

The Watchman and Southron.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 6, 1897.

The *Sumter Watchman* was founded in 1850 and the *True Southron* in 1866. The *Watchman and Southron* now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

FACTS AND "JUSTICE."

In last week's issue there appeared a communication in reference to the price of cotton in Sumter and Camden on Tuesday. The article, which was signed "Justice," was written by Mr. George W. Reardon, of this city, and not by some prejudiced outsider, as has been insinuated. The authorship of the communication is the best guarantee that there was no intention to injure or wilfully misrepresent this city as a cotton market, for Mr. Reardon is a large property owner and his own welfare and prosperity depends upon the welfare of Sumter. So much for the animus of the communication.

In reference to the other aspects of the "Justice" article we cannot say much in defence. Mr. Reardon was misinformed, and evidently did not take the trouble to investigate before asserting that cotton was sold in Sumter on Tuesday for 5.60 and in Camden for 5.90. He is doubtless correct in stating that cotton—good cotton—was sold for 5.90 in Camden on Tuesday; no one has questioned or will question the correctness of this statement, but the assertion that Sumter cotton buyers and merchants paid only 5.60 for cotton that day is emphatically contradicted, and the facts, easily to be ascertained by inspecting the cotton books of the buyers of this city, sustain the contradiction. The facts in rebuttal of the assertion of "Justice" are that the ruling price paid in this city for middling cotton on Tuesday was 5.85, and the average price for all grades was about 5.77 to 5.80. If any cotton at all was bought for 5.60 it was of the poorest quality, and did not come up to the grades regularly quoted. The bottom price for regular grades of cotton on Tuesday was 5.75—fifteen points above the price said by Mr. Reardon to have been paid here.

The fact that Camden cotton buyers have paid higher prices than those of this city cannot be disputed, but the difference has never been so great as asserted by Mr. Reardon, and it is to be regretted that a statement, based upon a misapprehension, should have been published; and we are satisfied that no one could regret it more than Mr. Reardon.

From the Daily Item, Oct. 1. "JUSTICE" ON THE PRICE OF COTTON.

Further Discussion of the Cotton Situation.

Mr. Editor: It appears that the squib in the Item of 29th, signed "Justice," caused some excitement among the cotton buyers of Sumter. They at once said that some prejudiced person wrote the piece. Far from it being prompted by prejudice, you will find that the writer had the welfare of Sumter at heart as much as any man in it. I will not take second place to any man in the love that I cherish towards Sumter's welfare and prosperity, and in writing the article touching the price of cotton in Sumter and Camden, I did not have the remotest idea of injuring Sumter, nor do I now think it will hurt Sumter; but on the contrary, I am satisfied it will do good. It has placed the mooted question in its true light. I inadvertently brought out the fact which is admitted by yourself and Sumter cotton buyers, that there is at least 15 points in favor of Camden. Now, why should this be so? The only way that I can account for it is, that there is not enough of competition among the cotton buyers at Sumter.

Now, the way I received my information, and drew my conclusions, is this: On the evening of the 28th instant I was in the Haggood neighborhood, on business. One of my lievers, who had just returned from Camden after selling a bale of cotton, showed me his receipt, weight, and price he got for his cotton. It was 5.90 in a plain, gold band. Not satisfied with this I asked several others who passed by after selling in Camden, and every one said 5.90. Then on my way home to Sumter I asked, I suppose, a dozen, whom I met going out from Sumter (some white men among them) what they got for their cotton, and every one said 5.60. I think one man said 5.65. Now, Mr. Editor, did I not have good grounds for arriving at the conclusion as stated in the article? There is an admitted difference in the two markets, and the only way to correct it is to bring out the facts and let the ball hit the man that stands in the way.

I have nothing to regret, Mr. Editor, and retract nothing, for I confidently believe that I was not misinformed, and bringing out the facts, it will ultimately do good by putting the Sumter cotton buyers more on their guard. I have myself on several occasions paid five points more than the market price, in order to encourage farmers to bring their cotton and trade to Sumter.

GEO. W. REARDON.

