

The Orangeburg News.

FIRST OUR HOMES; THEN OUR STATE; FINALLY THE NATION; THESE CONSTITUTE OUR COUNTRY.

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THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
COLONEL A. C. HASKELL,
OF ABBEVILLE.

FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
COLONEL W. C. McLAURE,
OF CHESTER.

SELECTED STORY.

The Squatter's Wife.

BY T. B. THORPE.

Fatigued finally by expectations, Mag turned her eyes up the cool recesses of the ravine, and walking thitherward, she wandered on, admiring the beautiful mosses along her pathway, and gathering the delicate fern and wild flower. Nature, ever bountiful in its productions, had hidden away in the quiet recesses a world of beauties; every footstep crushed the tiny flowers, and beneath every pebble peeped some gayly colored insect; the black beetle, as silent as a mute at a funeral, threaded its way along, and the little cricket, so familiar to the bedside, occasionally chirruped in pensive note. As Mag climbed on, ascending toward the light, new and more varied vegetation met her view. From the upper soil a hundred trailing vines had run downward, rich in fruit and leaves. Knotted trees sprang from the crevices, turning their limbs upward toward the light; and as the rising sun sent its rays athwart the gloom, it made the still lingering dew-drops of the previous night, that hung upon the spiders' webs, glisten as if they were necklaces of diamonds. Seating herself upon the stump of a fallen tree, she patiently waited the signal to recross the river and join her parents. Judge her surprise, when she heard in this wild place, and over her head, the laughter of little children, indulging in merry gambols; and even as she listened and looked, she discovered a flax-headed trobin, brown as a berry, projecting his head over the precipice, with eyes glowing with curiosity, and a mouth puckered up as if he were whistling. The sight so unexpected, caused Mag at first to rub her eyes, as if they deceived her, until finally recovering her senses, she essayed to climb to the top of the bank, to make acquaintance with the young pioneer.

It required much exertion on Mag's part but it was accomplished, and before her stood three half clad children, two little boys and a delicately formed girl, wild almost as partridges, and endeavoring to hide behind each other. Mag spoke to them in her kindest accents, and held out her hand; whether it was the smile on her face, or the glistening of a plain gold ring upon her finger, we know not, but the little girl, bolder than her brothers, gnawing fiercely upon one of her fingers, came sidewise toward her. Mag took the unoccupied ones within her own, and pressing them gently, asked the child its name. The little one stared about awhile with unmeaning eyes, and finally pointed toward what before was unobserved, some ascending smoke, and the evidences of a just commenced "clearing." Prompted by curiosity, and won upon by the artlessness of the children, Mag followed on until she stood before a heap of rough-hewn logs; a place for a window, and a larger opening for a door, showed it to be the rudest kind of a habitation. The noise of her footsteps, and that of the children, brought out of the shelter a wiry-haired dog, that showed his sharp teeth at the appearance of a stranger, and upon whom the two boys flung themselves so roughly for its ill-manners that the cur was glad to escape. Mag stood a moment on the threshold, and then entered, ignorant that there was any one within to hail her appearance. Two or three chairs with deer-skin seats, and a table leaning against the wall for support, was all the furniture that met the eye, unless we include a couple of kettles, that glistened from constant use, from under which the embers had mouldered into ashes, and yet retained their shape. Mag was about retreating, ignorant of the existence of an occupant save herself, when in one corner of the room, upon a low bed, raised from the floor by timbers fastened in the wall, she discovered the pale face and emaciated form of one she knew at once to be the mother of the children about her. The sight of so much poverty and distress, so startlingly new to her, sunk to her heart—she leaned over the patient with tenderness, scarcely breathing for fear of awakening her. The woman gave a slight groan, turned her face toward the door and opened her eyes. The presence of a stranger at first alarmed her, and Mag repented her curiosity as she watched the wandering eye and unmeaning expression. It settled down, finally, into a strange inquiry, and, with a smile playing about her compressed lips, she asked—
"Are ye of Heaven, stranger—so fair, and so unyearthly?"
"I am not," said Mag, with emotion, as she beheld the symptoms of the wandering mind. "I am not of Heaven. My father's boat is just below here in the river—what can I bring from it to relieve your sufferings?"
"Bring me some water!"
Mag handed her some in a gourd, which she drank eagerly, her hot breath almost scorching Mag's hand as it played upon it.
"What are you from?" again she inquired of Mag, staring her in the face.
"Just from the river," was the reply of the poor girl, almost overcome with excitement. "I'll go back and bring some one to help you."
"No, don't go!" said the woman, clutching at Mag's hand—"don't go—the fever is off now, and the ague!" and the poor sufferer pressed her hand upon her heart.
"Marm—marm!" sang out the oldest boy—"Marm, what's the corn? Kit won't eat no more berries!"
At this appeal the poor mother showed that she heard the question of her child—but she did not reply; and the boy, after repeating the remark in a whining, complaining tone a dozen times, dragged from the ashes some half-cooked meat, and sending himself upon the door-sill, divided it between his brother and sister.
"I've been mighty weak a long time," finally sighed the woman—"a long time—and roots and yarbs ha' not helped me—even doctor's stuffs ha' not helped me."
As she spoke, the talking of her children met her ear.
"What'll be my children when I'm gone? who'll take 'em to the settlements?"
Mag leaned over the sick woman, and endeavored to encourage her drooping spirit—but in vain. The intermittent fever, so common to a new country, had racked her system and preyed upon a naturally weak mind, until one had become almost insensible to pain, and the other to thought. Occasionally would she for a moment revive, and incoherently talk of things, evidently reminiscences of her youth. Then she would speak of her children—then breathe short sentences of a prayer. But exposure to the weather, bad food, and the accumulated ills of a frontier, exaggerated by indolence, and the want of all mental excitement, joined with constant disease, had absolutely destroyed the mind. The eye gazed wildly about—grew every moment more and more inexpressive. A fearful change passed over her features, and Mag staggered and fell against the rude wall of the cabin, as she almost faint-

