CHURCH ATTENDANCE.

A STRONG SERMON ON AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT.

A Discourse Recently Preached by the Rev. J. L. Stokes, of the South Carolina Conference.

TEXT:—*"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together."*—HEB. x. 25.

We have but a small congregation at this place. You remind me that our membership is small. But we have eighty-eight names on our roll, which is a pretty fair showing. Nor is this a mere list of names, unrevised and unreliable. The roll was carefully revised last year, and there are not, I suppose, a half dozen names on it of persons out of reach of the church. You tell me the country is thinly populated. But not so much so but that eighty-eight names of members are now enrolled. And we ought to have, as a rule, in our country places as many at service as we have names on our church books. I doubt if we could expect so much in our city churches, where the congregation is made up almost exclusively of those of our own persuasion. Here it is different. Our Baptist brethren regularly worship with us; we have, or should have, all the church-goers in the community. So that, while many of our members are providentially kept from church from time to time, there ought to be a sufficient number of visitors to make up for their absence. No, it is a failure on the part of many of our members to attend regularly that gives us these vacant seats. I know this to be true, indeed. I have looked out for you. I have missed you.

You say the explanation is in the fact that our church is not centrally located. I know that, and am willing to discount my estimate somewhat on that account. It is, I know, not as convenient for some of you to come as it would be if the church were nearer. But is not this the more pertinent fact here, that you have allowed the inconvenience of coming to get you into a stay-at-home habit? I fear that it is. You are not willing to sacrifice a little; to put duty above mere convenience, you have not made the attendance upon church services a matter of-course. That would solve the problem. You farmers have a long, heavy drive of it to Bimberg. It is a very inconvenient trip. But you make up your minds to it; it comes as a matter-of course, and you do not mind it. Just so here. So I have thought it my duty, as your pastor, to preach you a sermon bringing home to you the dereliction you are guilty of, and showing you the God-given reasons for the duty of church attendence.

But I hasten to say that these remarks are not intended, in their primary application at least, for a goodly number of those present. I have not found anywhere better examples of constant attendance on the services of the sanctuary. I need not name those who are always in their places. You have them before your eyes You know who they are. While on the other hand your pastor could mentioned those who are but visitors here where they ought to be at home. Sometimes they are here if all suits, or the fancy is on them. Sometimes they are at home, walking over the crop; or they are out visiting, walking over somebody else's crop, or discussing politics or what not. So that it happened, I am most credible informed, several years ago that a brother respected and loved by you all preached at this church, and his audience was not as large as the company that assembled that very day at a neighbor's house.

Yes, I come to you, as your pastor, with a message of serious import to-day. I call you to most earnest, prayerful study of the demand of God, and your duty in this matter. I sound my text in your ears as the word of the Lord. It must be that you have lost sight of this serious aspect of the case. You surely have not felt the authority of a divine command behind you here. Otherwise good men and women could not be so negligent.

Let us notice some of the reasons that may be given for this "assembly of ourselves together."

1. The first, in our discussion, and in importance, is the fact that God has commanded it, as we have seen. This, indeed, should be the end of all controversy with us. A "thus saith the Lord" should settle it. "Give me the book, chapter and verse' my pastor, and that is enough for me." That should be your word. A minister was once traveling on the cars, and sat immediately in front of the brilliant Gen. Robert Toombs, who was engaged in an earnest discussion with a fellow-traveller. He noticed that the proposition for which the General contended antagonized the plain teaching of the Scriptures. Finally deciding to enter the debate, he turned abruptly upon his seat and said "General Toombs, do you know that your position is opposed to the Word of God?" The General was greatly surprised, but answered pleasantly: "Good evening, Profeseor S. I had no idea I was in earshot of a preacher! Will you be kind enough to give me your Scripture?" The passage was quoted, and clearly contradicted his argument. He at once arose—the man who had swayed Senates and stirred the thought of a nation—lifted his hat, and with that courtly manner for which he was noted, said: "I bow, sir, to the Word of God." So, brethren, let us bow to its majestic authority. But this command of God is not arbitrary. None of his commandments is so. They are grounded in reason. They rest upon sufficient foundation.

This command rests upon man's social constitution. We see this social tendency in the humble orders of animal life. We see it as we catch a view of the cattle upon the hills; or as we "consider the ants" plying busily at our feet.

This social disposition is quite manifest in man. We find it in the size of great cities; in the neighborhood gatherings; and most touchingly in the longings after home common to us all.

But the wisdom of this world has taught us the power of united effort. What mean these "Farmers' Alliances" all over the land? Do they not mean that the husbandmen are at last realizing that they can accomplish as a body what they could never do as individuals? Putting their littles together, uniting thought and effort, massing their capital they become mighty when before they were utterly powerless. So here. A great work is to be done. The world is to be converted. The isolated individual here and there cannot accomplish it. It needs a union of all effort, an aggregation of all means to bring it about. Like the million drops that make the shower, or the hundred rivulets that make the majestic river.

