

"TO THINE OWN SELF BE TRUE, AND IT MUST FOLLOW, S THE

NIGHT TIME DAY, THOU CANST NOT THEN BE FALSE TO ANY MAN."

BY ROBT. A. THOMPSON.

PICKENS COURT HOUSE, S. C. SATURDAY, MAY 5, 1860.

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SELECTED POETRY.

Beauty in all Things. There's beauty in the rainbow, That reaches o'er the sky; There's beauty in the glances Of a lovely maiden's eye; There's beauty in the sunset, When the glowing sunset, When the day-god's parting beams Dance on the ocean's breast.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Correspondence of the Keowee Courier. CORNERSVILLE, HOPKINS CO., TEXAS, April 1st, 1860.

Dear Courier: You will, from this, learn that am journeying westwards. In company with "H. D.," late of Anderson District, I made thus far to-day. Leaving the beautiful and romantic residence of our friend "J. M. L.," we had quite a pleasant ride "over the hills and far away." The day was one of lovely springtime, just such an one as is suited to make one glad and cheery. The grass and prairie flowers are fast springing up beneath our tread. The trees, the monarchs of the forests, and the lesser shrubbery are fast putting on their green mantle. The wild plum-bush loads the passing zephyr with fragrance. The dogwood has robbed itself in its most delicate, proud and charming garment. And while the singing birds are warbling their most enchanting notes and lays, we are admonished of the Omnipotence and goodness of Him who rules and controls the destiny of man.

"The orange tints that gild the greenest bough, The streaklet that from vales to valley goes, The vine on high, the willow branch below, Mixed in one mighty scene of varied beauty glow."

In our journeyings for the last day or two, we have made the counties of Upshur, Wood, Titus, and Hopkins, the theatre of our promiscuous perambulations; and I am sorry that I cannot come to you with a clearer history of their antecedents—but we read, "sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." I find the lands that I have so far seen, generally to appear poor sandy ridges, with a mixture of soil from sand to stiff white clay, covered with black and blue jacks, wild plum and winter huckleberry. Occasionally you will pass a "post oak flat," considered, even in Texas, the poorest land known. These lands have a cold, stiff soil, almost impervious to water, holding the winter rains until too late to bring them into successful cultivation in the Spring. You will then find the "glades" to be small specimens of prairie—often rolling, and sometimes with basin inclosures, not allowing them sufficient drainage for cultivation. You will find on them mounds of grass and water, and their appearance rather captivates the eye than attracts the attention of the cultivator of the soil. Upon these vast fields of pasture you will see the thousands of herds of stock, horses, cattle and sheep, giving to them the appearance of life and vivacity. There is a pine belt just below this, some 60 miles in length by 5 miles in width, running north and south. In this vast region of pines you will find the steam-mills that supply the country around, and the prairie, far and near, with the lumber that builds their houses, fences, &c.—some hauling 200 miles. To pay for this lumber is brought in beef, flour and corn. The prairies being generally settled by Indians, Illinoisians and Missourians, who are used to cold winds, but little wood, poor water, and black lands, and say that it is cheaper to haul lumber thus far than to cut down timber to clear lands.

Hopkins county is considered a grain county. I made some inquiry as to the productions, not having ocular demonstration that she was fully entitled to the sobriquet, as I saw no corn, no wheat, no oats, no rye, nor so strae, whereby I might have a trace, primitive or antecedent of her cognomen. And Mr. T—, with whom we had an excellent dinner, told us that he had raised three bushels of wheat per acre, while he sowed, but had sown none of late years. We enquired of him how long had he been in the country? He replied, "since the days of the 'Regulators and Moderators.'" We asked him where he got his supplies to live upon. He said at Jefferson and the Prairies. We did not ask him how he paid for them, having in our early introduction into the State, been told that no person was duly recognized a citizen of Texas till they had no money, and could sleep till sun-up every morning. Sanecho Panza has just, doubtless, in his day, many to join him in his orisons, from this quarter, if this be true. This then teaches us why so few merchants in Texas make no fortunes. I am told that at one place, where a large amount of made is now carried on, that not one man in business there now, was, four years ago. I do not say that they have failed, but the presumption is, that it is either a quick place to make or break, and I will say for them that I have not seen in this section of the world, more evidence of economy, thrift and abundance of this world's goods, than in many other sections I have visited. But I will say that I do find some doing well, as far as accumulating goods and enjoyment of this life is

