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The Tax Payers and the Fraudulent Bonds.

The correspondent of the Charleston *News and Courier* furnishes the annexed information of the recent proceeding before Judge Carpenter, in relation to the conversion bonds:

COLUMBIA, S. C., July 9.

The complaint of the tax payers against the frudulent conversion bonds was filed before Judge Carpenter to-day. The following is the complaint:

The Attorney General, ex relatione C. T. Lowndes and others, and the said C. T. Lowndes and others, vs. Morton, Bliss & Co., The People's National Bank, C. O. Witte, F. L. Cardoza, Treasurer; S. L. Hoge, Comptroller General, and the several County Auditors and County Treasurers of the State of South Carolina.

Samuel W. Melton, Attorney General of the State of South Carolina, upon the relation of Charles T. Lowndes and others, plaintiffs, hereinafter named, and Charles T. Lowndes, Wm. Ravenel, James R. Pringle, William Aiken, Henry Gourdin, Edward Hope, John S. Green, T. W. Woodward, E. B. C. Cash, B. F. Crayton and Alex. McBee, who sue on behalf of themselves and others, tax-payers, who may come in and make themselves parties to this complaint, plaintiffs, complain and show:

1. That they, the said plaintiffs, are citizens of the State of South Carolina, domiciled therein, and are the owners of real and personal property, situate in said State, which is annually assessed for taxes, and is legally chargeable with the same.

2. That by an act of the General Assembly of the said State, entitled "An Act to provide for the conversion of State securities," approved March 24, 1869, it is enacted that the State Treasurer is authorized on the application of any person holding stock of the State to take the same and issue in lieu thereof coupon bonds of the said State, signed by the Governor and countersigned by the Treasurer of the State, bearing six per cent. interest, the same as said stock, said interest to be paid semi-annually, and the principal within twenty years, and both principal and interest to be payable at the financial agency of the State of South Carolina, in the City of New York.

3. That in and by the said act it was further enacted that the State Treasurer is authorized on the application of any person holding coupon bonds of the State of South Carolina to take up the same and issue in lieu thereof stock of the said State, signed by the Governor and countersigned by the Treasurer of the State, bearing the same rate of interest as the bonds so taken up, and both principal and interest to be payable at the financial agency of the State of South Carolina, in the City of New York.

4. That by an act of the General Assembly of said State entitled "An Act relating to the bonds of the State of South Carolina," approved March 13th, 1872, it is declared that whereas bonds and obligations of the State have been issued to a large amount, in accordance, as was supposed, by the officers issuing the same, with the authority and provision of certain acts of the General Assembly, including (among others) an act to provide for the conversion of State securities, approved March 23, 1869, which bonds are fully and particularly stated and set forth in a report made by the Treasurer of the State to the General Assembly, dated October 31, 1871; and whereas doubts have arisen whether said issues were in strict conformity with the provisions of the said several acts, under which they were respectively issued; thereupon it is enacted that the said bonds and obligations issued in behalf of the State, as mentioned and set forth in the report of the Treasurer of the State to the General Assembly, dated October 31, 1871, were duly and lawfully issued in conformity with the true interest and meaning of the said several acts of Assembly, and the same are declared to be legal and valid bonds of the State of South Carolina, for the payment of which the faith, credit and funds of the State have been and are thereby pledged.

5. That in and by the said act it is further enacted that an annual tax, in addition to all other taxes, shall be levied upon the property of the State, sufficient to pay the interest on the bonds named in or provided for by the said act, until the principal of the said bonds shall become due, such payment to be made in United States currency only.

6. That in and by the constitution of the State of South Carolina, the power of the Geneal Assembly to contract public debts is limited to the purpose of defraying extraordinary expenditures; and by the said constitution it is ordained that such debts shall be authorized by law for some single object to be distinctly specified therein, and that no such law shall take effect until it shall have been passed by the vote of two-thirds of the members of each branch of the General Assembly, to be recorded by yeas and nays on the journals of each house respectively. And the plaintiffs aver that neither of the said acts of the General Assembly, above recited and approved respectively March 23, 1869, and March 13, 1872, were passed in conformity with the said provisions of the constitution, but on the contrary are in violation thereof, and are unconstitutional and void, and that no valid obligation of the State exists to pay any of the bond or stock issued under the pretended authority of the said acts of Assembly.