ed at the sudden consciousness that the woman had breathed her last.
A hectic flush mantled Mag's pale cheek, and the hot tears dropped from between her fingers, as burying her face in her hands, she wondered why a scene so dreadful should have passed before her. While thus speculating the door darkened, and, looking up, she beheld a man, with a sallow face, shookey head of hair, and long beard, bending under the weight of the hind-quarter of a deer, around whom clung with demonstrations of pleasure the three children, crying—"Dad—dad!"
Mag at once comprehended the relation of the man to the deceased, and, as embarrassing as was her situation, she at once looked him in the face, and, with the tears still upon her cheeks, told him she feared his wife was dead. The man, with stolid look, gazed in the direction of the corpse, and then throwing his burden on the table, and placing his rifle in a corner of the room, sat down upon a low block, resting his elbows on his knees, and his face upon his hands, gazed unmeaningly into vacancy. Mag, in the meantime, passed quietly into the open air, and, gathering strength, walked rapidly as she could toward the river.
* * * * *
As Rodney reached the ascent of the ravine, he met Mag—her eyes still betraying that she had been weeping—in fact, the agitation of her whole face was painful.
"What has harmed thee?" the young man inquired, with unaffected earnestness.
"Suffering and misery," replied the stricken girl, almost ready to sink to the earth—"such a scene—so dreadful!"
"And she covered her face with her hands, as if to shut out from her memory the things she had witnessed."
Rodney half supported her as she descended to the river side, using at the same time the most persuasive language in his power, to recover her spirits, and to learn the cause of her distress. A few broken sentences from Mag gave Rodney an idea of what she had seen; he silently directed the skiff toward the Ariel, and restored the poor girl to her parents.
Morgan had been most anxiously waiting the appearance of Ben, and was somewhat out of humor at his absence: in the excitement he had not thought of her sudden disappearance into the hold of the boat with her mother; already he had given orders to unloosen the "flat," when Rodney mentioned to him the particulars of the trip ashore. Morgan, instantly countermanding his order, went himself below, and soon returning, he jumped into the skiff, and bidding Rodney to follow, they were soon across the river, and as they were landing, the squatter presented himself.
"I am glad, strangers, ye've cum'd across," said he, saluting Morgan and Rodney, "perhaps you'll help a poor man in trouble!"
"Most certainly, we will," answered Morgan, "we have left the boat for that purpose."
"God Almighty bless you for't," said the poor fellow with evident emotion, "and made it was your darter that closed her eyes?" he continued, looking at Morgan.
"I presume it was," said the father, affected to think of the sorrowful task imposed upon his child.
"Well, she's done now," said the man sorrowfully, "and must have a Christian's burial."
Morgan comprehended the duty imposed upon him at once, and explaining to Rodney what humanity required, he gave some general directions, and sent him back to the flat. The squatter in the meantime, talked as one walking in his sleep, and seemed at times almost idiotic, and finally sat down and gazed steadily into vacancy, apparently without feeling or thought.
"How long was your wife sick?" asked Morgan, endeavoring to rouse the man into some consciousness.
"Ever since spring," he said, unmovedly.
"What ailed her?" persevered Morgan.
"Jist ague—she shuck powerful every day—she tried yarbs, and I went down to Limestone for doctors stuff—but she died."
"What brought on the ague?" inquired Morgan for the purpose of keeping up a conversation.
"Rich land, and no pine knots to warm by," said the man, musingly.
Rodney returned with some rough planks, torn from places that made them not positively necessary to the flat, and with a saw and hammer, and assisted by Morgan, they were carried after the squatter as he led the way to his desolate house. The rudest possible coffin was soon made, and the body of the poor woman, as death overtook it, was laid within it by the hands of strangers, her little children all the while gazing on with intense, but ignorant curiosity. This duty performed, beneath a wide spreading beech, that stood upon an eminence near the house, was chosen a place for the grave. While these terrible preparations were going on, the husband stood by, gazing, as if yet ignorant of the extent of his misfortune; his children, accustomed to take

