The Press and Banner.

By Hugh Wilson and H. T. Wardlaw.

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 1882.

A Word in Reply to "Tax-Payer."

"Tax-Payer," a correspondent of the *Abbeville Medium*, asks us several questions last week, some of which we cannot answer. But others we will attempt to answer. About the year 1866 Congress donated to the State of South Carolina four hundred thousand acres of public lands, the interest or the proceeds to be appropriated to the establishment of an agricultural institution, and on condition if the money was not so appropriated that it should be returned to the Treasury at Washington. During the Radical administration the fund was sold, netting the sum of $121,000. And the interest was used by them in keeping up the agricultural College, the entire benefits of which were conferred on colored students. When the Democratic party assumed control of the Government it was deemed best to give both the whites and the blacks a College—the blacks taking the Claflin University at Orangeburg, and the whites taking the South Carolina College at Columbia. Up to that time the four Northern teachers in the agricultural College consumed the annual interest. Since that time the Claflin University has received a yearly appropriation of $3,000 and the agricultural College has existed entirely on the interest of the land scrip. The last session of the Legislature supplemented the amount of the interest by an appropriation of $10,000, and this appropriation has developed an alarming opposition to higher education, which, by a false notion of economy would cause our boys to take an inferior stand to that other occupied by their fathers, and force the State itself, because of a lack of educated men, to take an inferior place among the States of the Union.

As to the success of the Agricultural College, we would only say that the results of that college, like the results of any other college, cannot be definitely stated. For instance, suppose we were to ask "Tax-Payer" what good any particular school or college has done, he could not answer the question with mathematical precision. But we believe that he will agree with us in the opinion that every school and every college in the State is worth in good results, many times the actual cost. As we do not estimate moral training, intelligence, and mental culture by dollars and cents, so we cannot fix the money value of a school or college. The agricultural college, so far, has not demonstrated to us as yet specific advantages, or benefits, but like the other colleges of the State, we doubt not that the advantages to be derived from this institution will well repay the outlay in money. With this higher appropriation its usefulness will be enhanced ten fold.

As a matter of fact, we regard the reports and experiments alone of Prof. John M. McBryde in the Tennessee University, if published and distributed abroad among the farmers of that State, as of infinitely more value to the farming interests than the entire cost of maintaining the institution. Planting we regard as a science, and the experiments of the Government in this line will be of the greatest possible practical good in giving information and suggestions as to the best modes of accomplishing the best results from a business in which perhaps nine-tenths of the labor of the whole country is employed. A college which, by its experiments, could give practical information to so large a proportion of our people in their daily pursuits, and where so much capital is invested, would be of such a value to our people as could not be estimated in money. And so impressed was the National Congress as to the vast importance of developing the agricultural resources of the country, and of the advantages to be secured to the country by receiving the best return for the labor and capital devoted to this pursuit, that large amounts were donated by the General Government to endow Agricultural Colleges in many, if not all, of the States.

Professor McBryde brings his experience at the Tennessee University to the agricultural department of the South Carolina College, and if he labors in that institution, as he did in the Tennessee University, his services here will prove most profitable in promoting intelligence and material prosperity. Let the Legislature appropriate enough money to publish his experiments, and every man who reads it will be a friend to the institution.

"Tax-payer" thinks that a majority of those who oppose the State University never saw the inside of a college. In this opinion we fully concur. Except when a man imagines that the State University may in some way injure the denominational colleges, we believe it to be the rarest occurrence to find an educated man who is opposed to either the University or higher education. As "Tax-Payer" intimates, it is, in our opinion, as a rule, only those who have no collegiate education who oppose the University. It is through mistaken ideas that they oppose the higher education. There are many men, we presume, who think the knowledge of Greek and Latin, or any other language than our own, useless acquirements; but it takes no argument to refute any such idea. It is a fact, that nearly all the men who reach stations of usefulness in the highest places of Church and State are educated men—men who have attended colleges, or who have, under greater difficulties, educated themselves at home.

Nearly all the different religious denominations exclude men without classical education from their pulpits. On the other hand, the people themselves, when called on to elect officers or representatives in any capacity, as a rule, select educated men.

As to taxing the many to educate the few. It seems that "Tax-Payer" is in favor of taking $115,000 of other people's money to educate the children in common schools, two-thirds of which goes to the benefit of the negroes, but is opposed to the appropriation of seven cents on the thousand dollars of the same sort of money, (other people's) to the higher education of our worthy sons—the amount being the paltry sum of $10,000, as against $115,000.

Let us reason together for a moment and see if only a few are benefitted by higher education in the State University. The fact is, that each of the graduates are required to teach a common school for at least two years. Does it not follow then as a natural consequence that many of our public schools will soon be taught by trained teachers, who will take the places now filled by persons not so competent for the business? In this way the taxpayer and the children of the public schools will receive much benefit. But it will thus be seen that by voting against higher education a most serious blow is stricken at the very foundation of our educational system—the common schools.

