

THE FACTORY SCHOOL PROBLEM.

Davis Jeffries, Superintendent Graded Schools, Union, S. C.

The resources of the South are varied and abundant and are still in an undeveloped state, but the cotton industry of the North is on the march southward. This change means that the South with unequalled natural advantages for cotton manufacturing, backed by the capitol of New England, is going to become the world's textile manufacturing center. Men of the North are breaking loose from their environments, are enlarging their horizon and now see beyond their own shores, and our own citizens are beginning to realize that the best way to build up their town and increase their wealth is to invest their money at home. Ten years ago there was not a cotton mill in Union County. Now in Union township alone we have the Union Cotton Mills, which employ about 1,300 operatives. The Monarch Cotton Mill whose stock is expected soon to be increased to \$1,000,000, Buffalo Cotton Mill which will be one of the largest in the South, and The Union Knitting Mills whose stock will soon be increased to \$200,000. These same conditions exist in many other towns of South Carolina. As a natural result there is a large factory population. This presents to us an opportunity and a duty. Will we shun it, or will we meet it as brave men should? An obligation is thereby created which we can not reason away. It stands there to welcome us to a higher life in its fulfillment than we have ever known, or to reproach us for neglecting its rightful claims. Now, in the beginning of this new century, the existing circumstances demand our best thoughts and energies. Every nerve should be strung to action, every effort put forth for the enlightenment of these people. They have, in the majority of cases, left their farms and have flocked to the mills in order to support their children, or, as is too often the case, that their children might have an opportunity to improve their mind. Something should be done! These children will soon be the citizens of our country. Many have the impression that they will be very undesirable citizens, and this will be the case if we as superintendents are not fully alive to our duty. I do not wish to be understood as saying one word against any one because he works in a factory. "Honor and shame from us condition rise, Act well your part there all the honor lies."

Some as good people as I have ever known work in the mill; but among factory people, under the existing conditions, the tendency is to illiteracy.

The negroes usually improve the opportunities they have and ere long they will surpass the factory population in education if something is not done and done quickly. Fortunately, the factories are usually located in or near cities where the school facilities are good, but alas! so many of the factory people take no interest in education. In Union we have a good factory school building and the school is run nine months in the year with no cost whatever to pupils, but the attendance is by no means what it should be. The superintendent of the Union Cotton Mills told me recently he thought there were about 1,200 children on factory hill between the ages of 6 and 21. Six hundred of these are employed in the mills leaving 600 unemployed; we enroll about 250 of these in the graded schools, the remaining 350 are allowed to loaf on the streets, smoke cigarettes and engage in many other vices. You may say it is the parents' duty to control and send them to school; so it is, but if he is delict to his duty it does not excuse us, and we should do all in our power to raise the little ones from things low and grovelling to something higher and nobler.

Our factory school is by no means an ideal school, but I am proud of the pupils who do attend. They usually come from the best families on the hill and give us very little trouble in any way. They are much easier controlled than the children in town.

The more I think of this factory school problem the more fully am I convinced that we should have the best teachers in the mill schools if we would have

the best results. A good practical teacher who feels sympathy for and takes an interest in the children can accomplish wonders. Many factory people have prejudices and superstitions which a judicious teacher can remove. Many people whose children stay at home could be induced to send them to school if the proper means were employed.

It has been truly said that we should have teachers in our factory schools who can take hold of the child's future and see, even in the wayward, the possibility of a noble man or woman; one who would spare no pains to lift up the fallen and carry light into moral darkness; one whose influence flows from an exalted and noble character. If devotion to truth and duty does not glow within her heart and life her efforts to secure such devotion in her pupils will prove useless.

We should select such teachers as will ever be ready to teach moral truths whenever an opportunity presents itself; and these opportunities will often come. But if we have a teacher who treats the pupils as if she thinks herself better than they, who takes no interest in them except to go through the regular routine work and that in a harsh crabbed manner, who works merely for her salary, we can not hope to make that school a success. The teacher should be kind and true to the trust reposed on her. Robert E. Lee won the love of his army and of the South, not so much by his military powers, as by his kindness of heart, and his unselfish devotion to the interests of his people. Others would do well to follow his example.

David P. Page speaks words of encouragement when he says: "To him who sees beforehand that there are real difficulties in his profession and who is not too proud or self-conceited to feel the need of special preparation to meet them; to him who has some idea of the power of example in the educator, and who desires, most of all things, that his character shall be so pure as to render his example safe; to him who

may have an unspeakable influence in the fountain of their character.

We have a boy in our ninth grade whose father left his farm and came to the factory. By hard work and economy he has managed to keep his son in school most of the time. He is excelled by none in his class. A more obedient, industrious, polite, and satisfactory pupil in every respect I have never seen. We have two other pupils from the mill in the town school who lead their classes, and behave beautifully. Many other children have learned to judge a person, not by the clothes he can afford to wear, but by moral and intellectual worth.

