

COUNTY CORRESPONDENCE.

NEWSY LETTERS FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.

Items of Interest From all Parts of Sumter and Adjoining Counties.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mail your letters so that they will reach this office not later than Monday when intended for Wednesday's paper and not later than Thursday for Saturday's issue. This, of course, applies only to regular correspondence. In case of items of unusual news value, send in immediately by mail, telephone or telegraph. Such news stories are acceptable up to the hour of going to press. Wednesday's paper is printed Tuesday afternoon and Saturday's paper Friday afternoon.

ROCKY BLUFF.

Rocky Bluff, Jan. 18.—After a week or ten days of real spring weather, we are having some cold rainy weather.

Farmers are breaking their land, getting ready for planting.

Mrs. Joyner of New Sumter, spent last Friday with Mrs. G. P. Josey.

Miss Eva Hatfield spent Saturday and Sunday at home.

Mr. W. F. Baker and family spent Sunday at Mr. J. J. Hatfield's.

Mrs. Fogle, of Orangeburg, is spending sometime with her daughter, Mrs. W. R. Wells.

Mr. Jerry Sanders and family have moved to South Georgia.

THE PROBLEM OF DIVORCE.

Some Facts and Some Figures Upon Growing Evil.

According to the census of 1890, there was a married population in the United States of 22,447,769, with an annual average of 33,197 divorces. That is, there was one divorce to every 678 of married population, writes Rheta Childe Dorr in The Forum. According to the census of 1900, there was a married population of 27,770,101, with an annual divorce record of 55,502, or one divorce to every 500 of married population. Between 1884 and 1906 the record of divorces reaches the amazing total of 945,625. Nearly a million American marriages went to pieces in twenty years. That is, disruption overtook 47,281 marriages a year, 3,940 a month—more than 130 a day.

No one section of the country produces a much larger divorce crop than another. Louisiana, with its large Catholic population, Mormon Utah and Unitarian Massachusetts furnish similar figures. Broadly speaking, the divorce rate rises as we cross the map westward, but, on the whole, the rate is fairly even throughout the country. The rate is slightly larger in cities than in the country, but divorce is by no means a city problem.

It is astonishing to find that divorce laws, stringent or liberal, affect the rate very slightly. New Hampshire, Utah and South Dakota show almost exactly the same proportion of divorces per population and per marriages. New York with its one cause for divorce and New Jersey with its half-dozen causes show a rate nearly identical.

The solution of our divorce problem lies in securing a better relation between men and women in every department of life. It is an anomaly in this republic that there should be any distinctions on account of sex. It is absurd that women should receive lower wages than men for equal work performed or equal service given. It is unfair to deny women their share in public housekeeping. It is unjust to tax them and at the same time refuse them citizenship.

American women are as well educated, as intelligent, as moral, as conscientious and, within their opportunities, as efficient as American men. Once this is fully recognized; once the last vestige of sex prejudice and sex contempt vanishes from custom and from the statute books; once the same standard of morals is recognized in society as it is in the law; once it is made at least as easy for women as for men to earn an honorable living, once marriage on absolutely equal terms is made possible—no moral or physical advantage on the side of the husband, no parasitism allowed on the part of the wife.

Then it will be perfectly safe to attach a divorce coupon to every marriage certificate, with permission for both parties to tear it off at will.

Raymond Betts, of Alton, Ill., after two successful flights from matrimony, finally became weary of his efforts and has surrendered to the third shaft from Cupid's bow. One strike, two strikes, three strikes, and out for Raymond.

The evidence seems to be that most of the best selling Indian authors are making their homes and taking up their headquarters in New York. Thus the literary centre of the universe is changing.

HURT BY FALL FROM BUGGY.

Mrs. G. L. Emmons of Florence Sustains Painful Injuries in Runaway Accident.

Florence, Jan. 17.—Mrs. G. L. Emmons, wife of the superintendent of the industrial school, was painfully injured by being thrown from a buggy when the horse she was driving became frightened on east Evans street late Sunday afternoon.

She was taken to the Florence infirmary, where she is resting very well. It is thought that her injuries are not very serious.

Mrs. Emmons and Miss Eileen Kilgo were riding in the buggy and both were thrown out, but Miss Kilgo's injuries were very slight.

The Vanishing Race.