Mr. George W. Reardon has a communication in to-day's issue in which he makes some explanation of his "Justice" communication, and continues the discussion of the price paid for cotton here and elsewhere. The statements made by Mr. Reardon are neither new

nor novel and have been made in one form or another, by various persons for several consecutive years. The fact that Camden cotton buyers have in former years paid more for cotton than Sumter buyers, is too well established to be contradicted, and there is neither rhyme nor reason in getting angry because the fact happens to be published in a newspaper. If it were possible to keep the public from learning the facts there might be some reason for suppressing communications such as Mr. Reardon has in to-day's issue, but as it is well known, only news is published, and news is simply information pertaining to those topics that are of common report among the public; if the relative and comparative price of cotton in Camden and Sumter is not a matter of common report, nothing is. How the Camden buyers are able to pay more for cotton than buyers in this city we have never been able to ascertain, although it has been asserted that they obtain lower freight rates to Liverpool and receive rebates from the railroads, having these advantages resulting from competing lines of railroads and a water route via the Wateree river. The old explanation that Camden buyers grade the cotton closely and buy strictly on grade, paying the top of the market for the best grades and the bottom price for the inferior cotton, while Sumter buyers do not grade closely and pay an average price that is higher than the Camden average, is familiar to all and it is not worth while repeating it. It can be said, however, that if this explanation is the true one, it is high time that the Sumter buyers adopted the plan of the Camden cotton men. They would save money for themselves by paying a lower average price and, at the same time, win the reputation for Sumter of paying high prices and being a good market.

The charge that we are endeavoring to injure the trade of Sumter and are trying to give the local cotton market a black eye is the most abominable rot we have heard in many a day and is as foolish as false. Anyone with three grains of sense knows that no business or enterprise is more dependent upon the prosperity of a town than a newspaper and it is not probable that we would deliberately make the effort to injure ourself. A newspaper publishes the news, however, and we have endeavored at all times to give all the news—without favor or prejudice, as well as work for the good of the city of Sumter, and in this connection we would call to the attention of our readers to the fact that a newspaper cannot boom a place successfully unless there are facts at hand to be used as ammunition. This observation is merely by the way; and, as we have digressed somewhat from the topic we set out to discuss, we will return to it, and as briefly as possible conclude.

Mr. Reardon's contention that he was not misinformed concerning the price paid for cotton in Sumter on Sept. 28th, is matter between him and the buyers. We have the assurance from several regular buyers and merchants who buy cotton that the average price paid on that day was 5.77 to 5.78, while the highest was 5.85 and the lowest 5.65, except in the case of storm cotton, which was bought at lower prices. The cotton books of these gentlemen are open to inspection at any time in proof of their statements, which we accept without question. Mr. Reardon evidently met sellers of storm cotton when returning to Sumter, this place having the reputation of the finest market in the country for inferior cotton, and those who sold cotton in Camden must have had strict good middling, which they carried to that place to obtain the top of the market. This is the only reasonable explanation of the contradictory statements that have been made.

THE PRICE OF COTTON.

Editor Item: We have among our customers a very respectable colored man, Adam Richbourg, who lives on Dr. W. W. Anderson's place near Claremont. Adam was in town to-day and paid us some money from the proceeds of the seed of two bales of cotton sold in Camden on Tuesday at 5.75. This is the day on which "Justice" says cotton sold in Camden at 5.90.

Yours truly,
O'DONNELL & Co.
Sumter, Oct. 1st.

The discussion of the price of cotton which has been in progress for several days is bringing out the facts in a very gratifying manner. One of the export buyers of this city telegraphed to Camden Saturday morning to ascertain the prices paid Friday. In reply he was informed that the price yesterday was 5.75. In this city that day 5.85 was the highest price paid; a number of bales were sold for 5.80, 5.85 and the average price for all grades during the day was 5.77@5.78.

The Ladies' Aid Society of the Baptist Church will meet at the residence of Mrs. G. U. Graham at 4.20 this afternoon.

Gov. Eberle is right in closing original package agencies in dry towns, but he should be consistent and go a step further and close the dispensaries that were established in dry towns during the administrations of his predecessors.

Competition between various cotton markets is becoming very sharp, and it is being felt by much larger and more important markets than this city. The article from the *News and Courier* is recommended to the consideration of the cotton buyers and merchants of this city. They will observe that there are other places getting it in the neck.

What does S. G. Mayfield want with the Governorship, if he makes four hundred bales of cotton and corn, molasses, potatoes and peas until he cannot consume them and has twenty thousand pounds of home made bacon in his smoke house? A man that has all these good and desirable things and is a first class lawyer besides, is better off than a Governor.

The statement of Col. R. W. Simpson in reference to the sanitary condition of Clemson College is the best advertisement the college could receive. It is timely, and supplies the exact information that has been demanded. The policy of keeping the public in ignorance of the true condition of public institutions is altogether wrong and results, eventually, to the serious damage of the institutions. Col. Simpson's letter will be more influential in restoring confidence in Clemson than would a hundred denials of previous unsanitary conditions. What parents, who would send their sons to Clemson, want to know is not the past conditions, but the present state of affairs and what precautions are being taken to prevent epidemics of fever in future.

