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THE TREES OF PALESTINE.

SUBLIME LANGUAGE OF THE SCRIPTURES ON THE CEDARS.

Dr. Talmage Describes the Scenes on Mount Lebanon and Produces Moral Lessons Therefrom—The Prophets Loved to Gaze Upon the Mighty Forests.

BROOKLYN, Dec. 14.—To-day Dr. Talmage preached the twelfth sermon of his series on Palestine and the adjoining countries. Dr. Talmage announced as his text Psalm civ. 16, "The cedars of Lebanon which he hath planted," and preached the following sermon:

In our journey we change stirrup for wheel. It is 4 o'clock in the morning at Damascus, Syria, and we are among the lanterns of the hostelry waiting for the stage to start. A Mohammedan in high life is putting his three wives on board within an apartment by themselves, and our party occupy the main apartment of one of the most uncomfortable vehicles in which mortals were ever jammed and half strangulated. But we must not let the discomforts annul or disparage the opportunities. We are rolling out and up the mountains of Lebanon, their forehead under a crown of snow, which coronet the fingers of the hottest summer cannot cast down.

CLIMBING UP LEBANON.

We are ascending heights around which is garlanded much of the finest poesy of the Scriptures, and are rising toward the mightiest dominion that botany ever recognized, reigned over by the most imperial tree that ever swayed a leafy scepter—the Lebanon cedar; a tree eulogized in my text as having grown from a nut put into the ground by God himself, and no human hand had anything to do with its planting: "The trees of Lebanon which he hath planted."

The average height of this mountain is seven thousand feet, but in one place it lifts its head to an altitude of a thousand. No higher than six thousand feet can vegetation exist, below that line at the right season vineyards and orchards and olive groves and flowers that dash the mountainside with a very carnage of color and fill the air with aromatics that David, the prophet, and Solomon, the voluptuary, celebrated as "the smell of Lebanon." At a height of six thousand feet is a grove of cedars, the only decided remnants of those vast forests from which Solomon cut his timber for the temple of Jerusalem, and where at one time there were one hundred thousand men hewing out the beams from which great cities were constructed. The population of trees has by human axe been massacred until only a small group is left. This race of trees is nearly extinct, but I have no doubt some of these were here when Hiram, king of Tyre, ordered the cutting of those cedars of Lebanon which the Lord planted. From the multitude of uses to which it may be put and the employment of it in all ages, the cedar is the divine tree. When the plains to be seen from the window of this stage in which we are perched under sunshine are a grass-green surface surpassing the fervidity, this tree stands in luxuriance, defying the summer sun, and when the storms of winter terrify the earth and hurl the rocks in avalanche down this mountain side, this tree grapples the hurricane of snow in triumph and leaves the spent fury at its feet. From sixty to eighty feet high are they, the horizontal branches a great sweep, with their burden of leaves needle shaped, the top of the tree pyramidal, a throne of foliage on which might and splendor and glory sit. But so continuously has the extermination of trees gone on that for the most part the mountains of Lebanon are bare of foliage, while, I am sorry to say, the earth in all lands is being likewise denuded.

BE SPARING OF GOD'S TREES.

The ax is slaying the forests all around the earth. To stop the slaughter God opened the coal mines of England and Scotland and America, and the world, practically saying by that, "Here is fuel; as far as possible let my trees alone." And by opening for the human race the great quarries of granite and showing the human family how to make brick, God is practically saying, "Here is building material; let my trees alone." We had better stop the axes among the Adirondacks. We had better stop the axes in all our forests, as it would have been better for Syria if the axes had long ago been stopped among the mountains of Lebanon. To punish us for our reckless assault on the forests we have the disordered seasons, and now the droughts because the uplifted arms of the trees do not pray for rain, their silence according to all scientists disclaiming the descent of the showers, and we have the cyclones and the tornadoes multiplied in number and velocity because there is nothing to prevent their awful sweep.

Plant the trees in your parks that the weary may rest under them. Plant them along your streets, that as through the branches passers by may see the God who first made the trees and then made man to look at them. Plant them along the brooks, that afterward the children may play. Plant them in your gardens, that as in Eden the Lord may walk there in the cool of the day. Plant them in cemeteries, that their shade like a mourner's veil, and their leaves sounding like the rustle of wings of the departed. Let Arbor Day be the day for the planting of trees recognized by the legislatures of the land, and let it be observed by all our people, and the next one hundred years do as much in planting these living glories of God as the last one hundred years have accomplished in their destruction. When, not long before his death, I saw on the banks of the Hudson in his glazed cap, riding on horseback, George P. Morris, the great song writer of America, I found him tenderly emotional, and I could understand how he wrote "Woodman, spare that tree," the verses of which many of us have felt like quoting in bellicose spirit, when under the stroke of some axe without sense or reason we saw a beautiful tree prostrated:

Woodman, spare that tree!
Touch not a single bough!
In youth it sheltered me,
And I'll protect it now.
'Twas my forefather's hand
That placed it near his cot;
There, woodman, let it stand,
Thy ax shall harm it not.