The injudicious saving of a few dollars is evidence of a decadence of public spirit, and the lowering of State pride. We are a believer in the highest standards in everything, and especially in men and in education.

The sons of the rich are nearly always educated, and are ever ready to assume places of responsibility, honor and trust, but it is not always the case that the sons of the poor have been sufficiently educated, though they may be naturally the equal, if not the superior of their more fortunate neighbor. The public good demands the highest cultivation of all the best natural talent, no matter where it may be found. And it is with the idea of giving the best opportunity to every boy, rich or poor, that we favor the University. In this College, if he has talent, the humblest boy may fit himself for the most exalted places in society, in the Church, in the State, or in the Nation.

Keep the State University open to all the boys in South Carolina. Let our people remember that no people ever achieved greatness without education and mental culture.

Thanking "Tax-Payer" for his fairness and courteous bearing toward those who differ from him on an important question, we have endeavored to answer his communication in a spirit not less kindly than his own.

Will the *Medium* do us the kindness to copy this article?

The New County Business.

We ask attention to a well considered article to be found in another column of the *Press and Banner*, which is taken from the *Yorkville Enquirer*. While it is possible that it would have been better to have laid out the different counties originally in smaller areas than they are at present, it is now certain that no advantage to the people is to be gained by cutting off corners of the well-established lines to make new counties for the accommodation of the little towns that may have been built on the lines. Gaffney City, a pump station in the woods on the Air Line Railroad, is no further from the Court House at Spartanburg now than it was years ago, and if the few persons who have recently bought land thereabouts, or who now want to fill the offices of the proposed new county, can persuade the people to consent to the organization of a county government to be supported at their expense, the land within two miles of that place may be slightly enhanced in value and a few thriftless office-seekers may thereby be provided with fat offices. The few persons who have settled at Gaffney knew perfectly well the distance it was to the Court House, and if they wanted to practice law, or to make a business of attending court as hangers on, or jurymen, or chronic witnesses, they should have settled at Spartanburg. Is it not a liberal request for them to ask the people to establish a new county for their especial benefit. We say their especial benefit, because a Court House at Gaffney cannot be of advantage to any portion of the proposed new county, except those who live in the immediate neighborhood, while the taxes on the people of the new county will be enormous for many years, the tax on the old counties will necessarily be increased for all time to come. Are the tax payers of York and Spartanburg ready to do so foolish a thing as to entail an increased taxation upon themselves and their children, while destroying the time-honored land-marks of glorious old counties, with such proud histories? As practical common sense should govern us in all business transactions, we suggest that it would be cheaper for the people of York and Spartanburg counties to authorize the County Commissioners to furnish the office-hunters with profitable employment, and to pay to the property owners the little advantage they might hope to gain by taxing the farms so enormously to support a new government, in the destruction of the symmetry of the old counties. This would be for the cheaper plan of settling the matter.

We trust that the Executive Committee may have the fairness to allow the opponents of new counties a fair chance to express their wishes. Heretofore it has been the rule to furnish only such tickets as the Executive Committee wanted voted. Let those who wish to vote "No" have an equal chance, so far as printed tickets are concerned.

Do the City Papers Ignore the Country Press?

It seems that there exists a studied disposition on the part of our city contemporaries to ignore their less pretentious country cousins, and that our dependence on them for much valuable information, has induced the belief on the part of a few citizens that they must contribute to the city press their items of local news, which should naturally first appear in the local newspapers. And then in some instances, we have been informed that such articles have been sent to the daily papers, and that we can copy them. Of course we feel greatly indebted for permission to copy,—which permission may be an implied request to do so,—but it may not be amiss to state that while we get much valuable matter of a general nature from our city friends, that it is indeed a rare occurrence to copy or note local matters of which we have no information, except as it may come from them.

While it is a rare thing for our city friends to receive the country press, except to read them some ill-humored lecture, we are surprised at the vast amount of matter from these same papers which re-appears in a number of the country press. In fact, we have been almost led to the belief that some of our country exchanges read very little else than the Charleston and Columbia dailies, with an occasional glance at the Greenville daily. The *News and Courier*, if our memory serves us right, has put itself to the trouble of changing or remodelling even a long article with no other apparent reason than that of avoiding the giving of proper credit to a country newspaper. The *Columbia Register* often publishes from a correspondent an inferior notice of local matters, with no other apparent reason than to ignore a country newspaper for which it has no love. In the absence of a correspondent, local matters are frequently given the go-by, we presume, for the same reason.

It may be that for these reasons, the local writer thinks it only necessary to contribute something to either of the city papers, to see his productions copied into every newspaper of the State. For the information of all such writers we would say that the *Press and Banner* never intentionally wrongs any neighbor of due credit; that this paper has no file leader; and that it is not a country edition of any newspaper.

We have no jealousies of our city friends. They cannot absorb our business, and we have no desire to curtail theirs, even in this locality. We are only remarking upon a condition of things which seems to exist, and which the country press might in some way remedy. The country press, in our opinion, injure themselves by taking too much matter from any single paper.

