The Press and Banner.

ABBEVILLE, S. C.

Wednesday, Nov. 9, 1887.

The Public Schools.

The *Columbia Record* is exercised about the short school terms in Richland county, and proposes to increase the school tax in the county districts to lengthen the school term. If the school trustees and the School Commissioner are really in earnest in a desire to give the children better school facilities they can do so by simply reducing the pay of the teachers. We found it simple enough in Abbeville. If any man in South Carolina wants to know how the small salaries work, let him apply to School Commissioner E. Cowan, Abbeville county, who is the leader of long terms and good schools in upper South Carolina. A little practical common sense and some business principles applied to the school system will give from six to eight months of public schools. That is the experience of Abbeville county. If the trustees of Abbeville county would reduce the pay of our teachers to $18 a month, a public service would be rendered.

Railroad News.

As the Chester newspaper fail to give us any news of the progress of work on the G., C. & N. Railway, we must depend on the Edgefield papers for news of the Cumberland Gap road. In last week's *Edgefield Chronicle* we find the following:

AN OLD CHESTNUT NOW.—In default of any other railroad news, we publish the following from an old Edgefield paper of September 18th, 1883.

Public Notice, is hereby given to all whom it may concern, that a petition on behalf of sundry citizens of Edgefield District, will be presented to the Legislature of this State at its next session, for a charter authorizing the formation of a Company to construct a Railroad, connecting Edgefield Court House with the Charleston & Hamburg Railroad, at or near the Town of Aiken.

JOHN S. JETER, Chair.

JAMES P. CARROL, Sec.
Sept. 18, 1883, 3t.

Director Haddon of the Cumberland Gay road was in town last Sale Day. He appeared in good spirits, and told us to wait for thirty days for important news. Let the *Edgefield Chronicle* not be impatient. Give the Cumberland Gap a chance. We believe the citizens of Abbeville would extend time to sixty days rather to miss the road entirely.

Sale Day.

Last Monday was Sale Day. A great multitude of people were here representing nearly every neigborhood in the county. If was perhaps the best humored and most orderly crowd that ever assembled here on Sale Day in a November. Very many of them were either trading or paying their debts, and nearly all were perfectly sober. There was almost no drinkenness, Not a single arrest. Business men in every line were busy all day, and every one was delighted with the day's work. The merchants, the hotel keepers, the restaurants, the carriage makers, the lawyers, the officers in the Court House, the printers and all other men who earn a living at the village were so far as we could learn, well pleased with the day's transactions.

The Cumberland Gap Didn't Meet.

Last Wednesday night had been advertised as the time for the annual meeting of the old Cumberland Gap Railway. A few persons assembled in the Court House. Colonel Bowen appointed a committee to look into the matter of proxies, when, after considerable delay it was found that there were present only about two-thirds enough proxies to make a quorum. The meeting adjourned, and some of the delegates went home that night. Other delegates lingered and were found on the streets next morning.

If we are not mistaken there was a failure at Greenwood sometime ago. It seems a pity to let these meetings fail. If all the stockholders would hand in proxies to the Secretary, then a meeting could be had at any time. Let the matter receive attention. These re-unions should not be abandoned.

WE missed the weekly visit of the last issue of that excellent newspaper, the *Abbeville Press and Banner*.—*Florence Times.*

We plead guilty. We were short of papers that week, and did not send to some of our exchanges. Occasionally we have omitted to send papers to some of our brethren when we may have thought "our presence would not be needed nor our absence known."

[Good Advice Thrown Away.

We believe that Charleston capitalists have had more advice as to how they should invest their money, than any other people on the face of the earth, and we further believe they have paid less attention to this advice than anybody else. As a rule, the most impecunious citizen could manage money to better advantage than the man who has had the business tact to accumulate a fortune.

IT is with pleasure that we notice the prosperity of many of our brethren of the press. Their advertising columns were never fuller than they are to-day. This speaks well for the condition of the country.

Beginners.

S. Wittkowsky, of Charlotte, N. C., advertise "a word to New Beginners." We shall now look out for "a word to Old Beginners."

The Gala Week.

All who have spoken to us, or in our hearing, of the excursion to Charleston were delighted with the trip, and some of our susceptible people are in love with Charleston. Charleston made a ten-strike.

Citizens' Meeting.

ABBEVILLE, S. C., Nov. 4, 1887.

The citizens meeting was called to order by Mr. A. W. Jones.

Judge Cothran called to the chair, and stated forcibly the importanse of the object of the meeting.

Mr. J. Allen Smith was requested to act as Secretary.

General free and enthusiastic discussion was had, evincing the great interest that the citizens manifested in the enterprise, indulged in by Messrs. W. C. McGowan, J. T. Parks, E. G. Graydon, A. W. Smith, R. E. Hill, R. W. Cannon, A. W. Jones, L. W. Perrin, J. C. Kluck, Thos. Thomson, Hugh Wilson, Gen. Hemphill and others.