When but an idle boy,
I sought its grateful shade;
In all their gushing joy
Here, too, my sisters play'd.
My mother kiss'd me here,
My father press'd my hand—
Forgive this foolish tear,
But let that old oak stand!

My heartstrings round thee cling,
Close as thy bark, old friend!
Here shall the wild bird sing,
And still thy branches bend.
Old tree! the storm still brave!
And woodman, leave the spot;
While I've a hand to save,
Thy ax shall harm it not.

As we rode along on these the mountains of Lebanon, we bethink how its cedars spread their branches and breathe their aroma and cast their shadows all through the Bible. Solomon discoursed about them in his botanical works, when he spoke of trees "from the cedar that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall." The Psalmist says, "The righteous shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon," and in one of his magnificent doxologies calls on the cedars to praise the Lord. And Solomon says the countenance of Christ is excellent as the cedars, and Isaiah declares, "The day of the Lord shall be upon all the cedars of Lebanon." And Jeremiah and Ezekiel and Amos and Zephaniah and Zechariah weave its foliage into their sublimest utterances.

As we ride over Lebanon to-day there is a howling wind sweeping past and a dash of rain, all the better enabling us to appreciate that description of a tempest which no doubt was suggested by what David had seen with his own eyes among these heights, for as a soldier he carried his wars clear up to Damascus, and such a poet as he, I warrant, spent many a day on the Lebanon. And perhaps while he was seated on this very rock against which our carriage jolts, he writes that wonderful description of a thunder storm: "The voice of the Lord is powerful. The voice of the Lord is full of majesty. The voice of the Lord breaketh the cedars of Lebanon. Yea, the Lord breaketh the cedars of Lebanon. He maketh them also to skip like a calf, Lebanon and Sirion like a young unicorn. The voice of the Lord divideth the flames of fire."

As the lion is the monarch of the fields and behemoth the monarch of the waters, the cedar is the monarch of the trees. And I think one reason why it is so glorified all up and down the Bible is because we need more of its characteristics in our religious life. We have too much of the willow, and are easily bent this way or that; too much of the aspen, and we tremble under every zephyr of assault; too much of the bramble tree, and our sharp points sting and wound, but not enough of the cedar, wide branched and heaven aspiring and tempest grappling. But the reason these cedars stand so well is that they are deep rooted. They run their anchors down into the caverns of the mountain and fasten to the very foundations of the earth, and twist around and clinch themselves on the other side of the deepest layer of rock they can reach. And that is the difference between Christians who stand and Christians who fail. It is the difference between a superficial character and one that has clutched its roots deep down around and under the Rock of Ages.

THE ROCK ROOTED CHRISTIAN.

One of the Lebanon cedars was examined by a scientist, and from its concentric circles it was found to be thirty-five hundred years old and still standing, and there is such a thing as everlasting strength, and such a stanchness of Christian character that all time and all eternity instead of being its demolition shall be its opportunity. Not such are those vacillating Christians who are so pious on Sunday that they have no religion left for the week day. As the anaconda gorges itself with food and then seems for a long while to lie torpid and insensible, so there are men who will on Sunday get such a religious surfeit that the rest of the week they seem thoroughly dead to all religious emotion. They weep in church under a charity sermon, but if on Monday a subject of want presents itself at the door the beggar's safety will depend entirely on quick limbs and an unobstructed stairway. It takes all the grace they can get to keep them from committing assault and battery on those intruders who come with pale faces and stories of distress and subscription papers. The reason that God planted these cedars in the Bible was to suggest to us that we ought, in our religious character, to be deep like the cedar, high like the cedar, broad branched as the cedar. A traveler measured the spread of the boughs of one of these trees and found it one hundred and eleven feet from branch tip to branch tip, and I have seen cedars of Christian charities put out one branch to the uttermost parts of America, and another branch to the uttermost parts of Asia, and these wide branched Christians will keep on multiplying until all the earth is overshadowed with mercy.

But mark you, these cedars of Lebanon could not grow if planted in mild climates and in soft air and in carefully watered gardens. They must have the gymnasium of the midnight hurricane to develop their arms. They must play the athlete with a thousand winters before their feet are rightly planted and their foreheads rightly lifted and their arms rightly muscled. And if there be any other way for developing strong Christian characters except by storms of trouble, I never heard of it. Call the roll of martyrs, call the roll of the prophets, call the roll of the apostles and see which of them had an easy time of it. Which of these cedars grew in the warm valley? Not one of them. Honeysuckles thrive best on the south side of the house, but cedars in a Syrian whirlwind.

THE SCHOOL FOR HEROES.