Or, to change the figure, the church is a grand army moving on to the conquest of the world. Gallantly our Captain leads the way: but victory must come to the unbroken column that follows where he leads. Of what use is the camp follower far in the rear? Of what punishment shall he be found worthy who skulks in his tent?

Again we will notice and answer some excuses men make for not attending the stated services of the sanctuary:

1. One says, "I am so tired when Sunday comes, I am obliged to stay at home and rest." But is that, in the first place a sincere plea? Is it not rather a mere pretence? When absent from church are you really at home resting? Are you not out visiting your relatives or friends, sometimes farther off than the house of God? Or, if at home, are you not walking over the crop, or planning the work of the coming week, or even arranging everything for an early start Monday morning? Brother, how is it? But if you are really at home trying to do what you profess, you are still in error. I say understandingly trying to rest. For you have not caught the idea of rest in its highest and truest sense. You have not learned what the Sabbath-rest was intended in the Divine Providence to be. Fit type is it of the rest of the redeemed in heaven. But the rest of heaven is far from being a season of inactivity. So with its earthly type, the Sabbath-rest! It is not an idle, aimless inaction. True rest is rather a change of occupation—a diversion—a changing of the thoughts and activities into new channels. Indeed it is only thus that we can be saved from ennui. So the French call it. It means, practically, that we are tired of rest. Yes, actually, we often find inactivity the most tiresome thing in the world. The normal state of man is action, action. True rest is but the relief that comes from a change of activity.

The Sabbath was given us that into new and better channels the thought and action of the soul should be turned. That for a day the business of eternity should take the place of the business of time. That we should turn from the thought of the trials and cares of earth to the beckoning glories of the better laud. Brother, you are not refreshed by your Sunday's rest because it was not rest. If you had just let go everything Saturday night you would have gone back to your work Monday morning with new zest and spring. But you keep harping on the old string. You stand at home, and your mind was filled with plans for the next day. So Monday found you unfreshed. Brother, the Sabbath is made for man, as well as for God; for time as well as for eternity. Try its precious rest. Turn from thoughts of earth to thoughts of heaven. It will pay here and hereafter.

2. But you tell me, "Even admitting that, I need not go to church. I can do just as well at home. I can meet with God. I can receive a blessing at home as well as at church." But granting wha claim, that you might do as well let me ask, do you? You tell me that you can read a much better sermon than you could hear at church; that you have weekly one of Dr. Talmage's sermon in your "Sunny South," or Constitution." But let me ask, do you really read the sermon? But granting that you do; does the printed column speak to you like the living voice of your pastor? Certainly the sermon in itself may be better, but does it have the same effect? Besides, do you couple this reading with prayer? It was my great privilege for three years, the last of his life, to be the pastor of that saintly man, Rev. David Derrick of the South Carolina Conference. Often he was unable to fill his place. But it was his custom when thus kept away to spend the hours of service in Bible reading and prayer. Brother do you fill the service hour with devotions? Do you join prayer to your sermon reading? And do you not miss this in your substitute for attendance upon the Word?

No, nothing can take the place of the preacher's living voice, the inspiration of the holy song, the united prayer, and all the sacred influences of the house of God.

3. Yet you plead, "Well, it is not convenient for me to go to church." But, brother, sister, duty does not wait upon convenience. Many and many a time sacrifices must be made. Indeed the Christian life is but one great sacrifice. A thousand thing are not convenient. however desirable, but we must pay the price. Others do it; so may you.

4. "Yes," you say, "but it is well-nigh impossible for all of us to go." Then, beloved, take it by regular turns. Parents, let the children have their time. Children, give the old folks a chance.

But to conclude: 1. Brother, I miss you when your seat is vacant. I need your presence, your sympathy, your prayers. It is much easier to preach to you in your place than to your vacant seat. Then I am beating the air, and the spirit feels the sad lack of your helpful presence. 2. Sister, you are losing ground, as you stay away from the house of God. Certainly, if providentially kept it is different. Your heart is here with us. But if this be your choice, there is no heart in the matter, and quickly you will find yourself slipping, drifting far from God. 3. I exhort you, dear brethren obey God; inherit the promises He gives us; use this precious means of grace; put yourselves in the way of receiving the blessing He is waiting to bestow!

We see it in the reciprocal influences we exert over each other. One of the subtlest, and yet one of the most real things, in life is this influence noted in man's social nature. By it men are constantly led upward or downward. By it men are saved or ruined. How many testimonies confirm this. "I was led to Christ by the example and influence of a dear friend." "I was brought to this night of sin and despair through ungodly associations."

Yes, God, man's maker, knowing the possibilities, knowing his needs, organizes the church upon a social basis. And the faithful of the ages have ever justified the Divine wisdom here. We have felt the elbow touch of sympathy. Heart has answered to heart, and hand has joined with hand to make us strong. Deep has called to deep in our enjoyment of the communion of saints. It has become a very type of heaven.

