

The Watchman and Southerner.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the Ends thou Aims't at be thy Country's, thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHERN, Established June, 1850

Cosolidated Aug. 2, 1881.

SUMTER, S. C. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 1905.

New Series—Vol. XXIV. No. 37

The Watchman and Southerner,

Published Every Wednesday,

OSTEEN PUBLISHING COMPANY,
SUMTER, S. C.

TERMS:

\$1.50 per annum—in advance.

ADVERTISEMENTS:

One Square first insertion.....\$1.00
Every subsequent insertion..... 50
Contracts for three months, or longer will
be made at reduced rates.

All communications which subscribe private
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Obituaries and tributes of respects will be
charged for.

COTTON GROWERS' MEETING.

JOHN L. McLAURIN AND F. H.
WESTON SPEAK.

A Large and Enthusiastic Assembly of
Representative Farmers Who Are
Committed to Reduction of
Acreage.

The large assemblage of farmers
that was called to order in the Court
House at 11.40 o'clock Monday
by Mr. A. B. Stackey, President of
the Sumter county Cotton Growers
Association, was an inspiring and con-
vincing evidence of the earnestness,
zeal and determination with which
the cotton growers of Sumter county
have entered upon the struggle to
annihilate the greatest industry of
the South from the harmful and
grinding domination of those who
have grown rich by oppressing the
growers of cotton for years and years.

The Court House was filled to over-
flowing, seats and aisles being crowd-
ed with the representative farmers of
the county, both white and black.

President Stackey in his introduc-
tory remarks expressed his gratifica-
tion at the large and representative
gathering and said he regarded it as
an evidence of the interest the people
are taking in this the most important
movement of the people of the South
ever participated in.

Mr. Weston Speaks.

He first introduced Hon. F. H.
Weston, of Columbia, Secretary of
the State Cotton Growers' Associa-
tion. Mr. Weston said that it gave
him pleasure to meet and speak to the
farmers of Sumter county, who are
bound by such close and intimate
ties to those of his own county of
Richland. He voiced the regret that
all felt at the absence of Mr. E. D.
Smith, President of the State Associa-
tion, and stated that only the call of
duty induced Mr. Smith to forego
the pleasure it would have afforded
him to address his friends in his
own old mother county on the subject
that lies next his heart. Mr. Smith
he said, had been called to Bennetts-
ville to address a meeting of Marlboro
farmers, and feeling that he was more
needed in Marlboro today and could
do more good there than he could in
Sumter, he obeyed the call of duty.

Mr. Weston discussed the situation
that gave birth to the Cotton Growers
Association in a clear, forcible and
enlightening manner. He stressed the
importance of the work that the as-
sociation has accomplished, and impress-
ed upon his hearers the vital results
that depend upon the determination
and constancy of the farmers of the
South. He urged the farmers of
Sumter county to stand as steadfast
and true in this crisis in the indus-
trial history of the South as their
forefathers stood in 1861-65, and in
every other crisis, through which
their country had passed.

He told of the work that is being
done by the association in this and
other States and bade his hearers be
of good heart and courage, assuring
them that the vast majority of the
farmers are heart and soul in the
struggle to wrest their independence
from the cotton speculators and fore-
ign cotton manufacturers who have
so long held them in grievous bond-
age.

He said that he was elected Secre-
tary of the State Association without
solicitation, and that a salary, had
been voted to him, not a dollar of
which he expected to touch; that he
was working for the good of the State
and South, and that it was a patriotic
work, a work of love and devotion
in which each man who loved the
state should do his part to the best
of his ability and as his opportunity
permitted, without money and without
prize.

By the time Mr. Weston had con-
cluded his speech the Court House
was so crowded that almost half of
those present were unable to obtain
seats. Mr. Stackey then announced
that the meeting would be adjourned
to the Opera House where all could
find seats and be comfortable.

Repeating to the Opera House,
Hon. John L. McLaurin, of Marlboro,
was introduced. He was received
with cheers and handclapping when
he advanced to the front of the stage,
and throughout his address of more
than an hour's duration he received
liberal and at times enthusiastic ap-
plause.

As Mr. McLaurin stated in the
course of his remarks, he came here
with a written address, but he could
not stick to it closely, for as he
warmed up to his theme he elaborated
and illustrated his argument with
facts, statistics and anecdotes that
came to him on the spur of the moment.