A Lebanon cedar! John Milton on his way up to the throne of the world's sacred poesy must sell his copyright of "Paradise Lost" for $72 in three payments. And William Shakespeare on his way up to be acknowledged the greatest dramatist of all ages must hold horses at the door of the London theatre for a sixpence, and Homer must struggle through total blindness to immortality, and John Bunyan must clear himself on the way up by making a dent out of his prison steel, and Canova, the sculptor, must toil on through orphanage modeling a lion in butter before he could cut his statues in marble. And the great Stephenson must watch cows in the field for a few pennies and then become a stoker, and then and then mend clocks before he puts the locomotive on its track and calls forth plaudits from parliaments and medals from kings. Abel Stevens is picked up a neglected child of the street, and rises through his consecrated genius to become of the most illustrious clergymen and historians of the century. And Bishop Janes of the same church in boyhood worked his passage from Ireland to America, and up to usefulness where, in the bishopric, he was second to no one who ever adorned it.

While in banishment Xenophon wrote his "Anabasis" and Thucydides his "History of the Peloponnesian War," and Victor Hugo must be exiled for many years to the island of Guernsey before he can come to that height in the affections of his countrymen that crowds Champs Elysees and the adjoining boulevards with one million mourners as his hearse rolls down to the church of the Madeleine. Oh, it is a tough old world, and it will keep you back and keep you down and keep you under as long as it can! Hail sons and daughters of the fire!

Stand, as the anvil when the stroke of stalwart men falls fierce and fast,
Storms but more deeply root the oak whose brawny arms embrace the blast;
Stand like an anvil: noise and heat have born
Of earth and die with time;
The soul, like God, its source and seat, is
solemn, still, serene, sublime.

Thirty years from now the foremost men in all occupations and professions will be those who are this hour in awful struggle of early life, many of them without five dollars to their name. So in spiritual life it takes a course of bereavements, persecutions, sicknesses and losses to develop stalwart Christain character. I got a letter a few days ago saying: "I have hardly seen a well day since I was born, and I could not write my own name until I was 50 years of age, and I am very poor; but I am, by the grace of God, the happiest man in Chicago."

The Bible speaks of the snows of Lebanon, and at this season of the year the snows there must be tremendous. The deepest snow ever seen in America would be insignificant compared with the mildest winter of snows on those Lebanon mountains. The cedars catch that skyfull of crystals on their brow and on their long arms. Piled up in great heaps are those snows, enough to crush other trees to the ground, splitting the branches from the trunk leaving them rent and torn, never to rise. But what do the cedars care for these snows on Lebanon? They look up to the winter skies and say: "Snow on! Empty the white heavens upon us, and when this storm is passed let other processions of tempest try to bury us in their fury. We have for five hundred winters been accustomed to this, and for the next five hundred winters we will cheerfully take all you have to send, for that is the way we develop our strength, and that is the way we serve God and teach all ages how to endure and conquer." So I say: Good cheer to all people who are snowed under! Put your faith in God and you will come out gloriously. Others may be stunted growths, or weak junipers on the lower levels of spirituality, but you are going to be Lebanon cedars. At last it will be said of such as you: "These are they who come out of great tribulation and had their robes washed and made white in the blood of the lamb."

THE GREAT MAN'S FALL.

But while crossing over these mountains of Lebanon I bethink myself of what an exciting scene it must be when one of the cedars does fall. It does not go down like other trees with a slight crackle that hardly makes the woodsman look up, or a hawk flutter from a neighboring bough. When a cedar falls it is the great event in the calendar of the mountains. The axmen fly. The wild beasts slink to their dens. The partridges swoop to the valley for escape. The neighboring trees go down under the awful weight of the descending monarch. The rocks are moved out of their places, and the earth trembles as from miles around all ravines send back their sympathetic echoes. Crash! crash! crash! So when the great cedars of worldly or Christian influence fall it is something terrific. Within the past few years how many mighty and overtopping men have gone down! There seems now to be an epidemic of moral disaster. The moral world, the religious world, the political world, the commercial world, are quaking with the fall of Lebanon cedars. It is awful. We are compelled to cry out with Zechariah, the prophet, "Howl, fir trees, for the cedar is fallen." Some of the trees are glad of it.

When some great dealer in stock goes down the small dealers clap their hands and say, "Good for him!" When a great political leader goes down the small politicians clap their hands and say, "Just as I expected!" When a great minister of religion falls many little ministers laugh up their sleeves and think themselves somehow advantaged. Ah, beloved brethren, no one makes anything out of moral shipwreck. Not a willow by the rivers of Damascus, not a sycamore on the plains of Jericho, not an olive tree in all Palestine is helped by the fall of a Lebanon cedar. Better weep and pray and tremble and listen to Paul's advice to the Galatians when he says, "Considering thyself lest thou also be tempted." No man is safe until he is dead unless he be divinely protected. A greater thinker than Lord Francis Bacon the world never saw, and he changed the world's mode of thinking for all time—his "Novum Organum" a miracle of literature. With $38,000 salary and estates worth millions and from the highest judicial bench of the world, he goes down under the power of bribery and confessed his crime and was sentenced to the Tower and the scorn of centuries. Howl, fir tree, for the cedar is fallen!