The price of cotton continues to go down, and there seems to be no prospect of better prices until the bulk of the crop has been harvested, but Alfred B. Shepperson, the cotton statistician, advises all consumers of cotton to buy freely until a full supply is secured, for he predicts that the price will advance decidedly as soon as it is manifest that there is not an excessively large crop to be sold. Cotton is very cheap, in fact it is cheaper than it ever was in comparison with other staple articles of commerce, and this may be an opportune time for holding it for better prices.

There Are Others.

The Charlotte Observer is a very levelheaded newspaper. It keeps its eyes open. It is working all the time for the development of its enterprising city. Generally, it commends everything that the business people of Charlotte do, but it is not so blind to the interests of the community that it refuses to see faults when they appear. Several days ago it made the following timely observations:

"There are times when plain speech is a necessity. There is a deep seated conviction among Mecklenburg farmers that cotton is not bringing its worth on the Charlotte market, and it is being hauled elsewhere, to the hurt of the business interests of this city. More is being paid for cotton in neighboring towns than it is commanding here, and it is no sufficient answer to say that these are exceptional cases, where a merchant takes a bale of cotton on a debt allowing it to figure above the market price. If the Charlotte cotton-buyers are actually—as we believe they claim—paying as high prices as are being paid in the towns near by, or if there is any season why they are not and cannot, it would be well for them to write in a card over their own names, saying that they are, or explaining why they are not."

Is not the situation in Charleston somewhat similar to that in Charlotte? Would not a great deal more cotton come to this market if the prices paid here were the same as in Savannah or Wilmington? What is the matter? Has the method of grading anything to do with it? Does anybody get rebates from anybody? Do all the buyers and shippers stand on the same footing? Why should cotton bought in Columbia be sent to Savannah through Charleston? Probably the Cotton Exchange might find it profitable for this port to make a thorough inquiry into the subject. All that we know is that more cotton should come to Charleston—*News and Courier*.

Remember we are Headquarters for Toys and Xmas goods. T. C. Scuff's. Sept. 29

A full line of Crackery, Glassware, and fancy goods, at T. C. Scuff's. Sept. 29

Take **JOHNSON'S**
CHILL & FEVER
TONIC.

The Jewish Day of Atonement Observed Here.

With the setting of the sun yesterday all Israelites of the city began the observance of Yom Kippur, the Jewish day of atonement. Until this evening at sunset an unbroken fast will be observed.

Humor in the Blood, boils, pimples, scrofulous sores, are promptly eradicated by Hood's Sarsaparilla, the One True Blood Purifier, nerve tonic and health builder. Hood's Pills are easy to take, easy to operate. Cure indigestion, biliousness. 25c

QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF THE CONDITION AND BUSINESS OF

The "Bank of Sumter," Sumter, S. C.

At the close of the quarter ending September 30, 1897, published in conformity with the Act of the General Assembly.

ASSETS.	
Loans and Discounts,	\$228,105 09
Furniture, Fixtures, and Vault,	1,975 91
Bills Receivable,	615 67
Bonds,	8,560 00
Cash on hand and in other Banks and Bankers, and cash items,	75,315 90
Total,	\$314,512 57
LIABILITIES.	
Capital stock paid in,	\$ 75,000 00
Deposits,	181,673 80
Due to other Banks,	632 88
Red's counts,	19,152 44
Dividends unpaid,	8 00
Undivided surplus,	18,045 45
Total,	\$314,512 57

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, }
SUMTER COUNTY, } SS.
I, WILLIAM F. RHAME, Cashier of "The Bank of Sumter," do solemnly swear that the above statement is true, to the best of my knowledge and belief.
W. F. RHAME, Cashier.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of October, 1897.
A. C. PHELPS, [L.S.]
a Notary Public for S. C.
Correct—Attest.
W. F. B. HAYNSWORTH, President.
MARION MOISE, }
JNO. S. BUGHSON, } Directors.
Oct. 6.

THE DUCKER & BULTMAN CO.

- Southern Seed Rye.
- Entire Wheat Flour.
- Barley Seed.
- Mohair and Silk Soutache Braids.
- Thompson's Glove Fitting Corsets
- Manning Hose and 1/2-Hose.
- New Fat Mackerel.
- New Pickle Salmon.
- New Dutch Herrings.
- Julian & Kokege Co's Ladies' Fine Shoes.
- Smith & Stoughton's Men's Fine Shoes.
- Harrisburg Boot & Shoe Co's Misses and Children's Fine Shoes.
- Marcy Bros. & Co's best School and Knockabout Shoes made.
- Hecker's New S. R. Buckwheat.
- Hecker's New Plain Buckwheat.
- Hecker's New Farina.
- Hecker's New Oatmeal.
- Hecker's Self-Raising Flour.

