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The Weekly Clarion.

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THE PALACE OF TEARS.

Rise, rainbow-arched and cloud embraced,
  Pale palaces of my dream.
Whose misty outlines once I traced
  Afar, by night's chill gleam,
And, by some spirit earthward strayed,
  Whose home the moon enspheres,
Was drawn a shade through halls of shade,
  Where glistened only tears.

The dripping dome like silver glowed;
  The walls with briny pearls
Were crusted o'er; the floor I strode
  With countless eddying whirls
Of diamond water-drops spun round;
  I moved—a ghost, unheard—
Not freer from pursuit of sound
  The shadow of a bird.

And moving on, an open court
  Appeared, where tossed and caught
Their molten gems in sullen sport
  Dark fountains, jewel fraught;
I stopped—my lips recoiled in haste;
  The Lethean flow of years
Can never wash away that taste,
  That bitter taste of tears.

As if by that one draught of dole,
  My vision cleared, and lo!
The iron entered in my soul
  While in a wizard show.
The weary, weary, weeping train
  Of mortal miseries,
The pilgrimage of human pain
  Defiled before my eyes,

And I, whom grief had known in name
  And sympathy in form,
Now trembled through my inmost frame,
  A shaken reed in storm.
But, fascinated, in my fear
  I saw each pallid face,
Where sorrows burning, branding tear
  Had left its ashen trace.

And drawn resistless to the throng
  By answering chords of pain,
I joined my minor to the song,
  My trouble to the train;
And still from hall to hall we trod,
  And still our numbers swelled
The wild, weird labyrinth; yet, O God,
  Thy clue our fingers held.

THE SCOTT COUNTY MURDERERS.

Full Particulars and Commutation of their Sentence.

[From the Brandon Republican.

Last Friday was the day appointed for the execution of Bill and Jesse Jones, at Forest, for the cold-blooded and brutal murder of John Buckley, a most estimable citizen of Scott county. We had a reporter on the ground, and have received several letters from prominent citizens of Scott county, and from them we gather the following facts:

The murder of Buckley, by Bill and Jesse Jones, was cold-blooded, premeditated and brutal. They acknowledged the killing, boasted of it, and gloried in having committed the deed. They were arrested, tried by a Radical judge and a jury composed of both white and black men. The witnesses against them were men and women of their own color. One negro woman swore she heard them say they would put Buckley "where the grass would grow over him, and where the dogs would not bark at him." Another negro swore he saw one of them strike Buckley with one hand and *stab him in the back* simultaneously with the other. Buckley, though mortally wounded, fled for his life, and was pursued by the other negro, who was armed with an axe. The negro caught him, dealt him a murderous blow, knocked him down, and then straddling his body, hit him a second lick with the axe, crushing his skull. The evidence was overwhelming as to their guilt—the jury said they were guilty—the judge sentenced them to be hung, and the people, both white and black, Republicans and Democrats, said they richly deserved their fate. Old Capt. Owens, the oldest and most influential Republican in the county, who sat within the bar during the trial, and heard all the evidence, said he did not see how any defence could be made. They were defended by one of the ablest lawers in East Mississippi, but the proof was so strong and positive that the jury was bound to convict. After their conviction and sentence they were sent to Meridian for safe keeping. The day for their execution arrived, and an immense crowd assembled to witness it, when, to the astonishment of everybody, a dispatch was received from Governor Ames stating that he had commuted the sentence to imprisonment for life. This dispatch aroused the indignation of every body. * * * * As the crowd increased, and the outrage was commented upon more fully, the excitement became intense, and a crowd began to form to go to Meridian, break down the jail and hang the murderers. The crowd increased rapidly, but finally the advice of the more prudent prevailed, and it was abandoned. They then made an effigy of Ames, laid it on one of the coffins prepared for the murderers, placed the coffin on a dray, and amid the cries, shouts, jeers and groans of the excited and insulted populace, drove it through the streets, and finally hung it to a limb near the depot.

A Wonderful Cave.

In the range of mountains in Western North Carolina, known as the "Fork Range," a most singular phenomenon exists. It is a breathing cave. In the summer months a current of air comes from it so strongly that a person can't walk against it, while in the winter the suction is just as great. The cool air from the mountain in the summer is felt for miles, in a direct line from the mouth of the cave. At times a most unpleasant oder is emitted upon the current from dead carcasses of animals sucked in and killed by its violence. The loss of cattle and stock in that section in winter is accounted for in this way:—They range too near the mouth of the cave, and the current carries them in. At times, when the change from inhalation to exhalation begins, the air is filled with various hairs of animals; not unfrequently bones and whole carcasses are seen miles from the place. The air has been known to change materially in temperature during exhalation, from quite cool to unpleasantly hot, withering vegitation, within reach, and accompanied by a terrible, roaring, gurgling sound, as of a pot boiling. It is unaccounted for by scientific men who have examined it, though no exploration can take place. It is feared by many that a volcanic eruption may break forth there some time. Such things have occurred in places as little unexpected.—Richmond Enquirer.

PROTECTION FROM OVERFLOW —IN THE— MISSISSIPPI VALLEY.

—BY—

T. S. Hardee, Civil Engineer.

[To the Editor of the N. O. Times.