2. The second reason for this "assembling" is the Divine promise. Certainly God has promised to meet with the individual soul. He has said, "Enter into thy closet, and * * * pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." But there are these additional and especial promises to those who meet together: "Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

2. There is also, a third reason here, the example of our Lord. Says one: * * * "And straightway on the Sabbath day Jesus entered into the synagogue." Luke on a similar occasion says Jesus went to the synagogue 'as His custom was." This custom of Jesus has more than a mere suggestion, or advice, for us. It may well have the force of a law. What was to him a privilege may be well considered our duty. This is the more significant when we remember that in those days there was much of form and mechanical routine in the synagogue services. There was much that was unsatisfactory and even repulsive to the mind and heart of Jesus, yet his custom was to attend the synagogue. He did not forsake the assemblies of Isreal on the Sabbath days."

4. We have, besides, the example of the little band of one hundred and twenty disciples in their ten days' prayer-meeting preceding Pentecost. It was a crucial period with them, a time of great need, a time of expectancy. They might have scattered themselves to their homes or the homes of their friends, and singly plead with God. But no. The urgent need, the one desire, the fellowship of loving hearts brought them together. They needed each other. They helped each other. In some mysterious way faith touching faith went out in a grander sweep. The answer came. The Holy Ghost descended. The church was annointed for the great work.

5. As well might be adduced the constant practice of the early church. Acting undoubtedly under Divine guidance, the first Christians met on the Lords day every where. And the history of the church's progress is largely a record of those once-a-week gatherings. Indeed, nothing takes its place more naturally as a part of the settled order of the church than the stated assemblies for worship.

6. But a reason that must not be overlooked for these assemblies—a self evident reason—is the instruction in Divine truth which is their necessary accompaniment. Here is God's appointed school for the inculcation of the truth. Here the ministry—a Divine order—is to pour out for the benefit of the whole church that treasure of knowledge it has been enable to acquire. Here the busy man of the world may have given him what he has not leisure to acquire for himself. Here the ignorant are put up on the same footing as the wise. The plain practical truth is set before all. For this the ministry has been set apart—men chosen of God, given leisure for this very thing—that they may be well-instructed scribes, rightly dividing the word of truth.

And it need not be contended that they are wiser than other men. In their lines many men in their congregations may be their superiors. But it does stand to reason that that one should be best qualified to teach here—or, indeed, in any department—who has "drawn all his studies that way."

7. It follows from what we have already seen that these assemblies are a means of grace. A means is a channel or vehicle for the conveyance to us of good or evil. A means of grace is a channel along which spiritual good flows into our souls. The instructions we receive in Divine truth at church is such a means of grace. So is the fellowship of purpose, prayer and faith in the congregation of God's saints. Mighty waves of influence break over us. Insensibly we find ourselves stronger. My brother's arm invisibly encircles me. My penitential tears mingle with his. I am borne along with rapturous song and the glad hallelujah!

I ask you if it is not so? Have you not found it so in your own experience? Have you not proved it true both in the use, and again in the neglect of this means of grace

8. But the final reason we adduce is that our stated gatherings are a necessity to the prosecution of the work of the church. Brother, perish the thought, that the precious treasure, the "pearl of great price," is to be laid up as it were in a napkin and hidden away. It is to bring in, rather, lost souls to the Lord of whom we are stewards in the salvation of souls.

STARVING IN VIRGINIA.

Many Families in Great Destitution—Aid Wanted at Once.

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 6.—The people in Greenville county, this State, are in a condition bordering upon actual starvation. There are several hundred people in absolute want, most of them colored, and stirring petitions have been sent out asking for aid. One part of the petition sent out states:

In the name of charity, humanity and mercy, we, the undersigned petitioners, farmers of the county of Greenville, State of Virginia, ask your attention to this summary account of the destitute condition of ourselves and families, a condition of want brought about by no negligence or lack of industry on our paat, but by a total failure of our crops. The seed was sown, the usual expenditure of labor and money for securing a yield and harvest was applied, but the continuous rains of the summer and fall wrought ruin and destruction to the agricultural class of this country as effectually as if they had been swept by a Johnstown flood or lived in the track of a western cyclone, and the result is a complete paralysis of money and labor, with want of bread, the necessaries of life, and black despair following in the wake of such a stroke to our class. The cry for bread has already gone up, and as the winter advances a wail for warmth will add an accompaniment of woe and suffering. We, your earnest and urgent petitioners, beg you not to turn away from the cry of women and children for aid and breathe a sigh of pity only, but turn to your abundance and from it send assistance to this unfortunate yet worthy class of your countrymen.

Provisions and money have already begun to pour in, and the Legislature will be asked to aid at once.

A One-Armed Printer.