concerned; and some doing better than those of our South Carolina friends. I am pleased to know and say, that those of our friends who have cast their destiny with the "Lone Star," are enjoying tolerable health, and good spirits, and have many of the comforts of this life, and a prospect of that to come. While I do not envy them their homes, amidst the "river of continental storms," "that east columns of fire into the gulf air," "where abundance of beauty now overspread their sin-gladdened shores." "Where the buffalo, the elk, deer, panther, wolf, bear, the alligator, the wild geese, crane, and sea-gull, &c., haunt their desolate shores." I am content to know that it was a wise provision of nature that allowed man to exercise his own judgment in selecting himself a home, when under no more restraint than the moral law.

You may hear one time more from me ere I am on the east bank of modern Jordan.

UNION POINT, GA., April 13, 1860. Dear Courier: From this "point" I will close my scribbles to you. I arrived here this evening at 2 o'clock, from Atlanta. In my last I said I might drop you a line from Vicksburg, Miss., but as my stay was too short there, and since then I have had no leisure.

Vicksburg is situated on a very high bluff, on the Mississippi River, and is a town of considerable magnitude, is regularly built, has handsome residences and fine stores, and is full of life. We stopped at the "Washington Hall," a splendid Hotel. It and the Prentiss House seem to have the run of custom. They are near each other, and near the river, at the end of the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Texas Railroad. On the opposite of Vicksburg, no town is found. The bottom is subject to inundation. The passengers &c., are conveyed over the river in steam ferry-boats; 25 cents passage for a man.

Leaving Vicksburg at 3 o'clock, p. m., on Vicksburg and Jackson Railroad, arrived at the latter place at 5 p. m.; distance 45 miles. This is an old road, and traverses a rich section. This road crosses the New Orleans and Jackson road here, and is making its way towards Selma, Ala.; is completed about 60 miles towards Shreveport. Stopping at Jackson only about 10 minutes, we took the New Orleans and Jackson Railroad for Canton, Miss. Arrived there for supper, and what is not common at Railroad houses, we had an excellent meal. Soon after supper, we entered the cars on Mississippi and Central Railroad for Grand Junction, Tenn. Daylight found us near Holly Springs, Miss. I recognized the place as one that I had passed in the year 1845. The place is looking rather ancient, and the lands around worn out. You find fields with hundreds of acres, now all in gullies and brownness. The land is rather rolling, and the soil rather sandy. Hence the washes are rapidly made after clearing. Arrived at Grand Junction about 8 o'clock to breakfast, and I must say, without hesitation, as a warning to all unfortunate as well as fortunate travellers, that the "Union House" is the worst eating and accommodating "lun" I have in all my travels ever found. I would say to everybody pass her imperfections, at least one hundred yards distance, by. You can never get your money back, here. Remained here an hour, then took the Memphis and Charleston Railroad for Chattanooga, Tenn. It is here that the Memphis and Charleston, and the Mississippi and Central and Jackson, Tenn., Railroad connect. The place is of but little importance; but little business done here, and country around poor. The country from Grand Junction towards Corinth, Miss., is pretty fair lands. But you find in the cypress and sycamore swamps plenty of fruits for diseases. At Corinth we had dinner at "Tishenings House;" had good feeding. It is here that the Mobile and Ohio road is to cross, and it is now tending rapidly to completion. From Corinth to Tusculum, Ala., the lands are not very desirable. From Tusculum to Deatur, the lands are old and much worn. From Deatur to Chattanooga there is some fine lands. I found, on board of the cars, when near Courtland, Ala., Col. D—, of Edgfield, S. C. Courtland I find much in the same state as I left her in 1845, when in company with Capt. R., we passed her. The iron bands that lead the snorting Iron steed, has done but little "A savage wildness around her bangs, As though nature could not touch her heart, By lovely forms, tender sounds or silent weather."