The following extracts from the
written speech give an idea of the
trend of Mr. McLaurin's argument,
but fail entirely to do the speech
justice, for it is a fact that must be
stated that the better and more strik-
ing part of the speech was that which
was not reduced to writing in ad-
vance.

Mr. Chairman and Fellow Citizens:
I thank you for this invitation to

address the people of Sumter county
on the issues of the day.

It was here that the memorable
campaign of 1897 opened, and some
of you remember when the town bell
pealed out the hour, how John Irby
dramatically turned and pointing his
finger at me, said, "Yonder bell has
just tolled the death knell of John
L. McLaurin," and none present will
ever forget the scene that followed
when I replied, "Hark from the
tomb a doleful sound."

Well, I didn't die just then, but
the old bell has since rung out a dirge
for myself and many others. It is
pretty hard on the corpse, but I am
bound to admit that as a general pro-
position funerals are a good thing,
especially political funerals. You
can't have too many of them in South
Carolina. "Oh death where is thy
sting, oh grave where is thy victory,"
was not written for any politician
that I ever knew, nor is there any
hope held out to him of resurrection
and life everlasting beyond the grave.

Fortunate is the man who can look
back to the past without bitterness
and vain regrets, and feel that in
spite of self, he has struck some
blow for truth, done something for
country, and planted some seed that
must bear good fruit. He can console
himself with the thought that un-
sound seed do not live long anyway
and that he is always sure to harvest
that crop. Popular applause is cheap,
big or little, who can successfully
pander to the passing whim or caprice,
but to the man who has no
higher aim it brings its own punish-
ment, for it is as uncertain as the soft
south wind sighing in the pine tops,
changed in a moment into a hurri-
cane's blast.

LOOK THE TRUTH IN THE FACE.

It is a pleasure to me to address a
strictly non political body of my fel-
low citizens.

It is a good thing for a man or peo-
ple to look the truth squarely in the
face, see things as they are, not as
pictured by vanity, ambition or a
disordered imagination.

We live in a day of combination and
organization. Every business in the
United States is organized, except
the cotton planter, and now in self
defense, we are being forced to act in
concert.

Here Mr. McLaurin went over the
ground covered in his speech in New
Orleans, and drew an analogy between
wheat and cotton.

"STAND PAT."

I do not believe there is any over-
production, if there were proper
methods of distribution. The balance
of the world is a consumer of our raw
cotton and is therefore combined to
get our product as cheap as possible.
You can only meet organization with
organization. All other industries
through combination fix the price of
their products.

When I bring my product cotton
into town to sell, I do not tell the
buyer what I will take as all these
other industries do. I humbly ask
"what will you give me for my cot-
ton?"

The buyer says "wait until Liver-
pool comes in," then he says I will
give you six cents or whatever some
man in Liverpool says is the price.

Gentlemen, do what all the others
do; put your cotton in a warehouse;
don't ask anybody what they will
give, but tell the world what you will
take. It is in your own hands. All
you have to do is to "stand pat."
Fellow citizens, let us "stand pat"
with the action of the New Orleans
Convention. "Stand pat."

Let it be understood that from
now henceforth and forever we, the
producers of the material that clothes
the world, intend to have a voice in
fixing the price of the products of our
labor.

FOREIGN TRADE.

I have said before and say again
that the only permanent solution of
the cotton problem lies in the exten-
sion of present and the creation of
new markets for cotton cloth. There
is room in this world for a larger
crop than has yet been produced. We
are exporting too much raw and too
little manufactured cotton.

We control the raw cotton, my
friends, but we do not control the
world's trade in cotton goods. The
United States must control the cotton
trade of the world; nothing short of
that will give you a fair price for the
products of your labor.

The export trade in cotton goods is
showing a steady increase; because of
the great demand from China, it has
been the greatest in its history for
the past seven months, but it is not
because of any special effort on our
part. The truth is that we were on
the very edge of a cotton famine, and
the demand for goods is so great that
Europe is unable to supply its custom-
ers, and the overflow has come to
the United States.

For seven months, ending in Janu-
ary, 1905, our exports were about 25
million dollars against 12½ million
for the same period in 1904. This is
good, but it didn't come from the
right cause. It only came because it
could not go anywhere else. The
right policy is to put the whole cotton
trade on a stable basis. We do not
want prices too high. You can't
have raw cotton one year 17 cents a
pound and the next six cents, without
demoralizing the whole industry. Raw
cotton is a staple product. American
producers and manufacturers
must unite to give it a stable,
standard value, and work together to
control the cotton trade of the world
in all of its branches.