care of themselves, went on seeking such excitement as offered, pursuing the nimble grasshopper, or gay butterfly. The funeral was an unostentatious one indeed, the chief mourner in the rear of the two coffin bearers, formed the procession; the children, for angels inspired them, went whooping off in the hollows hard by, and were spared the first impressions of sorrow, that would probably have seared their little hearts had they been present, as their mother was forever hidden from their view.
The work accomplished that mysterious pile of earth that speaks so eloquently of mortality, marked the spot where lay the body of the squatter's wife. How like the history of thousands then and since. No tear of her own sex none of the delicacy of a woman's hand or a mother's heart, to sanctify or bless her grave. Obscure, and among earth's humblest, her spirit, divested of its clay, in eternity will brighten with that intelligence, and expand with that thought, which poverty, and the cares of a cold world here denied her.

ARIOUS.

The Municipal Elections.

The following bill is now a law:
A bill to provide for the election of the officers of the incorporated cities and towns in the State of South Carolina.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, now met and sitting in General Assembly, and by the authority of the same:
Section 1. That his Excellency the Governor shall, on or immediately after the passage of this act, order an election to be held on the second Tuesday of November, in the year 1868, in all incorporated cities and towns in this State, for the election of all officers provided for by the charters of the said cities and towns.
Section 2. The managers of elections appointed in pursuance of an act of the General Assembly, passed at the special session of 1868, are hereby authorized and required to conduct the elections herein provided for, and to observe the provisions of this act in such cities and towns, until otherwise provided for by law.
Section 3. In order to secure the free expression of all persons qualified to vote as hereinafter provided, the managers of election shall open their respective polling places for three days next preceding the day fixed for the election herein provided for, commencing at 7 o'clock A. M., and closing at 5 o'clock P. M. each day and shall, during these days, record the names of all qualified electors, and their place of residence, in a book to be furnished by them, the managers. All persons who present themselves for such registration shall, before their names are recorded, take and subscribe the following oath: "I, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I am a citizen of the United States; that I have been an inhabitant of this State for one year next preceding this day, and for the last sixty days a resident of this city, town or village, as the case may be; that I reside in this ward or polling precinct." The managers shall, after the election, turn over the registration books to the Mayor or Intendant, who shall cause the same to be put up in a safe and secure place; they shall receive a sum of money to cover expenditures for books, stationery, &c., together with their pay as herein allowed from the treasury of such city, town or village, wherein such election is held.
Section 4. The qualifications of an elector shall be those required by the Constitution, together with a residence of sixty days next preceding the election, within the corporate limits of the city or town, and that he has been duly registered in the ward or precinct in which he offers to vote.
Section 5. The managers of election shall meet at ten o'clock, A. M. on the day succeeding such election at some public place within the corporate limits of the city or town in which such election is held, and proceed to count the votes under oath, stating the whole number of votes cast for each candidate or person voted for, and shall transmit their report of the same in a sealed envelope to the acting Mayor or Intendant of the city or town wherein they have been appointed; and if there be no acting Mayor or Intendant in any such city or town, or in the absence of such Mayor or Intendant, the same shall be transmitted to the Clerk of the Court for the county in which said city or town may be. The said Mayor or Intendant or Clerk of Court shall open the report of said managers, and shall announce and publish the whole number of votes cast, and the whole number cast for each candidate, when the several candidates receiving the largest number of legal votes for the offices for which they were voted for shall be declared duly elected. The managers of election shall decide contested cases, subject to the ultimate decision of the Boards of Aldermen or Wardens when