From this place I saw but little, as night soon set in. We neglected to say that at Tusculum we saw the "Big Spring." It is a noble specimen of the Spring kind, coming forth with a stream sufficient to run a common mill. Arrived at Chattanooga at 2 o'clock, a. m.; left at 5 a. m. Came to Little Shanty to breakfast, 25 miles—had good meal; arrived at Ackworth at 11 a. m. I will here pass over the perambulations of one day. The next finds us at "Thompson's Hotel," Atlanta, and a good one it is. Kind and accommodating landlord and assistants and servants, clean beds, good victuals, and small charges, &c. Call on your namesake when you visit the city of "Iron-board bands."

I remained in the city near two days. The County and the Supreme Court were both in session. I had the pleasure of becoming, through the kindness of Gov. B., and others, acquainted with many of the dignitaries of the Empire State of the South, and had an invitation from Dr L— to accompany him, in company with many of the notables, on an excursion to the "Railroad Iron Manufactory," but had to decline, as I had already overplayed my time in the city. I shall ever look to the two days spent in Atlanta as a green isle in the waste of years, that the mind likes to revert to and dwell upon. I need not go into a minute detail of the city of Atlanta; it is all and more than has been said of her. She is in the full acceptance of the term, "a fast place," and still "getting along," and reaching ahead, and widening out like crinoline, all around. I reached this place from

Atlanta, starting at 9 o'clock, a. m., as afore-said, to dinner, about 100 miles. Having some business to attend to, I shall get off tomorrow, 5 o'clock, a. m., on the Athens train, I hope, towards home.

I have hastily penned you several scrawls. You will, of course, do with them as you choose. If nothing more is done, I have had the pleasure of writing you, and employing my time that might otherwise have been more idly spent. Fully aware that the words,

"For my remarks and say, May not a whit the letter be."

G.

Speeches of Col. Orr.

On taking his seat as President of the Columbia Convention, Col. Orr said: Gentlemen of the Convention: I thank you for the distinguished honor you have conferred upon me in selecting me to preside over your deliberations. The task will be an easy one, as I shall doubtless have your cordial cooperation in carrying fully and faithfully into execution the objects and purposes of our assembling upon the present occasion.

I am happy, gentlemen, to see so large and highly respectable a delegation, representing the different Districts and Parishes in the State of South Carolina. We have had many difficulties to encounter in times gone by, upon the question as to the propriety of South Carolina being represented in the National Conventions of the Democratic party. I trust, however, gentlemen, that the day is past, and that so long as our political brethren in other sections of the Union determine that the Convention system is the proper system for the purpose of selecting their candidates for President and Vice President of the United States, we shall always find the people of South Carolina co-operating with them.

So long, gentlemen, as the caucus system existed, South Carolina acquiesced in it. It was found absolutely necessary; party organization and party combination were found to be indispensable elements in the carrying out of great principles. Finally the Congressional Caucus system was broken up, and for two or three Presidential elections thereafter, there was no settled system. You all remember that, in 1824, a portion of the Republican Representatives of this people who had assembled in caucus at Washington to nominate a candidate for President, after the nomination of Mr. Crawford for that position, withdrew and determined to cast their votes for other prominent gentlemen of the Republican organization. The result was, that the election of President went to the House of Representatives; and whilst very much was said against distinguished gentlemen then, with reference to the particular part which they played in consummating an election, of one thing the country was thoroughly satisfied, and that was that it would be utterly unsafe ever again to trust the election of a President to the House of Representatives. Never, gentlemen of the Convention, at any previous time in the history of this Government, would an election by the House of Representatives have been more unsafe than it would be now, by the present House, with all the discordant elements constituting it, and headed by a Black Republican as its Speaker. Would you feel, gentlemen, that your rights and your institutions—to say nothing of your principles—would be secure if the election of a President should devolve upon such a body? That result can only be defeated by concentrating the votes of the opposition to Republicanism, and that end can only be consummated in the manner and by the policy which we have defended, viz.: the Convention system.