ALL NATIONS TO REST IN HIS SHADOW.

In my journey up and down Palestine and Syria nothing more impressed me than the trees—the terebinths, the sycamores, the tamarisks, the oleanders, the mulberrys, the olives, the myrtles, the palms, the cedars—all of them explanatory of so much of the Scriptures. And the time is coming when, through an improved arbori-culture, the round world shall be circumferenced, engridled, embosomed, emparadised in shade trees and fruit trees and flower trees. Isaiah declares in one place, "The glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it;" and in another place: "All the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree. Instead of the briar shall come up the myrtle tree." Oh, grandest arborescence of all time. Begin! Begin!

Oh, I am so glad that the holy land of heaven, like the holy land of Palestine and Syria, is a great place for trees, an orchard of them, a grove of them, a forest of them. St. John saw them along the streets, and on both sides of the river, and every month they yielded a great crop of fruit. You know what an imposing appearance trees give to a city on earth, but how it exalts my idea of heaven when St. John describes the city on high as having its streets and its rivers lined with them. Oh, the trees! the trees! The jasper walls, the fountains, the temples were not enough. There would have been something wanting yet. So to complete all that pomp and splendor I behold the up branching trees of life. Not like those stripped trees now around us, which like banished minstrels through the long winter night utter their dolorous lament, or in the blast moan like lost spirits wandering up and down the gale, their leaf shall never wither. Whether you walk on the banks of the river you will be under trees, or by the homes of martyrs under trees, or by the heavenly temple under trees, or along the palace of the King immortal under trees. "Blessed are they that do his commandments that they may have right to the tree of life." Stonewall Jackson's dying utterance was beautifully suggestive, "Let us cross over and lie down under the trees."

The Interest on State Bonds.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 17.—State Treasurer Bates was in the city to-day and had an interview with the bank presidents. The object of the visit was to get money to pay the interest of the State debt due January 1st. Treasurer Bates was fearful that in view of the postponement of the time for the payment of taxes till February 1st he might not have sufficient money in the treasury to meet the January payments. The Charleston banks came promptly to his aid and agreed to furnish the State with all the money it needed.

END OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

Senator Kenna Gives a Graphic Description of the Happy Event.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—In the Senate yesterday Kenna addressed that body in opposition to the election bill. The country was about to witness, he said, the final acting of the read political drama which the Republican party had been playing at the rate of star for a quarter of a century.

The play had beeen long. It had paid well. Its receipts had been enormous. The last preceding scene had closed in muttering disgust. Whether the performance should end in comedy or tragedy remained to be seen. Awaiting patiently the final culmination of the play, the interval might be devoted, he said, not without profit to a somewhat casual review of the general plot and general performance.

Kenna proceeded to sketch the history of the Republican party, beginning with the reconstruction period, much to the disadvantage of that party. He denounced the policy of the Republican party in regard to the Mormons, public lands, tariff, navy and Indians, and then addressing himself to the bill, said that there was no mistake about what it meant. There was no mistake that it was a cunning contrivance to place in the hands of the minority the control of the institutions of the people with a bayonet for every ballot.

The Senator from Massachusetts (Hoar) had told the Senate that no time should be wasted in debate as no one's judgment would be affected by it. He (Hoar) had a desire to have the bill passed without discussion, as there was, perhaps, evidence that that desire was concurred in by the other side of the chamber. All that had a tendency to impress on his mind at least the idea that for some good reason it was considered wise for party reasons to smuggle the bill through Congress; wise to have it invade the statute book, silently as the tread of a thief by night.

Was the bill, he asked, the producet of a felon or of a lunatic? of a Solomon or a fool? Its terms and provisions were before the Senate. Its objects and its purpose were stamped on its face. It was understood that John I. Davenport was its author. It sounded like him, looked like him and read like him. Every section, everey clause and every letter, from one end to the other, spelled "Davenport."

Its chief promoter in the Senate was the distinguished Senator from Massachusetts (Hoar,) and the second in command seemed to be the equally distinguished Senator from New York (Evarts.) It seemed to be meet and proper that those two distinguished gentlemen should be selected (either by others or by themselves) to take charge of the bill. One of them had made a part of the electoral commission and the other had been the chief Republican counsel before that tribunal.

Kenna gave a highly graphic description of the scenes before the electoral commission and in the House of Representatives when the bill was before it. He painting in which Evarts was the central figure addressing the tribunal and in which Hoar appears as a member of the commission.

That picture, he said, ought not to go down to posterity solitary and alone. There should be a companion picture painted for it showing an extemporized bastile in which some of the 6,300,000 American citizens for whom Davenport had issued warrants were packed, crowding each other to look out through bars, and showing Davenport as the central figure. If an honest man (as Davenport was represented to be) could snatch the liberties of 1,000 American citizens by the strocke of his pen, what was to be the fate of the voters when there was to be a bayonet behind every ballot, and Davenport behind every bayonet. (Some applause in the galleries.)