Chief Joseph died a few years ago of homesickness but many of his sayings are still remembered. Upon his surrender to Gen. Miles he said: "God made me an Indian, but not a reservation Indian. You might as well expect the river to run backwards as that any man who was born free should be content when penned up and denied his liberty. Oh, let me be a free man! Free to travel, free to stop, free to work, free to trade where I choose, free to choose my own teachers, free to follow the religion of my fathers, free to think, talk and act for myself, and I will obey every law or submit to the penalty."

Many other chieftains made equally futile appeals against the overwhelming tide of civilization, but gone are the hunting grounds and battlefields; gone the wigwams and council fire. Where once the red man claimed a kingdom, farm house and villages, mills and factories dot the landscape. Where once upon the clear air rang out the cries of the war-dance, or mingled with the winds of the forest, drifted weird and low the chant of the braves, now the laughter of white children at their play in the school yard or the peal of the bells calling men to worship the white man's God, ring out across the morning.

"A survival of the fittest" the practical man will say, and he may be right. From the viewpoint of close association with the red man, his faults are apt to be magnified and his virtues forgotten, but when the last member of the vanishing race shall have folded his blanket about him and passed beyond the great divide, we may remember the Indian as he has even been, brave, self-sacrificing and honorable to a marked degree.

Gen. Miles, the veteran of many Indian wars, has said: "The whites have broken every treaty they ever made with the Indians, but the Indians never broke a treaty they made with the whites." Col. Cody, better known as Buffalo Bill, said: "I have known the Indian since I was a baby. I have known him in war and in peace, and I have known him to be always honorable in war or peace."—World Today.

When President Taft sat down on the war scare it naturally flattened out.—Pittsburg Gazette Times.

Texas is dissatisfied with the census returns. Did she expect Uncle Sam to count the boll weevils?

France cannot understand how a great big German baron can be a hero when Frenchmen make so much neat-er statues.

With 3,000 inventors at work perfecting the aeroplane it might be expected to solve all the difficulties of aerial travel shortly. But when we remember how many have been at work on perpetual motion we are not so hopeful.

A dirigible balloon that recently traveled from France to London with seven passengers has been bought by the British government. Englishmen agree that a craft with such interesting possibilities calls for full inspection.

A Chicago professor has discovered that women gossip because gossiping gives a pleasing shock to their vasomotor system. Having discovered so much, it ought to be possible to discover a substitute and thus save many innocent reputations.

It will perhaps interest American growers and dealers to learn that a petition for the establishment of or near Moscow of a cotton depot, with spacious warehouses for the reception of cotton from Central Asia, has been made by the Kokand Chamber of Commerce.

The Southern people are large meat consumers, but small meat producers. In fact, the South consumes more meat per capita than any other sections of our country, but a large proportion of this meat is shipped into the South from other sections of the country.

JACKSON DAY CELEBRATION.

IN HARMONY AND WITH MUCH REJOICING DEMOCRATS MEET AT BALTIMORE.

Celebration of Jackson Day and of Famous Victories of 1910 Passes Off Just as Planned by Hosts in Baltimore.

Baltimore, Jan. 17.—The Democratic celebration came to a joyous close with a banquet held in the Fifth regiment armory tonight. More than 1,100 diners sat about the score of tables arranged in gridiron fashion. At the guests' table alone 53 covers were laid. All of the prominent Democratic leaders who were present at the afternoon mass meeting, augmented by a trainload of national legislators from Washington, attended the banquet, which was the largest and most elaborate ever held in Baltimore.

In every sense of the word the spread was a bountiful one and the exuberance of spirits, which brought enthusiasm to the afternoon gathering, reached its height at the banquet.

The "Rebel yell" made its appearance with the arrival of the diamond-back terrapin and by the time the canvass-back duck was reached there was singing in all parts of the cavernous hall.

The banquet began soon after 7 o'clock and it was 10:30 before an attempt was made to secure order. The immense crowd of diners by this time was not an easy one to handle.

Finally the toastmaster, Ferdinand Williams of Cumberland, began his opening address, despite the disorder. The men who sat at the speakers' table did their best to deliver the messages but the confusion was so great that a fog horn would have been ineffective and the megaphone voice of Mr. Williams was lost to every one more than 50 feet away.

It was apparent that too much had been attempted in the way of banquet speaking.