THE DUCKER & BULTMAN CO.

NOTICE.

A MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE GRAZE REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT COMPANY, is hereby called to be held at the office of the Co-operative Graze Store, in the town of Bishopville, Sumter County, South Carolina, at two o'clock, p. m. on the sixth day of November, A. D. 1897, to consider and determine whether the said Company will make a mortgage to Mrs. Leonora M. Cousar to secure the payment of one thousand dollars, in two installments of five hundred dollars each, payable respectively on October 1st, 1897, and October 1st 1899, with interest at eight percent per annum from October 1st, 1897, payable annually until the debt be paid; the property to be so mortgaged is a tract of one and a-half acres in Bishopville, adjoining lands of Mrs. Mattie Law, Mrs. W. K. Crosswell, the Methodist Church lot, and situate on the corner of Main and Church Streets.
By order of the Board of Directors.
J. W. ENGLISH,
President of said Company.
Attest—W. A. JAMES, Jr., Secretary.
Bishopville, S. C., Oct. 6, 1897. 5t

Master's Sale.

The State of South Carolina,
COUNTY OF SUMTER,
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.

Daniel Kirby, Plaintiff, against Frances M. Anderson, Frank McCoy, Cornelia A. Lemon, John David Lemon, Defendants.

BY VIRTUE OF A Decretal Order made in the above stated case, and dated June 11, 1896, I will sell at public auction in front of the Court House in the City of Sumter, in said State, on Monday, November 1st, 1897, being Saturday, between the hours of 11 o'clock in the forenoon and 5 o'clock in the afternoon, the following premises, to wit: All that certain tract or parcel of land, lying and being in Sumter County, Lynchburg township, situated on the public road leading from Lynchburg to Bishopville, and known as the W. R. Parnell place, and bounded as follows, viz: North by lands of J. W. Bradford, and on the East and North and West by lands of J. W. Bradford.
Terms Cash. Purchaser to pay for necessary papers.
W. H. INGRAM,
Master of Sumter County.

Oct. 6.

OUR
2d Car Load

OF
Horses

Arrived on

FRIDAY, OCT. 1.

HOW IS THIS?

A good one-horse, iron axle wagon for \$21 cash.

H. Harby.

Sumter, S. C., September 8, 1897.

HARDWARE.

For many years we have made a study of it in all its branches. We believe that the special knowledge we have thus acquired will be of utmost value to every prospective purchaser. Our stock is too large to mention everything, but you can count on getting anything in the Hardware line from us. We have a large and exceptionally fine line of

STOVES AND RANGES.

We can give them to you at almost any price. Furniture and pipe to fit. Get a new one and make the mistress of the home happy. In

Table and Pocket Cutlery.

We can offer almost anything you desire. If you want genuine bargains in real, solid values, without fancy words, but articles that are eloquent in themselves, come to see us.

Paint Your House Twice!

That is, give it two coats of good paint. Two coats of good paint will look better and last longer than three coats of poor paint. We are not giving paint away, nor selling it at cost, but we are selling paint that is good paint, that will be a profit to us and the man who buys it. We are headquarters for

Rubber Belting, Iron and Lead Piping, Blacksmith's and Carpenter's Tools, Machine Oils, Tinware, Guns, Pistols, Ammunition, &c.

R. W. Durant & Son.

Sept. 29—x.

SHEPHERD SUPPLY CO.,

282 Meeting Street, Charleston, S. C.

STATE AGENTS FOR SALE OF

- Wholesale Tin Plate
- Stoves, Sheet Iron,
- Tinwares, Tinner's Supplies
- House-furnishing Goods, Galvanized
- Oil Heaters, Coffer and Pipe.

Over 200 different styles of Cooking and Eating Stoves. Also Oil Cookers and Heaters.

We want the leading merchant in every town in the State to sell our lines of Stoves. We guarantee full protection in his territory to each agent we appoint. If not sold in your town send direct to us for cuts and prices. Oct. 27.

THE COLUMBIAN CYCLOPEDIA,
35 Volumes 7,500 Illustrations 28,600 Pages,
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The largest American Cyclopaedia. Includes an Unabridged Dictionary. Pronounces all Titles. Information Right Down to Date. Volumes of Handy Size. You can keep up to the times by adding an Annual each year.

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