There is a school and church building at the knitting mill given by a good lady—Mrs. Nicholson, and I have been informed that there will be, in the near future, good school buildings erected at the cotton mills now in the course of construction, as we already have at the Union Cotton Mills. This is as it should be. Good school buildings well furnished, good teachers and churches will do much to solve the factory problem. I fear it will never be solved to our entire satisfaction, but let not that fact hinder us from doing our duty in the threefold education of mind, body, and heart. The mere acquisition of knowledge alone will be of little value. Some of the worst characters in history have been men of scholarly ability. If we educate the mind and not the heart, we render them capable of doing more evil in the world. Let us teach them to place before them the ideal of a pure and lofty character. The person who does not have some such ideal will never attain the highest excellence.

May the time soon come when there will be a good school building at every factory in our State; may parents realize the great responsibility that is resting upon them, and do all in their power to educate their children; may we have educated earnest teachers who regard duty as the sub-

jective amendments, it appears to be the British view that such a step is too far-reaching to be taken without some negotiation in which the British side of the case is presented. The so-called Davis amendment appears, however, to be the chief obstacle in the way of an agreement, and while the British answer makes no suggestion of any further negotiation, there seems to be a fair inference from the general tenor that if a modification of this amendment could be secured there probably could be an adjustment upon the other points of difference. A reading of the answer also makes plain that while it does not make counter propositions or propose further action, yet it does not preclude such action by laying down a course which will be adhered to without the slightest deviation. On the contrary, the answer takes the form of an argument tending to show that the amendments proposed by the senate do not fairly consider the various British interests involved, and that they cannot for that reason be accepted in the form presented. But there is nothing peremptory in the tone of the answer.

The Davis amendment to the treaty, while in terms it did not give the United States a right to fortify the canal, in general language expressed the right of this country to accept such measures in regard to the canal as were deemed necessary for the proper maintenance of American authority. The two other amendments abrogated the Clayton-Bulwer treaty and struck out the provision of the treaty which invited other foreign governments to express their approval of it.

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Notice to Voters

The Books of Registration for registering voters for the next municipal election to be held on Monday, April 1st, 1901, for Intendant and Wardens for the town of Winnsboro, S. C., will be opened at Mr. Jno M. Smith's store January 1st, 1901, and closed March 31st, 1901.

All voters for this election must register within this time. Each applicant for registration must produce his county registration certificate and town tax receipt for all town taxes due before he can register for town election.

J. E. COAN,
Intendant.
W. M. Cathcart, Supervisor of Registration.

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CLERK'S SAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,
COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD.
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.

The Peoples Bank of Winnsboro, S. C., Plaintiff, vs. Sol. Wolfe, H. C. Wolfe, deceased, C. B. Wolfe, Sara W. DesPortes, Rebecca C. Brannon, Etia L. Natson, D. J. Knuffman, Isabelle Branch and Rose E. Lytton, Defendants.

In pursuance of an order of the Court of Common Pleas made in the above stated case, I will offer for sale before the Court House door in Winnsboro, S. C., on the

FIRST MONDAY IN APRIL next, within the legal hours of sale, at public entry, to the highest bidder, the following described property, to wit:

All these two lots or parcels of land lying, being and situate in the town of Winnsboro, in the County of Fairfield and State of South Carolina aforesaid, known and designated on the plan of said town as lots numbered one hundred and forty-four (144) and fifty-nine (59), containing together three-fourths of an acre, and bounded northwardly by lots numbered one hundred and forty-three (143) and sixty (60), formerly occupied by Dr. T. T. Robertson, deceased; eastwardly by lot numbered eighty-six (86); southwardly by lots numbered one hundred and forty-five (145) and fifty-nine (58), formerly owned by L. W. W. Duval, and now owned by M. H. Webb; and westwardly by Congress Street, to the right of way sold by David E. McDowell to the Charlotte and South Carolina Railroad Company.

Also all those premises lying, being and situate in the same town, county and State aforesaid, known and designated on the plan of said town as lots numbered eighty-seven (87) and part of lot numbered fifty-eight (58), containing three-fourths of an acre, more or less, and bounded on the south by lots numbered fifty-nine (59) and eighty-six (86); on the east by Congress Street; on the north by lot numbered fifty-seven (57) and eighty-eight (88); and on the west by land of the Charlotte, Columbia and Augusta Railroad Company (now the Southern Railway Company) through which their railroad track is constructed.

TERMS OF SALE
One-third of the purchase money to be paid in cash, the balance on a credit of one and two years, (in two equal annual installments from the day of sale), with interest from the day of sale, to be secured by the bond of the purchaser and a mortgage of the premises sold, with the privilege to the purchaser to pay the credit portion of the purchase money or any part thereof in cash at his option. Interest to be at the rate of eight per cent per annum. The purchaser to pay for all necessary papers.

JOHN W. LYLES,
March 9, 1901. C. C. P. F. C.
3-12-01

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Administrator.

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