

The Watchman and Southerner.

Entered at the Postoffice at Sumter, S. C., as Second Class Matter.

PERSONAL.

Misses Nannie and Almee Moore and Messrs. McKenzie and DeSaussure Moore have been visiting their father, Mr. M. DeVeaux Moore, at 124 Broad Street.

Miss Loretta McKain, of this city, and Miss Julia Bell Brown, of Marion, left here Monday for a trip to Los Angeles, California.

Messrs. Arthur Haynsworth and J. M. Sanders left Monday evening for a trip to Atlanta and Oklahoma City.

Prof. S. H. Edmunds left Tuesday afternoon for Rock Hill, where he will attend the Winthrop summer school for teachers as an instructor in the department of English.

Mr. W. H. Scott, principal of the boy's high school, has gone to Charlottesville, Va., to take a course at the summer school at the University of Virginia.

Mr. H. R. Lucas has resigned as agent for the Southern Express Company and Mr. F. L. Dickson of Richmond, Va., has been appointed in his place. Mr. Lucas will engage in the insurance business after a rest of some time.

Drs. Geo. W. Dick, E. P. Durant, G. R. Barringer and N. G. Osteen are at the Isle of Palms attending the convention of the State Dental association.

Mr. R. B. Belser, Mrs. Belser and Mrs. Ernest Field, have gone to Louisville, where Mr. Belser will attend the National Convention of Real Estate Dealers.

Mr. A. H. Williams, Jr., of Lake City, a recent graduate of the University of South Carolina spent Tuesday in the city as the guest of Mr. Noble Dick. Mr. Williams is representing the University during the vacation.

Mr. S. J. Smith of Elloree is in the city for a few days, visiting Mr. and Mrs. C. W. McGrew.

Mr. John N. Jackson, of Elloree, spent Tuesday in town.

Mr. William Kinard has returned home from Charleston where he went to attend the commencement exercises.

Mrs. McLeod and Misses Jennie and Margaret McLeod have gone to Greenville where they will spend the summer.

Mr. W. J. Crowson, Jr., has returned from near Barnwell where he has been for several days on a camping trip.

Wendell Levi graduated from the College of Charleston Monday with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He graduated with honors.

Mr. J. E. Jervey Dies in Columbia.

Mr. Jas. E. Jervey, who is well known in Sumter, having for years previous to the death of his wife, conducted the old Jervey House, died Wednesday morning at 12.15 o'clock at the Confederate Home in Columbia, of which place he has been an inmate for the past six or eight months. Mr. Jervey was familiarly known among his friends here as "Colonel," having been a gallant soldier in the War Between the States, serving in the 5th S. C. cavalry. His age was 71. He leaves a brother, Mr. Louis Jervey, of this city, and a sister, Miss Grace Jervey. Mr. Jervey's remains were taken to Manning Thursday morning, the interment taking place there in the afternoon.

The body of Col. J. E. Jervey, a former well-known Sumter citizen, who died Wednesday at the Soldier's Home in Columbia, passed through the city this morning on its way to Manning where it will be interred this afternoon at the Manning cemetery at 4 o'clock.

There were a number of the members of the local lodge of Knights of Pythias to attend the body on its way to Manning, where it will be joined by other members of the Manning lodge of Knights of Pythias. There were also a number of friends and relatives and two ex-Confederate veterans from the Old Soldier's Home at Columbia accompanying the body to its last resting place.

New York Cotton Market.

	Open.	Close.
New York, June 20.		
Jan.	11.49	11.53-54
July	11.07	17-18
October	11.28	45-46
December	11.50	56-57

LIVERPOOL MARKET.

	Open.	Close.
Liverpool, June 20.		
June—July 637.		
July—August 636½		
Aug.—Sept 636.		
Sept.—Oct. 640.		

Local Market.

Bask. Middling, 10.75.

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READER REPLIES TO MR. KOLB.

A Further Discussion of the Privateer School District Controversy.

Editor The Daily Item.