7. That the Treasurer of the State has, nevertheless, issued bonds of the State under the pretended provisions of the said act entitled an act to provide for the conversion of State securities to the amount of $7,191,700, and that the said bonds are set forth and included in the said report of the Treasurer, bearing date October 30, 1871, and that these bonds are the same bonds which are mentioned in the act of the General Assembly, entitled an act relating to the bonds of the State of South Carolina.

8. The plaintiffs aver that, according to the provisions of the said act, entitled an act to provide for the conversion of State securities, the new bonds authorized to be issued were intended to be issued as substitutes for the stock authorized to be taken up, and if became and was a necessary part of such transaction, that the bonds and stocks so taken up should be cancelled and extinguished before the new stock or bonds could lawfully be issued; that the whole pretended issue of the said $7,191,700 of bonds was made without taking up, cancellation or extinguishment of other stock or bonds, previously issued in behalf of the State; that *such issue was fraudulently* made, with the intent to create a new debt of the State, and was not issued in lieu of other stock or bonds of the State previously issued; that all the said bonds amounting as aforesaid to $7,191,700 are therefore illegal, fraudulent and void, and have not created and do not now constitute a valid obligation of the State of South Carolina.

9. That some of the said bonds are in the hands of the People's National Bank, of South Carolina, to the amount of ——; others are held by C. O. Witte and B. D. Gilliland; and that others of them, to a very large amount, are in the hands of H. H. Kimpton, professing to be financial agent of the State of South Carolina, and the rest are in the hands of various persons, too numerous to be made parties to this suit.

That all of them had notice of the said several facts above alleged, and of the illegal issue of the said bonds, made as aforesaid, or had notice of other facts sufficient to put them upon inquiry, and to charge them with all the legal consequences of notice.

10. That the holders of the said bonds claim to hold a lien on the property of the plaintiffs, and other tax-payers and holders of property in the State, not only under the provisions of the act of March 13, 1872, but under the general obligation of the State to lay a tax upon property for the purpose of discharging the debt; and that the said holders have required, or are about to require, the Comptroller General of the State and the County Treasurers and County Auditors to levy and collect such tax upon the property of the plaintiffs for the purpose of paying such pretended debt; and they have also required, or are about to require, the Treasurer of the State to pay the interest upon the said pretended debt, and that the said Comptroller General, County Treasurers, County Auditors and State Treasurer are about to comply with the said requisition.

11. The plaintiffs aver that the said pretended lien is a cloud upon the title to their property, and that the payment thereof would work great injury to themselves and all other tax-payers and holders of property in the said State; that the said several bonds upon which the said claim is founded are all fraudulent and void, and that the plaintiffs are entitled to have the same delivered up and cancelled, and to have their property discharged of any charge thereon for payment of principal or interest of all or any of said bonds.

12. The plaintiffs thereupon pray judgment that the said Morton, Bliss & Co., the People's Bank, C. O. Witte, B. D. Gilliland, and all others holding one or more of the $7,191,700 of bonds may produce the said bonds, and the same may be declared void and cancelled under the decree of this court; that S. L. Hoge, the Comptroller General of the State, and the several County Treasurers, may be enjoined from taking any measures for collecting any tax for the purpose of paying the principal or interest on the said bonds, and that F. L. Cardoza, the State Treasurer, may be enjoined from paying any part of the principal or interest on any of the said bonds, and that such further relief may be granted as to this honorable court may seem meet.

(Signed) C. G. MEMMINGER,
W. D. PORTER,
A. BURT,
BUTLER & DESAUSSURE,
Plaintiffs' Attorneys.

After hearing the complaint, and upon motion, Judge Carpenter passed an order granting a temporary injunction, restraining any and all of the fiscal officers of the State from levying or collecting any tax for the purpose of paying the interest upon the bonds mentioned in the complaint until the further order of the court.