A Georgian's Good Advice.

The *Augusta Chronicle and Constitutionalist*, who never fails to have a good word for the farmers, in noticing our good crops, had this to say last week:

"Some persons are troubled as to what shall be done with the surplus grain crop. It is a novel thing in the South since the war to have any surplus. Abbeville may find Northern outlet for some of her grain. We suspect however that, as time wears on, there will be a demand even in South Carolina for much of the corn and oats. Again, next season may not be proppitious, and it will be a godsend to farmers that they had supplies stored up against a day of scarcity. Would it not be a good idea for Abbevill to utilize some of her grain crop in feeding cattle and hogs for a Winter supply of meat? If such animals are not in the country, get them from other localities. Much money will be saved thereby. As the South, this year, has demonstrated that she need not have her corn crib in the West, let her show next season that her smoke house has been also removed homeward."

We agree with the suggestion in part. We do not think it would be profitable, as a general thing, to feed corn to hogs, but this we do know, that there are thousands of acres of good land in this country now lying out which could be fenced in, and used as pastures. In these pastures cattle, hogs, sheep, and goats could run and grow, almost without cost, and in sufficient quantities to furnish all the milk, butter, and meat that need be consumed on the farm.

The *Augusta Chronicle and Constitutionalist* is exactly right in saying that we should raise our own meat. We only differ from that paper in the mode. Sheep, goats, and cattle run well together, and with a little labor, and perhaps no outlay in money, excellent pastures may be made by a large number of our farmers. It is a fact that kids may be raised to six months old without any perceptible cost and it is a fact that they make good meat.

We would say that every farmer should divide his pastures into two or more divisions. Grass seed, barley, oats, rye, and turnips should be sown for stock. A little work in this direction would prove more profitable than a similar amount in any other way.

Just received 5 dozen linen ulsters R. M. Haddon & Co.

More Than Half Right.

The *Aiken Recorder* of a recent date gives utterance to the following sentiment, which, in our opinion, is more than half right:

"We are firmly resolved to establish as a rule hereafter, that all communications of a personal nature, reflecting in an unpleasant manner on the conduct of any one, must be published over the true name of the writer and paid for as an advertisment.

"To a certain extent all editors are conservators, both of the public peace and public morals, and when we deem it necessary to animadvert upon the improper conduct of any person or persons, we will not shirk the responsibility. But we are unwilling for others to step forward and claim the use of our machinery, labor and space for the purpose of gratifying their own personal ams. A newspaper is not for that purpose. We are under obligations to our subscribers to supply them with news and useful information upon the general topics of the day. This is our contract—nothing less and nothing more—and yet, some people seem to think they acquire a proprietary interest in a newspaper when they pay their subscription. Some think that the threat of the withdrawal of their subscription is such a fearful thing that an editor ought to tremble in his boots when he hears it. The fact of the matter is that one or several subscribers withdrawing their names from a well established newspaper is very much like taking a drop of water from the ocean. Such things frequently occur in every newspaper office, but there are always others to take their places."

Communications which are intended for the advancement of private interest should, in our opinion, be charged for in the manner indicated above, but communications which are abusive, or that attack private character should not be admitted into a newspaper under any circumstances. The progress which has been made in the newspaper business within the last ten years is gratifying indeed. Very few offensive or abusive articles now appear in any of the South Carolina newspapers. Men who are deficient in personal courage may abuse an adversary in print, if the editor will allow him to do so, but the brave man speaks in another way.

Barbarians, Libraries, and Colleges.

In the city of Alexandria, Egypt, the religion of Jesus Christ made some of its earliest converts, and continued from the fourth to the seventh century to be a chief seat of Christian theology. The city was ever powered by the Arabs in the seventh century, and the Alexandrian library, the greatest that ever existed before the art of printing, was destroyed by the barbarians, under the decision of the *Calipt Omar*: "If these writings of the Greek agree with the Book of God, they are useless and need not be preserved; if they disagree, they are pernicious and ought to be destroyed." Connected with this library was a *College or retreat for learned men, called the museum, where they were maintained at public expense.* The barbarians, however, had no use for libraries and Colleges, and they used the books as common fuel. This was no doubt prompted by a spirit of economy in behalf of the oppressed Tax-Payers, as well as by a disposition to destroy the high civilization of the Alexandrians.

Our readers will remember that it has not been a month since Christians were massacred in the streets of this same city. What use had barbarians for libraries and Colleges?