A one-armed printer is as much of a curiosity as the armless man who dexterously handles a knife and fork with his toe

There came to Cincinnati two days ago such a wonder, and he is now working as a "sub" in the Enquirer office. His name is Harry Penrod; he is 27 years old, and hails from Washington, where he learned the trade on the Republican. Penrod, six years ago, went on a trip out West, and while gone lost his arm in a railroad accident. Only a short stump, extending but a few inches from the shoulder, remains. Nothing disheartened by a misfortune that would have rendered most men helpless, Penrod set to work to manage the intricacies of his craft with one hand, and he succeeded so well that he now sets as big a "string" as the best printer, and he justifies his own matter and does it well. In "setting" type, Penrod places the "stick" on the case in front of him, and then nimbly shoots the type into place, working very rapidly and with as apparent ease as a man with two hands. Penrod has worked as a "sub" on all the great newspapers of the country, and makes a competent livelihood. He is the only one-armed printer capable of earning a full day's wages at the case.

Honors for a Spartanburg Lady.

The friends of Miss Callie Haynes, formerly of this city, will be pleased to learn that she has been appointed physician at the lunatic asylum at Staunton, Va. A committee from the board of directors having been appointed to inquire into the expediency of appointing a woman to the place, decided, after mature consideration, that such appointment was desirable. There were fourteen applicants for the place—all having strong testimonials. Of the final action of the board, the Staunton Vindicator says:

"The board then unanimously elected Miss C. L. Haynes, M. D., to the post of an Assistant Physician in the Female Department. Miss Haynes is a native of South Caroltna, a graduate of the Women's Medical College at Philadelphia, and is at present resident physician at the State Female School at Palmer, Mass. Dr. Haynes brought the highest letters from the President of the Women's Medical College where she graduated and other sources including one from ex-Gov. Hugh S. Thompson, of South Carolina, who was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury under President Cleveland, and is now the Democratic member of the U. S. Civil Service Commission. She will assume the duties of her position as soon as she arrives here. The salary is $750 per annum with board at the Asylum."

The contested case of Smith against Jackson, from West Virginia, has been decided in favor of Smith the Republican. Speaker Reed to the last used the tactics denounced in the Democratii address.

CRACKER COURTSHIP.

How "Pop" Won the Hand of an Industrious Widow.

Love-Making as Practiced in an Unknown Nook of Florida—The Way in Which Old Man Somers Presented His Case to Mrs. Legare.

Down in this unknown nook characters may be met who would delight those appreciative of the fresh and distinctive in human nature, writes a New York Tribune correspondent from Lady Lake, Fla. Here in the deepest recesses of "the piney woods" are "crackers" who have never penetrated ten miles from the smoky cabins in which they were born, and whose domestic life has been bounded by the live-oak logs, clay walls and palmetto thatch of their cabins. Here they have lived since the time, back in the '30s, when Osceola and his Seminoles were captured by the regulars or driven to the 'gators, moccasins and miasma swamps of the Everglades. Indolence, ignorance, shiftlessness, courage and pride are their more prominent qualities.

Some miles back from this lake is a fertile tract of "high hummock" land on which stands a particularly heavy and luxuriant growth of pine, magnolia and live-oak. In it are several clearings which were made some four or five decades since, by the first "crackers" who came to this section, at the time of their arrival a wild and virgin country, which foot of white man may not have trodden since Ponce de Leon ranged the peninsula in his quest for the fabled fountain of youth.

Three of the clearings are clustered closely together, one owned by the Widow Legare (pronounced Legree), one by "Pop" Somers and the third by "Uncle Billy" Thomas. Uncle Billy has contrived to pass sixty-three years single blessedness, but during the last eight years he has found engrossing charms in the society of the widow. On the other hand "Pop" has had three wives, the last in the sequence having died a month ago. It is in order to state that "Pop" is a man of individuality, not given to inaction and vain repining when one has suffered a loss. Misfortune has a bracing effect on him and stimulates him to repair his losses. Consequently I was not surprised at the turn a conversation took which I held with him a fortnight after the death of his third wife. Replying to some expressions of sympathy on my part, the old man said:

"Yes, Yank, I've done lost er good housekeeper. So my cabin has in mighty pore ways. So of co'se I've done bin reckonin' for ernuther wife. I haint settled ton none yit, as I've done bin right tollerble busy."

For a moment I was speechless. Then, acting on a mischievous impulse, I suggested:

"Have you thought of the Widow Legare? She's capable as a housekeeper and isn't a day more than forty-five."

"I 'lowed," was the reply, "that I mout settle on the widder. But thar ain't no use in bein' in sich a pow'rful rush. Purty soon I'll take er day to hunt fer er woman. Gittin' er wife is like gittin' er mule, and er man should be keerful to git un that'll last and is stiddy and don't 'low fur ter kick."

"Better speak to the widow right away. Uncle Billy may cut in ahead of you."

"I'll resk it, Yank," said the old man. "Ther widder hain't brought Uncle Billy ter mite in much as nigh eight years. But I'll speak ter her come week."

Exactly a week later "Pop" saddled his mule and rode to the widow's. He found the buxom matron mending the gourd that hung in her well and—but I will tell the tale in his own words:

"'Mornin', widder. Howdy?' sez I.

