The Press and Banner.

Wednesday, Sept. 24, 1879.

The Sunday Excursion.

Last Sunday the Greenville and Columbia Railroad ran excursion trains from Greenville, Walhalla, Abbeville, and Columbia, and intermediate stations, to the camp meeting which was being held at Sandy Springs, ten miles above Anderson Court House. About one hundred tickets were sold at Abbeville. At Hodges the Abbeville train was met by the Columbia train, which was crowded, and the numbers were increased at every station until the destination was reached. The train from this end of the road when it reached the camp ground consisted of eleven coaches, which were filled to a jam.

The day had little the appearance of being the Sabbath. As a soldier during the war, and as a citizen during the campaign of 1876, we have seen some pretty rough crowds, but we think the crowd on Sunday was equal to anything that we have ever seen. A number of the excursionists had procured bottles of whiskey for the occasion, and as the liquor began to have the expected effect, the legitimate results followed.

Desiring to see some relatives at Honea Path, we got off the train at that point, but we learn that the conduct of some of the parties on the camp ground was reprehensible in the highest degree. Along the route as the train neared Sandy Springs it became noisy. Although ladies were on the cars the language indulged in by some of the men was profane and obscene, and their conduct was otherwise disgusting. It is said that some one on the train shot at some negroes standing by the road as the train passed. All sense of propriety and decency was offended by the improper treatment the negro women received on the train, while the very air was polluted with tobacco, whiskey and coarse language.

On the grounds within a short distance of the stand much disorder, loud talk, firing of pistols, &c., are reported to have taken place. At the railroad where the train was unloaded is a crossing for vehicles. A large crowd waiting for the departure of the train were standing there in the afternoon. A number of mischievous boys stopped passers-by, cutting the harness of their horses, taking hold of buggy wheels, or making other interruptions. A negro man with a white wife said to be from Elbert county, Georgia, was there. The boys took hold of them, knocked their heads together, cuffed and beat the negro until he was prone on the ground. Afterwards regaining his feet he ran off, and was shot at as he went.

In the above we refer to the conduct of comparatively a few persons. The great majority of those present were quiet, decent and well-behaved, but there were enough of uncontrollable spirits to desecrate the day, and to bring reproach upon the crowd. If Robinson had advertised his big circus at some point on the road and run extra trains he would not have drawn a more irreverent crowd.

If we are to take the conduct of the crowd on Sunday as indicating anything, we are approaching a fearful state of morals in this country. We have heard some attach blame to the Railroad authorities for the running of the train, but we think this is all wrong. The blame is elsewhere. Many good men believe that there is no more harm in running a train to carry people to church, than there is in running private vehicles, for the same purpose, the only difference is, in the greatly increased numbers that go on the train. The railroad authorities in running the train only answered a public demand, and offered the accommodation at a low price, for which surely the public should not be ungrateful. We cannot see how they can be held at all responsible for the conduct of their passengers. The blame cannot be shifted to the Railroad authorities, but must be borne by the country at large. To prevent a recurrence of so disgraceful a frolic on Sunday we should it not be advisable to hold campmeetings entirely on week days?

The Bridge Across Saluda.

Much interest in the lower part of the County is being manifested in reference to this public work. In conversation with Captain Mattison we learn that a bridge at Swansy's Ferry or at Boseman's Mill will equally benefit the two towns of Ninety-Six and Greenwood, and that the preference that either town may have for either place should not be a cause of complaint from the other town. If the bridge is built at Boseman's Mill a new road will be opened to Sims Cross Roads. This will make the bridge about equidistant from Greenwood and Ninety-Six. If it is built at Swansy's Ferry, the benefits would still be equally distributed between these towns.

At Swansy's Ferry the stream is 150 feet wide, and to bridge it there, will require two piers about 24 feet above the foundations, with about 75 feet of bridging on each side. At Boseman's Mill the stream is 190 feet wide, requiring three piers for a bridge at this point, 33 feet above the foundations, and as an approach on this side, about one hundred and fifty feet of bridging.

The first crossing on the Saluda in this County is at Erwin's Mill, where a new and splendid bridge is being built; five miles below is Maddox's bridge; six miles further down is Rasor's bridge; and 4 from this bridge to Smith's Ferry is eight miles. No other public crossing is to be found on the river until Neely's Ferry is reached, twelve miles lower down. Five miles below Neely's Ferry is Swansy's Ferry, and four miles below Swansy's Ferry is Watt's Ferry, which is four miles above Island Ford, on the Abbeville and Newberry line. From this it will be seen that all the bridges are in the upper corner of the County. It would seem but fair and just that the interests of the lower part of the County be served to the extent of at least one good bridge conveniently situated. We have no doubt that the citizens of Greenwood and Ninety-Six will act harmoniously in agreeing to designate a place for the erection of a bridge. Half a loaf is better than no bread, and a bridge anywhere is better than no bridge at all.