The greatest engineering problem in America at the present day is a solution of the difficulties connected with the protection of the Mississippi Valley from overflow.

THE LESSON TAUGHT

by the calamities, now so disastrously felt by the agricultural community, convinces every one that the

LEVEE SYSTEM

as adopted and carried on for nearly a half century is

IMPERFECT AND UNRELIABLE,

and does not meet the requirements of the great and incalculable interests involved. The question arises then

WHAT MORE IS NEEDED

and how shall it be executed?

The time has undoubtedly arrived when every engineer who has had any experience, or who entertains any views, should give them publicity, and it is this consideration for the public welfare which has prompted the writer to prepare this paper, and to furnish what crude ideas he may have on the subject. He knows the positions he will assume may be criticised and combatted by other engineers differing with him in opinion; but it is mainly by this mode of discussion that new ideas can be evolved, and that out of numerous theories advanced some plan may possibly be adopted and put in practice which may prevent a recurrence of the present troubles, and make the Lower Mississippi Valley what it was by nature intended to be,

THE AGRICULTURAL GARDEN SPOT OF THE WORLD.

A hasty outline of the topography of this lower valley may prove necessary to the general reader, in order to comprehend fully the suggestions which will hereafter be made.

The lands embraced in the levee district or what are generally termed alluvial lands, may be considered as divided into three distinct classes. First, the canebrake lands, which are the highest, and which are situated on the banks of the river, and on the interior lakes and bayous. Second, the open swamp lands adjoining these canebrakes, which are heavily timbered, but interior in elevation; and third, the lakes, lagoons, and cypress brakes, which are the lowest and which permanently hold water.

The lands of the first-class are, and have been, the only ones considered valuable for cultivation, on account of their superior elevation, and these lands embrace only about thirty per cent. of the entire area. The lands of the third-class are on an average about eight or ten feet below the elevation of the canebrakes, and are the reservoirs of all the natural drainage from the higher lands. The lands of the second and third-class combined, embracing about seventy per cent. of the entire alluvial area, form together a basin which is capable of holding an immense volume of water, before the lands of the first-class, or the tiliable lands, are liable to be submerge.

THE LEVEE SYSTEM WAS INAUGURATED

on the banks of the Mississippi principally for the purpose of reclaiming the above discribed lands of the first-class, the larger proportion of which were almost annually inundated by the overflow of the river in its lateral discharges, and thus rendered valueless. But in attempting to protect and reclaim the most valuable of the classes of land by the construction of a continuous and unbroken line of earth work or levee, the water was necessarily excluded from the entire area, and no provision has been made up to the present time for any compensation to nature for even a part of that of which she has been deprived. On the contrary, there has been an

UNCOMPROMISING WARFARE UPON NATURE

from the very beginning of levee construction, and that she is capable of rebelling, and that too with a vengeance, is too plainly manifest in the deplorable scenes which we are daily witnessing around us.

The advocates of the present system have placed reliance in the hope and belief that the concentration of the water in one channel would so increase the current as to fully compensate for this exclusion of the water from its natural outlets and basins; and that no material increase in the rise of the river would result from an unbroken line of levees. This hope and belief, however, have not been fully realized, and the time has now arrived when

SOME COMPROMISE WITH NATURE

should be attempted, which will have the tendency at least to lessen the chances of future disaster. The plan herein advocated is based on such a compromise, and it is believed will afford of itself very great relief; and as an auxiliary to other requirements promises adequate and permanent protection.

In every plantation on the Mississippi River there are one or more canals or large ditches leading from the front back to the swamp or lowlands in the rear.

UTILIZE THESE ARTIFICIAL CONDUITS

by constructing in the top or surface portion of the levee

TIMBERED WASTE-WAYS

opposite to each one, so that when the annual high water comes, and after reaching a certain elevation, it would waste itself gradually through these timbered ways, and thence by the canals and ditches to the natural basins in the rear from which it has been otherwise artifically excluded. The waste-ways should be constructed so that when the water reaches a point about three feet below the high water mark, it would then begin to waste itself. As the water in the river continued to rise, that which would pass in this way through the top portion of the levee could be kept under perfect control by a gate contrivance, which would allow only that quantity of water to escape which the ditches would be capable of conveying to the rear, without in the least endangering the plantations. It will be thus seen that only

THE THEN EXISTING SURFACE WATER

is dealt with by this process, and that there will ensue no material disturbance in the the river current, or interference with the capacity of the river to make its fullest discharge through its regular channel, as contemplated by the advocates of the present levee system. In other words, these waste ways being distributed uniformly over a long distance, would discharge in the aggregate an

IMMENSE VOLUME OF WATER

which would otherwise have to pass any given point, and it is plain that some relief, whether little or great, must result from such a system.

The opening also of those natural outlets in the lower delta of the Mississippi, which have been closed by the levee system, is demanded as

AN ADDITIONAL COMPROMISE WITH NATURE,

and should be effected. Engineers have differed, and will continue to differ, in their views as to the practicability of this measure in connection with the levee system; but the writer is fully impressed that no great advantage has been proven to be gained by their closing, and that absolute good promises to be derived from their opening.