If a scanning of the bill from the title page to the conclusion afforded no objection on which to cast a vote against it, its authorship and its source would condemn and damn its every line and letter forever. It had never been intended to promote the honesty of elections. It had never had associated with it any design to promote the honesty or purity, or freedom of the ballot.

After occupying some three hours, Kenna said that there were other features of the bill which he would like to discuss, but he did not feel in view of his health that it would be safe for him to continue the speech.

A Lynching Prevented.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 18.—The Register of to-day says on the night of the 15th instant Sheriff H. H. Lesesne of Clarendon County telegraphed Governor Tillman that he had Edward Holliday in jail for killing John DuBose, and that he had reasons to fear that his prisoner would be lynched and asked the Governor whether he should guard the jail or remove the man to some other more secure place.

Governor Tillman at once replied as follows:

"H. H. Lesesne, Sheriff Manning, S. C.: Use your own judgment as to the removal, but there must be no lynching. Defend your prisoner at all hazards.

"B. R. TILLMAN."

Sheriff Lesesne then wrote informing the Governor that he had removed the prisoner to the Sumter jail and the Governor yesterday wrote him the following letter commending his action.

"H. H. Lesesne—My Dear Sir: Your course in regard to the prisoner Holliday is heartsly approved, and if all our peace officers shall act as promptly and decisively our State will be spared the disgrace of any more lynchings. Congratulate the people of Clarendon on having so efficient and active an officer.

Yours respectfully,
"B. R. TILLMAN, Governor.

The Third Party Scheme.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Dec. 17.—At a meeting in Jacksonville last nigi, attended by General Master Worman Powderly and John Davis, member elect of Congress from Kansas, on behalf of the Knights of Labor, President Polk, National Lecturer Willets, members of the executive board, Wardwell of North Dakota, and others of the Farmers' Alliance, it was decided to have a convention at Cincinnatti on February 23d, as had been arranged.

It was decided that the call for the Cincinnati convention should not be formally issued, but that in its stead, a conference composed of five from each of the organizations appointed should be held some time in February which should go over the ground carefully and without taking formal action practically decide what course of action should be pursued. This is a decided victory for the conservative element among the third party men.

Lynched by Negroes.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Dec. —Dan Williams, an old negro, livin eight miles from Quincy, Fla., was lyched by negroes last night. Houses and outbuildings of several negroes have recently been burned, and it is thght he was the guilty party.

WINDING UP THEIR WORK.

THE LEGISLATURE FINISHES ITS ANNUAL TASK.

Important Measures Postponed as Usual—The Rush of Private and Local Matters—Some Notable Enactments.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 20.—Special: The Legislative session may now be said to have ended. The work of the three days of next week will be of a very formal and, indeed, perfunctory character. Laws will be passed at a speed limited only by the vocal capacity of the reading clerks. The opportunity for discussion is past. All that the most keen-eyed legislator may now hope to do, lies in the amendment of pending laws where their deficiencies are of the most glaring character. The merits of the case cannot now be considered. This haste, incident to the rush of business in the last days of the session has been one of the evils of our law-making ever since the Legislature restored the old rule of adjourning before Christmas, "whether for no." The serious aspect of the thing appears in the fact that some—frequently most—of the important measures go through their last stages in the closing hours of the session. Under such circumstances there is constant danger of some clerical error or some informality of procedure, just serious enough to render worthless a very important measures.

The present session, as will have been observed by the readers of this correspondence, has formed no exception to the rule that the minor matters of law-making absorbed the attention of both branches of the General Assembly for the first two weeks at least. Something different appears to have been expected of the present body, but the circumstances suggested in this correspondence, as inducing delay, have been more than usually operative upon the members. There have, of course, been numbers of bills passed. These, however, as already indicated, have been chiefly of local interest—measures determined, really, by the wishes of the members representing the particular community affected. The matters of general interest will now be noted.

NEW MEASURES.

Among these were the following:

Bill to punish frauds or misrepresentations in the manufacture, analysis or sale of fertilizers and commercial manures in this State. (House.) This bill makes it a misdemeanor to violate any of the regulations as to the manufacture and analysis of commercial fertilizers, punishable with not more than $500 line or one year's imprisonment, or both in the discretion of the Court.

Bill to provide for the redistricting of the several counties of this State and to provide for the election of school trustees. The bill relates to the reformation of school districts throughout the State. (House)

Bill to regulate the sale of intoxicating liquors in this State.

The purpose of this measure is to prohibit the sale of spiritous and malt liquors within this State. The bill is a copy of the Kansas [illegible] law [illegible] the county [illegible] to do under very rigid conditions. They must give a bond in the sum of $1,000 to carry out the terms of the permit, which cannot be granted unless the druggist seeking it is a man of good moral character and has not engaged in the sale of intoxicating liquor for so many years. He is required to keep a book in which shall be entered the amount of liquor purchased, where from and what for, and must account for its distribution before he can purchase more. The railroads are forbidden to transport liquor to any one except druggists, and only to them upon a permit from the county commissioners.