The County Commissioners are willing to make an appropriation, if the citizens on this side will make a liberal contribution, and provided, also, that the County Commissioners and citizens of Laurens will do the same. We know nothing certainly of the feelings of the Laurens Commissioners, but it is feared that they may not be as willing to build the bridge as our Commissioners are. One of them it is said is a merchant at Cross Hill, who it is thought may not be anxious for the bridge at Bozeman's Mill. Of this, however, we have no direct information, and it is quite possible that the Laurens Commissioners are as ready to build the bridge as we are.

The Savannah Valley Railroad.

There will be a meeting of the corporators of the Savannah Valley Railroad at Anderson Court House on Wednesday, the 1st of October next at 10 o'clock A. M. The friends of this important enterprise are requested to be present. As the Abbeville townships have already voted the tax, we hope those who have charge of the enterprise will look after the interests of our people in the matter.

Colonel Pope of the *Register* writes a two-column paragraph on common sense.

Investigating the Treatment of Convicts.

Ever since the Greenwood and Augusta Railroad company has had the penitentiary convicts at work grading the line of that thoroughfare, the air has been more or less charged with reports of cruelty on the part of the managers towards those in their keeping, and periodically expressions have been given to the feelings of philanthropists both in the newspapers and in the courts. The readers of the *Press and Banner* have not forgotten that more than a year ago, we went to Gen. Bradley the Superintendent of the work on this side of the river and had a long interview with him on this subject, in which he stated many interesting facts in connection with the treatment of the convicts then engaged in the work. It will also be remembered that Judge Kershaw ordered a committe from the grand jury to visit the stockade and report upon the facts of the case. Their report was not made until after the adjournment of the Court, but our readers will remember that the report was submitted in writing although we believe that the report was never made to the court as directed by His Honor; but it was published in the village newspapers in connection with the presentment of the Grand jury, for the September term.

It will not be forgotten that that report exonerated the railroad authorities from all blame or censure in the premises, and since then the question has been comparatively at rest in Abbeville county; but from Columbia just now comes the news that the attention of the State authorities has been called to the fact of a startling mortality among the convicts employed by the road, and that the Governor and the Directors of the Penitentiary are much incensed at what they conceive to be a great wrong, and that they are now taking active steps to investigate the truth or falsity of the ugly rumors. It is also stated that serious charges will be preferred in court against some of those having control of the convicts. We see it also stated in the newspapers that out of some two hundred convicts about one hundred have died within the past twelve months. We are unable to speak of the grave charges in this specification, but this we do know, that the death-rate up to the time that we interviewed General Bradley on the subject was reported to be very small indeed.

The reports as circulated are a disgraceful form, with out a reflection upon the humanity of the gentleman who have charge of the laborers. For the justification of these good and public-spirited citizens who are giving their own time and labor to the pressing forward of a magnificent enterprise which is to benefit not only Abbeville county, but all the upper portion of the State, as well as for the vindication of the good name of a proud Commonwealth, these matters should be investigated in the courts of the last resort. The reports as circulated are damaging not only to the Government, but may be construed as a personal imputation against the officers of the State no less than against the lessees of the convicts. The prisoners should be treated humanely. Their employers are entitled to justice. That the corporators of the road are engaged in the construction of a great public work is no reason that the idle public should unjustly blame them and excite prejudice against them in the eyes of the world and in the estimation of our own State officials. Then in the name of, and in justice to the corporators of the Greenwood and Augusta Railroad, let the Governor, or the Directors bring their charges in the courts, where false accusations may be set aside by the facts, and the character of upright men be fully vindicated. These whisperings and occasional allusions in the newspapers to this matter, have been going on long enough. For the sake of the good name of the State, in behalf of humanity and justice, as well as for the repelling of the implied imputation against some of the best citizens of Abbeville county, let the investigation come. We have no doubt that they now desire it as they did a year ago. General Bradley then told us that he courted investigation, and that every member of the board of Directors was anxious for all the facts to be known of all men. Let the authorities either investigate or cease to cast their imputations.

More Ugly Rumors.

That our friends of the Greenwood and Augusta Railroad may know what is being said about them in Columbia, we copy the following paragraphs from the *Charleston News and Courier*. The statements they contain are news to us. We were under the impression that everything was moving on smoothly with the convicts.

"COLUMBIA, September 18.—The tenth monthly secret session of the board of directors of the South Carolina Penitentiary was held in Columbia to-day. Called as usual, and sent in my card as the representative of the *News and Courier*, and it was returned to me with the endorsement that the meeting was of a private nature, and no representative of the press was to be admitted. Enough is known of their proceedings, however, to justify me in saying that the principal subject of discussion was the terrible death rate and the alleged bad treatment of the leased convicts, and especially those hired by the Greenwood and Augusta Railroad Company. About one hundred out of two hundred and twenty-five are stated to have died within the last year."