The general public has an idea
that the United States is doing a
wonderful work in cotton manufactur-
ing. Outside of the development of
the home market, our record is one
to be ashamed of.

In spite of the fact that we produce
75 per cent. of the cotton, we are the
smallest exporters among the leading
nations of the manufactured article.
We do not compare with Germany in
exporting cotton goods; even the little
country of Switzerland is ahead of this
country so far as the value of cotton
exports is concerned.

Gentlemen, just listen at these
figures, recently given out by the
Department of Commerce, and reprint-
ed in the Cotton Manufacturer of
Charlotte, N. C.:

The total exports of cotton goods
for the whole world last year were 650
million dollars; of this the United
States only sent abroad \$22,500,000.

In other words, last year we made
75 per cent. of the raw cotton, but
only sold the world 4 per cent. of the
goods it consumed.

But my friends, that is not all; we
actually imported about \$50,000,000
worth of cotton goods last year, nearly
twice what we exported.

Just think of it—we exported last
year 400 million dollars worth of
cotton. England took her share and
after clothing her own people sent
abroad for sale about 66 million dol-
lars; Germany 80 million; France,
Switzerland and other countries nearly
200 million more. These people
bought their cotton here, freighted it
across the ocean and then sent \$50,-
000,000 of it back here and sold it
where the cotton was grown, at a
profit, after paying freight and tariff
charges. The ability of these foreign
nations to control the cotton trade of
the world is due largely to the unces-
sing efforts of their respective govern-
ments in developing an export trade.

TRANSPORTATION MONOPOLY.

These countries control the ocean
transportation of the world, and there
is no factor in commerce so potent as
the control of transportation. You
can let the railroads discriminate ever
so little in favor of Florence or Col-
umbia and they can dry your town
up. Your magnificent stores would
close and grass grow in your beauti-
ful streets.

Last year only three per cent. of
our products went abroad in American
ships. We paid a tribute to these
foreign steamship lines of 300 million
dollars. Every dollar of this was car-
ried abroad and distributed there,
and no industry contributed as much
as the producers of raw cotton. You
paid more of that tribute than any
other class in the United States.

About one-half of all the agricul-
tural exports went from the South and
this was chiefly cotton. Sixty per
cent of the vessels as shown by the
reports of the Treasury Department
that came into South Atlantic and
Gulf ports entered in ballast, while
only six per cent that entered the
North Atlantic ports came in ballast.
That simply means that the vessels
coming into Southern ports must
charge enough one way to pay the ex-
penses of the voyage. That additional
freight came out of the man who pro-
duced that cotton. If you want to
know what a monopoly of transporta-
tion can do to hold markets either for
or against a country, look at the
South American trade, a country
right at our very doors. That trade is
controlled by England and Germany.
The American merchant flag by the
foreign system of subsidies or subven-
tions has been driven from the high
seas. A ship loads in South America
with goods for Mobile or Charleston.
She comes there and unloads. One
of our mills consigns goods to we will
say to Rio de Janeiro. The ship in-
stead of going there sails direct for
Europe and then back to Rio, crossing
the ocean twice, completing the cir-
cuit of a triangle, and thus holding at
a disadvantage the American exporter.
I can find numerous instances in our
consular reports where the American
goods were taken off and European
goods substituted so as to keep the
South American trade under the im-
pression that the only place to buy
cotton goods is in Europe.

The construction of the Isthmian
canal is going to remedy this to some
extent.

THE ISTHMIAN CANAL.

When God fashioned this coun-
try, he ran its great rivers and moun-
tain ranges north and south and
placed its natural gateways on the
South Atlantic and Gulf coast. When
man took a hand in the development
of the continent, he attempted to
change this and the greatest monopoly
on earth is our trans-continental rail-
road system. It has for years been
forcing freight east and west. The
products from our mills going to Chi-
na, instead of going the nearest route
to deep water, travel up the continent
nearly a thousand miles to one of these
trans-continental lines and then across
the continent 3000 more before they
reach a ship. You may be sure that
the man who grew that cotton pays
his share of the added freight.