Moved by Mr McGowan, that it is the sense of this meeting that we heartily endorse the movement of the farmers in their effort to get up a cotton factory, and that we promise them substantail aid to the fullest extent of our ability.

Moved by Mr. A. W. Jones, that the chair appointed a committee of twelve to canvass the town and see what amount would be subscribed. The chair appointed committee as follows: Messrs. A. W. Jones, W. C. McGowan, E. G. Graydon, P. B. Speed, R. W. Cannon, J. Allen Smith, Hugh Wilson, J. C. Klugh, J. F. Miller, Thomas Thomson, J. G. Edwards, R. E. Hill.

Moved, that the chairman, Judge Cothran and Mr. A. W. Jones be appointed to present the action of this meeting to the meeting on Monday.

Adjoured subject to the call of the chairman.

J. ALLEN SMITH,
Secretary.

Literary Notes.

A beautiful border, printed in gold, will ornament the Christmas number of *Scribner's Magazine*. This issue will complete the first year of this extraordinarily successful periodical.

The fiction in the Christmas number of *Scribner's Magazine* will show remarkable variety and strength. All the stories are complete in this number. Bret Harte, H. C. Bunner, Sarah Orne Jewett, and T. R. Sullivan are the contributors—each of them excelling in widely different fields.

The Christmas number of *Scribner's Magazine* will contain double the usual number of illustrations, every one of which has been made from a drawing by some well-known and expert artist. A few of those represented are Will H. Low, William Hole, A. R. S. A., R. Swian Gifford, Howard Pyle, E. H. Blashfield, J. W. Alexander, George Foster Barnes F. Hopkinson Smith and F. S. Church. The price will remain the same as usual—25 cents.

Call and get a nice suit of cloths for a little money. P. Rosenberg & Co. 11-2

THE ABBEVILLE FACTORY.

ABLE SPEECHES BY McGOWAN, JONES, COTHRAN, HAWTHORNE, HADDON, BRADLEY, CALHOUN, HILL, DOCK BOWIE AND OTHERS.

From Whence is to Come the Material Aid?--That is the Question.

Enthusiastic Meeting in the Court House on Saleday---Plan of Action Submitted --- Committees Appointed to Report Next Saleday---The Prospect for the Success of the Enterprise as Good as Could be Expected Under the Circumstances.

On Saleday immediately after the adjournment of the Farmers Convention, in accordance with the notice published in the county papers, there was a meeting of citizens who are interested in the establishment of a cotton factory in our town. Mr. W. C. McGowan was called to the Chair. Capt. E. W. Watson was requested to act as Secretary. In stating the object of the meeting Mr. McGowan spoke as follows:

Opening Speech by the Chairman.

"I am very much obliged, gentlemen, for the honor you have conferred upon me. It is an honor I did not expect, as I am not prepared with any set speech; but I take such a great interest in the object of this meeting that I will not be content without saying something.

The object of the meeting is to discuss the propriety and practicability of a cotton factory. I am glad the enterprise took birth with the farmers. It began at the right place, for in my judgment it would be far better to have the share-holders of the capital stock scattered broadcast over the whole county than to have it all in the hands of a few capitalists. Each share would then represent not only so many dollars, but also so much interest in the enterprise and the property of the town where it is located. And understand it, the scheme is to make the shares small—say $25 or $50, and there is not a farmer in the bounds of Abbeville county who is not able to take at least one share.

All we need is unity of purpose and of action. If we determine to take a long pull and a strong pull and a pull all together, the factory is as certain to be built as that the sun rose this morning. Our county, when she goes as a unit, fails in nothing; and more, my friends, in the appointed time, to be up and doing. Our sister counties in the Piedmont belt are ahead of us. Greenville, Anderson and Spartanburg are well awake to the necessities of the times, and all have flourishing factories and are building more. Are we to sleep forever? They have been the pioneers and have demonstrated to us that it is better to bring the factories to the cotton than to carry the cotton to the factories. It should make us blush for shame, that notwithstanding the last fifteen years of absolute demonstration as to their good, the proud and boastful and grand old county of Abbeville has not a single manufacturing interest within her borders. Will you be content to fall behind your sister counties, and instead of standing at the head, take charge of the tail of the enterprise? No, my friends, it must stop. Now or never is the time. All we want is one purpose and one determination. Let us now *resolve* that we *will* have the factory, and it will be. Let no man be ashamed because he can take but little. The widow's mite was none the less acceptable and efficacious because it was small, and the factory built by the many is ten times better than the factory built by the few.

I will not take up your time in talking about the advantages to be derived from a factory. They are potent, and others will follow who have the statistics.

The Northern mills make money when it costs on an average of $7.65 per bale for freight etc, and then the return freight on the goods. Here our farmers haul the cotton from their own gin houses to the factory and get a quarter to a half a cent per pound more than markets give where there is no cotton factory. Is this not an advantage to both?

A factory brings population—it brings enterprise, it brings cash. It makes a better market for cotton and for all small products, and above all it infuses new life into a sleepy people.