"COLUMBIA, September 19.—The board of Penitentiary directors are still in session with closed doors. I learn to-day that charges of cruel treatment of convicts will be brought against some of the lessees, if not at this at some future meeting and that at least two judges in the State will take cognizance of this shameful matter, and that they will do so in obedience to a request made some time ago by Governor Simpson in a circular addressed to the Judges, asking for statistics in regard to the increase and decrease of crime in all parts of the State."

It seems from the following paragraph which is also from the *News and Courier*, that there is a probability of a personal difficulty growing out of this matter:

"The board of Penitentiary directors has adjourned and its members have gone home. In connection with the investigation just held by this board I am reliably informed that high words passed between Col. Lipscomb, superintendent of the Penitentiary, who objected to the investigation, and Gen. Tillman, who was in attendance. Both of the gentlemen are known to be men of unquestioned courage, and it is possible that the end of this ugly business has not been reached."

Monday's *News and Courier* has the following item, setting Col. Lipscomb right on the record:

"A blunder of the types in our Columbia dispatch on Saturday did grievous injustice to Col. Lipscomb, in representing him as opposing the investigation of the alleged bad treatment of the Penitentiary convicts, when, in fact, he is exceedingly desirous that the investigation should be thorough and searching. It gives us great pleasure to set Col. Lipscomb right upon the record."

Second to no Paper in the South.

Our friend Colonel Pope of the *Register* is a good judge of newspapers and knows how to say a pleasant thing, as the following will testify:

"Mr. W. C. Benet, the talented co-editor of that stirring and able weekly, the *Abbeville Press and Banner*, paid us the compliment of a visit the evening before last. Mr. Benet and his senior, the veteran of the Carolina press, Wilson, may well be proud of their journal, for it is second to no paper of its kind in the South which reaches our table."

The *Anderson Journal* will please take notice that men have been shot for less offences than that of throwing "Colonels" at the heads of privates.

The Failures in Charleston.

The suspension last week of the firms of James E. Adger & Co., and George H. Walters, following so close on the failure of Geo. W. Williams & Co., has cast a gloom over the commercial horizon of Charleston just at the time when her business prospects were brightening. Coming at the very beginning of the busy season, just as the crops are on the way to market, and when merchants are making preparations for the fall and winter business, the failures, to be regretted at any time, are peculiarly inopportune at this juncture. But the cloud has a silver lining, and the gloom will immediately be dispelled. Unfortunate though the failures are, the commercial integrity of the suspended firms is unimpeached, not a whisper is breathed about dishonesty. And the other mercantile firms of Charleston are still able to maintain the supremacy of our commercial capital and to show that she is not simply the City by the Sea, but the Queen of the Sea. Let our merchants and farmers remember the strong facts exhibited by the *News and Courier* in the tabulated statement of the business condition of Charleston. As sure as the *News and Courier* said it, the tide has turned in the affairs of Charleston which is going to lead her on to fortune and assured prosperity; and it was only to be expected that some of her mercantilemen would, like Moses, find themselves unable to pass over into the promised land.

Result of the McNinch Trial at Laurens.

The famous case of the State against McNinch for the killing of Kilgore, occupied five days of the Court last week. The trial commenced on Tuesday. Considerable trouble was experienced in empannelling the jury, and the panel was not complete until after two days' time had been consumed. The counsel for the defence exercised to the full extent the right to "challenge," and to put jurors on their *voir dire*. Many were unable to swear that they had not expressed or formed an opinion in the case, and of course were ordered to stand aside. The case was handed to the jury Saturday night, and in a short while a verdict of "guilty of manslaughter," was rendered. The public was disappointed, great indignation was felt at the verdict of the jury, lynching was freely discussed by the by-standers, and at one time such a result was deemed probable.

As a general rule we believe that juries discharge their duties correctly, but we fear that sympathy for the living may sometimes lead them to forget the enormity of the crime which has been perpetrated against the dead. The safety of the citizen depends upon a just enforcement of the law.

The Bryce Murder.

"Give a dog a bad name and hang him" is a proverb peculiarly applicable to the Southern States in general and to South Carolina in particular: witness the comments of the Northern press on the murder of Bryce. A foul murder it was, and the perpetrator will soon say the penalty with his life; but the Northern newspapers see in it much more than ordinary murder:—they see in it the climax of political persecution and have catalogued it in the gallery of the horrors of the Bloody Shirt. Even fairminded and sometimes impartial journals like the *New York Herald* can only see this Bryce murder through a Bloody Shirt, bloodily. There is no use arguing against sectional prejudices. The Northern mind has two fixed opinions—that there is a civilized North, and that there is a barbarous South. Nothing we Southerners can do is right in Northern eyes: nothing done in the North is wrong. The South has got a bad name. The pious North—why, murder, adultery, fornication and all uncleanness have fled away from it and left it pure and sweet. There is another proverb, you see,—"The man who has the name of rising with the sun may lie in his bed till ten."