I have intimated that the result of the next Presidential election is of importance to us. It is not only of importance to the people of South Carolina, but it is of grave consequence to the people of this whole Union; for, in my humble judgment, not only is the maintenance of our principles involved, but the fate of the Government itself far real or for, for all time to come, is to be decided in the approaching Presidential contest. We have an adversary to meet, gentlemen, which has been growing in strength, and power, and in numbers. At the Presidential election in 1856, they carried most of the free States; they had a very large majority of the popular vote in all the free States. I do not see from any point of observation that that party is dispirited. The doctrine of an "irrepressible conflict" has been proclaimed in the Senate Chamber of the United States and the hustings, and we have had, within the last few months, some exhibition of the practical working of that doctrine. How it is to work out, gentlemen of the Convention, time alone can determine. It behooves us then to meet this organization—to meet it with calmness, but with firmness and determination, and if the worst comes to the worst—if the time shall arrive when they shall attain supremacy, and, seizing upon this government, shall attempt to carry out their nefarious purposes—when honor, duty, interest, everything that is prized by man, prompts us to strike a blow, let it be under such circumstances, that after having struck that blow, we shall never indulge in regrets. (Applause.) To avoid that, gentlemen of the Convention, it is indisputably necessary that we should pursue a course of prudence and moderation; for when this issue is made and met, it is to be made and met not only by South Carolina, but by at least thirteen or fourteen other sovereignties; upon them we must lean, and upon us they must lean, when the final contest and struggle does come, if, in the Providence of God, it shall be sent upon us; and the policy which we pursue should be such a policy that they will heartily and cordially unite with us when the emergency arises and when the step must of necessity be taken.

We have assembled here, gentlemen, for the purpose of appointing delegates to go to Charleston to confer, not with enemies, but with friends. The men whom we are to meet at Charleston from all sections of this Union—from the Atlantic and from the far-off Pacific—from the Gulf of Mexico and from the great Lakes—are men who, in the main, entertain the same common political sentiments. We go there not as we go to the house of an enemy; we go there into the household of friends; we go there for consultation; we go there for the purpose of taking counsel with them as the best means of meeting the wily foe that is before us.

Now, I know gentlemen, that very great distrust has been thrown upon a portion of our Democratic brethren at the North in consequence of the peculiar views which some of them have entertained with reference to the doctrine of Squatter Sovereignty. I know that it is a ground of objection on the part of many of our fellow citizens—gentlemen whose intelligence and patriotism I do not doubt. But let us look a little into that question. What is the principle of Black Republicanism?—what the policy that party proposes to enforce upon the people of this Union? Their doctrine is that Congress not only has the power, but that it is its duty to prohibit slavery in all the Territories, and to abolish it in every place where the Congress of the United States has jurisdiction. That is the doctrine that they set out with. Whether a Northern Democrat, therefore, is a believer in the doctrine of squatter sovereignty or not, he is a disbeliever in the doctrine that Congress has any right whatever to prohibit slavery in the Territories; and many of these men who have gone off in an evil moment, I think, upon this question, were the foremost and most gallant in defeating the Wilmot Proviso when it was introduced into Congress in 1848. We then took the ground of non-intervention by Congress with slavery in the Territories. That was the principle of the Clayton Compromise; that was the principle of the legislation of 1850; that was the principle incorporated into the Washington bill in 1852; that was the principle which was incorporated into the Kansas Nebraska Act in 1854. That principle was to repudiate the doctrine that Congress had a right to prohibit slavery, and that it was left to the people of the Territories to determine the question of slavery for themselves.