"'What do you-uns want?' said she-uns, suspicious-like.

"So I done come right down to it and said: 'I'm reckonin' I 'low 'fur ter git ernuther wife, and I want ter take you-uns, if you-uns don't 'low otherwise. What do you-uns think?' sez I, in my peartest.

"'I dunno,' sez she-uns. 'Ain't this sudden? Lemme think. Thar's dis yere Uncle Billy—'

"'Durn Uncle Billy!' I snapped out, hot like. 'Er right smart critter he is. He's had eight year the start on me and he hain't never done nothin'. I'm a live man wi' four acres cleared land, and three cows and twenty orange trees and er mule. Better say yes, widder. I figger it out that you-uns will like it.'

"Wall, she wouldn't just then, but she did two minutes later. Just then the circuit rider done come 'long, and I done told the widder that we'd hitch our hands together right thar and save time and be through wi' it. But she said that thar wasn't no way to be married, and 'lowed she wanted to ride 'roun by Uncle Billy's right away and be married much as nigher fortnight after. Wall, ther widder done mounted ther mule behind me and we rid ter Uncle Billy's, who was so 'gasted (amazed) that he couldn't even cuss."

The wedding took place next day, the circuit rider officiating. My present to the bride was an engraving picturing the story of Young Lochinvar. The bridal journey was taken on muleback.

HOW TO WALK WELL.

Take to Shoes with Low, Square Heels and Ample Toe Room.

A writer in the Phrenological Journal gives the following advice, in an article entitled "How to Walk Well." "A great deal depends," he says, "on shoe leather, if we would get comfort and avoid injury. We are in a lively climate, which does not encourage us to wear the beautiful, sensible sandals of the Greeks and Hebrews. It was the advice of an unforgotten young soldier to our marching volunteers of the civil war, 'Trust in God, but keep your shoes easy.' We must not have errors in our premises; a corn is a fatal error to a walker. Therefore take to square, low heels, wide soles, and ample toe room. Wear loose, short, warm clothes, if the weather be cold, but heavy ones never.

"Light flannel is capital, all the year around. Caps are better than hats, by land as by sea, for the wind can not catch at them. One's stockings are apt to bunch and feel uncomfortable on a long tramp. But if, before starting, you soak your feet, fore and aft, so that they are cased in lather, they will keep cool and easy under you from morning till night. 'Break an egg in your boots!' said James T. Fields, who was a boy all his life. But whichever you do, you will find it a great help and convenience, though the prescription may seem queer to a novice."

Liquor Licenses in Mexico.

In the City of Mexico the income from the taxation of liquors and the license on saloons is very large indeed. Every liquor and pulque shop pays a monthly license. In addition to the license fees on saloons, an octroi, or entry tax, is collected on all pulque coming within the city limits. For the fiscal year just ended this gate tax amounted to the sum of $500,000, or more than $1,500 a day. The pulque shops open at six o'clock in the morning and close at five o'clock in the afternoon, and no one of them has a back door.

Polygamy and Bigamy.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—The Supreme Court of the United States has rendered an opinion through Justice Field affirming the judgment of the third Judicial District Court in the famous Idaho test oath case, regarding the constitutionality of the test oath section of the Edmunds-Tucker polygamy law. The Court decides that polygamy and bigamy are offenses against mankind, and are not properly part of any religious belief and that a member of the Mormon church or any sect that encourages polygamy, can not take the test oath on applying for registration to vote, without violating the law.

Homicide in Union.

UNION, S. C., February 5.—Robert Moorman shot and killed Lee Schultz, contractor on the Georgia, Carolina & Northern railroad, at Fish Dam, Union County, on Monday, shooting him with a revolver. The murder seems to have been a cold-blooded and cowardly one. He is a Republican and was recently appointed postmaster at Newberry and is very unpopular. Schultz was a Virginian and wealthy. He had previously challonged Moorman to settle the trouble between them by a duel.

THE VALUE OF TERRACING.

A Subject That Should Engage the Attention of Every Good Farmer.

To the Editor of the SPARTANBURG HERALD: If I were allowed to make a suggestion, and only one, to my brother farmers about this time of the year, I would place these matter that are being more generally discussed—such as fertilizers, exchanges, Alliances, tariff, Clemson College, March Conventions etc. It would be this—terrace your lands. I have never seen a better time for such work than right now. The winter has been such as to allow us to be away ahead with our plowing—so much, so that sometimes farmers are worried about what to do next. Well, if your farm is not well terraced let me beseech you not to worry about what you ought to do, but buy, borrow, or make a terracing instrument and "to the work! to the work!"