Mr. Stuart's Letter on High School Education.

We take pleasure in earnestly commending to the attention of our readers and of all interested in public education the letter we publish in to-day's issue from the pen of Mr. Benj. R. Stuart, principal of the Charleston Graded High School. It is a valuable contribution to the literature of public education. No subject is engaging the attention of the thoughtful men of our State at the present time more than the proper distribution and application of our enormous public school fund; and we think Mr. Stuart's suggestions as to the establishment of Graded Hebor Class Schools in every county, to be supported partly by fees and partly by the school fund, admirable and practicable. Nor do we see any constitutional obstacle to the establishment of such schools. As Mr. Stuart points out, our Constitution plairily recognizes the existence of schools supported "in part" by the public fund. This recognition should dq away with any constitutional objection which our school authorities may have hitherto entertained against such a system of schools. The letter is full of practical and wise advice and it will command the thoughtful attention of our legislators and educators.

Death of Thomas M. Cox of Greenville.

Yesterday's Greenville papers bring the sad intelligence of the death of Thomas M. Cox of the firm of Gower, Cox & Markley. After a long and painful illness he died on Monday 22d inst. The high praise which both the Greenville daily journals pay him is justly due to him. We knew him well and were proud to be counted among his friends. A sincere Christian, a business man of sterling integrity, a genail and cultured member of society,—the town of Greenville may well mourn her loss. Christ Church, too, will miss Thomas Cox, the church he loved so well and served so faithfully. Those only who have seen him in his beautiful home surrounded by his family can tell how heavy is the loss sustained by his wife and children. He was about sixty-five years of age, and had been actively engaged in business in Greenville since 1834.

Grant at Home.

General Grant has returned from his extended tour. He arrived in San Francisco on the 20th instant. That city was wild with excitement over the event, and extended the distinguished guest every conceivable honor.

Interesting Article.

In another part of this issue of the *Press and Banner* may be found quite a readable article from our old friend "Ex-Abbevillian." We hope that our subscribers may read it.

Charleston is now in a ferment over the Democratic nomination for the mayoralty. Sale and Courtney are the candidates and a bolt is threatened under certain contingencies.

A Bloody Revenue Affray.

COLUMBIA, September 22. — Collector Brayton received a dispatch from Spartanburg this afternoon which stated that special deputy collector and United States deputy marshal T. J. Davis was shot at half-past 5 o'clock this afternoon by J. B. Panther, while serving a bench warrant issued in North Carolina, but which had been made serviceable in this district by Judge Bryan. Panther was shot in the leg by a negro, and is now in jail at Spartanburg. Davis's thigh bone was badly broken.

A Graded High School Needed in Every County in the State.

Editors Press and Banner:

GENTLEMEN:—The republication of Mr. Benet's late able address on State education in pamphlet form and distribution by the Abbeville Teachers' Institute before whom it was delivered, to every member of our Legislature, I am persuaded, will do great good. It is an extraordinary contingency that is greatly needed, and I take the liberty of calling for its republication in a more permanent form. But I am not in favor of embodying all of its suggestions in a new school-law. I am opposed to any change of the law as it now stands with respect to making elementary education, as far as the State undertakes it, altogether free. It certainly ought sote remain altogether free forever. And where State funds are insufficient to support an elementary school for the entire year it ought to be kept open as a perfectly free school so long as it is so supported, its patrons then taking the burden of its support off the State, and keeping it open as a pay school, under the same teacher, for the rest of the year. It is, too, not at all improbable, by an arrangement that is made at the beginning of the year, for State funds to support the same teacher four months at one locality, and four months at another, as done in the neighborhood of Stockholm of Sweden. When however, we pass up to the higher grades of instruction, to what is properly denominated Secondary education then the policy of "using State funds not as a pay-all but as a stimulus to education" seems almost self-evident, and more particularly in the present financial and social condition of the people of South Carolina. The demand of a population equal to a school for one-half of the expenses of such higher grades of instruction is not only altogether just but absolutely necessary to securing efficiency. The State Convention, which I recollect, supposed, as a whole or in part by the State." The School law, as it now stands, gives no such encouragement to this latter and much-needed feature of a complete system of "Education of the State." If the Legislature could be brought to see this and to reflect upon it, it would endeavor to carry out the clear meaning of the Constitution, and would cease to obstruct what facts to be presently mentioned plainly indicate as the popular desire and will. An Amendment would be passed, this very winter, by which not less than fifteen thousand dollars would be set apart, out of the present school fund in each County, and appropriated to aid in establishing at suitable localities, Graded High Schools, on the express condition that such schools should be kept open for ten months of the year, and that as much money should be collected, dollar for dollar, by tuition fees paid by the beneficiaries of such schools as is contributed towards their support by the State.