Please allow me space in which to reply to the article from Mr. J. M. Kolb, in your issue of the 13th. Mr. Kolb charges me with false and misleading statements. I said that the Bethel school had absorbed the Privateer school funds. Here are the figures:

Privateer school fund last session from all sources.	\$4,357.37
Privateer spent for school purposes last session.	\$4,355.82
Balance on hand at present.	1.55
Bethel school cost to operate last session.	\$1,880.00
Four white and six colored schools cost.	\$2,475.82

Before the Bethel school was built the township had on hand at the beginning of the session \$2,985.55, it has now at the close of the third session \$1.55. So far as I am able to find out all of the other schools have not cost over \$50.00 outside of teachers salary and none of the salaries have been increased except Providence which got \$80.00 more last session and the school at Stone was discontinued. Where has this money gone if Bethel did not get it? These figures prove my statement without any comment and had Mr. Kolb criticised my article only, this would have been sufficient, but he criticised me personally and said that I made false and misleading statements, literally lied, so as he has left so many places for criticism I must make some comments on his article. It is time for election of teachers and how can the trustees elect them with only \$1.55 in the treasury and no more can be got till taxes are paid, which may mean that there will be none to amount to anything before January, 1913. There may be some before that time but it is a risk too great to make any debts upon. A patron of the Bethel school suggests that the trustees resign. This would not be right for they got the district into this muddle and now they ought to get it out. Some have suggested a receiver but what would he receive? I do not suppose he would get the abuse directed at the trustees and the \$1.55 can be taken care of at the court house all right. As to "gross charges against the trustees," it does seem that men who are accustomed to attend to business of their own and make a success of it would have known better than to allow the district to get into this condition, and how they

are going to run a cash business of several hundred dollars for three months with nothing but \$1.55 cash is something that a good many people want to know. As to "interests of majority of trustees being centered in Bethel school," Mr. Kolb admits that "their idea is to abandon all of the other schools for Bethel," thereby admitting that statement, but it seems that they have got the wrong idea of centralization. I have taken notice of the movement for some time, and I have never seen or heard of any educator advising it except to get better teachers and to reduce expense. The mere fact of a school building being in the centre of the district has no merit whatever. Columbia is the centre of South Carolina, it has schools, colleges, the State house, a court house and a skyscraper. Why should the town of Sumter want any of these? Why not do all of the banking business and hold all of the courts in Columbia, and take all of the school children there to be taught? Sumter is the centre of the county, it has schools second to no city of its size, why not take all of the children in the county there to school? Sumter also has magnificent churches of many denominations, with the best preachers obtainable. Why not abandon the country churches and let everybody go to Sumter to church. The reason of this must be plain to any one, that people live all over this broad country of ours and they all want arrangements to meet their needs and conveniences wherever they live. As to the central location of the Bethel school, it may be near the centre of the district but I am only able to find two of its pupils who live within a mile of it, and more than one-half of them live three or more miles distant, and three-fourths of them live on the west side of the Cain mill swamp. Certainly convenience had nothing to do with its location. I am in favor of consolidating schools, wherever it will reduce cost, be convenient to patrons and secure better teachers, but the condition of roads, cost of consolidation all have to be taken into consideration. It seems, however, that Mr. Kolb lost sight of all of these facts and has tried to consolidate by "the steam roller process." Any one who will look at the conditions in Privateer district will see that it will be inconvenient for a great number of the scholars and impossible to not a few to attend any one school. Mr. Kolb says that "the patrons of the Bethel school represent one-half of the district." How does he make this? It needs only a look at a map of Privateer to see that they live on scarcely one-third of the territory. The number of voters will show that they have less than one-third and the census figures may give Mr. Kolb some strange light on this subject, not at all agreeing with his statement. As to the best land, how does he make this? The soil survey shows the opposite. As to improved farms, I grant that Mr. Kolb has a fine and well improved farm, but there are others outside of the "benefited section." I could enumerate several dozen of them but space will not permit and the people of Privateer and the business people of Sumter know that all of the fine farms of Privateer are not located in one corner. Mr. Kolb says that "the patrons of the Bethel school pay their full share of the taxes. Well, what about that? Do not all of the people in Privateer pay their full share of taxes also? I have not heard of any one getting a discount or getting out of paying them. And it will be remembered that two of the three members of the township board live in the Bethel section, they should look after their neighbor's interests better than this. If Mr. Kolb will visit the auditor's office he will in all probability find some figures on this subject not at all to his liking. He claims the A. C. L. railroad tax for the Bethel school, by what method of computation? The taxes paid on their track south of Mr. Osteen's mill treble should go to the Reid school by justice, so that Bethel cannot claim more than five-eighths of that tax. While on this subject I will say, that there are four stores in the eastern part of Privateer that do business during business hours during the entire year and three stores that do business during certain hours every day, there are four gineries also in the eastern portion of Privateer. So far as I can learn these all pay their full share of taxes. Then there is the Northwestern railroad. The general impression is that Mr. Wilson pays taxes on it. I have heard nothing to the contrary. Mr. Kolb says that "the Bethel school is three schools combined." There are five others. He says that "Bethel has one-half of the pupils." The records show 107 pupils at Bethel, the other four schools that were run last year had a total of 145 pupils, add to this 18 for the Stone school which did not run last year, and you have a total of 163 pupils.