In the event of a violation of the terms of the law the bond will be forfeited and a portion of it will go to the parties injured by the violation and the remainder to the school fund.

Mr. Norton, from the House committee on mines and minning, submitted with a favorable report and with amendments a bill to create a phosphate commission and define its powers and duties. The bill has been fully described, but the amendments proposed by the committee change it materially.

The committee recommend that the phosphate commissioners shall consist of the Governor, Attorney General and Comptroller General and two citizens to be appointed by the other three commissioners for terms of four and six years respectively. Also that no increase of royalty be made by the commissioners without six months' notice. Also the commission is empowered to make contracts with phosphate companies on such terms as they see fit for periods not exceeding seven years.

Next follows a provision for the restoration to the State of the phosphate territory now worked by the Coosaw Company.

THE RAILROAD BILL.

Mr. Yeldell, from the committee on railroads, reported favorably on the railroad bill with a large number of amendments. The most important are these:

The three commissioners are to be elected by the Legislature for a term six years instead of being appointed by the Governor. Only two commissioners, however, will be elected at this session, as the committee has decided that under the law Mr. Jervey will hold over for two years longer.

The Governor is given the power to fill vacancies occurring between sessions of the Legislature, such appointee to hold until the following meeting of the General Assembly, when an election must be held to fill the vacancy. One of the two commissioners to be elected at this session is for the unexpired term of Commissioner Bonham.

The commissioners are to be paid out of the State treasury $2,100 a year each, and they are to be furnished with a clerk at a salary of $1,200, and an office and equipment to cost not more than $500, also to be paid by the State instead of by the railroads.

The board is given full power to make up a schedule of rates for freight and passengers, both for long and short hauls, and for joint hauls over more than one road, and to prevent discrimination. The people are given an appeal to the Courts from the decisions of the board. There are a number of minor amendments looking to conform the bill to the Georgia law.

The fate of these different measures will have been decided in some way when this paper reaches its readers.

THE LABOR BILL.

This bill, which was the first introduced in the House, was laid on the table and the substitute reported by the committee was taken up for consideration. The bill is entitled: A bill to regulate the hours of labor of children under 16 years of age and females in all cotton and woollen manufacturing establishments in this State, and to provide remedies for violation of the same. It limits the time of labor for children under 16 years of age and for women to eleven hours a day, and it allows operatives to make up lost time not exceeding one hundred and ten hours in a year. After some debate the bill was passed and sent to the Senate.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

When the Senate resolution to ratify the amendment to the Constitution abolishing boards of county commissioners as constitutional officers elected by the people came up in the House the friends of the amendment pushed the fight.

Mr. Ernest Gary opened the debate with a strong speech favoring the passage of the bill. He took the ground mainly that the people had adopted the amendment at the ballot-box and there was nothing for the Representatives of the people to do but to ratify their action.

Mr. John Gary Evans also favored the bill, taking pretty much the same line of argument.

Mr. Timmerman favored the bill both on the ground that the people had declared in favor of the amendment and because he thought the counties could manage their affairs much more satisfactorily under some other system.

Mr. Brennen opposed the bill on the ground that the amendment would take away from the people the right to elect officers to manage their own county affairs.

Mr Finley opposed the bill. He took the ground that the adoption of the amendment at the recent election had not been a fair expression of the will of the people. The amendment had been adopted by a vote of 24,000 to 18,000 out of a total vote in the State of 232,000. As there was strong probability of a constitutional convention shortly he thought it very inadvisable to tinker with the Constitution in the way proposed.

Mr. Ira B. Jones favored the bill. He said that the fact that boards of county commissioners was a constitutional office had been an obstacle for years in the way of county reforms. The county commissioners had enormous powers and while it was true that they did submit the levies they desired to the county delegations in the General Assembly, yet it was not at all improbable that they had the right residing in themselves of levying any tax they saw fit. The people had declared at the recent election that they wanted this office removed from the Constitution, and as their Representatives he thought they should carry out their wishes.

The vote was then taken by yeas and nays and resulted in the ratification of the amendment by a vote of 97 to 20.

The joint resolution having duly passed the Senate, the ammendment awaits but the signature of the [illegible] nor to be of force. This [illegible] course receive. The [illegible] amendment is to leave [illegible] free to adopt any [illegible] government which [illegible] best.

The bill [illegible] lien law [illegible] both [illegible]

[illegible] vested case in favor of [illegible] incumbent.

The House judiciary committee reported unfavorably on the following:

The Charleston metropolitan police bill. Report unanimous.

Bill to prohibit express companies from transporting matter for lottery companies.

Bill to empower the Governor to remove sheriffs.

Bill to provide for the election of an extra Circuit Judge.