Very soon efficient teachers, secured and stimulated by the liberal salaries, would commend and render popular the whole public school system, a demand would be created for still higher College and University education and additional local taxation for educational purposes, than which nothing could be more hateful and unpopular at present, would begin to seem in some localities, just, reasonable and expedient. This policy of using State aid "as a stimulus and not as a pay-all" in secondary education, is now one of the "things that are possible" now for the first time to be tried. Besides having many successful examples of European practice and precedent to encourage us, we have the beginning to have already in operation in the organization of every State College and State University in America, without a single exception. It is the principle on which Harvard College and School of Cheltenham, which has done so much useful and noble work, was founded, and now continues to exist, and in an awkward and incomplete way, solicited, by its patrons at present demand for its immediate adoption, it has been acted on, almost contrary to our present school law, in the towns of York, Chester, Rock Hill, Winnsboro, Blackville, Laurens, Cross Hill, Abbeville. When, then, can doubt that it even already commands the almost unanimous approval of the whole people of the State? Nevertheless, the statesman who shall first propose it in connection with wreathe a crown of laurel round his brow. For the advantages of such an amendment of the school law as has been suggested, an intelligent and powerful sympathy exists, and in no respect antagonizing the present free school system exactly as it stands, would be offered, on the same conditions, to all classes and colors of our citizens, without danger of above by any, while stimulating the purest ambition and the best aspirations of all.

Respectfully, yours,

BENJ. R. STUART.

[I think Mr. Stuart for his complimentary request that I should publish in pamphlet form my address before the Abbeville Teachers' Association; and I shall take his suggestion into consideration. Meanwhile it gives me pleasure to see so eminent an educator as Mr. Stuart showing so deep an interest in a subject which has been neglected too much and too long—namely, this question:—How can we distribute and use to the best advantage the public school fund of our State?

W. C. B.]

The Duties of an Editor.

[Sumter Watchman.]

The first thing an editor should understand is that his paper although private property, is private property hired to the public to do certain work, and is not his home, his pocket-knife, or his wife, to do as he pleases, or lend to a friend or use in accomplishing his selfish ends whenever desire prompts. The tacit understanding or implied contract between editor and subscriber is that for so much money paid him, the amount of subscription money paid him, he agrees to watch public affairs for the subscribers, and to the best of his ability to keep them informed as to what transpires in the world generally; and on account of his superior sources of information the subscribers likewise expect him to give them the benefit of the conclusions he reaches in regard to matters of public concern. For all of which he is fully paid when he gets the amount charged for subscription. Suppose, for example, a man, after this contract is entered into, the editor sets to work immediately to write up his own interests or those of his friends? He puts on copy the name of some one who is not a field-hand, who receives his wages to work *my* crop and goes at once and uses the same to work *his own*? Certainly he does not, and yet the temporary absence of the editor, he acted in his stead, and discharged the arduous duties of the position excellently. She was barely 27 at that time, and just a woman could be capable of telling the *Westminster*, at such an age, proves of what a high order of mind she must have been possessed. Her first sustained work was a translation of Strauss's "Leben Jesu" (Life of Christ), which appeared in 1846, succeeded soon after by a translation of Feuerbach's "Essence of Christianity." Her English version denoted consummate knowledge of the idiom of German and her power over her own tongue.

She continued to furnish articles to the best order of magazines and reviews for a number of years, rarely, if ever, venturing upon fiction. Her papers were then of so philosophic a stamp that nobody would have expected that she would have developed into a novelist. She was 37 when her first published, under the signature of "George Eliot," a series of stories in *Blackwood* bearing the title of "Scenes of Clerical Life." They were marked by a fresh, racy, vigorous style, and speedily drew attention, for they proclaimed the advent of

A NEW NOVELIST OF SIGNAL ABILITY.

The signature was generally understood to be a pseudonym, and great curiosity was felt to learn whom it concealed. Some said it was a man; but no woman had such grasp or strength; that the diction was unquestionably masculine. The year following the admiration for George Eliot greatly increased by the appearance, in numbers, of "Adam Bede," which gained vast success in the magazine, and had an immense sale when put between covers. The story placed her among the first novelists of the day, and rendered George Eliot a familiar name throughout the United Kingdom, and introduced her, I believe, to your side of the water. The work was in large demand for a week; still henceforth celebrity would be forever alluring. And it would have been doubtless, under ordinary circumstances. But meeting George Eliot, was not to his mind, in ordinary circumstances. He had no passion for her, no romantic attachment, no sentimental prejudice. He loved her intellect;