America, of all the world, is now the land of *Hope*, and of America the South is the land of *Promise*. Money, brains and enterprise are looking South. Now is the golden opportunity. Money comes where money is, and the gods help them only who help themselves. I hope there will be a general, free and full discussion.

Essay on Factories—Valuable Paper by Mr. Jones.

Mr. A. W. Jones spoke as follows:

I am requested to bring to the attention of this Convention the advisability or feasibility of a cotton factory. To arrive at a proper solution of this question, we must take the Southern States, which produce the bulk of the raw cotton for the world, and the day is not far distant, if she continues to develop her mineral resources as she has in the last few years, she will be the great iron and coal centre of the United States. What would be the effect if the South had the industries naturally belonging to her? It would build up and infuse new life into her languishing agriculture. It would make our people more intelligent, enterprising, inventive, progressive and self-sustaining. Our cotton is being transported hundreds and thousands of miles from the cotton fields, manufactured into thousands of different articles for consumption, and returned to us at from 50 to 500 per cent. advance.

We have allowed the enterprising and progressive people of the North to absorb the profits of our cotton crop. Not only that, but we have allowed the Western States to come in and turn the screws until between the two they have nearly left us paupers. What is the result? Georgia, Alabama and other Southern States, and a portion of South Carolina, have waked up to their true interest. They are now moving ahead, building factories, organizing into co-operative associations to develop the interest of their communities and why should not we.

Gentlemen, the South is looking after her birthright, reaching out for and developing the industries which naturally belong to her. The consequence is, the stream of Northern capital and immigration has turned Southward.

In the last seven years 15,000 new industries have been established in the South, and during the last eight months there have been $200,000,000 of capital invested. The consumption of cotton in Southern mills has increased 5½ per cent. during the last year. Within the last three months thirty-two new cotton companies have been organized. The iron industry has advanced astonishingly, and the iron mining increase during the seven years has been from 400,000 tons to nine hundred thousand tons.

Mr. Grady in his address to the farmers at Atlanta, says: There are 250,000 artisans at work to-day in the South that were not here in 1880. And this did not include the thousands that are building new enterprises. The South manufactured last year $213,000,000 worth of articles that six years ago were brought from the North and West. This vast sum now remains at home and is distributed among our people.

As to some of the advantages the South has over the Northern States, I find upon investigation that the cost of production is much less. Take for instance the immense saving in transportation of the raw material. Berning's Hand-Book of Alabama points out that the mill owners of Lowell, Mass., buying their cotton in Augusta, Ga., pays on a bale of cotton freight $5, a commission of $1.50, and $1 15 insurance, incidentals, exchange and handling, making $7.65 per bale.

As to labor it is stated upon good authority that the average price paid for labor is not more than one half or two-thirds of that of the North. They work for lower wages, yet actually get higher wages, because the cost of living is so much less. Does this not show that our mills will have a tremendous advantage in competition. With cheap land, cheap labor, the raw cotton at our door, the advantages of a climate unsurpassed, where the mills run throughout the year. The Northern mills during part of the winter are at a stand-still, encased in ice. It goes to show that in this progressive nineteenth century the mills must come to the cotton. The *Manufacturers Record* shows that a rapid and marked development is going on in this great industry.

In regard to the financial results, the *Record* says: Among the earnings of different mills recently reported the Crown Mills, of Dalton, Georgia, after allowing a part of earnings for improvements have just declared an annual dividend of 25 per cent. The Trion Mills, of Trion, Georgia, earned for its fiscal year just ended 16 per cent. The Odell Mills, of Concord, N. C, have declared 10 per cent. dividends for six months. The Griffin Mills, of Griffin, Ga., for the year ending August 1st made a net profit of 21 per cent. The Yocum Mills, of Yocum, Miss., made 17 per cent. on spinning operations, besides adding 150 looms. It closes as follows: We believe that the record of the past shows that with a few exceptions as can be found in almost any kind of industries, well managed Southern Mills yield good profits to their owners.

Let us take our mills nearer home. In conversation with a gentleman, who travels all over South Carolina, and he is a very close observer, I learn that the factories at Pelzer, Piedmont, Greenville, Clifton, Newberry, Darlington, Sumter, Graniteville, and Vaucluse, with perhaps one exception, are being run regularly and paying good dividends. They are giving employment to hundreds of our people, men, women and children, who are unable to labor in the field. Each month these mills pay out thousands of dollars to their operatives and they spend the money in their respective communities, thereby making a market for country produce and enabling merchants to sell their goods at lower figures. With a factory we will always be assured of the top of the market for our cotton—that means from ¼ to ½ cent per pound more than we have been getting heretofore.

I will cite one instance. A guano agent at Easley was ordered by his company to sell what cotton he had on hand and remit them the money. He had ten bales and instead of selling it at Easley he hired it hauled to Piedmont, twelve miles distant for $1. Sold it to the factory and realized seventeen dollars profit—one dollar and seventy cents per bale more for it than he would have received at Easley.