There are two points to which special attention should be directed. One of these is the Bayou Manchac, through which the water would waste itself into the Gulf through Lake Maurepas, on the eastern side of the river, and the other, the Bayou Plaquemine, which would perform a similar service on its western slope. These bayous could be opened and so protected with wing levees that little, if any, damage to present interests would necessarily ensue.

The idea recently advanced of making an artificial channel from Bonnet Carre to Lake Ponchartrain, and as advocated many years ago by Ellet in his admirable work on the physics of the Mississippi, is not now desirable, nor under the circumstances, practicable. When Ellet advanced this theory, the Jackson Railroad was not thought of; and to carry out his idea at the present day, with that great commercial thoroughfare connected so intimately as it is with the business interests of New Orleans, would be to wipe it out of existence, and this consideration alone is sufficient to stamp it as impracticable.

Any engineer acquainted with the topography of the country on the Jackson Railroad, including, especially, the Trembling Prairies which would be most affected by such a channel as is proposed, could not hesitate to pronounce that it would cost the company millions to be fully protected against the annual visit of such an enemy as would march irresistibly through it; and at best, it is problematical whether any works could be constructed which would remain secure or permanent, and defy successfully the powerful attacks thus directed against them. Therefore, this idea should be abandoned and attention directed to the Bayou Manchac, which is a natural outlet, and the opening and cleaning of which would promise nearly as much relief as this Bonnet Carre project.

One of the first considerations, to which the plans herein proposed are

ONLY AUXILIARIES,

is that the old levees should be repaired and the new ones so constructed that when completed and fully settled, they should show at least two feet above the highest water mark known. The present season has demonstrated that

FOUR-FIFTHS OF THE LEVEES ARE ENTIRELY TOO LOW,

and more than half of them scarcely as high as the water mark of 1871. There is also a great fault perpetrated in the construction of levees by not resorting to some mode of

ARTIFICIAL SETTLING

as the work progresses. In the most cases the work is done with wheelbarrows, and the mass of loose earth which is thrown up, allowed to settle as best it can by the slow processes of nature. When works so constructed are finished on the eve of the high water season, it is evident that they are not as strong as they ought to be, to withstand the pressure of water which is so soon to come against them. There have been several expedients resorted to by the writer for artificial settling, which would insure a compact mass as the work progresses, at very little additional cost; and there can be no question as to the absolute necessity for some such mode to be adopted in the building of levees, so as to give them the greatest amount of

IMMEDIATE STRENGTH AND EFFECTIVENESS.

But with all the expedients resorted to, and with the most perfect system that can be adopted, there will still be dangers to encounter, and

CREVASSES WILL CONTINUE TO OCCUR

from local causes, such as the borings of crawfish and the insidious musk rat, and which cannot always be prevented by the utmost vigilance; but the problem to solve in this regard is to devise the most perfect system of

POLICE REGULATIONS UNDER THOROUGH ORGANIZATION,

by which the danger of crevasses will be reduced to a minimum, and under which

THE CLOSING OF CREVASSES

when they occur, will be rendered most sure and speedy.

The question arises, then, how can these desirable objects be best attained, and most effectively sustained?

The answer is, by the

UNITED STATES GOVEREMENT BECOMING THE PRORRIETOR AND GUARDIAN

of the whole levee system, including construction and maintenance. The proprietorship can no doubt be secured by some arrangement with the States interested, or through proper negotiations with those who may hold vested rights under previous State legislation, and the whole accomplished through necessary Congressional enactments.

The guardianship could then be effectively maintained through and by means of the regular army organization. A regiment of one thousand men, organized something after the manner of sappers and miners, and drilled especially in the study and practice of preventing as well as closing crevasses, would be worth, in time of emergency like the present, one hundred thousand such laborers as are now improvised for similar work.

They should be distributed, during the high water season, in companies of one hundred each, at suitable points selected as stations or depots, where transportation and all necessary material and outfit should be kept ready at hand, so that with the aid of the telegraph the required force could be concentrated at any endangered point in the shortest posssible time. With such a system once established the dangers of crevasses would certainly be reduced to a minimum, and their closing rendered most sure and speedy.

This corps of levee troops would still form a part of the effective force of the regular army for other duties in time of need, and their equipment and maintenance would add but little to the general military expenses of the Government.

The great difficulty connected with the present system is that there is

NO PROPER ORGANZATION,

and when danger arises, valuable time is lost in making the necessary repairs, which lost time can never be regained. Nearly any crevasse can be closed even under the present management, if the necessary material and labor could be gotten to the spot within a few hours after the occurrence, and work promptly commenced.

But there are generally fatal delays, occasioned by this very want of organization; and every one knows who has seen and studied the nature of crevasses, that every hour lost increases more and more the difficulties of closing the break, so that a period is soon reached by this failure to commence work, which renders success almost impossible.

A Beautiful Tribute to Southern Women.