He said that "the Red Oak school was consolidated with great success" in what way, please? I happen to

know that two of its pupils did not get to school at all, one had to be sent to Sumter, the parents having to pay for board and tuition, and two were transferred in an ox cart to Bethel. Mr. Kolb says that "any other schools that want to consolidate within themselves will be paid for a wagon." How about the school at Stone? It had 11 pupils and there were 7 on Mr. A. J. Jones' plantation, and when it was learned that they would get no teacher Mr. I. T. Davis offered to take them to Providence for \$20 per month which offer Mr. Kolb would not accept. Perhaps he remembers a conversation over the phone in which he stated that he would not pay for transportation to any school but Bethel, this remark was made to a patron of Providence school. Mr. Kolb says that "he will not consent to pay for transportation except to consolidate either, while he is trustee, or at any other time." He also refers to the people as "his people." When did this transaction take place? I have seen no account of it. How did he get possession of the people of Privateer? Where and by whom were they sold, and what was the price paid? And what authority has he except as trustee? He wishes that "we could be lighted to a sense of our duty as the Bethel people have been" and that "if we had common sense and a considerate view" What does he conceive to be our duty, the Bethel people or the trustees for them have seen it their duty to establish a good school for their children with no regard to the children of other people and spend more than one-third of the total amount of school funds used last year on this one school, leaving considerably less than two-thirds to be divided between the other white and colored schools together and also use up a surplus of almost three thousand dollars which the district had on hand three years ago, on this school also, and now he blames us for not keeping quiet about this and add on two mills more for the Bethel school to get. I admit that were Privateer an ear of corn and the Bethel school the Kolb then this arrangement might suit but I for one am thankful that the Creator saw fit to spare us this humiliation. He says that "we should have taken this up with the trustees or some one capable of giving advice. How does he know whether we have or not? I am thankful to say that when that grey material known as brain was being distributed, it was not all attached by one locality, and although it may not have been "common sense" that the rest of us got, we managed to attend to our business with it and do not have to run around hunting a "ready-made" opinion from some one who can only see one side of any question. And as to the trus-

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tees, they have had three years in which to adjust these things but so far as I know not a single effort has been put forth. Has Mr. Kolb forgotten what Mr. W. J. Ardis wrote to The Item last fall with regard to the trustees giving the Reid school an old stove and the children having to drink water out of a ditch. No attention was paid to it, however, as they were only "the dog town children." The parents, however, pay taxes and have the right to vote, and they deserve some consideration. I sympathize with Mr. Kolb in buying and equipping a wagon and furnishing two mules and a pupil to drive it and only got \$40 per month, and then the mules are left on his hands at a time when teams are scarce and many people would be glad to give good money for a mule for a month or two and the school opens at a time when there is little work, for mules to do and some people would be glad to get employment for theirs to make their feed, and some who were at the meetings before Bethel school was built claim to remember that Mr. Kolb offered to send his children and furnish a conveyance free to all who wanted to take advantage of the opportunity, if the Bethel school was built. I was acquainted with the piano transaction. Now most people know that a piano is absolutely worthless to a school without a music teacher, he did not say if the good ladies would present that or if the trustees would be "forced" to furnish one. A good music teacher gets good pay, as all who have had experience know.

Mr. Kolb says that I used the word "chunk throwers;" if he will refer to my article he will see that I used no such word. A man who could use English well enough to write the article which he wrote certainly does not need to have my meaning explained to him. I suppose however, that he takes this way of nicknaming those who do not send to the Bethel school "chunk throwers." Well, he certainly used little discretion in exposing so many of his "glass windows" to well directed "chunks" when they were not out of range of even a random throw.

Mr. Kolb closes his remarks by "hoping they will give light to the benefited sections." Certainly, just as anyone would have expected. Keep the others in the dark if possible. I could comment on several more statements that Mr. Kolb made but they will only assist the "benefited" and "chunk throwers" alike to an understanding of the true situation and those also who may read this who are not in this district. I have given facts and leave "to a fair minded public to decide whether I had any reasonable grounds for writing the news article of the 31st, or not. Let me say in conclusion that I have no personal hard feeling against any one on this matter and I have tried to be as impersonal as I possibly could be on this very personal subject, which the remarks Mr. Kolb made forced me to reply to in justice to myself and those on my side of this affair and I hope that it may yet be adjusted to the satisfaction of all concerned, and with best wishes to all I am, Very respectfully,

READER.

PRIVATEER SCHOOL AFFAIRS.

A Calm, Conservative and Enlightened Discussion of the Situation—A Word in Season in Favor of Progress and Better Schools.