organized, except when the election of a majority of the persons voted for are contested, or the managers charged with illegal conduct, in which case the returns, together with the ballots, shall be examined, and the case investigated by the acting Board of Aldermen, who shall declare the election; and their decision shall be binding upon all parties.
Sec. 6. In all elections held in accordance with this act, the polls shall be opened at 7 o'clock A. M. and kept open during one day at all the polling precincts and in the various wards, and shall close at 5 o'clock P. M. Each ward in the city of Charleston shall constitute at least one polling precinct.
Sec. 7. The officers elected under this act shall, on taking the oath prescribed in the Constitution, be inducted into office on the Monday succeeding their election, and shall immediately enter upon the discharge of their official duties.
Sec. 8. Said officers shall hold their offices up to the regular time fixed by charter for the election of the same and for one full term thereafter, and until their successors are elected and qualified. The oath of office may be administered by any officer of the State who is authorized by law to administer the same.
Sec. 9. The managers of elections shall receive as compensation for their services the sum of two dollars per day for the time actually employed in such election, and also for the time employed in the registration of voters.
Sec. 10. All bar-rooms and drinking saloons in the town or city where such election is held shall be closed on the days of election, and any person who shall sell to any persons any intoxicating drinks on the day of election shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof, shall be fined in a sum not less than one hundred dollars or more than three hundred dollars, or be imprisoned for a period not less than one month nor more than six months.
Sec. 11. All statutes providing against illegal voting, or the bribery and intimidation of voters, passed heretofore and not inconsistent with the present Constitution, are continued in full force; but all acts or parts of acts inconsistent therewith supplied by this act, are hereby repealed.

General Howard in Mississippi.

A correspondent from Mississippi writes: On Saturday, General O. O. Howard visited Jackson. The General has a theory that the rising generation of negroes, with all the blessings, of liberty, education and the freedman's bureau, must be rising up far superior to their slave born ancestors, and he is traveling to collect facts to support his theory. In pursuance of this object, the General waited upon the Mayor of Jackson, who, being a military appointee, it was presumed would be found reliable and Republican. That functionary received the chief of the bureau with all courtesy.
"I have called," said the General, "for information as to the condition of the freed people of this district—I mean as to their morals and general conduct."
"Bad, sir; very bad."
"I mean the younger people," remarked the General.
"Bad, sir; d—d bad," returned the civil Falstaff.
"In what respect do you mean, Mr. Mayor?"
"The men are all thieves, and the women are all no better than they should be."
"You mean the older women, do you not?" asked the General, anxiously.
"No, General, I don't. I mean from twelve years old and upwards."
General Howard left by the next cars for Vicksburg. A mass meeting was being gotten up for him by the negro leaders, but he did not wait for it.
There is one matter which General Howard, with much advantage, might have investigated, but which he did not touch. The malaria caused by recent heavy rains has given unusual prevalence to malarial fevers in and around Jackson, and the disease has assumed a fatal congestive type. Among the old and infirm negroes, it has proved very fatal, for lack of proper remedies. They are too poor to buy medicine. The claims on the charity of the local druggists have been so excessive, that they have been compelled to refuse further gratuitous supplies. Meanwhile the Freedman's Bureau, which Congress for political purpose continued, raises not a finger in their behalf.
"Why don't you go to the Bureau doctor?" I asked an old woman, whom want and fever had reduced to a living skeleton.
"De booro ain't no good to me," she said, "Dey only cares for dem dat kan take care of demselves."