We have seldom read a more touching and eloquent tribute to woman's humility and strength than that contained in the address of Colonel Thomas Hardeman, of Macon, Ga., delivered at the decoration of the Confederate graves in the soldiers' cemetery, at Atlanta, a few days since. Said the eloquent speaker:

"Like the captive Hebrews, they sing not now the songs that wake to music sweet their David's harp, for that harp now hangs upon the willows by the rivers of Babylon, where they sit down and weep over fallen Judea. True, they sing the songs of marriage feasts, and vintage ingatherings, yet they come with flower and tear to testify to their sympathy in the sorrow of the land, and their undying appreciation of their gallant dead. What better offering has sorrow or grief than the timid heart's ease, or the modest fern? What purer testimonial of the heart than the humble violet, planted by beauty's hand over the loved one's grave? As the trees that grew over the grave of the daughter of Thrace, at stated periods, dropped the tears of their branches over her resting place, so do these noble women come when spring flowers bloom to plant the memorial shrub and shed their tears of love over the humble mounds that tell where our heroes sleep. For this I give them honor and praise; and unfeeling must be the heart that does not do homage to our Southern women, the perfection of beauty, and the glory of the land. With them patriotism is a religion, and love an element of life. The hour of adversity was their hour of triumph. Does the storm gather and the tempest sweep? Man, the Bashan oak falls before the fury of the blast, but woman, the willow by the waters, flourished, beautiful in her humility and luxuriant in her sorrow, when the tempest was over. Do the thunders crash or the lightning strike? Man, the towering pine is riven by the stroke. Woman, the humble flower nestling among our garden plants, emitted a sweeter fragrance when the storm was hushed. Firm, constant, devoted patriotism, pure as the waters from "Chindara's Fount," enthused their bosoms and signalized their lives. Meek, gentle and confiding, a devotion and love sweet as the fruits of the "Amrita tree" characterized their every action. Generous and self-sacrificing, they stripped beauty of its jewels and home of its luxuries for the success of their cause and the comfort of their braves. And now that the flag is uprolled and the jacket of grey hangs empty on the wall, they bring their offerings of love for those who

"Died for the land they could not save."

Col. Rodert A. Smith.

[From the Galveston News.

ED'S NEWS:—in your edition of May 23, 1874, I find the following:

"A monument to the memory of Col. R. A. Smith, a soldier in the Confederate army, has been erected at Dean Cemetery, in Edinburgh, Scotland.

It is not my object here to eulogize the noble dead, but it may not be uninteresting to the many Mississippians now living in the Lone Star State, to know that the soldier referred to above, whose memory will ever be dear to those who knew him, was Colonel of the Tenth Mississippi Infantry Regiment, and fell while gallantly leading his glorious regiment against the Federals in Fort Craig, at Mumfordsville, Kentucky, on the 14th of September, 1862.

Col. Smith, though quite a young man was at the beginning of the war, elected Captain of the "Mississippi Rifles," an organization in Jackson, Mississippi, which for years before the outbreak, had existed as the champion military company of the State, and of which this writer had the honor to be junior Second Lieutenant. Under orders from President Davis, Capt. Smith, on the 27th of March, 1861, with 104 men, rank and file—men as brave and fearless as ever faced the mouth of a cannon, or a volley of musketry—proceeded to Pensacola, Fla., where, after the death of Col. Mose Phillips, our first Colonel after organizing a regiment, we were loathe to give up our Captain, he having been elected by a large majority Colonel of the regiment, and at the age of twenty-three years.

His keen and thorough knowledge of military tactics and discipline often caused him to be taken from us and placed in command of other regiments and brigades; and at the time of his death, it was reported and generally believed that he had been promoted to a Brigadier General, though an order to that effect was never published.

Col. Robt. A. Smith was a Scotchman by birth, a gentleman and soldier by nature and instinct, a Confederate, American and Mississippian by adoption. His brother, Jas. Smith, then in Scotland, armed and equipped a company (at his own expense,) afterward organized in Jackson, and in honor of R. A. and Jas. Smith, the company was named "Smith Quitman Rifles."

Very Respectfully,

W. R. D.

The Riot in Plaquemine.

[From the N. O. Bulletin.

From a gentleman who has just arrived from Plaquemine we learn that the riot which occurred there last Saturday evening was quite a serious and significant affair. One negro man was killed outright, another was dying when our informant left, and several others were suffering from severe wounds.

It appears that there has grown up in Plaquemine, as in other parishes, a feeling of antagonism between the genuine negroes and the rascally carpet-baggers and their mulatto allies. This feeling has recently become much intensified by the attempt on the part of the latter faction to rule the former and to appropriate all the offices and emoluments. The negroes have very naturally resisted this attempt, and, being largely in the ascendant as regards votes, have pretty effectually signified their determination to stand no more such nonsense.

The meeting, which finally broke up in a riot, was the third which had been called by the Radicals in the parish for the purpose of organization.

The fight was quite a lively one, but the negroes were entirely victorious, putting the carpet-baggers and mulattoes completely to flight, and remaining in undisturbed possession of the field. The opponents are either housed in the town or are hiding in the woods. Almost all the mulattoes have abandoned the plantations and taken to the swamps in fear of the enraged negroes.

The resident white people have taken no part either way in the scrimmage.

HISTORICAL CORRECTION.

Letter from Gen. Jordan, Beauregard's Late Chief of Staff.

[From the N. Y. Evening Mail.