HE WORSHIPPED HER GENIUS;

he knelt at her mental shrine. But he could not marry her, and without marriage society and custom forbade them to be close companions. The law here, and with you, too, I think, will not grant a divorce under any circumstances where disloyalty had once been condoned. He had condoned his wife's elopement; for her second elopement he had no legal remedy. What could, what did he do? He submitted the matter after due reflection to their common friends, entirely conscious that George Eliot would, by living with him, place herself under ban; that she would expose herself to misunderstanding, to harsh comment, to cruel criticism; that she could hope for only the recognition and esteem of the few. Their friends were among the best and most intellectual persons in the United Kingdom. They discussed the question every side, and finally gave their verdict in favor of

A SPIRITUAL UNION

which the law, through a technicality, would not sanction. George Eliot and George Henry Lewes went to reside under the same roof, and until his death, nearly a year ago, they were the best of friends, the most sympathetic of comrades, the most harmonious of literary co-workers. They lived in a quiet quarter of the city, near Regent's Park, in a modest but comfortable and elegant home, full of books, pictures, engravings, bronzes, bric-a-bac, and other objects of taste and art.

She never went out socially, but she received Sunday evenings during the season with her friend, and they who called were almost always people of some kind of distinction. It was deemed a privilege to go, and a number of cultured and liberal Americans have passed delightful hours there. George Eliot lives there still; but Sunday receptions are not continued, and she has relinquished her office of literary adviser in her profession. She continues to be industrious, but does not do great care, and frequently injures her health, not robust by any means, by her excessive application. She is a pronounced Rationalist in belief; in manners reserved, a wonderful woman, and surely a prodigious intellect.

AN INTERVIEW WITH HAYES.

He Talks About the Political Future ---Grant, Satiated with Honors, not Likely to be a Presidential Aspirant.

CINCINNATI, September 13.—A correspondent had a short talk with the President-to-day on the political future, and first asked in regard to the occupancy of the Presidential seat, and particularly of Grant's prospects.

"Gen. Grant will soon be back again in this country. Do you think, Mr. President, he will be a candidate for the Presidency for the third term?"

"I don't think he is seeking a renomination or desires it. Gen. Grant has enjoyed the highest honors the country could bestow on one of her citizens, and I think he is not desirous of having them repeated. He was undoubtedly the ablest general the war produced. His management of the armies under his control closed the war of the rebellion. After the war was made General of the Army, and then twice elected to the Presidential chair. Since his retirement from the Presidential office he has travelled abroad extensively, and wherever he has received attentions of the most gratifying kind, such, in fact as no American citizen ever received in foreign countries before. All this must be expected that, during the temporary absence of the editor, he acted in his stead, and discharged the arduous duties of the position excellently. She was barely 27 at that time, and just a woman could be capable of telling the *Westminster*, at such an age, proves of what a high order of mind she must have been possessed. Her first sustained work was a translation of Strauss's "Leben Jesu" (Life of Christ), which appeared in 1846, succeeded soon after by a translation of Feuerbach's "Essence of Christianity." Her English version denoted consummate knowledge of the idiom of German and her power over her own tongue.

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George Eliot and her Work

THE TRUE STORY OF HER VERY REMARKABLE LIFE.

A Strange Platonic Marriage --- How She has Earned a Quarter of a Million of Dollars by Her Pen --- Her Marvellous Mind.

LONDON, August 30.—It seems to be generally understood—indeed, those in a position to be fully informed state it as a positive fact—that Marian C. Evans, better known as George Eliot, has published her last book, and has, so far as the public is concerned, actually withdrawn from literary life. If this be true, it is a very important literary event, for she is incontestably the greatest living writer of fiction in this, or probably in any country. She is often spoken of as the most gifted of women novelists, which is more than unjust—it is absurd—since there is no woman to compare with her, and since genius has never been and never should be considered sexually. She is a master, and a mighty one. Her novels are totally unlike novels generally in spirit, aim, character and scope. To mention them in connection with the fictions of Mary Braddon, Mrs. Henry Wood, "Ouida," Mrs. Beecher Stowe, Mrs. Rebecca Harding Davis, or any other English or American female author, is little less than grotesque. They have no kindred with the high-colored, morbidly sentimental, feverish stories of Destinel and George Sand, two of the most prominent women of literary France. In no sense are they analogous. They are signally philosophic; they are studies of and from life—extracts, as it were,