This powerful monopoly has always
defeated every project looking to the
building up of a merchant marine
that would develop South Atlantic
and Gulf ports, just as it postponed
for a third of a century the construc-
tion of an Isthmian canal. I do not
believe that Congress has ever passed
any measure of as great industrial
importance to the south as the canal
bill and I do not believe that could
have been passed had it not been for
the Spanish war.

When that great war ship, the
Oregon, went ploughing down the
coast on her ten thousand mile voyage
around the cape, it demonstrated to
the whole country the absolute neces-
sity of the canal as a war measure,
and this will be worth to the south 20
times the cost of the war. With the
canal imports and exports will move
north and south, not east and west,
and Charleston, Mobile, Galveston
and New Orleans will be the greatest
distributing points for the food and
clothing supply of the world.

CHINA TRADE.

What we need in our section before
that time comes is to manufacture
more of our cotton at home and send
the finished article abroad. So far our
best markets have been in China,
and it is there we must look just
now, for a market for the surplus,
but the whole world is our field, we
should be satisfied with nothing less.
Considering that there are four hun-
dred million people in China who
would undertake to put a limit to the
amount of cotton goods which China
alone can consume.

Since I was in New Orleans I have
been receiving letters from various

parts of the world telling of the great
opportunities that are open to the
American manufacturer. I was par-
ticularly struck with a communica-
tion from a firm doing business in the
Persian Gulf region telling me of the
great demand that existed in that
region for cotton cloth and saying that
his firm was absolutely unable to get
the goods. That it was not so much
a question of price, as to know how
and where to obtain the class and
style of goods demanded by the peo-
ple of that region. How can there be over-
production when there are millions
clamoring for cotton goods, ready to
pay for them and yet unable to obtain
them.

I say that we are confronted with
under distribution not over-produc-
tion.

Our government has never helped
us in in the Orient, but now the New
Orleans convention has requested Con-
gress to create a commission for that
purpose. The President has given me
his personal assurance that he will
recommend such action to the next
congress, and assist the cotton in-
terests of the south in every way that
he can.

THE PROMISED LAND.

There is no decadence in my fore-
cast of the future of the south. God
placed his time lock on these shores
of ours, but it is opened now and
our development, great as it is, has
scarcely begun. Ours is the
"promised land," the country favored
by God and nature, with a monopoly
of the only great agricultural product
which is used by civilized man every-
where. It is inevitable, as inexorable
as the laws of life and death, the mills
must come to the cotton. There are
those in the sound of my voice, who
will live to see the time when the
south will enjoy as complete monopo-
ly in the manufacture as she now does
in the production of raw cotton.

When instead of ten cents, we will
draw from the balance of the world
20, 30 and 40 cents per pound for the
finished article, making the south
rich beyond our wildest dreams.

When life's fierce battle is done,
and I find the rest that the grave
finally gives to us all, I ask no prouder
epitaph at the hands of my fellow
man than "He saw the light and did
all he could to speed its coming."

THE SOUTH TO SAVE THE NA-
TION.

As a nation, fellow citizens, we
have developed a continent, created a
vast national wealth and today the
United States stands as the most
potent factor of the world's.

The great issues of this country do
not lie between the platforms of the
two great political parties, the real
divisions are the relations of labor
and capital, the monopoly of public
franchise for private gain, the trans-
portation and kindred problems.

On one extreme stand the trusts;
huge, grim and unrelenting in their
greed; on the other stands organized
labor, fierce, determined and social-
istic. On one side a plutocracy, on
the other a socialism. If this country
is to be saved it must be by the farm-
er vote, and the well to do, middle
classes holding the balance of power
and sticking to the principles upon
which the government is founded.

There must be some power midway
between these extremes, strong enough
to hold the old ship to its constitu-
tional moorings, or she will break in
pieces upon the rocks on one side or
founder in the quicksands on the
other.

I have little faith in any political
party; my faith lies in the manhood,
the exceptional manhood, of this re-
public, which has always risen to
every emergency.

In the great industrial war divid-
ing each year more sharply the mas-
ses and the classes in the North and
West, the South alone remains intact,
serene and confident. I have some-
times thought that in the wisdom of
God, like Israel of old, the South has
been held in political and industrial
bondage, to educate and prepare her
for the great work, of saving the
republic of Washington and of Jeffer-
son.