In your notice of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's "Narrative of Military Operations," it is stated that "The best part of the book is that which refers to the first Bull Run campaign. In this Gen. Johnston is almost invariably correct in his actions and conclusions. * * Johnston knew the value of concentration for a fight. He played with Patterson, deceived him, reinforced Beauregard and won a victory which equal common-sense and generalship would have given to us."

This statement, of course, grows out of the supposition that the strategy which led to, and the tactics of the successful confederate forces in the memorable battle of the 21st of July, 1861, emanated from Gen. Johnston. Admitting that something of the language of the work in question warrants the conclusion cited, the present writer, who was in a position at the time to know the facts, feels called upon in the interest of history to show that the confederate commander was Beauregard and none other. Johnston was indeed the superior officer present, nevertheless, he neither assumed the chief command upon his arrival immediately preceding the action, nor in any substantial manner took direction of the battle after it was engaged, and for reasons by no means hard to explain. (1.) He did not come upon the theatre of operation until about noon the day before the battle, and brought with him barely 6,000 men. Already, on the 18th, Beauregard's forces had been in collision with and repelled McDowell's army in an effort to pass Bull Run at Blackburn's Ford. A general engagement was evidently impending, and was already maturely prepared for by Beauregard. (2.) The responsibilty for that battle was a very grave one. It was the first of the war, and defeat would not only bring supreme disaster to the cause at stake, but fatal discredit to the general who had offered battle under so many unfavoring circumstances. (3.) The immediate position and surrounding country were wholly unknown to Johnston, but as familiar to Beauregard as a nursery tale. (4.) Further, the bulk of the troops assembled were of Beauregard's organization, with supreme faith in him. They knew nothing of Johnston, nor he aught of them, except that they were not regular troops. (5.) The strategic movement which had brought Johnston with a portion of his forces upon the scene, was emphatically of Beauregard's conception. Urgently suggested by him, it was only acceded to and carried out by Johnston, as can be shown, upon Beauregard's strenuous telegraphic appeals—made as late as July 17—for the junction of the two armies.

Under such circumstances it was very natural for Johnston to leave with Beauregard the responsibility of so tremendous an issue as the one now inevitable, and so, waiving the command, he left to Beauregard the execution of that general's own plan of battle, with the details of which he was made acquainted during the afternoon and night of the 20th of July. That Johnston should have done this was to his credit, and it is to be regretted that anything in the language of the narrative should give countenance to the idea that he now sets up the claim to any control over a successful battle, of the issue of which he is at the pains to say: "If the tactics of the federals had been equal to their strategy, we (the confederates) should have been beaten" (p. 57). For, such being his present views of what should have come to pass, the thought will occur to even the casual reader that he must have apprehended disaster at the opening of the battle; and this will be sure to furnish to some minds a conclusive explanation of his failure to assume the baton of command until the battle was won.

As proof that he did not assume command any sooner, it must be held conclusive that the chief or detailed official report of the battle addressed to the confederate adjutant-general at Richmond was made, not by Johnston, but by Beauregard.

In that report the precise circumstances of command, and responsibility for the battle, are expressed in terms which, unless Beauregard had been in actual direction of the united forces upon the field, must have been treated by Johnston as an impudent assumption, not to pass without contradiction. That was the time to raise the question. It was not done, and the mere fact of abstract superiority of grade will not support the claim now first made visible.

In conclusion, it should be stated that the chief honors of the victory were unequivocally accorded at the period to Beauregard by the press and the people, as also by the army engaged, while the views of the confederate authorities are made patent by the following official letters, the one from the secretary of war and the other from Gen. Lee:

C. S. OF A. WAR DEPARTMENT,
RICHMOND, July 24, 1861.

MY DEAR GENERAL: Accept my congratulations for the glorious and most brilliant victory achieved by you.

The country will bless and honor you for it.

Believe me, dear general, truly your friend, [Signed] L. P. WALKER.

GEN. BEAUREGARD.

RICHMOND, July 24th, 1861.

MY DEAR GEN'L.—I cannot express the joy I felt at the brilliant victory of the 21st. The skill. courage and endurance displayed by yourself excite my highest admiration. You and your troops have the gratitude of the whole country, and I offer to all my heartfelt congratulations at their success.

The glorious dead are at peace. I grieve for their loss and sympathize with the living.

May your subsequent course be attended with like success.

Very truly yours.

[Signed] R. E. LEE.

GEN. BEAUREGARD.

The sole purpose of the present writer has been to correct the proposition that it was Johnston who, conceiving the plan of operations which resulted in his junction with Beauregard, had won the battle of the 21st of July, 1861. Therefore, no general criticism of Gen. Johnston's account of the battle has been attempted, notwithstanding it abounds in material that will not be suffered to pass unnoticed in proper season.

NEW YORK, April 15. T. J.

The New York Times denounces, editorially the pretensions of ex-Sutler Spencer to a seat in the Senate from Alabama; but incorrectly assumes that the Sykes party were equally to blame with Spencer for the split in the legislature.—The whole matter, it is asserted by the Register and other leading journals of the state, was ascribable to Spencer alone. This view of the case, it is believed, will finally prevail at Washington.

VARIETIES.

If you see a policeman aim at a dog to-day get near the dog.

When a fault is discovered, it is well to look up a virtue to bear it company.