It does seem to me that our people fail to see that our agricultural prosperity must depend in a great measure upon a home market for its principal support. When other industries are thriving this will receive the most benefit.

We have the Northern States as an example. It was not only the spirit of her people that built up her waste places, but it was their indomitable will and perseverance with a determination to lead the manufacturing industrial interest of this country that has given the North to-day her wealth.

With these facts staring us in the face, why in the name of reason and common sense does Abbeville stand idle? Has she no interest at stake? With sphinx-like silence she folds her hands and lets the golden opportunities pass. Wake from your lethargy! Arouse yourselves and realize the importance of immediate and determined effort to stop this enormous drain that steadily flows impoverishing our people, that has well-nigh sapped our life blood and has gone to build up and enrich the North and West. With these facts before us it is hardly necessary to argue the benefits to accrue to the farmers of this county by establishing in our midst a cotton factory. It effects the individual interest of every man in Abbeville county—no matter what may be his profession, and let it now be understood that this movement is not confined to the farmers but to all who have the common interest of the people at heart are cordially invited to co-operate with us. With a cotton factory started other industries will naturally follow.

Then, gentlemen, we can diversify our farming with the knowledge that we have a market for our products, and until as I said before we do have a home market for our products diversified farming, which is the life of the agriculturist, is doomed to disappointment. I hope others will follow and show you the great benefits to be derived from our increased population. The increase in the value of your lands, and last but not least, a factory here would continually pour from her coffers throughout the year "cash," an unknown commodity in our midst, during the summer months.

Gentlemen, I have given you the facts of the advisability of a cotton factory. Now, as to the feasibility men of more means than I have must start it, and I will help all that I can.

The Great Advantages of Factories—Speech of Judge Cothran.

Judge J. S. Cothran then said: This is a very interesting subject and a very important one. As I understand it our friends in the country, seeing the necessity for a better market for their products, are contemplating the building of a cotton factory. Now, I suppose there are ten or twelve thousand bales of cotton sold here a year, which is obliged to come here; we have lost a great deal of our cotton trade by reason of other towns, notably Piedmont and Pelzer, offering inducements in the way of better prices. It is for those who patronize this market to build up for themselves a good market. It is conceded that Pelzer, Piedmont and the other factory towns pay more for cotton than the towns around them—from a quarter to a half cent more. Now, if 12,000 bales of cotton come here on which $1 per bale more could be realized, that would make $12,000 saved; if the farmer makes ten bales he makes $10; if he makes twenty bales it gives him $20. Now the farmer making ten bales of cotton could afford to invest $100 in a factory and make ten per cent. upon his investment; and the farmer making twenty bales of cotton could take $200 stock and make ten per cent on the investment, besides whatever dividends he might realize from the factory.

It is not supposed that he puts his money in this factory as a donation. Trion and other mills in Georgia have realized from 10 to 24 per cent. on their investments. Why should we not do equally as well? Now, suppose the man making twenty bales of cotton realizes $20 increase in price, that would be $20 on an investment of $100 and whatever dividends he might realize from the factory besides

Now it is a matter in which we all are interested. I am glad to see the farmers suggesting something practical. It is a very easy matter to make a speech with nothing but wind in it. Let us have something practical. It seems to me this county, take it as it stands, is the most beautiful section of land in the State. It has always been the most homogeneous county in South Carolina, solid politically and in every other respect—forming almost a perfect square and the Court House in the center.

I am glad to see this spirit of enterprise and progress taking hold of those who are younger than I am, those with whom we will soon have to leave the keeping of the interests of this grand old county of Abbeville. Everything that tends to its advancement, everything that tends to its solidity, everything that tends to its prosperity is a matter which should be well considered by its people. I don't know to what extent this question has been discussed. It is a large undertaking and will require a good deal of money to carry it through.

I would desire to hear from those who have originated this enterprise and in the very nature of things are expected to take the lead. I would say we are greatly in need of some thing of this kind. I am satisfied that those who originated the idea are intelligent enough to carry it forward to a successful end.

I will not consume any more of your time. It is not important to hear from me, for that paper that Mr. Jones has so carefully prepared ought to be preserved and carefully read by every man in the county. This is a question that effects the interests not only of the farmers but all of our citizens.

Dr. Hawthorne Thinks We'd Better Pay Our Debts.

O. P. Hawthorn, of Due West, thought our people "were excessively ambitious" and were straining to do too much for our limited financial ability. "That the county was strugling under liens and mortgages and it was all we could do to keep our heads above the water he thought that people had better be paying their debts instead of squandering their money in railroads and factories. He concluded be saying he had no money to put into a factory. It took his best efforts to keep the wolf from getting under the door.

Mr. Haddon Would Bring Prosperity by United Effort.

Mr. R. W. Haddon, of Due West, was in favor of any enterprise that would advance the interests of the people of Abbeville county—he was at all times ready and willing to aid to the fullest extent of his means, every enterprise that tended to build up the county.

Mr. Calhoun Solves the Problem.