"A CEMETERY.—A Cemetery in the vicinity of Orangeburg is a need, and we hope to see the matter agitated. The practice of burying within the walls of a city has long been discontenanced by medical men, and such a course is always abandoned when towns grow to any size. The Cemeteries of all large cities, just outside the limits, are places of beauty, and are objects of the pride and attention of all good citizens. Let Orangeburg be apace with other growing places.—*Orangeburg Democrat.*

We think Abbeville, or Upper Long Cane Society, should take steps to enlarge and beautify the Cemetery at Upper Long Cane Church. Instead of crowding the graves so very closely, in two or three acres of land, we think that a plat of perhaps forty or fifty acres should be laid off for the purpose of a Cemetery. Land is cheap, and by such an arrangement, drives and walks could be laid off, so that vehicles and persons might pass through it without encroaching on any grave. But as at present no vehicle can enter the gate, and as the plats are laid off with no regularity it is impossible to lay off walks with any regularity. Let the grounds be laid off in some system, and let the plan of laying off be strictly observed. At all of our churches, we think there should be enlargement of our burying grounds.

The Pistol and Little Boys.

Within the last week two little boys have been killed in this State by the careless handling of pistols. The *Register* and the *Orangeburg Democrat* each recite sorrowful incidents where two households are mourning to-day—because of pistols. These occurrences should teach our people the danger of allowing fire arms to lie about the house. In one instance a little boy was killed by an old pistol which was thought not to be loaded, and in the other instance quite a little boy drew a pistol from between the mattresses of a bed, and by some unknown means discharged it, the ball going through the child's heart. Accidents from pistols are so frequent that we would urge our readers to sell any thing of the kind, which they may own, to their neighbors who do not read the newspapers. The proceeds from the sale could be profitably invested in oats, barley, or grass seeds.

Reason for New Counties:

We believe it is whispered around that the new counties are a necessity, in order to enable the up-country to control the Senate. If the up-country tries any such games it is quite likely that some of the pump-minders at some of the various water tanks along the lines of the railroads in the low-country may get up a few court houses for their own special benefit. The low-country people are not fools, neither are they wanting in enterprise. As soon as we begin to distribute new court houses to applicants as they may appear, the low-country will get her share of both Senators and Court Houses.

The people who are compelled to come to court are badly treated because the law does not allow them pay. We say pay witnesses and jurors an amount sufficient at least to pay all expenses of the trip.

Sherman Repudiated the Idea of His Being a Barbarian.

It is said of Sherman, when he was burning the city of Columbia, that some of our citizens asked him to save the College library and the University buildings from the torch. His only reply was: "Do the people of Columbia think me a barbarian?" Neither the library nor the College was burnt by South Carolina's greatest enemy even in times of war and conquest, and yet we have at least one citizen in Abbeville county who wishes that he had burnt the library and the College, while it is true that there are quite a number of our citizens who are anxious to lock the doors of that library and that College. We are not barbarians, for barbarians would have destroyed it, and the fact that our people do not burn it to-day is the best evidence that we have made great progress in civilization.

The University—Will you Open a Free College for Our Boys?

In casting your vote do not forget that the free college for our boys is in peril. It should be kept open and we know that if our people understand the question, they will not willingly shut the doors of a *public* college to our boys. Education is power. The common school is good enough, as far as it goes, but we want a higher education. We want a college where every boy, who chooses, can go and get the best education, without cost and without price. Will you vote to close a free *public* college?

For eighty years the South Carolina College has wielded its influence for good on the people of South Carolina. Shall we to-day lay aside the civilization which that institution has wrought, and by which we have been honored at home and abroad? Shall we forget the past, close its doors, seal our own shame by refusing higher education to our youths?

Bibles for the Heathen.

PROGRESS IN THE GOOD WORK.

Minutes of the Abbeville District Bible Society.

The meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office of the President on Wednesday, July 26, 1882, at 10 o'clock A. M.

Present—Armistead Burt, President: R. H. Wardlaw, Rev. W. F. Pearson Rev. H. T. Sloan, Rev. J. F. Gilbert, and Messrs. Wm. Hood, J. L. Pressley, L. W White, J. F. C. DuPre, Wm. H. Parker.

The meeting was called to order by the President and opened with prayer by the Rev. H. T. Sloan, D. D.

J. F. C. DuPre, Treasurer and Librarian, submitted his reports, which was ordered to be laid before the Society.

L. W. White, Corresponding Secretary, submitted a verbal report.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. W. F. Pearson, and the members adjourned to the Methodist Church to attend the services before the Society.

MEETING OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY.

The Fifty-Ninth Anniversary of the Abbeville District Bible Society was held in the Methodist Church.

The sermon was preached by Rev. W. L. Boggs, D. D.

The address was delivered by M. P. DeBruhl, Esq.

The Society was then called to order by the President, Armistead Burt, Esq., and opened with prayer by Rev. R. L. Harper.

The following new members were enrolled: Rev. R. L. Harper, Mr. S. C. Cason and Prof. D. B. Johnson.

The following delegates from Auxiliary Societies were reported:

Cedar Springs—Messrs. J. L. Pressley, James McCaine, J. L. Drennan, J. J. Shanks, with donation of $11.25.

Due West—Dr. J. L. Miller, Messrs. W. C. Brock, Wm. Hood, with donation of $38.65.

Lebanon—Messrs. Samuel Evans and J. H. Ligon, with donation $6.00.

Greenville—Mr. R. C. Brownlee.