The armory was too large and the acoustics too bad to permit of any semblance of order.

Maj. James C. Hemphill of Richmond, Va., who was to speak on "The Democratic Press," said he was afraid to undertake it.

The diners by this time had all left their places and were either visiting with each other or standing rows deep about the speaker's table.

Representative A. Mitchell Palmer of Pennsylvania was the third speaker to mount the table.

By the time he began his speech the crowd in the armory had dwindled to about 200 and there was at least a semblance of quiet.

"With the start given in November," said Mr. Palmer, amid cheers, "the Democratic party will sail on to continued success unless some damn fool rocks the boat."

Former Representative Theodore M. Bell paid a striking tribute to Champ Clark and declared that if the party stands behind him as speaker of the house of representatives Democratic success in 1912 will be assured.

"The people of the Middle West and the Far West have the greatest confidence in the integrity and the ability of Champ Clark as a leader of the Democracy," said Mr. Bell.

The reference to Mr. Clark was regarded as unusually significant inasmuch as Mr. Bell has generally been known as the close friend and representative of William J. Bryan. It was emphasized a few minutes later, when Mr. Bell warned his hearers that no matter how much they might be attracted toward the gentlemen from Ohio and New Jersey, the leadership in 1912, they must not forget that the affections of millions of the people still clustered about the man from Nebraska—Mr. Bryan.

The hand of fate, Mr. Bell said, had probably determined that Mr. Bryan should not be nominated for a fourth time or ever be elected president of the United States but that he must not be overlooked in the councils of the party.

The gaunt spectre of the tariff, with all the vicissitudes it brings from without and within a political party, stalked boldly through the Jackson day gathering of the Democrats in this city today. It made its presence felt at the mass meeting at the Lyric in the afternoon and it would not down at the bountiful feast which was spread at the Fifth regiment armory tonight.

But the issue was fairly met by all the speakers. Some frankly acknowledged that there will be differences of opinion among the Democrats on this subject, as there had been among the Republicans. Senator Bailey, for instance, while declaring that harmony of action must be the watchword of the Democracy if they maintain the advantage won at the last election, took direct issue with those Democrats who favor piecemeal revision of the tariff. Champ Clark of Missouri, speaker-to-be of the house of representatives, had just announced that the sentiment among the Democrats in the house seemed to favor piecemeal

meal revision—schedule by schedule, if possible, but item by item if necessary.

"And the most obnoxious items first," exclaimed Mr. Clark.

"As between rotten apples," insisted Senator Bailey, "there is no choice. Every schedule in the Payne-Aldrich law is bad."

Gov. Harmon of Ohio, one of the most prominent figures in the day's gathering, also pounced upon the tariff.

The day passed as the Democratic leaders wished it might, without an attempt from any quarter to launch a boom for the presidential nominee in 1912. Senator Bailey paid Champ Clark, the Democratic leader of the house, the tribute of placing him in the presidential class.

"If Champ Clark makes a better speaker than Mr. Harmon makes a governor, we will nominate him for president," he declared, amid enthusiasm at the Lyric meeting.

"But," he added, "if Gov. Harmon makes a better governor than Mr. Clark makes a speaker, then we are going to nominate Mr. Harmon."

The tariff was acknowledged as the factor which brought about the defeat of the Republican party in the last campaign and with equal frankness the Democratic leaders acknowledged that if they did not deal wisely with that issue and fulfill their prophecies Democratic power would be short-lived.

And while they were not discussing the tariff with serious mien and humble spirit, the Democratic leaders were calling out shouts of laughter and rounds of applause by their witty and at times vitriolic attacks on the "grand old party."

Col. Roosevelt came in for a large share of the maledictions hurled at the Republican party. Former Senator J. C. S. Blackburn of Kentucky declared at the afternoon mass meeting "that the new nationalism enunciated by Roosevelt was filled with treason" deeper and darker "than any charged against the South from '61 to '65."

Gov. Harmon was the first speaker at the afternoon meeting, which was called to order by Gen. Murray Vandiver and presided over by Gov. Crothers of Maryland.

Gov. Harmon sounded a keynote when he declared that "personal preference, jealousies and ambitions must not be allowed to spring up and breed confusion in council or action." He sharply criticized Republican extravagance and marveled at the patience of the American people in submitting so long to Republican rule and a Republican tariff system.