Well now, gentlemen, is there anything of Squatter Sovereignty in the principle of non-intervention, as established after a long contest—a contest of ten years' duration on the part of the South? I invite your especial attention to a resolution adopted at the Convention in Cincinnati, on this subject, because I have examined it carefully, and by the most rigid rule of criticism which I have been enabled to apply to it, I cannot perceive in it the slightest squinting towards the doctrine of Squatter Sovereignty. That resolution is in these words: "Resolved, That we recognize the right of the people of all the Territories, including Kansas and Nebraska, acting through the legally and fairly expressed will of a majority of neutral residents, and whenever the number of their inhabitants justifies it, to form a constitution, with or without domestic slavery, and be admitted into the Union upon terms of perfect equality with the other States."

Now, I do not see how a resolution or a sentiment could be drafted more clearly and distinctly than Mr. Hallett succeeded in drafting that resolution. The time when the question is to be determined by the people of a Territory is when they assemble to form a Constitution. You will remember, gentlemen, that when this platform was adopted, the question of the right of Congress to prohibit slavery in the Territories—of the constitutionality of the Missouri Compromise, had not been pronounced upon by the Supreme Court of the United States. Early in 1857 the Supreme Court did pronounce upon the question, and they decided that Congress had no authority to prohibit slavery in any of the Territories, thus sustaining the principle of the act to which I have referred, and the true principle of non-intervention precisely as every Southern statesman had held it during the seven or eight years of the discussion upon that point. We claim that Mr. Calhoun originated the idea. It was resisted by Mr. Webster; but I think the argument of Mr. Calhoun was irresistible and unanswerable—that whenever we acquired territory, the Constitution, at the instant of the acquisition, spread itself over the Territory thus acquired; and we said then that the Constitution recognized slavery, and hence that Congress had no power to abolish slavery, and if Congress had no such power, how could it invest the Territory—its mere creature—with greater power than the creator possessed?—Our view was denied at the time, and many Democrats who voted for the Kansas-Nebraska bill claimed that the Constitution does not recognize slavery, but they were willing, as we were, to leave the question to be settled by the judiciary. The Supreme Court has pronounced in our favor, and I cannot, therefore, perceive why it is that there has been so much alarm manifested in certain quarters, or why it is that we have been so frequently cautioned by our opponents within the last few weeks—as to the danger of our falling into the heresy of Squatter Sovereignty. I say that there is nothing in the avowed principles, there is nothing in the fundamental tenets and faith of the party as expounded through this Convention, that looks to the doctrine of Squatter Sovereignty at all. The resolutions of the Cincinnati Convention are a complete protection against it.

Having said this much, gentlemen of the Convention, I do not know that it is proper that I should detain you longer. I trust that our deliberations may be characterized by harmony, and that our counsels may be such as to promote the interests of the Democratic party, because that is the only party in the country that we can look to for any aid in maintaining our rights in the Union.—I trust, therefore, that our deliberations may aid in promoting the success of that party, and, in doing that, that we may be able to preserve the Constitution, to preserve our institutions, and to hand down to our posterity the rich jewel that we have inherited from our ancestors. [Applause.]

A resolution, returning thanks to Col. Orr for the manner in which he had presided over the Convention, having been passed, he said: Gentlemen of the Convention: It is perhaps proper that I should make a response to the resolution which you have been pleased to adopt in commendation of my course as your presiding officer. I have already, upon two occasions since this body assembled, been under the necessity—a pleasant duty—of returning to you my obligations for favors twice conferred. Again I am called upon for the same purpose, and I may say to you now, truthfully, that I am painfully impressed with a sense of the obligations which I owe to the members of this body. For many years, gentlemen, I was engaged in the active strife of political life.—During the progress of those years it was incumbent upon me oftentimes to be thrown in collision with personal friends. Alienation and estrangements occurred. The friendship of many with whom I set out in life on the most intimate terms was turned into bitterness. I found public life, therefore, anything else but agreeable to me.—But, gentlemen, in the performance of my public duties upon all occasions, wherever my conviction of duty led me, in every capacity in which I have been called upon to act, I have never felt a sense of fear. I have never shuddered at the responsibility which duty devolved upon me. (Applause.) A year ago I made up my mind voluntarily to retire to private life. There were those who were near to me by all the ties of kindred and affection whose welfare required my presence. I was tired of the turmoil and strife which public life entailed upon me; and in going back to retirement I did so with an honest and fixed determination never again to seek a political position. I am here now as a delegate—an humble delegate from the district in which I have been born and reared—simply because, as a citizen of this great republic, I feel the importance of the issues which are about being precipitated upon us. I think that I know the importance of these issues. I think that I know that, for weal or for woe, as I said to you yesterday evening, the issues that are now originating, must be decided, and decided at an early day. I am one of those who have believed—and every year that I have lived my convictions on the subject have strengthened—I am one of those who have believed, and who now believe, that this great Government, which was handed down to us by the noblest ancestors that any people ever had, is yet worth preserving; and if it can be preserved in unison with our rights, with our interests and with our honor, so help me God, my hand shall never be raised to strike it down. (Great applause.)