The case is now fairly in court, and everything runs smoothly so far.

The Postal Service of the United States.

The Washington correspondent of the New York *Herald*, referring to the expiration of the franking privilege, thus hints at proposed reforms in the postal service:

Mr. Creswell is in a justifiable state of elation at his victory over the privilege to which Congress clung as long as it could with any show of respect for public opinion, but he is conscious of a weighty responsibility growing out of his pledges of what he would do for the postal service of the country if Congress would take away the incubus of the frank. After all, the expense of transporting franked packages was not the main, but only an incidental complaint of the Postmaster General against the franking system. The waste and extravagance in printing thousands upon thousands of costly documents every year that the recipients did not care for enough to pay bare cost of either printing or postage was not a matter within the proper cognizance of the Postmaster General, and he never alluded to it, though the subject was not lost to sight in consequence of his abstention. But he did complain grievously that it was impossible to have the mails as swiftly and surely carried and distributed as the true interests of the public required, while a system lasted under which, without warning or regularity, tons of matter were liable to be thrown on the postal service at any time, deranging existing plans and contracts, and inducing in persons employed in transporting, assorting and delivering the mails, a dangerous disrespect for much of the matter passing through their hands. One of the most powerful restraints of late years upon serious abuses of the franking privilege, except such as were due to political campaigns, was the belief possessed by persons who had congressional franks at command that franked packages were not treated as carefully as those which were postpaid. Experience, however, has proved that open packages at low rates of postage have suffered through the indifference of the postal employees to all but closed letters and packages. It is now the intention of the Postmaster General to make the transmission and delivery of newspapers, books, pamphlets, samples and other large low-rated mailable matter as swift and certain as that of the higher rated sealed matter, while every effort will at the same time be used to simplify and shorten the routes and processes by which the mails are carried and delivered. Already the force of letter carriers has been increased at every free delivery office which has made good the claim of advantage or necessity, and the provisions of the free delivery law itself have been applied with great liberality, so as to give the benefits of the law to cities of less than twenty thousand inhabitants by taking in the suburbs, and giving the latter in return for the merely nominal loss of their postoffices the free delivery and the two cent rate for local letters. New post and money order offices will be established as fast as they can be with advantage, and special attention will at once be given to bettering the railroad service, as being the chief medium of domestic postal communication. Next year the ocean service will be taken in hand to see if the cherished plan of a daily mail to Europe cannot be effected. Additional sorting and delivering clerks will be granted to the larger offices for the sake of expediting the interior business thereof. The Postmaster General says he will bring the postal service closer up than ever to the business and social needs of the people, if the latter stand out against any and all attempts to restore the franking nuisance. Those most intimate with him say that all these salutary changes are to prepare the way for postal telegraphy, to which Mr. Creswell still gives his best efforts in aggregating facts to make the project acceptable.

— If you wish particularly to gain the good graces and affection of certain people, men or women, try to discover their most striking merit, if they have one, and their dominant weakness—for every one has his own—then do justice to the one, and a little more than justice to the other.

Gen. D. H. Hill Excoriates Parson Brownlow.

In reply to a recent abusive letter from Brownlow, which has been widely circulated, Gen. D. H. Hill clinches the nail in the annexed characteristic article:

For a quarter of a century before the civil war, Rev. W. G. Brownlow was the self-constituted apostle of the pro-slavery party. No one of the same amount of brains did so much to fire the Southern heart and influence the Southern mind against the Abolition movement, and thus to bring about the inevitable conflict of arms, as the self-appointed champion of human bondage. Rev. Mr. Brownlow challenged the Rev. Mr. Pryne to meet him in Philadelphia and there discuss the slavery question. In that debate, Rev. Mr. Brownlow used the following language:

"Now, Mr. Pryne, may I ask you and your fellow-laborers in the cause of the devil, to pause and lift the veil of the future not a quarter of a century ahead of you, and use your influence to stay the fanatical hand raised to strike the blow of ruin to your country! Call around you a council of your head men and warriors—Senator Seward, Joshua R. Giddings, Chase and Fred. Douglass—for whom you are doing journey-work, and go to that victim in the lunatic asylum, Gerritt Smith, whose tool you have been for years, and upon whose money you have lived and fed your wife and children—ask them all if you had not better change your programme. If the response is not satisfactory, call a prayer-meeting, and have Wendell Phillips, Beecher, Cheever and all the long-faced hypocrites who insult God and mock religion by calling upon Him for mercy—pray old John Brown and his confederates out of hell, where the whole batch of you are going with lightning speed! Ask God to forgive you for your wickedness—praying morning, evening and noon with your face towards Harper's Ferry! Ask Him to wash your filthy garments from the stains of the blood of your Kansas and Virginia murders, and importune Him until you get your answer—go and sin no more—sin no longer against conscience and your country's laws and Constitution. Don't pray for heaven, for no power can qualify you to walk the New Jerusalem! Don't ask for mercy, for the winged messenger can never light on such mean and detestable creatures. Don't ask to be punished in hell, for that would be inadequate to your crimes! Ask to be annihilated, or banished to the utmost verge of the astronomical imagination, where the ghost of a negro may never rise up to remind you whence you came!"

Then he predicted that the Abolitionists would ruin the country, called them murderers, and said they were "going to hell with lightning speed." Seduced by his pro-slavery rant and fierce denunciations of the Abolitionists, thousands of his ignorant followers took up arms against the murderers, expecting their pro-slavery champion to lead them to the "imminent deadly breach," or at least to "the last ditch." But there was danger in such leadership, and the great champion of human bondage joined those he had denounced as hell-bound murderers, and hounded them on to the slaughter of his kindred, neighbors and countrymen, who had been stimulated by his teaching into open warfare against the Abolitionists. It must be admitted, however, in simple justice to the Rev. Mr. Brownlow's prudence, that he never came willingly within a hundred miles of a rebel battery, but from a far and safe distance cheered on the slayers of his own people.

The Rev. Mr. Brownlow has recently published an article in the Knoxville *Chronicle*, bringing certain charges against the editor of the *Southern Home*. There is not a sentence in that article which is not directly false, or which does not convey a falsehood by implication. I will only notice a few of these wicked libels. Thus he prudently fails to quote what I did say about Gen. Canby and others, and puts his own interpretation upon language never used. He himself was *not* denounced for *loyalty*, but for betraying the men he had seduced into the field and then urging his old enemies to slaughter them for being guided by his teachings. Again, he falsely accused me of misleading and coercing men into rebellion. No human being can charge me with teaching either pro-slavery or secession doctrines prior to 1861. On the contrary, there are living witnesses to prove that I warned the hot-bloods that they were rushing into a long and disastrous war. When my countrymen did take up arms, however, I cast in my lot with them, and have never once regretted that I did so. It was the Rev. Mr. Brownlow himself that misled and coerced men into rebellion. I will show presently that he was the first man ever to use the words "Southern Confederacy," and to advise its establishment. A third gross falsehood is, that twenty-six loyal men were hung by my orders one morning before breakfast. This is made out of whole cloth. I has never my lot to order either the shooting or hanging of deserters or loyal men. At no time during the war would I have willingly hanged more than one deserter. *That deserter* I would have cheerfully hanged to a "sour apple tree," not because of his loyalty to the Union, but because he urged the "hell bound party" (to use his own elegant language) to slaughter the men he had inveigled into rebellion. That deserter, however, kept himself safe behind the battlements at Washington, and thanked God devoutly for every fresh slaughter of his late deluded followers.