Mr. Clark in his address warned his fellow Democrats that it was the failure of Republican party to keep its pledges especially with the respect to the tariff, that brought about its defeat, and that the Democratic party must live up to its promises in every respect.

"If the Republican party had carried out its pledges," declared Mr. Clark, "no power on earth could have dethroned it. We must not fall into the same error."

Mr. Clark referred to the new tariff law as the Payne-Aldrich-Smoot monstrosity.

Senator Bailey declared that Democrats were all of one accord as to the necessity for the revision of the tariff and the principle which should guide that revision. The only difference, he asserted, would be in the method or revision.

"For my part I believe that the only way to revise a bill like the Payne-Aldrich act is to cut its head off and to cut it off as soon as you get to it."

"Every schedule in it is bad. I am not willing to take out one and leave another there. Take them all out as between rotten apples, there is no choice."

"Let's prepare a tariff bill as if we had control of the senate and the presidency and then, if those Republican heathens and infidels of the senate refuse to take it up, that will be time enough to talk about revision schedule by schedule. If we are not capable of preparing a tariff bill, from Genesis to Revelations, we will disappoint the hopes of the country and—the prospects of the Democratic party. Lay every duty for revenue, and none for protection."

In rapping "new nationalism," Senator Blackburn insisted that the three coordinate branches of the government should be kept separate and distinct and that there should be no encroachments one upon another.

"Seductive and alluring as is the title," Mr. Blackburn said, "we want no 'new nationalism.'" He said that this issue had been thrust upon the country by the "biggest, boldest and ablest leader of his party," but that, in spite of its exalted origin, "it means more than political revolution—it means treason—treason deeper and darker than was ever attributed to the South from '61 to '65."

"New nationalism," said the Kentuckian, "sticks down every barrier hoisted for the protection of the rights of the citizen."

crowded about Mr. Blackburn to congratulate him on his speech. The big auditorium was crowded to the doors.

In his address Gov. Harmon of Ohio gave his ideas on tariff revision. After reviewing the result of the November election Mr. Harmon said:

"The people have turned to us, so far as they can at this time, and they have done it with full knowledge of our view on the tariff. They know we believe the raising of public revenue to be the proper object of all taxation; that whatever the process the government can and does not tax anybody but its own citizens from whom comes every dollar it gets; that tariff taxes, being laid on articles for consumption, apportion themselves among the people according to the amounts consumed so that levying them properly means an adjustment of burdens among consumers, according to their ability to pay, and not a distribution among manufacturers of rights to collect tribute from consumers."

Preparing for Old Age.

(By Elbert Hubbard.)

New York American.

Socrates was once asked by a pupil this question: "What kind of people shall we be when we reach Elysium?"

And the answer was: "We shall be the same kind of people that we were here."

If there is a life after this we are preparing for it now, just as I am preparing for my life tomorrow.

What kind of a man shall I be tomorrow? Oh, about the same kind of man that I am now. The kind of man that I shall be next month depends upon the kind of man I have been this month.

If I am miserable today it is not within the round of probabilities that I shall be supremely happy tomorrow. Heaven is a habit. And if we are going to heaven we would better be getting used to it.

Past life is preparation for the future; and the best preparation for the future is to live as if there were none.

We are preparing all the time for old age. The two things that make old age beautiful are resignation and a just consideration for the rights of others.

In the play of "Ivan the Terrible" the interest centers around the man, the Czar Ivan. As played by Richard Mansfield we simply got a glimpse into the life of a tyrant who runs the gamut of grunt, growl, grumpiness and grouch.

Incidentally this man had the power to put other men to death, and this he does and has done as his whim and temper might dictate. He was vindictive, cruel, quarrelsome, tyrannical and terrible. Now that he feels the approach of death he would make his peace with God. But he has delayed the matter too long. He didn't realize in youth and middle life that he was then preparing for old age.

Man is the result of cause and effect, and the causes are to a degree in our hands. Life is fluid, and well, has it been called the stream of life—we are going, flowing somewhere.

Strip Ivan of his robes and crown and he might be an old farmer and live in Ebenezer.

Every town and village has its Ivan. To be an Ivan just turn your temper loose and practice cruelty on any person or thing within your reach, and the result will be a sure preparation for a querulous, quarrelsome, pickety, snipity, fussy and foolish old age, accented with many outbursts of wrath that are terrible in their futility and ineffectiveness.