Why are cashmere shawls like deaf people? Because you can't make them here.

A teething baby in the adjoining room will not fill a bachelor's soul with joy to any vast extent.

Laws, like sausages, would fail to inspire respect if all people knew how they were made.

Admire your landlady's new jocky hat and feather, if you want a porter-house steak for breakfast.

Cremationists everywhere think how noble it will be to heap coals of fire upon the heads of their acquaintances.

The bill for the admission of New Mexico as a State yesterday passed the House by the decided vote of 160 to 51.

A French fancy for summer parlors is to use furniture slips of Swiss muslin, trimmed with fluted ruffles to match the curtains.

Very provoking, says Mr. Quilp, to find that your mother-in-law has hidden your opera-glasses after you've bought a ticket for Miss Thompson.

Pittsfield men and women, it seems, keep coffin-plates on their mantle-pieces for ornaments. They will like cremation, of course; urns will look much prettier than coffin-plates.

"I am not afraid of a barrel of cider." said a toper to a temperance man. "I presume not," was the reply; "from your appearance I guess a barrel of cider would run at your approach."

Mr. Alcorn presented a memorial from the citizens of Mississippi, on the 15th, praying the government to take charge of the levees on the Mississippi river. Referred to a Select Committee on Levess.

Mr. H. M. Swann, Deputy United States Marshal, paid the coast a flying visit this week. Mr. Swann is an affable, courteous gentleman, and makes friends wherever he goes.—Hansboro Democrat.

Imagine the agony of a Richmond mother who has lost her infant, when she says to its mate: "You Jawrge Washington, quick, 'splain youself, chile—stop dat arfool smile—whar you bin done wi' de baby?"

It is wonderful the amount of snappishness and incivility that can be crowded into a narrow-minded, bilious clerk. You can only realize it by asking a simple question, especially if the employer be absent.

Another fine illustration of that Yankee ingenuity about which we hear so much, is the discovery that the best way to escape the annoyance of water-bugs running about the floor, is to pull off their legs.

Put not your faith in him who predicts a hot season—he keeps ice; nor in him who predicts a cold one—he owns a cheap clothing store; nor him who predicts a wet one—he has umbrellas; nor a dry one—he sells beer

On the New Orleans and Jackson Railroad, we have two freight trains passing down every day, and attached to these trains are passenger coaches. The people owe many thanks to Gen. Frost for this comfort.—Beauregard Times.

The veto has no more to do with the future of the Republican party than it has with the Tower of Babel. *The fight is purely sectional—the West and South against the money bags of the East.*—Omaha Republican (Radical.)

Laconic funeral oration by an Arkansas poker-player: "Gentlemen, my partner never killed a man unless he thought he had a reason for it, and when he stocked the cards it was done in the prettiest way you ever seen; I'll shoot the man that says he hasn't gone to heaven."

Nowadays, when a white-chokered gentleman is observed getting out of a neighborhood at the rate of five miles an hour, with a look of fierce determination in his eye and a carpet-bag in his hand, the general impression seems to be that he is going off somewhere to start a new religious denomnation.

A correspondent of the Jackson (Tennessee) Whig and Tribune states that old grandfather McCullar of McNairy county was married a few days ago. He is quite deaf and very old. While the ceremony was being performed, he very unconcernedly drew from his pocket a plug of tobacco and took a chew.

"The Hon. George H. Pendleton, of Ohio, would be a formidable candidate for President on the ticket to be placed in the field by the new movement. His personal integrity, great abilities, and the fact that he was the author of the greenback policy, would give him a prestige that few other men have earned."

An old chap, whose wife is as ugly as sin, was reading an elopement case which seemed to effect him. Said he: "I should be tempted to shoot a man if he was to run off with my wife." "Well," said a hearer, "a man ought to be shot if he run off with your wife." Verdict for hearer.

The Girl of the Period.

A very singular style of walking prevails to a great extent among the ladies of New York, who are pleased to call themselves fashionables. Arms akimbo, head tossed on one side, and eyes turned heavenward, they saunter down the street—an embodiment of impudence and sangfroid painful to see among ladies. The "girl of the period" is unquestionably bold in looks, if not in manners, and another series of Saturday Review articles is surely needed in this city.—New York Mail.

Japanese Dress.

The dress of the Japanese is plain, but quite neat and comfortable, and be it said to their praise, far surpasses our own in point of physical fitness. The men and women both wear a garment very much resembling the old Roman toga, which is fastened about the waist with a broad girdle. The women wear their hair in a very nice way, something after the waterfall style, minus the false material. The men wear their hair very much as the Europeans do. It is the custom for the ladies as soon as they marry to black their teeth and shave their eyebrows, in order, we suppose, to prove their affection for their husbands, and we should think it ought, for it renders them horribly ugly. The young misses are usually very good-looking, and some of them beautiful, but none of them can compore with our young girls at home. They are accepting the modern improvements with wonderful celerity and are making rapid strides on the road of civilization.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOUTHERN METHODISTS.

Extracts from the Bishop's Pastoral Address.

DANCING.