FROM THE SOUL OF HUMANITY,

revelations of mind to mind. They are in the same vein as Balzac and Thackeray, and yet very different; they are in some sense unique, and seem destined to long-continued fame. If George Eliot's novels do not live, what will live in literature? They are condensations of thought, pictures of life and character, and of nervous epigrammatic expression. George Eliot's just-published work, "Life and Opinions of Theophrastus Such," a series of analytic essays, has not been well written, as many think, since she produced "Daniel Deronda." The essays have been done through a series of years in the intervals of more protracted—if not more serious—labor, when she had leisure and was in the mood to do them. They are subtle and sagacious, as all her performances are, and clearly indicate the authorship of "Adam Bede," "Mill on the Floss" and "Felix Holt." She has definitely announced it, understand, as her final publication, so that her extraordinary literary career may be said to be closed, making this a fit time to review her professional and private life, one of the most extraordinary lives, on the whole, of any writer of the present time. Notwithstanding her very wide fame, hardly anything has been known of her personally, so that any and all details of the woman have a double interest. It is singular that the every-day existence of the greatest and most renowned of English novelists should be as hidden from the mass of her readers at home as though she were a recluse in the wilds of Africa. In biographical record with which I am acquainted can any details of her antecedent be found. She seems from the beginning to have shunned publicity, even to the extent of concealing her proper name. George Eliot and what she has written is her entire history, and I have been told that she once said to a friend that, when she was a little girl, she wished only her pen-name to be placed on a single slab.

MARIAN C. EVANS

was born in a town in Warwickshire, in many respects the most interesting county in Great Britain, for it contains Stratford, Warwick Castle, Leamington, Kenilworth, the quaint old town of Coventry and many other historic places and monuments. She is the daughter of a country gentleman, who, having nothing but his small salary and a number of children, had not the means to give her such an education as her precocious mind and conspicuous talents deserved. While he was debating what means to adopt to secure the desired end, a humble clergyman, a friend of his, possessed of a handsome independence, became interested in her, and asked the privilege to take charge of the training of her intellect. The privilege was granted, and, that the purpose might be more conveniently and thoroughly carried out, she was virtually adopted by her clerical friend and went to reside under his roof. There she had the best teachers procurable, and, as she was tortured by an insatiable thirst for knowledge, she improved astonishingly, and at eighteen had acquired an extent and variety of culture such as few persons of either sex attain at that age. The more she knew the more she wanted to know, and she amazed her masters by

HER QUICKNESS, PROFUNDITY AND ORIGINALITY.

She got beyond them ere long, and at twenty-two resolved to come to London, having demonstrated her remarkable capacity to write to everybody acquainted with her. They all agreed that literature was her vocation, and that it would be a sin against nature to prevent her from following it. She wished, moreover, generous as her benefactor was, to be independent, and she was confident that this great capital would ultimately insure her the independence which she craved. She was nearly twenty-third year when she decided to make London her home, and it has continued to be her home ever since. Marian Evans came here with a few letters of introduction, and began at once to write for the periodicals, not the merely popular but the intellectual sort, like *Fraser*, *Blackwood* and the leading reviews. Instead of verses, stories and sketches such as usually tempt the feminine mind is addicted, she produced

THOUGHTFUL, SOLID PAPERS,

demanding erudition and research, such as are usually called of a masculine order. After a while she became a regular contributor to the *Edinburgh* and *Westminster*, few persons, save the editor, suspecting that the contributions came from a woman. As she had no general reputation, her earnings were small, but sufficient to defray her expenses in the economical way she lived. She did her best work for the *Westminster*, because she was more in sympathy with its spirit, from the outset thoroughly independent and liberal, and because her welcome there had been cordial and generous. So sincerely was she appreciated that, during the temporary absence of the editor, she acted in his stead, and discharged the arduous duties of the position excellently. She was barely 27 at that time, and just a woman could be capable of telling the *Westminster*, at such an age, proves of what a high order of mind she must have been possessed. Her first sustained work was a translation of Strauss's "Leben Jesu" (Life of Christ), which appeared in 1846, succeeded soon after by a translation of Feuerbach's "Essence of Christianity." Her English version denoted consummate knowledge of the idiom of German and her power over her own tongue.

She continued to furnish articles to the best order of magazines and reviews for a number of years, rarely, if ever, venturing upon fiction. Her papers were then of so philosophic a stamp that nobody would have expected that she would have developed into a novelist. She was 37 when her first published, under the signature of "George Eliot," a series of stories in *Blackwood* bearing the title of "Scenes of Clerical Life." They were marked by a fresh, racy, vigorous style, and speedily drew attention, for they proclaimed the advent of

A NEW NOVELIST OF SIGNAL ABILITY.

The signature was generally understood to be a pseudonym, and great curiosity was felt to learn whom it concealed. Some said it was a man; but no woman had such grasp or strength; that the diction was unquestionably masculine. The year following the admiration for George Eliot greatly increased by the appearance, in numbers, of "Adam Bede," which gained vast success in the magazine, and had an immense sale when put between covers. The story placed her among the first novelists of the day, and rendered George Eliot a familiar name throughout the United Kingdom, and introduced her, I believe, to your side of the water. The work was in large demand for a week; still henceforth celebrity would be forever alluring. And it would have been doubtless, under ordinary circumstances. But meeting George Eliot, was not to his mind, in ordinary circumstances. He had no passion for her, no romantic attachment, no sentimental prejudice. He loved her intellect;

HE WORSHIPPED HER GENIUS;

he knelt at her mental shrine. But he could not marry her, and without marriage society and custom forbade them to be close companions. The law here, and with you, too, I think, will not grant a divorce under any circumstances where disloyalty had once been condoned. He had condoned his wife's elopement; for her second elopement he had no legal remedy. What could, what did he do? He submitted the matter after due reflection to their common friends, entirely conscious

Our Ex-Abbevillian Again.