Mr. W. P. Calhoun, was heartily in favor of the enterprise, he thought it was the only salvation for the people with cotton factories and other industries in our midst. Our people would be on the high road to fortune, if we could take the Cumberland Gap tax to build the factory.

Getting Down to Business—Mr. Hill Offers a Plan of Organization.

Mr. R. E. Hill offered the following:

As a busis of action looking to the establishment of a cotton factory in the Town of Abbeville. I would submit the following plan for the consideration of this convention:

1. Let there be, for the present, a temporary organization, the officers of which to consist of a President, two Vice-President and a Secretary.

2. Appoint a committee whose duty it shall be to procure the necessary charter—and as a preliminary step to that end that they file at once with the Secretary of State a declamation of their intention to apply for such charter.

3. Fix the amount of the capital stock of said factory at the sum of two hundred thousand dollars consisting of 5,000 shares of the value of forty dollars each.

4. Open the books for subscription to the capital stock of said factory as soon as practical, and no subscription to be taken for less than one share.

5. When as much as three fourths of the entire stock shall have been taken let there be a permanent organization with the election of such officers as shall then be deemed necessary by the stock holders.

6. Immediately after said permanent organization shall have been effected, fifty per cent of the subscribed stock shall due and collectable and the remainder thereof at such time as shall be subsequently determined upon by a majority of the stock holders who shall at such time have paid the first instalment of their subscription.

7. All sums paid in of the first instalment shall be deposited in bank which shall not be withdrawn except by direction of the holders of a majority of such paid in stock.

8. Should less than three fourth of the entire capital stock be subscribed for by the 1st day of July 1888, the scheme shall be considered and treated as a failure and no subscription shall thereafter be considered of and binding force or nature.

MR. HILL'S EXPLANATORY REMARKS.

1. In presenting this plan I do not claim for it the merit of perfection but I merely submit it for the consideration of this convention which can amend or modify, adopt or reject it, as in its wisdom it may see proper.

2. I have no doubt it will meet with opposition as to some of its features—notably those which provide for the amount of the capital stock and the value of the shares, as I know that there are a good many who believe that a factory costing not more than fifty, or at the out side, one hundred thousand dollars is as large as there is any use for and that the shares should be made as low as twenty dollars each.

3. As to the cost of the factory I would say, that in my opinion no factory with less than 8 or 10 thousand spindles and the necessary compliment of looms and consequently costing not less than two hundred to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, may hope to compete, in the matter of the cost of its productions, with the large factories located in the Piedmont region of this State—especially if that factory is dependent upon steam alone for its motive power, as would be the case with ours.

4. The cost of operating a small factory as compared with a large one is not in proportion to the number of spindles or relative products of each—in other words it would cost far more than one half as much to operate a mill of five thousand spindles than it would one of ten thousands, and for various reasons:

5. First, because the motive power or engines necessary to run the smaller mill would cost very nearly as much as in the case of the larger.

6. And again, the wages of the superintendent, book-keeper, clerk, watchman and the numerous other attaches, independent of those attending the looms and spindles, would aggregate almost as much in the one case as in the other.

7. In my judgment it would be infinitely better for as never to have a factory than to start one that would barely pay expenses as I fear would be the case with one of less than 8 or ten thousand spindles.

8. We would not only sink the capital invested in it but it would forever prevent any similar enterprise being undertaken in our midst and would prove a great injury to the town and county of Abbeville.

9. And now as to the amount at which the shares are fixed. I know there are some as stated before who think the same should be placed as low as twenty dollars—well all I have to say upon this point is that any one who is not able to take as much as one share at forty dollars is in no condition, pecuniarily, to take stock in a cotton factory—he would be doing an injustice to himself and family were he to do so.

10. You will observe, Mr. President, that this plan contemplates the payment of no part of the subscription until at least one hundred and fifty thousand dollars of the stock shall have been, taken or in other words until the building of the factory is an assured fact.

11. Then the permanent organization and the election of the necessary officers takes place—and fifty per cent of the subscription to the capital stock is to be paid in.

12. This amount of money, to wit, $75,000 it is thought would be sufficient to erect the necessary buildings for a factory of the kind had in contemplation.

13. The idea, being not to commence operations or expend a dollar until we have the money necessary to complete the enterprise in hand or well in sight.

14. And further, if after all our exertions we find on the 1st day of July 1888 that less than one hundred and fifty thousand dollars of the stock has been taken the whole scheme is to be abandoned and the subscriptions to be considered no longer of any binding force. In conclusion, Mr. President, I will say that I am willing to take as much stock in a factory established upon a basis somewhat of the nature indicated as any other man in the county of my means, but that I am not willing to risk a dollar in a little insignificant affair that would be sure to prove a dead failure.

Mr. Bradley Cites the Greatness of Abbeville County.