After an experience of twenty years or more on the farm, I know of no better instrument of time, labor and money, than terracing. Hard reading, writing and talking have not yet convinced you of its utility, and you know of a farmer within three or four miles of you that has done some scientific terracing, say about three years ago, and who kept them well patched up, go upon his farm, walk over his fields, walk round about and stand on the top of one and study them well. See how the soil just below is so much lower than that above. Measure the depth of soil above and below, and note the difference—deeper above because all the soil that has been moved by the rains, the plow and hoe has been kept above. A log placed in a running stream lodges sand quite a distance above; and on the same principle the terrace acting as an obstruction holds and deepens the soil well back from its foundation. Look at the old corn and cotton stalks or stubble on the one side and then on the other. The ones above are better than the ones below. The rows having been (by virtue of the terrace being there) laid on a level, notice how the decayed vegetable matter has been retained by the terrace and water furrows—such as stalk and leaves etc. The nitrogen, organic and inorganic, humus etc., have been retained, and you can see the traces of these in the sediments before you and how the earth's surface has absorbed it and is holding it for another crop; while on the other hand if no terrace had been there the rows in all probabity would have been inclined downward and the water would have taken this plant food up and carried it to some gully near by, and no traces of sediment and vegetable matter would be seen in water furrows, but generally speaking a streak of red subsoil where the last furrow was made in the summer.

How often have we heard such talk as this—"That man has a good farm; there is a good field." Why so? The reply is—why, it is level and holds all you put on it. Just so. And there is no good reason why by terracing nine-tenths of our fields can not be placed in the same category as the man's level farm or field.

Now, while still cogitating on top of the terrace, see if you can't understand how it is possible for him to make as good crops as you do with one-third the amount of rain—and a much better one with the same amount. His soil, in the first place, is deeper, his rows are on a level, his furrows and terrace holds the rains and allows the soil to drink it up, and holds it in reserve for the growing crop; and in your fields it has moved from point to point until it has found an outlet and passed off in the neighboring stream and helped to swell the torrent and do more damage below.

If you want to add at one venture about ten per cent. to the value of your farm, in the judgment of this writer, terrace it well. If you have any objections to terracing, what are they? Speak out and let's get the bottom facts.

FARMER.

Spartanburg, S. C., February 6, 1890.

AN IRON RIVET IN HIS NECK.

A Man Dies of a Wound Which Army Surgeons Claimed Did Not Exist.

ROME, N. Y., Feb. 6.—Michael Finn, who formerly kept the California House, near here, served in the war of the Rebellion in Company E. New York volunteers, from 1861 to 1863. He was wounded twice—once in the left hip and once the neck. The latter wound he supposed, was inflicted by a spent ball. The surgeons, however, failed to discover any trace of a ball and said the man was mistaken. He was awarded a pension of $4 per month for the wound in the hip, but nothing for the one in the neck.

He always felt a pain in his neck, and eventually lost all power of speech and became a physical wreck. In 1883 Dr. N. C. Scudder examined the man and gave it as his opinion that a or some such substance was lodged at the root of the larynx. Mr. Finn died in 1885.

In order to enable the widow to obtain an increase of pension, if possible, Dr. Scudder and Justice Bowers, of this city, made an examination of Mr. Finn's neck on January 19, 1890—five years after his death—and found imbebbed therein a button shapped rivet of iron, which he had caried for twenty-five years, and which was the immediate cause of his death.

A Dress Made of Rattlesnakes.

From the Tampa (Fla.) News.

We promised a description of the "rattlesnake dress" in yesterday's paper for to-day. Mrs. Donaldson, who is making the dress, is really an artist in her line of business, such as you seldom find in a place of this size. The dress is Eigelshade, a rich shade of brown, fine and beautiful in textnre. It is a tailor-made gown, strictly on the severe English style; a perfectly plain skirt, with a panel about seven inches wide of the tanned skin of the rattlesnake. The skin is a beautiful specimen of its kind. A polonaise, also severely plain. closed at the side with straps of snake skin and buckles. A vest, V-shape, of the skin, and collar and cuffs of the same. With it will be worn a helmet shaped hat, trimmed with material to match the dress, but the visor will be covered with snakeskin. The shoes, the uppers made of material the same as the dress and tipped with snakeskin, complete this unique costume. It will be wonderfully pretty and effective, and an object of envy to some of our fair dames who delight in original and charming costumes. The lady for whom the costume is made is from Ocala, and came to Tampa especially to secure Mrs. Donaldson's work for her dress-making.

A Newspaper Man Catches It.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Feb. 4.—The Sunday Critic to-day gave details of an alleged debauch of M. C. Shelly, a young society man. After seeing a copy of the newspaper Shelly procured a heavy horsewhip, and accompanied by his brother, went to the office of the Critic. Leonard Button, business manager, was in the office and was asked if he was responsible for the publication. He said he was, whereupon Shelly drew the whip from under his vest and lashed the newspaper man furiously. Button drew a pistol and attempted to fire, but the cartridge snapped and before he could press the trigger again, Shelly's brother made him drop the revolver. The men then grappled and a rough-and-tumble fight ensued. Shelly is a son of the Fourth Auditor of the Treasury under Cleveland's administration.