Rev. Mr. Brownlow claims that the devil was the author of secession and the Southern Confederacy. I rather think that it was the devil's viceregent on earth, for Mr. Brownlow himself was the first human being to recommend a Southern Confederacy. In his zeal for slavery he wrote five filthy letters of abuse to Rev. Mr. Pryne. In the fifth of these letters he said:

"I, sir, would favor an alliance with France as a means of more effectual punishing and starving out the Abolitionists of the North. This far-seeing monarch of the French would unite with us on our own terms, as it would afford him an opportunity to crush the commerce and manufacture of Old England, and make her feel that she is dependent upon her ancient enemy, as well as atone for villainous treatment of his illustrious uncle, Napoleon Bonaparte. Dissolve the Union, you infamous villains, and we shall make this proposition at once to Louis Napoleon, a most sagacious monarch, and he would quarter at New Orleans 200,000 Frenchmen and at Chesapeake 200,000 more: we would then command the Mississippi Valley, whip the Northwestern States into OUR SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY, and we would then turn upon the New England States and cause the hurricane of civil war to rage and sweep from Mason and Dixon's line to the cod fisheries of Maine, until we would extinguish the last Abolition foothold on the continent of America! Face to face, knife to knife, steel to steel, and pike to pike, we would meet you, and as we would cause you to bleed at every pore we would make you regret, in the bitter agonies of death, that you had ever felt any concern for the African race!"

This letter was written six years before the war, and it is admitted on all hands that Rev. Mr. Brownlow was the first to use the words, "Southern Confederacy." The reverend bragadocio did not whip the Western States into our Southern Confederacy, but he did cheer on the Western troops in the work of crushing that Confederacy. He did not fight "face to face, knife to knife, steel to steel and pike to pike" against "the hell bound party." On the contrary, he joined that party, and applauded them in their work of blood and devastation. He did not lead his conquering rebels to the fisheries of Cape Cod, but he clapped his hands with joy when New England hired Irish and Germans to desolate the land of his birth.

The reverend blasphemer is fond of Modoc comparisons. There was one "Bogus Charley" in the Modoc gang, who sang war-songs and danced the fire-dance, and—then betrayed his leader and his kindred to their enemies. The pro-slavery renegade can scarcely fail to see the resemblance between the traitor Indian and himself.

The whole life of this miserable creature has been a sham and a lie. A minister of the pure gospel of Christ, he has belched forth nothing but falsehood, blasphemy and obscenity. For a quarter of a century the self-elected champion of human bondage, he has for twelve years traveled in loving sympathy with "the hell bound party" of Abolitionists. The first to suggest a Southern Confederacy, he has been the fiercest persecutor of Confederates. Bragging of the terrible things he would do in war, he slunk into a bomb-proof on the strong side at the first whistle of balls. Preaching, writing and lecturing for twenty years that the negro was a brute, fit only for bondage, he owes his present Senatorial honors to negro influence. Prating all his life about honesty, he voted for the back salary steal and took his share of the stolen money.

Recreant to every trust, faithless to every obligation, and false to every profession, the foul monster in his long career of wickedness has been true only to filth, to falsehood, to slander, to blasphemy, to blackening character, to blackguardism, and to W. G. Brownlow.

Small Grain Crops.

The notion is very common among our people that there is no money to be made in this country by raising small grain for market. This may be true, or it may not be true. The fact is, no one in this region of country is prepared to give an opinion on the subject that is worth very much. Our people have so long been engaged in the cultivation of cotton, almost exclusively, that generally speaking, no one understands how to make a dollar in any other way. It is no doubt true that money is, at certain seasons of the year, more abundant in a section of country which is engaged in cultivating cotton, than it is in a region which raises grain for market; but when we look at the final results, we see that people grow more permanently rich in grain-growing and manufacturing countries, than they do in cotton-growing countries.

The southern section of the United States is superior, both in climate and soil, to the northern and western. We mean that the soil of the South, on an average, is better than that of either the North or West, and the climate more favorable for agricultural purposes. The southern section was settled about the same time that the northern section was, and much sooner than the western and north-western sections. The South has been devoted almost exclusively to the raising of cotton; and the North and West to the raising of grain and manufacturing. In point of wealth, the balance is all in favor of the northern and western sections. Southern cities grow slowly and with great effort. In the North and West, cities spring up as if by magic. Land and property of all kinds increase steadily and rapidly, whilst property in the South is not much more valuable to-day than it was fifty years ago.