Hon. J. E. Bradley arose amid loud and prolonged cheering, and in his usual earnest and energetic manner expressed his hearty co-operation in all public enterprises, and especially in the one now before the people. He said: It would benefit everybody—men, women and children. It would be a blessing to all of our people for cotton goods to be manufactured at home. This thing of letting our cotton go North, East and West is impoverishing the South. Cotton factories and other industries will give diversified work to our citizens. They will make our country prosperous. I would be glad to see some of the enthusiasm of '76. What then was the cause of that action? We thought that South Carolina never could be redeemed from her prostrate condition. Do we feel financially embarrassed as we were then politically embarrassed? Is it the boast of Abbeville that she has produced so many statesmen, divines and financiers and yet cannot boast of a single manufacturing interest within her borders?

I will say to the farmers of Abbeville county have you not enough pride to sustain any movement that goes to promote the agricultural, industrial and financial interests of your county? We must not let this opportunity pass. If our farmers will put their shoulders to the wheel the factory is an assured fact.

Now, it has been said that the Newberry factory was losing money. This is not so. I have it from good authority that, while the Newberry mill has declared no dividends, she has doubled her capacity and is now making money. We have the finest climate in the world; our fertile soil is unsurpassed; even our poorest uplands will produce anything from an African negro to an Irish potato. (Loud applause.)

Mr. Bradley, after many flights of eloquence, reminding his hearers of the stirring times of '76, closed amid the most enthusiastic applause.

Men to Endorse the Bonds and to Encourage the Enterprise.

Mr. Dock Bowie, of Santuck, said he was not a bloated bondholder—but bring along your subscription list and he would endorse it.

Mr. Newt Nickles, Dr. Addison and other prominent farmer took a favorable view of the great enterprise.

Appointment of Committees—Conclusion of the Whole Matter.

On motion the chair appointed the following committee to revise the plan of organization offered by Mr. Hill and submit the same at next meeting—W. P. Calhoun, J. E. Bradley, R. E. Hill, J. H. Morrah and J. E. Todd.

On motion the President of the farmers club was asked to request, the local clubs to call meetings at once and appoint committees to canvass their respective communities—report result next Sale Day.

RELIGIOUS AGRICULTURE--MANUAL EDUCATION.

Dreamers in this American Land of Liberty, Free Schools and Free Churches, Desire us to Adopt the Methods and Plans of Europe --- They Themselves Would Imitate the Benedictine Monks of Past Ages---Should Free and Progressive Americans Adopt the Repugnant Practices of Despotic Countries?--What "Myself and the Board Think."

CHARLESTON, S. C., Nov. 2, 1887.

Editor Press and Banner:

SIR—I notice an article in your paper commenting on the prospectus and appeal of the Industrial Mission School Society, in which the failure of three Manual Labor Schools, at Due West, at Cokesbury, and on the Lethe Estate, is mentioned.

It is not my intention to reply to the comment made in the article upon a respectable set of gentlemen engaged in a charitable effort, but I really wish information as to the three schools, in order not to let our venture fail through similar mismanagement.

Could some of the older citizens of Abbeville, then, send to me at my address, No. 16 Pitt street, Charleston, or through the columns of your paper, information as to the reasons why those schools were abandoned?

1. It is believed by myself and the Board of Trustees of the Industrial Mission School Society, that the manual labor of a set of students, from fifteen to twenty years of age, on a well conducted farm, can be made to entirely pay the expenses of their food and raiment, but no more. It cannot pay the salaries of teachers. Now, was an attempt made to do more? Was there any provision made by the charity of 420,000 communicants of any church for the salaries of an able corps of teachers? Or were the students expected to pay the salaries of the teachers, as well as maintain themselves?

2. Was the corps of teachers at any time a strong and good combination?

3. Was there the same need for Industrial Education, when these three schools failed, as evidently now exists?

Secretary Lamar is undoubtedly right. The mass of the Southern people are steadily getting poorer. Is not the tendency of much of our education, especially of that being now bestowed on the negro, to educate away from the soil and the farm, and away from skilled industry? Should an effort to educate back to the soil and the farm, and in every branch of mechanical industry essential to prosperity in rural life, meet with reproach from any quarter?

For one, I believe that Industrial Education is the great need of the South, especially of our rural population, white and black. It is very certain, too, that the world owes an immense debt to Industrial Education, which the ignorant are too apt to underrate and forget.

The great schools of the Benedictine monks, "the civilizers of Europe, the improvers of the mechanical arts, (witness the great cathedrals) the preservers of classical literature, the originators of a skilled agriculture," were all, for thirty generations of healthy strength and vigor, manual labor schools; for the Benedictine "rule" was, "six hours of manual labor for every student every day."

This school we propose is to be a religious school; and I mention against the mismanagement of so good a thing as manual labor in a school in the three cases, all unfortunately taken from the inefficiency of Abbeville county, thirty generations of brilliant success in five or six thousand schools, all running at the same time, which the charitable can point to—a glorious record—as having existed in the bosom of the church—that church which has ever stood forward as the friend of the friendless, the comfort and the wealth of the poor.

Respectfully yours,
BENJ. R. STUART.

