

TERMS

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THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1907

"Astonishing" Argument for Compulsory Education.

It was not our intention to enter into a controversy with the Columbia State on Compulsory Education. We intended only to call the attention of its able but busy editor to a serious logical weakness in the line of argument advanced, thinking that perhaps the "illuminated" object lesson under consideration had not been carefully measured in all of its bearings; but since we are informed in The State of May 20th that the matter was gone into "with thoughtful discrimination and distinction," we feel inclined to take the matter a little more seriously and give it more than a mere passing glance.

For the convenience of our readers we here reproduce the now illustrious "illuminated object lesson," which The State is trying to bolster up as argument for compulsory education:

"The first influx of immigrants came to the State (Connecticut), as has been said, from the Emerald Isle about 50 years ago, and they came to grade the railroads and to dig the sewers and to lay the water pipes and gas pipes in the cities, while the young women came to act as house servants. While they could not read or write, their children have been educated and today they are the professional men and the business men of the State. You cannot find in the whole State today a man or woman of Irish birth who is doing menial work except in the case of the very few of the first comers who survive."

Now, as to the logical bearing of this "illuminated object lesson," we would remark two things and leave it to the judgment of even illiterate (?) South Carolinians as to its value as an argument for compulsory education.

In the first place, what these Irish families did in Connecticut under a compulsory education law has been done in South Carolina without compulsory education. We can even go further and say that the same advancement and progress have been made by industrious families who were not Irish. Who are the professional men—teachers, doctors, legislators, lawyers and preachers of South Carolina today? Who are the business men—bankers, merchants and manufacturers in South Carolina today? Are not many of them the sons of fathers who fifty years ago were "hewers of wood and drawers of water"? Does the editor of The State really believe that Connecticut can show a larger proportion of professional and business men—descendants of Irish immigrants who fifty years ago were hewers of wood and drawers of water—than can South Carolina, which as a State has witnessed the completest revolution in this respect of any state in the world? Does the editor of The State not know that with few exceptions it is the sons and grand

sons of industrious working people who are today the office-holders, the business men and the professional men all over South Carolina? We repeat that what has been done in Connecticut in the way of transforming illiterate families into the place of "large earners and producers" during the past fifty years under compulsory education, has been done in South Carolina in much less time than that without compulsory education. Therefore, the logic of the "illuminated object lesson" on that score falls to the ground, notwithstanding The State's columns of editorial matter to prop it up.

But, in the second place, we would remark that this is by no means the most serious bearing of The State's argument for compulsory education. We sit in unutterable wonder and astonishment as we meditate over the paragraph which precedes the poetry. Here we are informed that The State's policy of compulsory education has as its object an "intellectual advance" that is to raise people—black and white—"about (above?) the level of manual labor," that they may remain no longer in the ranks of "plowmen and hoe hands—crappers and renters."

Will the State please "illuminate" us if we are mistaken in the following statements: There are no more railroads to be graded in Connecticut. No more sewers nor water pipes nor gas pipes to be laid in the cities of Connecticut. No more plowing nor hoeing nor renting nor crapping to be done in Connecticut, nor in any other State where they have compulsory education. These people have already had the touch of "immortality" (compulsory education) which gives "back the upward looking and the light," and rebuilds in them "the music and the dream," and now all they have to do is to listen to the music and dream while railroads unroll from spools across mountain and chasm, like ribbon over the merchant's counter; bank buildings, factories, thriving cities and spreading fields of waving grain are reproduced in the original from the photographic plates of the dreamer, while artesian wells voluntarily burst forth with milk and honey, and hams of cooked mutton and hog grow on vines like blackberries.

That the present school auditorium is wholly inadequate for the purpose intended was very thoroughly demonstrated last Monday night when over a hundred people had to return home without seeing the exercises of commencement. If we are to have a first class school it is up to the people of Kingstree to remedy this deficiency against the opening of the fall term.

Because we refuse to swallow its views on compulsory education—the State newspaper accuses us of defending illiteracy. The editor of this newspaper is willing to let his record and that of his paper on this subject speak for itself. According to The State's deduction, because we do not favor its pet hobby, compulsory education, we do not believe in education at all. Just as well argue that because we do not believe in forcing a man to go to church we are defending atheism. Brilliant logic, forsooth.

There has been a good deal of complaint about the disorder that occurred in the school auditorium Monday evening. To some extent this is attributable to the overcrowded condition of the hall, but not entirely. A great many people—the vast majority—want to hear what is going on and those who don't want to hear should be made to respect the rights of others. On such occasions in future it is hoped that provision will be made to preserve better order.

RACE RIOT THREATENED AT RHEMS.

KILLING OF NEGRO IN WILLIAMSBURG AROUSES BLACKS—SHERIFFS GRAHAM AND SCURRY RESPOND.