Upon the subject of dancing, &c., the address says an explicit utterance was given by order of the last General Conference, in our pastoral address on the subject of worldly amusements. We now repeat that utterance. We abate none of its teachings with respect either to the manifest inconsistency of such indulgences with the spirit and profession of the Gospel, or the peril which they bring to the souls of men. Their multiplied and insidious forms are a source of perpetual temptation and danger, and are denounced by the Word of God, and by that part of our general rules which forbade the talking of such diversions as cannot be taken in the name of the Lord Jesus. This denunciation is explicit and comprehensive. Amongst those indulgenices which cannot stand the solemn test, is the modern dance, both in private and public exhibitions, as utterly opposed to the genius of Christianity. When persisted in, it is a justifiable ground of action by the church authorities.

The address urges the firm and consistent enforcement of rules of the Discipline, in order that neither heresy in doctrine nor corruption in life be tolerated.

MUSIC.

Upon operatic music in churches the address says, first, congregational singing as contrasted with what are called operatic performances has been brought to our notice by the General Conference. Abuses have undoubtedly been introduced into this branch of worship among us. The extraordinary cultivation of science in our day, and its facinating influence on the esthetic elements of human nature, have precipitated a crisis upon the order and simplicity of Christian worship in particular, alike subversive of its inspiration and its edification. We are not wise enough to dictate the precise limitation of the improvement in sacred song, but we do not hesitate to say that no music should be introduced into public worship that is not decidedly devotional; that no tunes should be sung to hymns announced by preachers in which the congregation cannot participate; and that the pastors of our churches, in virtue of their office, have general supervision of this as well as of any other department of the public service. We give it also as our judgment that, whenever instrumental music is practiced in our congregations, preludes and interludes should be avoided, since they intermit the singing and consume the time allowed to the service.

The address, which is very long, concludes with commending the Church to God, and was adopted by the Conference.

Woman's Rights in Florida.

(From the Savannah News.

You seldom get anything from this part of the moral vineyard, notwithstanding your paper is more generally read here than any other. You have very frequently alluded to the condition of our judiciary, their character and (in) capacity. The Hillyer's have also been the subjects of editorials on several occasions. One of them is county Judge of this county and ex-officio Judge of probate. The enclosed is an exact copy of an order, judgment or decree emanating from him. I have seen the original. The trouble was between an old black man and his wife. Yours truly,

SUBSCRIBER.

[COPY]

OCALA, FLA., May 12, 1874.

Be it known throughout all christendom that the husband is head of the wife, and whatever is his'n is his'n, and whatever is hers is his'n, and, come weal or woe, peace or war, the rights of all property is vested in the husband, and his wife must not take anything away. The ox belongs to uncle Ben, and he must keep it, and the other things, and if the old woman quits, she must go empty handed. Know all that this is so by order of the Judge of Probate.

[Signed] WM. K. HILLYER.

Lands on Jackson Railroad.

BOGUECHITTO, MISS., May 22, 1874.

[From the N. O. Times.

There is now an unbroken line of railroad from New Orleans to the mouth of the Ohio river, through Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky, a distance of about five hundred miles. From Canton, Mississippi, to New Orleans, the distance by Jackson railroad is two hundred and four miles.

The distance from Canton to Manchac, generally a high rolling, healthy and well timbered country, is 167 miles.—The elevation of most of this country above the level of the Gulf of Mexico is from two to five hundred feet.

There are millions of acres of land on and near this railroad, well timbered, which good farmers may render highly productive lands, capable of being converted into the best and most profitable farms in the South, which may be purchased at from $1 to $10 per acre—a small payment in cash, the balance on liberal time.

Here is a railroad running through the very heart of these lands, terminating at the largest city of the Gulf States, and extending in other directions to the mouth of the Ohio river.

All on earth that is needed to make this country one of the most prosperous on the continent is farmers, capital and manufacturers.

Manufacturers have made a pretty lively beginning at several points on the railroad and near it, but thousands of mechanics and millions of money are still needed.

Here is abundant water power, purling streams and sparkling fountains; here are oaks and pines in almost inexhaustible quantities, and other timber for cabinet, building, fencing and other purposes; here are rich bottom lands and home fertilizers without limit for the uplands; a great diversity of field and fruit crops can be produced here, and domestic animals are healthy and can be raised at small expense.

This country has been overlooked by immigrants, and has never been properly appreciated, except by the best farmers, who plow deep, use fertilizers, and understand their business.

This country must settle up rapidly as soon as its merits are understood abroad.

D. BENNETT.

At forty years of age a man looks back over his life and wonders what he did it for, and then turns wistfully toward the future, and keeps on doing it.

The man who has never failed in business cannot possibly know whether he is honest or not, he cannot possibly know whether he has any "grit" in him, or is worth a button. It is the man who fails, and then rises, who is really great in his way.

AN INNOCENT GRANGER.

How Farmer Smith, of Madison, Out-witted a Money-Lender.

[From the Lexington (Ky.) Gazette.

A farmer—we will call him Smith for short—lives in Madison county, and would be known, at least by reputation, to many of our readers, were his right name given. But the incident we now relate, though coming to us in a reliable way, was known to few outside of his neighborhood. Farmer Smith lived in a quiet way, and was supposed to have accumulated something ahead besides having a pretty good farm. After his second son had been married about a year, he concluded to settle near the old man's if he could rent a place.