Elliot, Whipper and Wright, all negro members of the Maneria, have been admitted to practice as Attorneys by the Supreme Court. Each of them exhibited certificates of having studied law in other States.

Items.

There are nine thousand Jews in Chicago.
The apple crop of Long Island is a failure.
Grasshoppers are sucking grapes in Ohio.
A Havana firm has failed for \$6,000,000.
London cabmen are again on a strike.
There are 20,000 Americans now in Persia.
The Persian throne has lost its hair by cholera.
Peaches are 50 to 75 cents a bushel in Eastern Texas.
Butter is seventy cents a pound in Philadelphia.
Montana will have a bountiful harvest this year.
It is said all the lakes in Utah have sea-serpents.
Elliot, the portrait painter, left a fortune of \$30,000.
The Pacific whale fishery is a failure this year.
Dartmouth College has graduated 3,550 students.
Russia is to hold a great horse show at Moscow next year.
The Siamese twins have left for Paris to seek a separation.
Utah is paying twenty-five cents apiece for apples.
The Virginia tobacco crop is the best since 1860.
St. Paul has raised \$1,200 to relieve the Red River farmers.
Italy has realized \$32,000,000 from the sale of church property.
Wild honey is gathered in large quantities in Arkansas.
Missouri claims to have plumbago enough to supply the world.
The Viceroy of Egypt is building a palace to cost \$2,500,000.
The Baptists have 191 churches and 71,475 members in Sweden.
40 per cent. a month is the common California rate of interest.
Southern Kentucky promises twice as much tobacco as last year.
An escaped bear has been roaming in the streets of New Haven.
Jacob Young and wife were murdered near Indianapolis lately.
Taxable property in Brooklyn increased eleven millions last year.
The Hahnemann College building in Philadelphia is now completed.
The Chief of the Oneida Indians preached in New York last week.
The White Mountains have had seven thousand visitors this season.
The Pennsylvania oil wells turned out 12,235 barrels a day last month.
American hay from Nebraska has been selling in Liverpool for \$25 a ton.
The Springfield, Ill., postmaster is about \$12,000 short in his account.
Gen. Sherman is to have another cavalry regiment for the Indian service.
Mail agents on the Union Pacific Railroad are armed with Spitzer carbines.
A quarry of real Fossil burr millstone has been found in Southern Illinois.
Two-thirds of all the gloves sold in New York are said to be made of rat skin.
The largest corn crop ever grown in Minnesota is nearly ready for harvesting.
The game season for quails and prairie chickens has opened in Illinois and Indiana.
New York letter carriers in the upper districts are to be mounted on velocipedes.
Cornelius Vanderbilt can draw his check for \$6,000,000 any time, and get it cashed.
The Baltimore and Annapolis oystermen have commenced operations for the season.
France and England have copies of each other's official publications for several hundred years.
The largest Roman Catholic church in the United States is to be completed in Brooklyn, New York.
Sixteen office holders, five women, six boys and a short-tailed dog constituted "a large and enthusiastic Grant meeting" in Illinois.
The gingerbread and peanut vendors of New Orleans all congregated before the Capitol and do a big business among the legislators.
All the Justices of the Peace elected in Shelby County, Ala., are negroes, and not one of them can read or write.