Mr. J. F. C. DuPre, Treasurer and Librarian, submitted his reports which were referred to a committee, consisting of Judge Cothran, Messrs. P. H. Bradley and J. L. Pressley.

Mr. L. W. White, Corresponding Secretary, submitted his report.

Rev. Mr. Hyde, agent for American Bible Society, numer the District Superintendent, was invited to address the Society on the work of the Parent Society.

On motion by Rev. H. T. Sloan, D. D., the work of Rev. Mr. Hyde was commended to the churches in this county.

The committee on the accounts of the Librarian and Treasurer, reported that they had examined the same and found them correct.

Rev. Dr. Sloan submitted report and resolutions on the death of Rev. J. I. Bonner, D. D.

On motion of Mr. L. W. White, the Treasurer was ordered to remit $12.00 to Rev. W. E. Boggs to defray expenses in coming to preach the anniversary sermon before the Society.

Mr. W. H. Parker submitted a motion for the appointment of a committee to prepare report and resolutions on death of Hon. W. K. Bradley. The President appointed Rev. H. T. Sloan, Messrs. W. H. Parker and A. B. Wardlaw.

Rev. W. F. Pearson submitted motion for the appointment of a committee to prepare report and resolutions on death of Rev. John McLees. Revs. J. L. Martin, W. F. Pearson and Capt. J. T. Parks were appointed the committee.

On motion by Mr. A. B. Wardlaw, as amended by Mr. L. W. Perrin, it was ordered that hereafter the Society be called to order and the enrollment of new members be called for before the delivery of the sermon and address.

Rev. w. M. Grier, D. D., was elected preacher and Rev. R. L. Harper alternate, for the next anniversary. Thos. P. Cochran, Esq., Principal, to deliver the address and Prof. D. B. Johnson alternate.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President—Armistead Burt, Esq.

Vice-Presidents—Mr. R. H. Wardlaw, Rev. w. M. Grier, D. D., Rev. R. N. Pratt, Rev. J. L. Martin and Judge J. S. Cothran.

Directors—Rev. Messrs. J. F. Gibert, J. O. Lindsay, H. T. Sloan, Dr. Boyce, w. F. Pearson and E. P. Davis vice John McLees, deceased, and Messrs. w. Z. McGhee, Jas. R. Cunningham, J. L. Pressly, G. McD. Miller, J. T. Parks, P. H. Bradley, w. K. Blake, Prof. J. P. Kennedy and Dr. J. D. Neel vice w. K. Bradley, deceased.

Corresponding Secretaty—L. w. white.

Librarian and Treasurer—J. F. C. DuPre.

Recording Secretary—Wm. H. Parker.

Treasurer reported cash collected from old members $28.00, from new members $3.00, total $31.00, besides donations.

On motion by R. H. Wardlaw, Esq., $50.00 were donated to Parent Society.

On motion by Mr. L. W. White, the thanks of the Society were returned to Rev. W. E. Boggs for his eloquent sermon and to M. P. DeBruhl, Esq., for his able address.

The benediction was delivered by Rev. J. F. Gibert and the meeting adjourned.

WM. H. PARKER,
Recording Secretary.

CINCINNATI TO CHARLESTON.

Consolidation of the French Broad Valley of North Carolina with Connecting Roads—The French Broad Valley of South Carolina Expected to Join in the Consolidation:

[*News and Courier.*]

ASHEVILLE, August 2.—A meeting of the Atlantic and French Broad Railroad Company of North Carolina was held here yesterday at the instance of Colonel Chas. A. Oliver, who contracted some time since to build the road, they having agreed to begin the work on September 1, 1882. There were present at the meeting Messrs. King, of Morristown, and Schofield, Campbell and Oliver of New York, representing the contractors, and after a long and somewhat exciting discussion of the situation of affairs the directors signed the necessary papers looking to a consolidation of the Atlantic and French Broad route, the Cumberland Railway of Kentucky, the Morristown, Cumberland Gap and Ohio of Tennessee and the Morristown and Carolina Railway. These roads will form almost a continuous line from Cincinnati to Eastatoe Gap, where it connects with the projected Atlantic and French Broad Road of South Carolina. It is understood that the gentlemen above named refused to enter into a written agreement to build the road under the existing contract, but pledged their word that the contract will be carried out under the consolidation. Dissatisfaction is expressed here on account of the looseness with which the arrangements have been made, the capitalists who got the franchises and bonds not being bound in any way except by their word that the road or their pledges will be carried out. Messrs. Schofield, Campbell & Co., left here today by private conveyance for Brevard and will visit the counties in South Carolina interested in the matter for the purpose, it is understood, of effecting similar arrangements with the directors of the Atlantic and French Broad Road of South Carolina. It is understood that the parties effecting the consolidation propose to issue upon the credit of the combination and with the bonds they receive from the several companies ten million dollars of bonds, from the proceeds of which they promise to complete the line from Cincinnati to connect with the South Carolina roads.