Hearing of this, Mr. Thompson—again we withhold the true name—thought there might be a chance to sell a certain place on pretty fair terms. Mr. Thompson was a money-loaner, and nothing suited him so well as good interest, backed by good security; and he was moreover, generally considered a pretty shrewd trader. He rode over to see old man Smith, but the farmer said he did not feel able to buy—he might buy on a credit if the price was low enough and the interest was not too high. His son "Jakey," he said, would have to pay for the farm himself if the trade was made, but his son was a good farmer, and he thought, it would be all right—at least the land would be there, and be good for what remained unpaid if his son should fail. What seemed to startle the old fellow was the 12 per cent. interest that Thompson wanted.

Finally, however, after a great deal of talk, the price was agreed on at $20,000, one-fifth cash, and notes at one, two, three, and four years, 12 per cent interest from date for the remainder. The contract was drawn, and they were about to sign, when the farmer suggested that if he should at any time get any more money than was due on the notes, he wanted to be allowed to pay it, and count off the 12 per cent. The proposition seemed reasonable enough to Thompson, and he could not object to its insertion in the contract, and, so the document was to be ready, the notes drawn, and the first payment made on the following Saturday.

When the time arrived, both were punctually on hand, the first $4,000 was paid, and the notes were ready for signature. "Mr. Thompson," said Farmer Smith, "I've been thinking about that interest, and it seemed skerry, so I thought I'd gether in some little money I had out, and pay part of it, and"—pulling from his breast-pocket a roll of money—"jist count that."

The money was counted, and, with 12 per cent. off the first note was paid.

When Thompson had pocketed the money, again Smith said: "I've got a son livin' in Missouri, Mr. Thompson, and as soon as he heard I was buyin' a farm for Jakey, he sent me a little money"—pulling a roll from his right side breeches pocket—"and whatever it is we'll credit it on the next note, if you have no objection." Again the money was counted, and with the 24 per cent off, just paid the note to a cent.

"Well, that's luck," resumed the old man; "and now, Mr. Thompson, the old woman has been selling right smart of butter and aigs, and some chickens now and then, when they come 'round the country a buying' and she told me this mornin' that I better take what she had, and maybe it wouldn't come amiss." A roll was produced from the left side breeches pocket, and when counted just paid the third note after the 36 per cent was deducted, and Thompson said not a word. Smith seemed to be considering for some minutes, and then raising his head, said, as though a sudden thought struck him: "You knowed my darter, Sal, didn't ye? Leastwise you've seen her. Sal was a fine gal. About five years ago, at hog-killing time, one of my hands tuck sick, and what does Sal do but turn in and help us, and, I tell you, she could sling a hog across her shoulder equal to any man on the ground. Well, you know, Sal married year before last, her husband Hibbell—is doin', they tell me, a good grocery business as any man in Kirksville. Jakey he went over to see Sal and Hibbell the other day, and they was talkin about this here interest business, and Sal to Hibbell, says she—

"Never mind what they said, Mr. Smith," broke in Thompson, "just hand over the money you were going to say they sent you." And sure enough the old man produced still another roll from some secret pocket, which, when counted, proved to be the exact amount necessary to pay off the last note when the 48 per cent had been duly taken off.

Thompson pocketed the money, went straight to the Court-house, acknowledged the deed, and handed it over, with only this remak: You are the d—st old rascal I ever saw!"

Rich Without Money.

Many a man is rich without money. Thousands of men with nothing in their pockets are rich. A man born with a good sound constitution, a good stomach, a good heart, good limbs, and a pretty good head-piece, is rich. Good bones are better than gold, tough muscles better than silver, and nerves that flash fire and carry energy to every function, are better than houses or land. It is better than a landed estate to have the right kind of father or mother. Good breeds and bad breeds exist among men as really as among herds and horses. Education may do much to check bad tendencies or to develope good ones, but it is a greater thing to inherit the right proportion of faculties to start with. The man is rich who has a good disposition—who is naturally kind, patient, cheerful and hopeful.

A Massachusetts farmer says: "My cattle will follow me until I leave the lot, and on the way up to the barn-yard in the evening stop and call for a lock of hay." Smithson says there is nothing remarkable about that. He went into the barn-yard in the country, one day last week, where he had not the slightest acquaintance with the cattle, and an old bull not only followed him until he left the lot, but took the gate off the hinges and raced with him to the house in the most familiar way possible. Smithson says he has no doubt the old fellow would have called for something if he had waited a little while, but he didn't want to keep the folks waiting for dinner, so he hung one tail of his coat and a piece of his pants on the bull's horns and went into the house.

Mexican Soldiery Pension.

[From the Summit Sentinel.

UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER,
Washington, May 18th, 1874.

W. H. JACKSON, Esq.,
Johnson's Station, Miss.

DEAR SIR: In answer to your letter of April 19th, I can only say that I have made the effort to give the survivors of the Mexican war what I believe they were entitled to; but the bill, I fear, has been finally buried in the committee to which it was referred.

Yours very respectfully,

JOHN A. LOGAN.

Pleasant faced people are generally the most welcome; but the auctioneer is always pleased to see a man whose countenance is for-bidding.