Babyhood has no monopoly on the tantrum.

The characters of King Lear and Ivan the Terrible have much in common. One might almost believe that the writer of Ivan had felt the incompleteness of Lear and had seen the absurdity of making a melodramatic bid for sympathy in behalf of this old man thrust out by his daughter.

Lear, the troublesome, Lear to whose limber tongue there were constantly leaping words unprintable and names of far, deserves no sympathy at our hands. All his life he had been training his three daughters for exactly the treatment he was to receive.

All his life Lear had been lubricating the chute that was to give him a quick ride out into the midnight storm.

"Oh, how sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child," he cries.

There is something quite as bad as a thankless child, and that is a thankless parent—an irate, irascible parent who possesses an underground vocabulary and a disposition to use it.

like plays of this kind go with me to vaudeville.

Mansfield's Ivan was terrible. The czar is not old in years—not over seventy—but you can see that Death is sniffing close upon his track. Ivan has lost the power of repose. He cannot listen, weigh and decide. He has no thought or consideration for any man or thing. This is his habit of life.

Glimpses of Ivan's past are given in his jerk confessions. He is the most miserable and unhappy of men, and you behold that he is reaping as he has sown.

All his life he has been preparing for this. Each day has been a preparation for the next. Ivan dies in a fit of wrath, hurling curses on his family and his court—dies in a fit into which he has been purposely taunted by a man who knows that the outburst is certain to kill the weakened monarch.

Where does Ivan the Terrible go when death forecloses the mortgage?

I know not. But this I believe: No confessional can absolve him; no priest benefit him; no God forgive him. He has damned himself and he began the work in youth. He was getting ready all his life for this old age, and this old age was getting ready for the fifth act.

The playwright does not say so, Mansfield did not say so, but this is the lesson: Hate is a poison, wrath is a toxin, sensuality leads to death, clutching selfishness is a lighting to the fires of hell. It is all a preparation—cause and effect.

If you are ever absolved you must absolve yourself, for no one else can.

And the sooner you begin the better.

We often hear of the beauties of old age, but the only old age that is beautiful is the one the man has long been preparing for by living a beautiful life. Every one of us is right now preparing for old age.

There may be a substitute in the world for good nature, but I do not know where it can be found.

The secret of salvation is this: Keep sweet and keep busy.

While Secretary Meyer is saving so much, he mustn't forget to save the navy.

The six leading magazines published 291 poems this year—of which some, doubtless, were read.

W. A. Kirby, of St. George, who has been appointed on the staff of Governor Bleasie, is only twenty-two years of age.

A bill has been introduced into the house by the Charleston delegation for a commission form of government for Charleston.

Heaven is always found within the heart whenever the obstructing veil of doubt is rent apart—peace presides when doubt is out.

The State Teachers' Association will hold its annual meeting in Columbia from March 23-25. A large attendance of teachers is expected.

Paris is some place for bringing about improvement in young women! The Charleston News and Courier tells of a Charleston girl who went there and is now looked upon as an angel.

Mrs. Harriet M. Martin, of New Castle, N. H., who is 93 years old, is the oldest "office girl" in the world, it is believed. For many years she has been in charge of a doctor's office in that town.

The President of Cuba has appointed a board of Government officers to consider plans for constructing the new Presidential Palace, provided for under the recent appropriation of \$500,000 from the lottery surplus.

A Buff Orpington rooster, missing for three weeks, was found wedged in the wooden foundation of a haystack at Stanford, Kent. The bird was thin as a lath, but now is crowing as lustily as ever. It was 20 days without food.

Observations of changes in the field of view, the appearance of objects that were formerly below the horizon, and the disappearance of low-lying objects that were formerly visible have been made in many parts of the world. Such changes occur with comparative frequency in the district around Jena, in Thuringia. Another remarkable alteration of level has been observed during the last half century in the foothills of the Jura. In 1861 only the tip of a church steeple at Alenkundstadt could be seen from the first story of the Castle of Stroessendorf, on the opposite bank of the River Main. More and more of the steeple became visible each year, and now half of it can be seen from the first story of the castle. Another church steeple, situated a few miles northward, first peeped above the horizon of the castle about the year 1885 and since has been steadily rising.