The state of things which is here only suggested, must be owing to some cause, and we do not see anything so probable as the fact that our people have neglected to engage in the raising of grain and to manufacture. Perhaps there is no crop that can be cultivated that is so expensive as that of cotton. It requires a whole year to make a crop, and from the time that the first furrow is drawn until the crop is sold, there is a continual drain going on. Nothing escapes. The soil is exhausted, and, in a few years, almost ruined; stock of all kinds is neglected, and the result is that all that the majority of exclusive cotton-cultivators can do is to keep out of debt. On the other hand, while the gross income from a grain crop is not so large as that from a cotton crop, the direct expenses and incidental losses in producing it are far less, and the balance sheet is in favor of the grain crop. It costs comparatively nothing to produce a crop of oats, and if the land is not pastured it will be improved The same is true with regard to wheat, rye and barley. To sum up the whole in a few words, it costs every man who is engaged in agriculture, at least three times as much to buy his small grain and provender, as it does to raise it at home on his own farm. The same principle holds good in respect to the raising of pork and bacon. On a cotton plantation, every living creature that cannot work, is an expense. It costs actual money to feed it. Its food has to be bought and paid for out of the proceeds of the cotton crop. Some one will, no doubt, ask, "Do you advocate the abandonment of the cultivation of cotton?" We answer, most emphatically, "No!"

Two wrongs will not make one right. It is bad policy to run into extremes. The true theory of accumulation, as demonstrated in the history of the past, is found in what is called diversity of labor, which results in diversity of products. All corn, or all of any one kind of grain, would be just as bad as all cotton. Cotton, and almost all the cereals, can be produced in the South. Nature has made provision for this, both in soil and climate. There are some kinds of soil that are not adapted to the cultivation of grain, but are to the cultivation of cotton. To plant thirsty, sandy lands in corn, is not attended with favorable results; but to plant all our lands in cotton is a violation of the laws of nature.—*Yorkville Enquirer.*

DEFINITION OF A CARPET-BAGGER.—A desire having frequently been expressed in certain quarters to obtain a correct definition of the term carpet-bagger, we subjoin, as one of the best we have ever seen, the response made by General A. R. Wright, of Georgia, to a similar interrogation submitted in the Ku Klux investigation, before the Special Committee of Congress. It may be found on page 301, volume sixth, of that delectable history entitled the "Ku Klux Conspiracy," and reads as follows:

Question. Speaking of carpet-baggers, will you define what you mean by the term; I should like to know what you mean.

Answer. I will give you any assistance I can on that point. "I mean a man who goes down in the South to make his fortune by politics, to stir up strife between the races, and try to get office as Governor and Judge, member of the Legislature and Senator; men who go there with politics as a trade; low people at home, without reputation or standing at home, who go there *hoping that in the upheaval of society they may make something by it.*"

The New Assessment.

The great danger against which the property holders of the State, who are not represented in the government, have now to guard, is that of unjust and oppressive taxation. It has been so, more or less, from the time that the State was turned over by the Federal authority into the hands of party hacks and political adventurers. It is no exaggeration to say that South Carolina is to-day within the grasp of robbers. The rule of conduct which the great majority of those holding offices of public trust lay down for themselves is not to promote the welfare of the people, but to promote their private pecuniary interests. To them the highest religious, moral, or patriotic injunction is, "put money in thy purse." A sordid lust for money takes the place with them of political conviction. They have not even the fanatic's blindness to plead in excuse for their errors; for greenbacks are the object and the end of their desires. Against such as these the property holders of the State have to contend for the preservation of what property the chances of war have left them. There is a special danger now upon the people of which it is our purpose to apprise them. It comes in the garb of a new assessment of property for purpose of taxation.