Grand Midsummer Closing Out Sale --1,000 Pianos and Organs at Rock Bottom Cash Rates, on Easy Terms.

Buy now, and pay when cotton comes in. A small cash payment and balance November 1st, 1,000 standard instruments, from best makers. All styles and prices. No stencil Instruments. Makers' names on all.

SPECIAL MIDSUMMER OFFER.

PIANOS, $25 cash and balance November 1st, 1882.

ORGANS, $10 cash and balance November 1st, 1882.

Lowest Cash Rates and no interest. Can't buy cheaper next fall with cash in hand. Closing out to reduce stock and keep working force employed through summer.

Special MIDSUMMER OFFERS to Instalment buyers. Send for Catalogues, Price Lists and Circulars giving full information. Address Ludden & Bates' Southern Music House, Savannah, Ga. The Great Wholesale Piano and Organ Depot of the South. 4

Who would believe it? The duster—that peaceful emblem of domestic toil—may, under certain circumstances, become more dangerous to handle than a six-shooter. We are in dead earnest. An eminent scientist declares it to be a fact. Do you know just what you are doing when you brush away dust? You disseminate in the air, and consequently introduce into your interior, into your tissues and respiratory organs, all sorts of eggs, spores, epidemic germs, and microscopic ferments which dust contains. One moment with a feather duster may be enough to poison both you and your neighbors—to inoculate you all with typhus, varioloid, or cholera! Strange as it may appear, instead of a feather duster take a cloth, wipe away the dust, instead of stirring it up. In short, wipe—never dust.—*Le Voltaire.*

For the largest stock and greatest variety of dress silks, black and colored watered satens, brocade silks and all the novelties in dress trimmings at lowest prices call on R. M. Haddon & Co.

We have just received another lot of those beautiful white lawns, "Lerion De Daca," French muslins and other desirable white and cream wash goods for summer wear, R. M. Haddon & Co.

The largest and most attractive stock of millinery ever offered in Abbeville, at prices to suit the times. When you come to town, don't fail to see our stock. R. M. Haddon & Co.

Ladies Underwear.—Look at our stock of ladies underwear, bought direct from the manufactories and will be sold very cheap, by R. M. Haddon & Co.

Just received 15 dozen ladies hats and bonnets. All the new shapes for Summer R. M. Haddon & Co.

Just received ruflings cream and white laces, flowers feathers &c., R. M. Haddon & Co.

Just received another lot Japanese parasols, fans &c., R. M. Haddon & Co.

Just received 50 pieces ribbons all the new shades for Summer R. M. Haddon & Co.

Turnip seed fresh for 1882, at H. W. Lawson & Co's.

Brass and porcelain kettles, at H. W. Lawson & Co's.

The Pulpit.

POPULARITY A SUBSTITUTE FOR WORTH.

Sermon by Rev. Frank Hallam, Delivered in Trinity Church, Abbeville.

"And Jesus increased * * in favor with God and man."—St. Luke, 2: 52.

"Woe unto you when all men speak well of you."—St. Luke, 6: 26.

The subject which I wish to present to you is, Popularity; and because it has at least two sides, I have chosen two seemingly opposite texts.

It is certainly a popular subject, if the fact that it engages a large amount of attention on the part of the populace is evidence of its being so. And it is a subject of deep personal interest. For it is the latent hope of every human heart; unless it be the hearts ambition, or the heart's thirst and craze.

And there has never been a time, I dare say, in human history, when it has won a larger share of interest than to-day; never a time when it entered more keenly into life, and was a greater factor in human affairs. Indeed, I think it not extravagant to say that popularity is to-day more powerful and in higher honor than ever before. And it must be so; because the world moves. In the old days of empire and chivalry military power and personal prowess were the means by which success was won. In the still earlier days, among the more primitive and savage people, brute force was the measure of it.

But now genius is less uncommon. Education is more general. Tastes and affections are more elevated. Power is not measured by vulgar force. Strength is not estimated by guns and armaments or else the greatest of nations now on earth would be the least. The people have become the heads of government, the people are the source of power, and a man's strength in almost every department of life is in the popular favor which is given to him.

But though the world has moved, it has not yet moved far enough. Popular favor is better than force; but it is not better than merit; and sometimes it usurps the place of merit. It has won so much that nearly every man is in a state of candidacy. If he is running for office his fate is referred directly to the popular vote. But then that vote is no less certainly cast for and against other candidates who have no political ambition. The merchant is a candidate for trade. His emissaries stump the country; and lobby among the people; and buttonhole every man, woman and child from whom they can extract a little patronage. And when the merchant wins it is not because of the intrinsic worth of his wares, but because of the skill and perseverance of his agents. The purchasers cannot detect the quality of goods through a glass of grog. They may be utterly blinded by a personal compliment; and the bands of darkness are drawn tighter and more secure, all choice is out of the question, by the flattery of personal attention, and by a string of yarns. The mercantile agent commends his goods by commending himself, and wins the race not by merit, but by favor.