The solid South with one-third of
the electoral vote is without influence
and power in projecting national poli-
cies, but I think I can see the time
coming when she will hold the bal-
ance of power, and become the
rallying point for the conservative
and preservative forces in this nation.

The first tariff bill for protection
to home industries was introduced
by Lowndes, of South Carolina, in
1816, and advocated by Calhoun,
Cheves and Clay, Daniel Webster
and other New England Senators op-
posing it.

Expansion, protection and the early
policies of this government were the
products of Southern genius and
statesmanship. God speed the day
when a non-sectional patriotism, will
give our country a broad non-partisan
statesmanship, which will again make
the South the potent factor in guiding
and shaping the destinies of this
republic.

A SOUTHERN MAN FOR PRESI-
DENT.

It is time for the people to make a
platform; the politicians have writ-
ten them long enough. Make one in
accord with the commercial spirit of
the age, that will appeal to every
patriotic American citizen, North,
South, East and West, who doesn't
want a plutocracy on one side or a
socialism on the other, put a Southern
man on it, not because he is a South-
ern man, but because he is a big
broad American, call it democracy or
what you please, and I tell you that
you can elect him, where you will
fall with a Western socialist or an
Eastern monopolist, on a platform
tinkered and doctored up, with a
view solely to catching votes.

A representative is not responsible
now to the people who elect him, he
is responsible to a party. He can
vote for the most iniquitous measure
on the calendar and say, "Oh, it
was a party measure," and that is
sufficient. Let him advocate any
measure or discuss any doctrine and
the only argument needed to foreve-
damn both man and measure is:

"Hush, or you'll split the party.

Trusts and socialism are both the
outgrowth of a too partisan spirit in
this country, for both parties want
success before all else, and each one
flirts with socialism for its votes, and
caters at the same time to the trusts
for their campaign contributions. The
only remedy is agitation and discus-
sion, freedom of thought and inde-
pendence of action on the part of
the individual voter.

More than 200 years ago, the hum-
ble men of Europe sought this con-
tinent dumbly feeling that God had
set it apart as a refuge for the down-
trodden and oppressed. The common
men of the people your ancestors and
mine, how bravely they fought and
how proudly they died as Cowpens and
King's Mountain, at Bunker's Hill and
Yorktown, that the young republic
might live, a nation consecrated to
liberty and man's inalienable owner-
ship of himself.

Fellow citizen we are in this coun-
try free today from every species of
tyranny, save the fetters forged by
our own perverted wills.

NEWS FROM THE STATE CAPITAL.

Experts Give Advice to Carolina
Rice Planters.

County Officers' Salaries—Deaths in the
State—Franchise Tax Injunction Is-
sued.

By W. H. McCaw.

Columbia, April 1.—At a meeting
of government agricultural experts
with rice planters in Charleston the
experts after spending several days in
a personal inspection of the rice fields
advised the planters not to entirely
abandon the planting of rice as with
improvement in the market and bet-
ter methods of cultivation it might
yet be made a paying crop, though
diversification was strongly urged as
one crop farming is always a failure
at times. The drainage was advocated,
which the experts declared would
make these rich rice lands the finest
truck in the world and free them
from fever and allow residence on
them. Johnson, Pars and Bermuda
grasses were advocated with cowpens
as first crops and celery and onions
were suggested as money makers.
Cabbages, potatoes, cauliflower, rush
hyacinth, willow, cranberry and
hump could also be grown with
marked success. The farmers were
entreated to stop polishing their rice
for the market as this method robs
the cereal of most of its nutritive
qualities and practically all of its de-
lightful flavor, as all those who have
eaten rice on the plantations where
this process is not used can eloquently
testify.

Belle Session, the woman who was
shot by her lover, at Conway on
Thursday, who immediately after-
wards committed suicide, is dead of
her wounds, and there now being no
one to hold responsible in the courts
for the tragedy it is a closed incident
and will soon be forgotten.

Mose Brunson, the negro picked up
in Kershaw county a few days ago as
a suspect in the Stephen Howell mur-
der case, has been released. Witness-
es who had had good looks at the
criminal said Brunson was not the
man.

Among the deaths in the State
yesterday were those of Mrs. S. S.
Rozier, daughter of D. P. McLaurin,
at Clio, Mrs. Sophonia Willis Adam,
wife of R. M. Adam, and a native
of Augusta, at Spartanburg, and Miss
Ida Massey, the 20 year-old and hand-
some young daughter of Dr. J. E.
Massey, at Rock Hill.

