while trains 52 and 53 go to Union Station.

Solid through trains between Greenville and Charleston via Laurens and Columbia.

T. C. WHITE, General Passenger Agent.

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