Each of the above was killed.

The joint resolution extening the time for paying taxes without penalty until February 1 has passed both the House and the Senate, and has been ratified and signed by the Governor. The State officers hold that the joint resolution being practically a law the county treasurers will continue to receive taxes without penalty.

The supply bill levies a tax of 4½ mills for State purposes. To this must, of course, be added the constitutional school tax of two mills, the county taxes and the special taxes.

PENITENTIARY OFFICES.

The two houses met in joint assembly on Wednesday to elect a superintendent and three directors of the State penitentiary. The following named gentlemen were placed in nomination: Henry Massey, of York, N. W. Brooker, of Edgefield, J. T. Gaston, of Aiken, J. R. Earle of Oconee, and W. J. Talbert of Edgefield.

Mr. Talbert was easily elected on the first ballot by a vote of 112, the remaining vote being divided as follows: J. T. Gaston, 17; A. W. Brooker, 10; J. R. Earle, 9; Henry Massey, 4; T. J. Lipscomb, 1.

The joint assembly next proceeded to the election of the board of directors.

The following named gentlemen were placed in nomination, with brief speeches setting forth the fitness of each for the duties of the position.

W. A. Neal, of Anderson; Thos. Anderson, of Fairfield; T. J. Cunningham, of Chester; J. G. Guignard, of Lexington; J. L. Ramsey, of York; Henry Oliver, of Charleston; Absalom Horne, of Edgefield. Messrs. Oliver, Cunningham and Neal were declared duly elected on the first ballot their respective ballots as follows, 108, 98 and 90.

The election being over the joint assembly then dissolved.

Messrs. Anderson and Guignard are incumbents.

A New Process.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The annual report of the chief of the chemical divisions of the agricultural department contains an account of the process recently perfected at the department as a result of the experiment in the chemical laboratory with reference to the manufactuer of sorghum sugar.

The chemist claims substantially an increase in the yield of sugar per thousand gallons of juice of from an average of about 10,000 pounds to an average of over 21,597 at an increase of cost of production of $84 for the alcohol which enteres into the new process.

The report recited some various difficulties hitherto found in the economic manufacture of sugar from sorghum, and indicates that the solution of the question was to be found in some process which would separate, as nearly as possible, gummy amorphous bodies from the juice without precipitating sugar. The known property of alcohol to produce precipitation in the juice was made use of in the further study of the problem. The difficulties, says the report, which have been encountered in manufacturing sugar from sorgum juice have been solely due to the presence of gums. Not only has the removal of the gums been effected by the process evolved during these experiments, but it has been shown that this can be effected at a cost comparatively trifling by comparison with the results obtained.

THE ALLIANCE BANK.

A Few Facts About It That Will Be of Interest.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 18.—The trustee stockholders of the Exchange will meet in Columbia on the 28th of next January to perfect arrangements for establishing the Farmers' Alliance Bank, and it is of vital importance that every cent of subscribed stock should be paid in on or before that time. Brethren, the successful operation of the State Exchange of the Farmers' Alliance of South Carolina depends in a great measure upon the prompt payment of this stock. Can we not hope that this will be done, and that other sub-Alliances, who have done nothing in this direction, will in like manner send in their subscriptions?

The State Exchange, desiring to be just to sub-alliances in its connection, at its meeting in Columbia unanimously adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That sub-alliances which have subscribed one or more shares of stock to the State Exchange and have paid a part of the same, and have, since making such payment, been reduced in membership below the constitutional number upon which said subscription was based, that all sub-alliances shall have the benefit of such reduction in membership and receive credit from the State Exchange on their stock for any amount thus overpaid.

At a meeting to be held on the 28th of January, 1891, not only will the banking business be discussed, but this will be discussed in connection with the future management of the State Exchange, and it is highly probable that many changes will be made in the rules which have heretofore governed the management of the Exchange. The whole business will be discussed, and an effort will be made to reach the wisest conclusions. Let every member of the Alliance regard the subject as one in which he is most deeply interested and send in such suggestions to the meeting as will in his opinion most likely lead to the best results.

But, over and beyond every other consideration, let every true and loyal member of the [illegible] put forth his best efforts in [illegible] that the more due the State [illegible] alliances be [illegible] on or before [illegible]

With the [illegible] bright [illegible] Carolina [illegible] can [illegible]

[illegible] ion dollars location [illegible] the [illegible]

[illegible] at a low [illegible] wild clamor for credit, every intelligent person must admit. That no system could be devised or its operation be so guarded as to prevent partiality and favoritism in its distribution; first, to personal friends of the loaning agent, next to his political associates, every thoughtful man must foresee.