A SEEKER AFTER KNOWLEDGE.

Mr. Benjamin R. Stuart Proposes to Adopt the Modes and Methods Which We have Long Since Abandoned as Impractical, Undesirable, and Unprofitable.

We ask attention to the letter of Mr. Benjamin R. Stuart, of Charleston, which appears elsewhere in these columns. He cares not to hear from the *Press and Banner*, but appeals to some of the older citizens of Abbeville county to furnish him and the "respectable set of gentlemen," with whom he is associated, information as to the cause of the failure of the manual labor schools in this county. We trust, therefore, that some of our readers may furnish the information for the benefit of the "respectable set of gentleman" while the *Press and Banner* will endeavor to furnish to the general public some of the facts which lead us to say that success for the scheme in which this "respectable set of gentlemen" are engaged, is beyond the range of a possibility, but even if it were a possibility to raise the money, then the plan is utterly and absolutely impracticable, and will certainly fail in its beneficent objects, for many reasons:

1. The declarations in the prospectus show plainly that the managers or corporators of the institution are impractical and visionary in their notions.

2. Everybody knows that an educated negro does not want to work on the farm. When he learns to read and write his usefulness as a laborer has ended.

3. The Board of Trustees say they want a "a large tract, say 10,000 acres." Ten thousand acres! Whew! Where does the committee expect to get so large a tract outside of the swamps of the coast, or the peaks and sides of the mountains? Swamps and mountains are not the best adapted for agricultural experiments—as well send the colored youth to the jungles of Africa as to the swamps of South Carolina. If the committee undertook to get ten thousand acres in upper South Carolina they would depopulate about a whole township—and that amount of land would cost at least a hundred thousand dollars—ten dollars an acre.

4. What is meant by "freedom of plan and action untrammelled," is not clear, and when they want to keep away "outside and evil influences," we are left in doubt. If they want to establish a "negro quarter" on the old time plan where "poor white trash" and others may not come, it will not work.

5. To build the church, hospital, school house, students' quarters, professors' homes, barns, dairy and other necessary buildings would cost another hundred thousand dollars.

6. To buy libraries, household and kitchen furniture, mules, wagons, farm implements, cattle and other necessary appendages would cost another hundred thousand dollars.

7. To pay the professors or teachers, to insure the property, to keep up repairs, and replace worn out or dead stock, would require an annual outlay about ten times as great as the whole annual contributions of the Episcopal church in South Carolina for all purposes, except rectors' salaries.

8. Even with the farm bought and paid for, and with all the horses, mules, and everything else paid for, where would a decent Southerner be found who would be willing to take himself and his family to the middle of a ten thousand acre farm, occupied entirely by negroes?

9. Even with the professors installed, where are the negro boys to come from to keep up the place?

10. A school isolated is not desirable for anybody. Students gain as much by attrition or contact with the outside world, as they do from books. For this reason first-class negroes would not go to a place of isolation to be educated—to so speak, in a sort of convent.

11. The insinuation twice repeated in the prospectus that the negroes are not industrious, honest and truthful, would preclude the possibility of self-respecting negroes accepting their charity.

12. Under the present public school system, there is no need whatever for the proposed school. *Manual labor schools, as Mr. Stuart says, is merely to pay the tuition fees.* In the public schools of South Carulina the *tuition is free to all.* The children of poor parents practically adopt the manual labor system at home, and while going to school earn their living beneath the parental roof. They work at home every day before going to school, and they work after returning from school. They do chores about the house. They cut wood, make fires, bring water, milk cows, feed the stock, cook the meals, and do whatever else is to be done.

13. As the half grown children in our public schools earn daily more than their board at home, why should they go abroad to do no more?

14. There is more humbuggery to the square inch in boarding schools than in anything else that we know of. If parents have a good school at their own doors, they are foolish to incur the expense of board, and the exposure to temptation, which is always incident to boarding school life.

15. The absurdity of the proposition to establish an "Industrial School" may be more plainly seen when we state that the total number of communicants in the Episcopal Church in this State aggregates only about four thousand souls, and nowhere is it plain that this "respectable set of gentlemen" represent the sentiments of any considerable portion of the church, which outside of preachers' salaries, has heretofore raised a total of only about $5,000 a year for missions, church work, and all other benevolent causes.

Having given the reader some of our reasons for believing the "Industrial mission school" is nothing more than a visionary scheme for which there is no actual need, and for which, if established, there is no possibility of hope for success, we trust that some one will answer Mr. Stuart's letter.

We publish the will of Dr. DeLa Howe. It is an interesting document, which our subscribers will be glad to read. That document will show the origin of the DeLa Howe school in this county. The people know how the public schools, by offering superior inducements to scholars, took the place of that school. The valuable property and its endowment is in good hands. The farm rented last week for eighteen bales of cotton, and eleven thousand dollars of good notes bring in ten per cent. interest. Efforts will be made to change the terms of the will, so that this large estate may be available for the benevolent purpose for which it was intended.