A MOST INTERESTING LETTER.

Reminiscences of the Older Time---Our Scotch-Irish Forefathers---Their Religion, Education, High Character and Peculiarities.

THE SAMPLE FAMILY.

Among the first settlers of the lower battalion of the Saluda regiment, were Alex Sample and John Neely. Both were Irishmen, the former born in County Antrim in the year 1720, the birth place of the latter not remembered. The impression on my mind is, that Sample first settled in Virginia, near the Cunninghams about the year 1750, and removed with them, or by himself through their influence, to South Carolina; and when it is known, the attachment between classes and Presbyterians in those days, the fact stated are not hard to believe. But whether they come together, or first met on Saluda, they were neighbors, and a friendship existed that ended only with death, and which was not attenuated wholly by the issues of the war of the revolution, on which they differed. There is a tradition in the Sample family that one of the younger Sample's and Swansey (an ancestor of the Blakes, I believe), of the Whig forces being caught on furlough or foraging, by the command of Major William or "Bloody Bill" Cunningham, were beaten beforehand, and tied to a peach tree, where he was detained Sample a short time and released him, but offered no protection to the other, who was further beaten and left for dead; but he was taken up by other comrades, and recovered. The elder Sample was an invalid prior to the revolution from a rupture produced by the kick of a horse and added to his age was unfitted for a soldier, and took no active part in the war. His settlement was on the west side of Saluda, opposite the Cunningham estate and divided by the river. He owned a fine tract of land, which prior to his death in 1824 (in his 99th year) passed into the possession of her son Alexander and whose death occurred in 1824, when it was purchased by ten of the sons of the latter, and after the death of one of the latter, it was purchased by the survivor, who sold it about 1837 and removed west. I will remark here that a dense brake of vines and cane on Samples land was one of the retreats of Major Cunningham and men, and many years after the war this discovery was made in clearing for cultivation, and the table (of walnut) found on which he and others said drank. It was in possession of one of the Samples, and in 1839 belonged to John N. Sample a son of Alex. who had it reduced in size to obtain soundness of wood, being rotten in part, and much worm-eaten. When found it was said to have been long and narrow and in a bad condition from the damp air and lack of sun which had befallen it in its imprisonment. When I last saw it 41 years ago it had been reduced to the size of the table now in possession of Mr. Sample with the back of his hand. The sampler went off and was seen soon after by the writer lionesman returning with three others around with

PISTOLS, BOWIE-KNIVES AND STICKS

and supposing their object to be to attack samples' the keeper locked them out. Cunningham demanded admittance which Sample insisted should be given them, but the ware housemen refused. Sample then proposed that if they would lay down their pistols, knives and sticks and divide themselves into fours he would fight them in the same number of parcels—and this they declined. The interposition of parties, however, brought about a settlement without bloodshed. They were all most substantial farmers, including the Doctor, who also, while attending to a large practice, planted largely. All accumulated largely and died between 1850 and 1860. James Sample purchased on a credit a large tract of land at $30 per acre in 1837, which the crash reduced to $5, and he had to pay still in cotton at 12½ cents. Another ex-Abbevillian named Sims, an old Seceder, was caught in the same fix, and though scores of others were alike caught, they stood their ground and paid out—while "G. T. W." or "G. T. H." were marked on the door posts of all, or nearly so, of others. I learned this in their vicinity and from their neighbors 37 years ago. Indeed, from the accounts, the recent negro exodus from this same locality was a small circumstance compared with the hegira of the debtor class toward the closing scenes of the "laws delay" in Mississippi. The demoralization and disorganization following the financial crash of 1837 was equal to that produced by and succeeding the late war. The Samples' with their robust frames, healthy looks and temperate habits, were a short-lived "race," all died between 35 and 55 years but one, John N., who died at 68. The men were live and warm politicians, as in every thing else, and were anti-Nullifiers in South Carolina, but in the west ultra democrats, and subsequently secessionists, and on whose shoulders stood Quitman and Davis. Dr. Sample was a leading politician, orator and writer, and the last political act of his life was as a representative of Mississippi, in the Baltimore Convention of 1856 which nominated James Buchanan for President.

THE NEELYS.

The Neely's who are placed along side the Samples in this account, are justly so for their to-settlement, their nativity, and their similarity