The daadlock in the Montana Senate has bren broken by tactics similar to those used by Speaker Reed.

CURRENT NEWS.

Items Gathered Here and There by Telegraph and Scissors.

The two dummy railroads in Atlanta hauled during 1889 one million and one hundred thousand people who paid.

Mr. Chalmers, of Mississippi, will urge the passage of a law establishing Federal control of elections in which members of Congress are to be voted for.

A fire in the dye house of the Eagle and Phœnix Mill at Columbus, Ga., on Monday caused a loss of $12,000. It is well covered by insurance.

A. B. Fleming has been declared elected governor of the State of West Virginia. President Carr voting with the Democrats The vote was 48 to 40.

The Rev. R. S. Frazier, a well known Presbyterian preacher and lecturer on Japan, has suddenly become insane at his home at Youngstown, Ohio.

Bond offerings yesterday $214,000; all accepted at 124 for four per cents and 104½ for four and a half. $104,000 per cent were surrendered in liquidation of government deposits.

Mrs. Anna Haven Perkins, of New London, Conn, deceased, in her will leaves $400,000 to purchase books for a public library. Her father, Henry P. Haven, left $80,000 for a library building.

Miss Anny C. Fowler a young and beautiful English woman who became a nun several years ago has gone to the Hawaiian Islands to take the place of Father Damien as missionary to the lepers.

It is reported that ten of the twelve jurors in the case of Mrs. Morris, the pretty North Carolina widow, accused of poisoning her husband, said they believed her to be guilty but refused to vote so.

Two colored men, Gray and Randle, were assassinated in the woods near Rocky Comfort, Ark., on Friday. They were cutting timber on government land, as it is claimed, and had been warned away by parties who claimed they intended to homestead the land. Green and Smith, whites, have been arrested on suspicion.

It is one peculiarity of the New York Mail and Express that its editorial column is always topped with a quotation from the Bible. Under the quotation, is a paid advertisement disguised as a leading editorial. Deacon Shepard is doing much to elevate journalism by combining business with morality—Bible quotations with paid-for puffs.

Judge Field, of Kansas City, Mo., rendered a decision in the suit of Sampson Younger, colored, against Abraham Judah, lessee of the Ninth Street theatre, for damages for refusal to allow him a seat in the parquet after the purchase of a ticket. The court held that the colored man had no case, as he was admitted only under sufferance from the proprietors, and had no absolute right there.

The commissioners of the State reservation at Niagara, in their annual report, oppose all projects looking to utilizing the falls for manufacturing purposes. In so doing they doubtless reflect public sentiment. Last year an attempt was made to get a bill through the Legislature giving a business corporation certain rights in connection with the falls, but it fell dead as soon as the people's attention was called to it. This is very natural The popular conception of Niagara as one of Nature's grandest works is incompatible with the idea of turning it into a mill site.

Col. Mosby's Nice Nest Egg.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 6.—The Supreme Court has through Justice Blatchford rendered a decision allowing Col John S. Mosby, the well known Confederate cavalry leader, $11,783, in his suit to recover from the Treasury Department fees as Consul at Hong Kong, which he had turned in, but which he subsequently learned were due him. The Court of Claims allowed Col. Mosby $13,839, and he appealed from the decision to the Supreme Court.

The Court was With Him.

A young lawyer was making his maiden effort before a jury in defense of a criminal. The evidence was all in, and he arose to utter the brilliant thoughts that had been surging through his brain He was primed for a fine display of oratorical pyrotechnics, but somehow or other he could not get a start. His mind became a blank, and he stood trembling for a moment. Then waving his arms he began: "May it please the court and gentlemen of the jury—My—ahem! My——— Officer, kindly get me a drink of water."

He waited for the attendant to return, and tried to gather his faculties. After taking a sip of water he began again: "May it please the court and gentlemen of the jury. I am happy——yes."

After a pause he again extended his arms, and exclaimed: May it plase the court and gentleman of the jury. My unfortunate client—"

This impressed him as a particularly bad opening, so he again hesitated' "Go on, counsellor," said the judge encouragingly. "so far I am with you.'

The circus business pays in this country in the hands of a man who understands it. John Robinson left a fortune of $1,000,000. The estate of Adam Forepaugh will realize fully that sum. P. T. Barnum is reputed to be worth a great deal more. Dan Rice failed as a circus man, but made a success after all. He joined the church aud married a wealthy widow in Texas.

Another instance of the devotion of a good dog to his master is furnished in the record of a sad accident that occurred in New York last Saturday. The 14 year old son of Mr. W. W. MacFarland was skating on Staten Island. A large St. Bernard dog, the pet of the boy, had gone with him. Suddenly the ice broke and the boy sank into the water. The dog immediately plunged in after him and would have saved him had both not drifted under the ice. The bodies of the boy and the dog were found close together.