The Cokesbury manual labor school had the undivided support of the Methodists in this State. Living witnesses are ready to prove that it was found to be impracticable and that the plan was abandoned—yearly reducing the hours of labor until finally negroes were hired to do the work. Wofford College was established, and the support of the church withdrawn, and its history was complete.

PRUDENT MEN FORESAW THE EVIL.

Due West Was too Wise to be Caught in the Manual Labor School Business.

DUE WEST, S. C., Nov. 7, 1887.

Editor Abbeville Press and Banner:

The manual labor system was never in operation in Erskine College, nor in the school in Due West out of which the college developed. Such a plan was once discussed in the Synod, but it never came to a reality. At a meeting of the Synod at Due West, in 1881, a series of resolutions looking to this important were adopted, the three important sections of which I quote:

"1st. *Resolved*, That it is expedient to make an effort to establish, in the bounds of this Synod, one or more schools or academies on 'the manual labor system.'"

"2nd. *Resolved*, That between this time and the next meeting of the Synod, the members of the Synod make inquiry in their respective congregations as to the amount of funds which could be raised, or land or stock which would or might be furnished, by any congregation or congregations in the bounds of the Synod."

"3rd. *Resolved*, That the clerk of this Synod correspondent with the principals of some approved manual labor schools in the United States, for the purpose of obtaining the most correct knowledge on the best mode of conducting a manual labor school."

At the meeting of the Synod, at Cedar Springs, in 1835, "Ministers were called on to see if they had laid the manual labor plan of education before their people." Dr. Lathan, in his History of the Associate Reformed Synod of the South says, "The reports were not favorable, the people did not favor the manual labor plan."

The whole matter died here, there was, therefore, never such a thing in Erskine College. So far as the record shows, no one ever mooted the matter afterwards.

Yours very truly,
WM. HOOD.

LET THERE BE NO MISTAKE ABOUT THE MATTER.

Two Sides to a Question, Only One of Which Came to the Ears of the Local Scribe, Whose Statement is now Corrected and Modified.

VERDERY, S. C., October 28, 1887.

Editor Press and Banner:

DEAR SIR—Please correct a mistake which appeared in the locals in this week's issue of your paper. You stated there was a "tenement house burnt on William Develin's place ignited from a spark from an engine."

This was the facts in relation to the matter: There was a cabin burnt on the Wharton Place while my engine was there ginning cotton, but no one knows how it caught. As the occupants were cooking dinner at the time, and a lot of dry tobacco in the chimney and loft of the house, there is a probability it caught and set fire to the house from that. I make this correction as it was my gin and engine that was there at the time, so that there may be no confirmed opinion relative to the matter.

Very respectfully,
R. H. DEVLIN.

Colored dress, silks at 44 cents per yard. This is the best bargain that was ever offered in silks. Call and secure a bargain before they are all sold. Wm. E. Bell. 10-19

HISTORICAL DOCUMENT.

THE ORIGIN OF ONE OF ABBEVILLE'S CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

Full Text of the Will of the Philanthropist, Dr. John De La Howe, in Which he Left a Handsome Estate to Establish a Good School and a Good Home for Poor Boys and Girls --- The Idiosyncracies of a Cranky Head and a Good Heart.

Published for the Benefit of the Latter Day Saints Who Propose to do for the Colored Children, What He Did for the Poor of His Own Race.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,
ABBEVILLE COUNTY.

In the name of God, Amen. I, John DeLa Howe, of the County of Abbeville, in the State of South Carolina, M. D., being of sound and disposing mind, memory and understanding, do make, ordain and publish this my last will and testament.

In primis, it is my will and desire, that my remains shall be buried as near as can be to the spot where those of the late Miss Rebecca Woodin are deposited, on the hill opposite to the dwelling house wherein we both resided together, and I still do reside, on my plantation or farm named Lethe, as the last mark and testimony of my friendship and sense which I ever have retained of her merit.

And it is further my will that as soon as it can conveniently be done after my decease, a substantial brick wall shall be built round our sepulchres, not less than ten feet square in the clear, eight feet above ground, and two bricks thick; with a substantial door and lock, and that the whole of it shall forever be kept up and in good order, and the area within clear of bushes and weeds, and that the following inscription, in large iron capitals, shall forever be kept incased in the door: Rebecca Woodin, *Obiit* 4th Oct., 1788—Ives DeLa How *fundator hujus seminarii agriculturalis*, with the date of my decease.

I give and devise all my real and personal estate of whatsoever nature it may be, so in possession as in right, (excepting what is hereafter by this my last will otherwise disposed of,) to the President and Agricultural Society of this State of South Carolina, now or lately holding their usual meetings in the city of Charleston, and to such of their members as the said Society *pro tempore* shall name and appoint to take the execution and trust contained in this my last will and testament upon them, and to their successors in said appointment forever That is to say, in trust for the following intent, uses and purposes, and for no other use, intent or purpose whatsoever, viz., for causing and procuring, to be exerted, established, organized,