There is to be a superintendents day
at the meeting of the Conference for
Education in the South here this
month. Secretary Joyner, who is
State Superintendent for North Caro-
lina and Secretary of the association
of superintendents of public instruc-
tion for the Southern States, has
issued notices of the association here
on the 25th. Superintendents day will
be on the 27th, when each State super-
intendent will deliver a lecture on
some live subject.

The attorney general has rendered
an opinion to the comptroller general
that the county officers salaries act of
1905 began to apply only after its ap-
proval on the 22d of February, before
which time salaries remain at the
former figures. In the same opinion
he declares that the treasurer's fee of
\$1 for each tax execution is applicable
to executions issued for the fiscal year
1904. This fee is chargeable only
against the delinquent tax payer.

"In my opinion," said Comptroller
General Jones today, "this exception
with regard to Chesterfield is special
legislation and the act is unconstitu-
tional. It will hardly stand more than
another year if it is not tested in the
meantime for the reason that it is
radically wrong. To put all of the
counties in this same boat with Ches-
terfield would swamp the State finan-
cially. For instance there are four
to five thousand poll tax c. tions
alone."

The Comptroller General is still hav-
ing a strenuous time with the new
franchise tax act affecting corpora-
tions, which have paid \$40,000 into
the State treasury under its terms so
far. The British and American Mort-
gage company, which in hard times
used to do a laud office business with
the farmers in this State to the great
sorrow of the aforesaid farmers, has
brought an injunction against the
comptroller general to restrain him
from collecting a fee of \$5 from the
company on the ground that its hold-
ing mortgages against property and
loaning money in this State is not
doing business in the State. The
hearing which was set for today has
been postponed to a date which will
be definitely arranged later. The re-
turn of the Highland Park Manufac-
turing Company, a North Carolina
concern which has a plant at Rock
Hill in this State, has been raised

A MATTER OF HEALTH

ROYAL



BAKING
POWDER

Absolutely Pure
HAS NO SUBSTITUTE

from \$100,000 to \$187,500, to which
figure it was carried for regular assess-
ment last year. The return of the
Greenville Bleaching and Finishing
concern was raised from \$109,000 to
\$180,000. The V-C company has been
raised more than double to \$1,395,150
and the Southern Cotton Oil company
from \$825,441 to \$900,000.

The Comptroller General's special
deputy, Mr. Henry Holloway, return-
ed from Marion yesterday where he
reports he has placed under arrest Mr.
H. Hayes, a merchant of that place
on a warrant charging him with arson.
The arrest is the result of work the
comptroller general has been carrying
on under a special act authorizing
him to investigate incendiary fires.

Will of Mrs. Stanford.

San Jose, Cal., March 31.—The will
and codicil of Mrs. Jane L. Stanford
were proved and admitted to probate
today. Two million dollars is left in
trust to Abel Lathrop and descendants
of D. S. Lathrop her brother; \$1,000,-
000 in trust to her nieces, Jennie L.
Lawton and Amy L. Hanson, and the
children of Christine L. Gunning; \$1,-
000,000 to Chas. G. Lathrop; \$125,000
to various charitable institutions of
San Jose, and the remainder of her
estate to the trustees of Leland Stan-
ford, Jr. university.

Letter to Dr. Geo. W. Dick.

Sunter, S. C.
Dear Sir There is endless discussion
about barytes in paint. Perhaps this
settles the question.
Two houses exactly alike at Delhi,
N Y; the owner of both is Mr N
Avery. One was recently painted
Devco; the other with a barytes paint;
same painter did both jobs; his name
is George Gilbert.

One cost \$27; the other \$54. The
first took 6 gallons; the other 12. Six
gallons Devco, as to covering, equals
twelve of the other.

Yours truly
F W Devco & Co.
P S—Durant Hardware Co. sells our
paint.

Keep your bowels regular by the use of
Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets.
There is nothing better. For sale by all
druggists.

Charleston, April 2.—Passenger train
No. 15 of the Southern railway collid-
ed with an incoming extra freight at
4.40 o'clock this morning between St.
George and Badham, causing the
death of four of the crew and the
probable death of a fifth man.

Frightful Suffering Relieved.

Suffering frightfully from the virulent
poisons of undigested food. C. G. Grayson,