I have, for some time past, been painfully impressed, gentlemen of the Convention, with the aspect of public affairs; and as time has rolled on, I confess that my apprehensions have not subsided; on the contrary, the tendency has been to increase and magnify them. But I yet believe that, where there is so much at stake, where it is so manifestly to the interests of all sections of this great Confederacy—I yet believe that there will be good sense enough, and patriotism enough, in the bosoms of our brethren of the North and West, to stay their fanatical hands, and to restore peace and harmony in this Union. (Applause.) Let any one cast his eye over the States of this Confederacy; let him take a map, and attempt to trace the lines where division is to take place, if division come. Where are the lines to run? Are you to cut the mountains? Are you to cut the Mississippi? Is the line to be longitudinal or latitudinal—and if a latitudinal line, where is it to strike? Who will you cut off and who will you take in? How many different Confederacies are you to form? What is to be the fate of these Confederacies? It is true, gentlemen, that we assume to ourselves, and I suppose truthfully, that ours is a superior race to our neighbors of the Republic immediately south of us; but look to the history of the people of Mexico, look to the history of the Roman people, look to the history of every confederated republic that has yet existed, and when the cord has once been broken you find a series of petty confederacies, controlled by petty tyrants, springing up; and not only the destruction of civil liberty, but you see with it the wiping out of every vestige of civilization. I trust as I have said, gentlemen, that the time is not far distant when the scales will fall from the eyes and the arms from the hands of those who have been making war upon our rights and upon our institutions. If not; if they go forward and seize the government, and attempt to use that government which was chartered for the common protection of all its members, to oppress and destroy us, there can be no hesitation as to the course which the people of the Southern States must pursue; and I must be permitted to say now—although it may not find a response in the bosoms of all those who hear me—that I for one never have entertained a doubt for a single moment, that when the people of the South really felt that their rights, their honor and their interests were imperilled—I never for a single moment doubted that the South was ready to strike, and strike with all its might. (Great applause.)

Thinking you, gentlemen of the Convention, again—profoundly thinking you for the distinguished and manifold honors which you have conferred upon me, I shall make it my duty, and my purpose hereafter in life—whether in retirement or otherwise—I shall make it my constant aim to continue to deserve the good will and kind regard of so noble, so gallant, and so chivalric a set of gentlemen as those constituting this Convention. I again thank you.

The Hon. gentleman then resumed his seat amidst hearty applause.

Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.

COLUMBIA, S. C., April 11.—The reputation of this city of Gardens and shade trees, the capital of South Carolina, as one of the most beautiful cities on the American continent, has not been exaggerated. It is now, with its immediate suburbs, a town of about nine thousand inhabitants, the streets wide and lined on each side with trees, sometimes rows of trees in the middle of the streets, and flower gardens, now in their glory, in front of all the private residences. Of the public buildings, the new and magnificent State House, now in course of erection, has advanced so far towards completion, that the third and last story is now being put up, and the workmen are engaged in preparing the cornice. This new edifice is worthy of particular notice, and I beg here to express my acknowledgments to one of the accomplished architects and gentlemen engaged upon this great work, Mr. John A. Kay, for the information which I am enabled to lay before the public.