People who ask for subsidies are by no means inclined to be moderate in their demands. A sample of the extent to which these requests sometimes go is furnished in the statement of Mr. H. K. Thurber, of New York, that it will require a subsidy of $60,000 a trip to make a ship line between New York and Buenos Ayres successful and invite capitalists to engage in such an enterprise. A line subsidized at this rate and making two trips a month would receive in bounties the neat sum of $1,400,000 a year. But Mr. Thurber thinks one-half of this amount should be paid by South America, and that the scheme would cost the United States "only" $720,000 a year. As may be imagined, Mr. Thurber is willing to go into the steamship business on these terms. Some other folk would doubtless like to take a hand in the same sort of thing.

ADVERTISING FOR A WIFE.

A Romance that Didn't Turn Out as the Advertiser Expected.

From the New York Sun.

An advertisement appeared in the London Advertiser a short time ago from a man residing at Tamby Bay, named Ibbotson, in which he spoke of his desire to secure a Christian woman as a wife. Among those who read the advertisment was a widow residing at Perth, mother of two children, who answered it. The gentleman wrote a reply, in which he described his house and worldly goods, and explained that he desired some one to take charge of his household. The widow after some correspondence, purchased a ticket to go to her prospective husband. She did not find things quite as she expected. The household consisted of the father and nine children, the youngest of whom was seven years of age. The children's mother had died insane, and the charming widow was loth to complete the transaction which she had begun so bravely. She was stopping at Hilton, and the widower went thither to interview her, but the lady would not be seen at all.

This would be a sad end were it not that another chapter yet remains to be told. A young man at Tamby Bay heard of the lady being there, and that she had two little children, 5 and 8 years old. He had a nice little talk with her on Sunday, proposed marriage on Monday, was accepted, and the wedding took place on Tuesday. The widow says she has not made a mistake, even if it was hasty action, for the young man in question is sober, respected and industrious. At last accounts Mr. Ibbotson was on his way to Bruce Mines, to meet another lady who had taken preliminary steps toward matrimony in response to the advertisement.

The Edgefield Duel Off.

EDGEFIELD, S. C., February 4.—The challenge passed between Mr. E. J. Norris and Mr. Benjamin Gardner has been withdrawn, and the difficulty between them has passed without any bloodshed or bodily hurt to either party. Both are under a peace bond and there is no further trouble apprehended between them. The cause of the trouble was the alleged discarding of Mr. Gardner's sister by Mr. Norris, after the arrangements had been made for their marriage in a few weeks. Norris wrote to the young lady, suggesting a postponement of their marriage until fall. Ben Gardner who is about 18 years old, drove into town and with two friends went to Norris and cowhided him on the street. Norris had a cotton knife in his hand and making a motion as though he would use it, an uncle of Gardner, O. F. Cheatham, drew a pistol and thrust it in Norris's face. The matter then stopped. Norris sent a challenge which was accepted and arrangements made to meet at Sand Bar Ferry. The principals were soon arrested.

Blood Diseases.

Blood diseases are terrible on account of their loathsome nature, and the fact that they wreck the constitution so completely unless the proper antidote is applied. B. B. B. (Botanic Blood Balm) is composed of the true antidote for blood poison. Its use never fails to give satisfaction.

Mrs. Laura Hart, Beaufort, S. C, writes: "A loathsome form of blood poison was killing me. My appetite was lost, my bones ached, and parts of my flesh seemed as if it would come off my bones. A friend brought me a bottle of B. B. B. The sores began healing at once, and when I had taken two bottles I surprised my friends at my rapid recovery."

W. A. Bryant, Moody, Texas, writes: "I had an agonizing case of Salt Rheum for four years, which medicine I took only seemed to aggravate until I found B. B. B. It cured my hand, which resembles a burnt surface. It also cured my two children of itch, which had resisted previous treatment."

Bradfield's Female Regulator will cure all irregularities or derangements peculiar to women. Those suffering should use it. Sold by all druggists

Dennis Mooney sent up several drills in the shaft bucket at the Foxton mines at Sydnham, Ont., Monday. When the bucket was near the top one of the drills fell out, descended the shaft endwise for a hundred feet and struck Mooney on the head, going clear through the skull and coming out under the chin. The man lingered a few hours and died.

TO PLANTERS AND MILLMEN.

For Estimates on

STEAM SAW MILLS,

Ginning, Harvesting and other Machinery write to the undersigned, who will guarantee the goods they may offer in all respects, and make matters interesting both to consumers and competitors.

We will also furnish everything needed in the line of supplies: Belting, Oils, Piping, Fittings, Valves, Inspirators Injectors, Pumps, &c, &c.

W. H. GIBBES, JR. & CO.

Columbia, S. C.

HINDERCORNS.

The only sure Cure for Corns. Stops all pain. Ensures comfort to the feet. 15c. at Druggists. Hincox & Co., N.Y.

ARE YOU CONSUMPTIVE

Have you Cough, Bronchitis, Asthma, Indigestion? Use PARKER'S GINGER TONIC. It has cured the worst cases and the best remedy for all ills arising from defective nutrition. Take in time.