That it would create a feeling of helpless dependence upon government aid by those whom it is designed to benefit thereby relaxing their individual effort, destroying their energy and self-reliance and rendering them helpless mendicants of government charity, every observer of human nature must know. That it would lead to thriftless improvidence, relying upon government aid or government forbearence by those whom it seeks to benefit, and prove a curse instead of a blessing, is so plainly evident that we are surprised that the National Grange should allow itself to be carried away by the clamor of those who hope to gain for themselves public preferment by holding out a scheme so enticing to the ignorant or improvident debtor and scheming speculator.

Death on the Rail.

NEWBERRY, S. C., Dec. 13.—There was a fearful accident on the construction train of the Columbia, Newberry and Laurens Railroad about one mile above here this afternoon, by which conductor Walling and two negroes were killed and several others injured.

The engine was pushing several flats loaded with iron and crossties and one of the cars loaded with crossties jumped the track and in some way shoved under the car loaded with the iron rails and turned it over. On this car were conductor James T. Walling and several of the hands. Walling and two negroes were instantly killed. Another negro had his arm crushed by the heavy iron and was otherwise injured and will probably die. Several others were slightly hurt.

Walling is from Columbia and leaves a wife and one child. The inquest was held this afternoon.—Columbia Register.

Three of a Kind and Two Pair.

PITTSBURG, Pa., Dec 17.—Mrs. Blume of Allgheny has surprised her neighbors and her husband during the past two years by giving birth to seven children. A few days since Mrs. Blume presented her husband with triplets—two strapping boy babies and a healthy girl. Not quite a year ago Mr. Blume was surprised by twins, and during the preceding year her first two children were born. The triplets, who are described as clipper, and their prolific mother are doing well. Mrs. Blume is a woman of ordinary build and her children are all well formed and healthy.

Twelve Hundred Miners on a Strike.

CHEYENNE, Wyoming, Dec. 17.—Twelve hundred miners and laborers at the Rock Springs mines of the Union Pacific Railroad Company are on a strike and mines are all idle. The company gave notice Saturday that they proposed paying the miners a by the hour. A mass meeting was held yesterday and the strike resolved upon. It is believed that the company intended forestalling the effect of the eight hour law, introduced in the present State Legislature, which is likely to pass.

A Bloody Arkansas Tragedy.

FORT SMITH, Ark., Dec. 11.—Charles Joplin shot and killed five persons today at the Jenny Lind mine, twelve miles from here, and then committed suicide by shooting himself. Those killed were John Miller, his wife, his grown daughter, Lou Miller, Dr. Stewart, a prominent physician, and a man whose name is not known. The shooting occured late in the day and details are meagre. The only clue to the cause of the killing lies in a report that Dr. Stewart intimated that Joplin was the cause of Miss Miller's trouble.

BETTER THAN GOLD.

A DISCOVERY THAT MEANS MILLIONS FOR AIKEN COUNTY.

The Invention of an Amateur Chemist that will Bring him Immence Wealth—A Process for Transforming Kaolin into Aluminum.

COLUMBIA, December 14.—A gentleman who registered at the Grand Central Hotel to-night has knowledge of a discovery which when fully developed will make the kaolin beds of this State infinitely more valuable than the phosphate deposits. He asked the representative of The News and Courier if he knew Mr P. A. Emanuel of the Aiken Bar, which being answered, he went on to relate the following facts:

It is known that a fortune not to be reckoned by millions awaits the discoverer of a cheap process for the manufacture of aluminum. About a year ago Mr Emanuel applied himself to this problem, and it is believed that he has arrived at its correct solution. The material which he used is the kaolin of Aiken County, the basis with which he worked sulphuric acid. On making the discovery Mr Emanuel went to Washington and submitted his processes to the scientists there, and now has his discovery secure from attack by the proper letters, patent and caveats.

Not very long ago aluminum was sold at about $26,000 a ton, but by a process which was considered final the price was reduced at Pittsburg to two dollars and a half a pound or about $5,000 a ton.

The startling announcement is made now that by the ingenuity of Mr Emanuel aluminum can be freed from kaolin at a cost of about two dollars and a half a ton, being a price two thousand times less than by the Pittsburg process. As there is now more demand in the world for aluminum for mechanical purposes than there is for gold, the immensity of the field and fortune for the discoverer will be apparent.

[illegible] from Bristo[illegible] [illegible]ocking accident occu[illegible] red at the Mill Street railroad crossing, this afternoon, by which four persons were killed, one fatally wounded and one seriously hurt. The accident was caused by the safety gates at the crossing being raised just before the New York westbound train was due.

A number of persons had been waiting for a freight train to pass, and as soon as the gates were raised, started to cross. John McIlvaine, a teamster started across with his wagon, in which were his 13-year-old son, Nea. McIlvaine Jos. Huessay, about the same age, Hugh Devere, a storekeeper on Pine Street, and Jno. McGee, about fifteen years old.

The express train, which was running at full speed, struck the wagon instantly killing Neal McIlvaine, Jos. Hussey and Hugh Devere. Jno. McIlvaine had his shoulder and leg broken, ribs crushed and was otherwise internally injured. He is not expected to live.

Two boys were struck with