And this is equally true of other callings. The politicians are not successful by reason of their principles, because the most scientific of politicians have no principles. They are not chosen to position on account of their superior abilities, because it is notorious that the weakest of men intellectually will ride into power over the heads of the strongest. And as with the merchant and politician, so with the physician, the lawyer, the literary man, and the clergyman, it is their personal courtesy, their personal attractive, their deference to the taste of the great mass of the people with whom they meet that to a large extent shape their own career.

Who then would not be popular if he could? Even the common laborer is more acceptable if he is polite; and the petty tradesman will find that smiles and manners go a long way toward the winning of trade.

Apart from all other considerations it is a pleasing experience to be popular. It is indeed a great blessing, and humanly speaking, the one thing, above all others, to make life bright and happy.

And the more popular one grows the more charming is the experience, until age and thought have taught him that there are higher and surer things than popularity.

But at any rate popularity is a thing to be desired by reason of the pleasure it brings, and the material benefit it confers; and as, beside, it is so common a craving it is serious worth our while to examine it more particularly.

1. First let us ask then whence does it come? With some men it seems to have come from eternity. They seem to have brought it with them into the world. It is as natural as it is to breathe. They never seem to have made any special effort to acquire it; but from childhood they have been favorites, and so they continue to be till the end.

a. But there are at least three ways to account for it. It may come from simple cheerfulness of temper. There is sunshine in the face, and it is continually lit up anew with smiles. And wherever that face goes it throws light before it.

Care does not sit heavily upon such a man. The world is not full of sorrow to him as it is to others. Life is not laden with responsibilities. His own life is perpetually saying that the world was made to be happy in. If trials come they are made light of. If difficulties come they also are made light of. If life has its dark side, it has also its bright side; and that is the side that such a man will always look upon. Now such a temper beaming from such a face, is in the most delightful way infectious. Such a man makes people feel happier when he is among them; and they like him on account of his gift of sunshine; and they pay him back as it were in his own bright coin; for pleasure they give him popularity.

b. Then again it may come from goodness of heart. I do not mean any affectation of goodness, for that is generally discovered and its hawker cast out. But I mean the goodness that is genuine, and natural to what we call the true gentleman. It is a goodness which says and does pleasant things in a perfectly spontaneous way. There is no effort to please; nothing artificial in word or manner; no hesitation or choice as to what shall be said or done; but the man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things. And then where there is occasion for him to be so, the man is considerate. He does not willingly take a disagreeable part. He does not gratuitously urge his private sentiments where they are not acceptable. He will not give pain or discomfort to others even though he would be amused. He will exhibit his natural emotion. He is incapable of a rough speech, or a cutting slight, or a careless jest with a sting to it. And such a man, it needs no argument to say, is always popular so far as he is known.

c. But then popularity may come of something very different to these, and just as natural. It is frequently given to a character that is goodly negative. One whose strength is to sit still," and who uses that strength industriously. And this is no where more perfectly illustrated than in political conventions. The man whose name takes like wild fire, and who is cheered until the walls shake with the cheering, is the man with a name to his name. The country returns the enthusiasm with loud applause because it knows nothing against him. And so men rise to the highest seat in the nation, not because of what they are but because of what they are not. Said Henry Clay when he heard that the Democratic party had nominated James K. Polk for the Presidency, "Then I am defeated, he is an unknown man."

But it is equally true that where a man is known opinion is a great recommendation. The world has adopted the proverb of the Master, "he that is not against us is on our side." The world is proud. It does not like to be opposed. It loves the man that agrees with it. It applauds the man that is ready to be convinced. And when, from mere weakness, he turns from honest sentiments, it embraces him with tender demonstrations.

If he can only be converted by whatever company he is in, he is so much the more fortunate. If he can always find some print, or phase of the subject on which they converge, in which he is with them, he is indeed a happy man. And to such a man the world is entirely devoted one of the adjectives of the English language, it pronounces him agreeable, because he agrees with it.

2. Now then that we have seen what popularity comes from let us ask another question about it. Is it attainable? Well, of course, it goes without saying, that that depends upon two factors; the man and the people.

Men can become popular in some places when they cannot in others. Some men can become popular in a given place when others cannot. But there is also a measure of popularity which almost any man can attain anywhere, if he is willing to discipline himself and to make the effort to please.

And then there are two ways to succeed, the honest and the dishonest.

In the honest way the man starts at the foundation of things. He begins by trying to convert his inner nature. He may be naturally cross, and so far it is no fault of his; but he knows that will not do with the people, so he tries to be cheerful. He turns his mind away from the worries and the fretting things of life, and he thinks of what is pleasant. Well by degrees that style of thought becomes as natural to him as any. The frown passes away from his face; the lines decrease; the rigor of his mouth relaxes; his face then becomes as a lantern, which may have been dark as the very night itself before; but now that he has placed a light within is a thing of joy, and giveth light to all that are in the house. And I think if a man begins thus he can always succeed, provided he keeps the effort up. And it is a noble beginning and will be a noble work when it is complete. For it is really the cultivation of virtue and the building up of character.