This noble structure was designed by Mr. John R. Niersee, an eminent architect, who formerly conducted an extensive practice in Baltimore, and it is being built under his immediate supervision. The house is 260 feet long, including the wings, and 130 feet wide in the centre portion; the wings are 83 feet in width, and the structure will stand upon a paved terrace five feet above the street. There are to be four entrances on the first story, that on the south being under a porte cochere. The entrance hall on the first floor is 28 feet wide, and leads from the north and south into the central hall, which will form a splendid apartment, lighted from the roof by two skylights, each 25 feet square, and the stairs ascending right and left in two flights, each 8 feet wide. Rooms for the Executive Department and for the Secretary of State, Surveyor General, Treasurer, and Comptroller General, are also upon this floor, and in addition, the Equity and Appeal Court rooms, with Law and Equity Libraries, Clerks' rooms and numerous committee rooms are provided. The principal entrance to the building is by a broad and magnificent flight of steps, 95 feet wide, leading up to a portico projecting from the building 20 feet, and supported by two rows of Corinthian columns, ten in each row. The main features on this floor are the entrance Hall, Senate Chamber, Representative Hall and Library. The Library is 84 by 46 feet. There are also offices and private rooms for the President and Clerk of the Senate and Speaker and Clerk of the House, adjoining the respective Houses. The Solicitor's office is 25 by 32 feet. The Senate Chamber, Representative Hall and Library, are to be 35 feet high, and the entrance to the galleries of these rooms is from the 3d floor, by which is avoided the necessity of clambering up a narrow stairway to hear discussions, as is too frequently the case in legislative buildings. The material used is granite, of a very superior quality; it is quarried within three miles of the State House and conveyed on a railroad constructed expressly for that purpose. The quarry is one of the finest in America, as blocks of any dimension can be obtained up to 80 feet in length, and it has the further advantage of being destitute of pyrites, so that there is no apprehension of iron rust—it is of a uniform light bluish grey color, and at a little distance can scarcely be distinguished from marble. On each side of the grand entrance doorway, will be the Roman fuses or emblem of authority, and over these will be two eagles, then two medallion busts of Meade and Hayne, executed by Mr. H. K. Brown, of the U. S. Art Commission; above these again will be two festoons, composed very artistically of the cotton plant—this portion is executed in marble. Mr. Brown has, likewise, received a commission to fill the tympanum of the North Pediment with all-ideal statuary, and his design is a happy conception. The centre figure, which is thirteen feet high, is a female, walking on the sea shore, on her left hand a Palmetto tree, and on her right the rising sun, with the anchor of Hope beside her—this being the arms of the State. On one side is Justice, with the sword and scales, a lion at her feet as the emblem of strength. On the other a figure of Liberty, with the eagle of America rising beside her. To the left of this central group, are negroes rolling cotton bales, and farther on a cotton field is represented, with the negroes gathering cotton. On the right hand, a rice field in harvest time. Thus the industry and commerce of the Palmetto State at the present time will be faithfully represented to future generations.

The columns in the interior of the building are to be of Tennessee marble, from the quarries belonging to Messrs. Wm. Dougherty & Co. Mr. Dougherty resides in Columbia, having taken an extensive contract to furnish and prepare the marble for columns, door and window dressings, &c., and has erected a very fine marble mill to execute his contract. It is expected that the building will be completed in about four years, and South Carolina can then be proud of possessing the finest capital in the Union. As a symbol of art alone, for her rising generations, she will be remembered for her present expenditure, and in addition her people will find that by developing her own internal resources, they are sowing the seed which will produce a rich and abundant harvest. The commissioner of the work is Gen. James Jones; architect, Mr. John R. Niersee; assistant architect, Mr. John A. Kay. There are over five hundred workmen and laborers engaged.

The Chinese picture of emblazon is "a Mandarin trying to catch a comet, by putting salt on his tail."

LIBERTY will not descend to a people; a people must raise themselves to liberty; it is a blessing that must be earned, before it can be enjoyed.