GEORGETOWN, May 20.—In response to a telegram from Rhems stating that a race riot was imminent there, Sheriff C. W. Scurry and a small posse of citizens set out early this morning by private conveyance from the seat of the disturbance. Telephonic reports later in the day were to the effect that conditions were not nearly so threatening and that things were apparently assuming a normal state. Fears are still felt that the outward show of quietude may be a mask for some ugly disturbances during the night, and the white men, who in that locality are numerically about one to fifty blacks, are prepared for any emergency.

The disturbance started with a personal encounter on Saturday night between one of the clerks in F. Rhem & Sons' big store and a negro by the name of Tony Scott, who was acting in an insolent and unruly manner. A number of other white men took part in the affair and the result was that the negro died from the injuries sustained in the fight.

The funeral took place on Sunday and four or five hundred negroes, it is said, composed the funeral cortege, vowing vengeance against all white people for the deed that had been committed.

These threats and the surly looks of the blacks are the cause of apprehension among the white people, many of whom are scattered in remote and isolated places throughout the neighborhood.

Capt H B Springs, commanding the Georgetown Rifle Guards, telegraphed as follows to Governor Ansel to-day:

"Governor M F Ansel, Columbia, S. C. Disturbance at Rhems, S. C. I hold my company in readiness subject to orders, H B Springs, Capt, Company F, 3d Regiment.

This dispatch was received tonight by Capt Springs from the Governor: "Capt H B Spring, sheriff of Georgetown and sheriff of Williamsburg wire me that race riot expected at Rhems. Hold your company in readiness and if needed report to Sheriffs Graham and Scurry. M F Ansel, Governor.

The guards are resting on their arms tonight, ready to move at once.

REPORT FROM RHEMS.

Last Account Says Everything Has Quieted Down.

RHEMS, May 20.—9 p m.—Special: Everything is quiet at this hour. Sheriffs Scurry, Georgetown, and Graham, of Williamsburg, have handled the situation admirably. There are about one hundred and twenty-five men here with rifles, shot guns and pistols ready to repulse any attack made by the negroes. The many threats made by the negroes have wrought the whites up to a high pitch, but they are maintaining order and will not molest the negroes unless they try to carry out their purpose. It was not necessary to call out the Rifle Guards. About twenty citizens from Georgetown came up today. The whites are being reinforced every few minutes and probably the number will reach two hundred by 10 o'clock. The negroes are dispersing and no trouble is expected now, unless renewed later.—News & Courier.

Later.

Messrs George Graham, Jr., and G T Lovett reached Kings-

tree Tuesday about noon from Rhems with a negro in custody, one John Sampson, alias Jim Bates, who is supposed to be ring leader among the rioters. It is believed that this negro is wanted for a crime in Georgia and if he is the right party he will be turned over to the authorities in that State. Otherwise there will probably be an indictment brought against him for rioting and inciting mob violence. Messrs Graham and Lovett report everything quiet at Rhems now, but the white men are still on guard and will not be lulled into fancied security.

The Coroner's Inquest.

Everything was serene at Rhems yesterday and it is hoped and believed that the trouble has quieted down. At the inquest over the remains of Tony Scott, held by Magistrate Geo. B Nesmith, there were about 150 white men, besides the Georgetown Rifle Guards, and only about 20 negroes were to be seen. The coroner's jury, on the testimony of physicians who had attended the deceased negro, brought in a verdict that Scott died from natural causes, as he had for a long time suffered from heart disease.

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Notice to Teachers.

Your attention is hereby called to the advantages of taking the Teachers' Reading Circle course. Teachers who take this reading course may have their certificates renewed for two years. Examination questions are sent out by the State Board of Education in May to those applying for them. Applicants stand the examination at their homes and forward to the State Board of Education. I am informed by Mr Martin that these examinations are very simple. The course adopted is as follows: James' Talk to Teachers, price \$1.50; Mace's Method in History, .81; How to Tell Stories to Children, .81; The Little School Mistress, 1.00. These books may be purchased of the Educational Publishing Co., Atlanta, Ga. J G McCULLOUGH, Co. Supt. of Education. 5-9-3t

Citation Notice.

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA. County of Williamsburg. By P. M. Brockinton, Esquire, Probate Judge. Whereas, V. E. Liffage made suit to me to grant him Letters of Administration of the Estate of and effects of Miss A H Montgomery. These are therefore to cite and admonish all and singular the kindred and Creditors of the said Miss H H Montgomery, deceased, that they be and appear before me, in the Court of Probate, to be held at Kingstree, S. C., on the 25th day of May next after publication thereof, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any they have, why the said Administration should not be granted. Given under my Hand, this 6th day of May Anno Domini, 1907. Published on the 9t. day of May, 1907, in the County Record. P M BROCKINTON, Probate Judge. 5-9-3t.

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