But there is the other way to attain popularity. It is not by self-conversion but by adaptation of self to circumstances. At least this is the gentlest name by which I can call it, and the most genteel. The person who undertakes it must be endowed with a certain degree of wisdom, or with its valuable counterfeit acuteness. He must understand human nature, and measure it aright. He must foreasate the times; and see the shiftings and the driftings in the tide of human character. He must be able to tell when the storm, and the sun-shine, and the sullen mists, and sultry hazes shall sweep over, and settle upon human opinion.

And then he must temporize. I would not envy him in his task, for God knows it is one of the most difficult on earth, and one of the bitterest. It may be hard to renovate character from its inmost depths. To train and cultivate it until it is all that the heart could desire, it may be very hard to live up to popularity. But for an honest man it is infinitely harder to act up to it. And this may account for what we some times see—men of strength and capacity, of intelligence and virtue, destitute of popularity, and because of some peculiar traits shut off from favor; because they cannot find it in their hearts to do violence to sincerity, by adopting the popular ways, and professing the popular thoughts.

Only think of an honest man forever wearing a mask; forever simulating; forever striving to be what he is not; and continually speaking what he knows not the truth.

It is said of some of the greater geniuses of the modern stage, that the practice of their profession has well-nigh been the wreck of life. They must not only see the meaning of the drama, but they must interpret it. They must not only understand the characters in the play, but they must assume them. They must not only catch the humor, the wit, the intelligence, the pathos and the anguish it contains, but they must make it all their own; and for the time must be the very creatures of the author. And then the strain upon mind and heart and sensibility has overwrought the system; and when the forced anger came they would seriously fight to the death, and when the genuine tears were shed, the strength of body and mind fell away with them.

But this was only for a night, and for a season. Think then of what it must be for a man to be an actor from the time he wakes in the morning until he falls asleep at night. Think of his wearing a mask the whole day long and his face being smothered with the stale heat until he cannot get a breath of the pure free air of sincerity.

My friends, it is a dog's life. But a man can live it if he will. He can be a hypocrite in his home, lest his real sentiments, should by some slip of the family tongue get out. He can be a hypocrite on the street, and in the social gathering, and in the public meeting.

He can smile at men when he would rather curse them. He can put his arm around them, when he lches to slap them in the face. He can cover them with compliments and praises, when his heart is full of contempt. He can endorse their sentiments with ambiguous phrases; he can find excuses for their errors, and pardon for their crimes; he can associate with them where it is degradation to go, laugh at their vulgarity, applaud their obscene wit, join with them in their unquestionable vices, and if need be to retain their favor or their patronage, or their support, can utter falsehood outright, with a mental reservation.

3. But after all let us ask, since popularity is desirable, and attainable, is it really worth the effort it may cost? I think you will understand from what I have already said that I do not undervalue it when I say, I think not.

I could not undervalue it without irreverence, because I find it in my Lord and Master. It is a mistaken impression—the one so common among educated Christian people—that the Saviour was the object of nothing but malice and bitterness. There was much in his favour; and it would have been unnatural had he been universally despised. He was a gentle, sweet tempered companion. He was a youth, and a man, of uncommon brightness of mind. He was a member of that class which was then as always the great bulk of the population—he was one of the common people. He was an industrious mechanic. He was also a descendant of the royal line, which was cherished by the Jews with even greater reverence than the line of Monarchs by his disciples of later days. Beside this He had won his way to many suffering hearts by deeds of love and of mercy.

His enemies were the Scribes and Pharisees, and being the aristocratic powerful class it was only through them that He was scourged and buffeted and crucified. But that He was popular is plain enough. The Evangelist says as to that "Jesus increased in favour with God and man." In another place it is said that "the common people heard him gladly;" again it is asserted that when His persecutors would have done him violence, they were restrained, because "they feared the people;" and once there was a popular demonstration in which He was led in triumph to Jerusalem among waving palms, and the shouts of praise resounded through the streets of the holy city, and into the very walls of the temple itself. Yes Jesus was a popular favorite; and we must give due honor to the popularity that was so unsanctified.

But He Himself has put a check upon the honor which we give. They were His own sacred lips which uttered the warning I have read to you. "Woe unto you when all men shall speak well of you." He seems to tell us that popularity is a snare. And that it may be the ruin of us. And so He has permitted us to see, and by the light of His own words, and by the experience of life He is doubtless willing for us to judge whether it is worth winning.

And we know at the very outset that popularity is uneven and as treacherous as the sea. There it is a wavelet here, and another there, and they rise and fall in graceful invitation, to enjoy the exhilaration of their motion. The ripples play along the beach, and the white caps dance in merriment, and it is hard to resist the smiling fascination of the waters. But as sure as the ripples may change into the lash of the angry sea-god, with which he will strike one little boat to pieces; and out of the darkness and fury of the storm the white caps may rise into towering monuments of those who are buried below.

So popularity may change, and