Editor Item:

I have been an interested reader of the communication in the Item, in reference to the school matter in Privateer. While I don't wish to get into the controversy, yet as a taxpayer and citizen of this school district, and too, one having considerable experience in the School Trustee line, I would like to make a few remarks on the situation. To a casual observer, it might appear that the Bethel School is getting the lion's share of the public funds, but is this the case? Let us see. Bethel is ideally situated, for the purpose of having a graded or high school. The public had no land or building for the purpose. So as soon as the trustees decided that they would locate a school there, Bethel Church donated a beautiful lot for a graded or high school. The offer was made to the whole school district to send their advanced pupils to this school, also to any one or all of the local or smaller schools to consolidate with this central school and the trustees guaranteed to convey them back and forth in wagons. Two schools have adopted this plan, and if I am reliably informed, which I think I am, they would not change back under any consideration. What has been the result, several bright boys and girls have taken the course and are now to enter some of the State schools, such as Clemson or Winthrop or some of the colleges. Even if they were not going to a higher school they have a very fair education now, and got it in a Privateer graded school. This same school, Bethel graded school, took at the county

field day contests more prizes than any other school in the county and won first honor. Now, Mr. Editor, this is constructive work, and work that is bringing results that will reach away into the future history of Privateer. It is for the uplift of the whole township. The public spirited Privateer citizen wherever you find him, or her, is proud of it and grateful for it. Now the same that is being done at the Bethel graded school can be done in the eastern portion of the district. I believe, say at Providence church where there is already a fine school and two as good teachers as there are in the township. Why not let the smaller schools around Providence consolidate, as around Bethel, and have another school that the whole township will be proud of? I know the trustees to be large-hearted, public-spirited, successful business men and a fair appeal to them will not be turned down. Do not understand me to advocate compulsory consolidation, as I know human nature too well for that, but, if these smaller schools will come in and let us have, say two fine, large, well equipped graded or high schools it will eventually be cheaper and the results four-fold, and any prophet could safely predict for the new and coming Privateer, what was once the condition of the old—the seal of refinement, prosperity and intelligence, surpassed by no community on earth. As long as the patrons of the small schools contend for the maintenance of these schools, so long, in my humble judgment will they retard the progress that might and surely would attain were they to come in with us. I believe in giving them all that is right and just in the way of the public funds, however, if they will not come.

In reference to the increase in taxes for the schools, what I say cannot be construed to mean self-interest, as I have already educated a large family and cannot benefit by it now, but having the public benefit of my neighbor's children at heart and to make it better for coming generations I want to see the best schools possible, and if by voting an extra levy we can get an appropriation from the State to aid us I will vote for one.

One word to "Reader" before I close. You are quite a young man yet and in all human probability will outlive these trustees. Don't let the enmities of youth get away with what destruction you have, and you be termed a destructive citizen of Privateer rather than a constructive one. It is far easier to criticize the building of your neighbor that to pitch in and build one yourself. I know that you favor education and progress in every line and are competent to inform yourself and understand the problems that perplex the trustees, and it has been a wonder to me why you have gone into public print over little local matters without first exhausting home resources. Some of these little local reports and opinions expressed in private conversation are sometimes very amusing, but are frequently very destructive to great and good principles when in public print. Let us work for a better Privateer, a more harmonious Privateer and a more prosperous Privateer. Let us do constructive, rather than destructive work in our school and all public enterprises.

To go back to the Bethel school. When the trustees decided to build a school house on the lot donated for that purpose by the church they wisely decided to build one that would meet the already growing demands of the surrounding community and also future demands. This building is already being pretty well taxed as all of the rooms are occupied and if the school grows, as grow it surely will, soon additions will have to be made. There was opposition some years ago to an extra levy to increase our school facilities, but you could not find a man now to vote to rescind that levy. What citizen worth the name, would vote to curtail the work at Clemson or Winthrop or South Carolina University. While there may be lavish appropriations in the judgment of some who would vote to cripple these institutions, we claim that there are no lavish appropriations for our schools, and the very thing we are all asking for is an appropriation from the State for our rural schools, and it seems that the only way to secure it is to give a little more ourselves. We will have a school then, that will give, right here in our midst, an education far superior to anything dreamed of by the fathers and mothers of Privateer for their children. This is an age of progress and he who would go to mill as his grand sire did on horse back, with a bushel of corn in one end of a sack across his horse and a rock in the other to balance it, is out of date, and has no place in Privateer. I am not trying to trample on the rights of anyone, nor impugn the motives or opinions of anyone, but give this as my view of the school matter in Privateer.

W. G. Wells.