There was recently held in Columbia a convention of the various county auditors of the State for the purpose of interchanging views. It is manifest, from the drift of the remarks in that convention, that there is a purpose on the part of the administration to advance the present assessment of property. This is the gravest peril which now stares the property holders in the face. The object of the officials and the danger to the property holders are equally plain. The one explains the other. The government wants more money, and there is no other way to get it now except directly from the property holders by taxation. So long as the State had credit, so long could the aliens in possession of her sell or hypothecate her bonds, and thus fill their pockets. They pursued that plan until it became no longer practicable. Through their fraud and extravagance the State has lost entirely the confidence of capitalists, and her bonds are worthless. There is no longer an opportunity for fraud and illegitimate speculation in the issue of State securities. From the pockets of the struggling people the corrupt officials are now compelled to draw all the means of gratifying their greed and sustaining their extravagant expenditures. The question with them is, how to get the money from the people in the most plausible way, and with the least seeming injustice.

It would not be well to increase the rate per centum of taxation beyond fifteen mills.—There is not another State in the Union which pays so much, or nearly as much. Besides, there would be no room for favoritism in a simple increase of the rate per centum. But if they can, as they now propose to do, alter the assessment of property, as they or their minions may see fit, they can collect hundreds of thousands of dollars more into the treasury, and place the burden of it upon those only upon whom it is their wish to place it.

Property is already largely over-valued in this State by the government for purposes of taxation. Personal property is rated at about its full cash value, and city real estate is not so much over-estimated by the State authority, but the general average of real estate, city and county, is far beyond its value. Take Abbeville County, for instance. This is among the wealthiest agricultural counties of the State. We happen to have heard the statistics of taxation in this county mentioned by some of the county officials themselves. The average assessment of real estate for taxation in that county is $7.32 per acre. The average cash sales of real estate in that county, we have it from the most reliable sources, have not been, within the last four years, as much as four dollars per acre.

Here then is an over-assessment of nearly a hundred per cent. The same, to a great extent, is true of Charleston, Chester, Camden, and all other counties as to which we have been enabled to gain any trustworthy figures. The average valuation of country real estate in this county, embracing an area of 1,061,703 acres, is a fraction over $4.25 per acre, which is at least fifty per cent. above the cost value of the same. We know we are within bounds when we assert that the average assessment throughout the entire State is at least fifty per cent. above the cash selling price of land.

There should be a large reduction, instead of an increase of the assessment.—*News and Courier.*

KU KLUK IN INDIANA.—Within the last four years, at least twelve persons have been hanged by vigilants in Southern Indiana.—Deloss Heffren, who was lynched at Salem on the 28th ult., being the latest victim. Perhaps others have shared this fate of whom no public mention has been made. Six members of the notorious Reno gang of express robbers were hanged by a vigilance committee less than four years ago. Two years since three negroes were lynched in Clarke County for murdering the Park family, and in October, 1870, two burglars, named Pickett and Tougatt, were seized by a mob in Orange County, while on their way to jail and summarily executed. Speaking of these numerous lynchings the Indianapolis *Journal* says:

"Of course, all good citizens must deprecate and condemn mobs and violence under any circumstances, but the cause of these outbreaks is obvious enough. The administration of law in certain portions of southern Indiana has become so loose, not to say corrupt, that men in sheer desperation have taken the law in their own hands. Crime had become so bold and rampant in that section, and the courts seemed so powerless or unwilling to protect life and property, that men were compelled in self defense to organize a sort of vigilance committee in the counties of Brown, Jackson, Orange, Washington and Clarke, which during the last four years, has done some bloody work. Mob law is a terrible thing, and the perpetrators of this act should, if possible, be ferreted out and punished. Yet when bad men succeed by a system of terrorism or corruption in preventing the execution of the laws and defying justice, it is hard to say that society shall quietly submit to their depredations and make no efforts to defend itself against scoundrels who snap their fingers at the law. This very man Heffren committed an atrocious murder a few years since, and was acquitted by a local jury, in the face of overwhelming evidence of his guilt. The jury not only acquitted him, but at the close of the trial bore him on their shoulders to the nearest drinking saloon and drank to the health of the escaped murderer. And it is well known that not only juries but judges have proved the fast friends of criminals in some of the counties above named. Such things are hard to bear, and come as near furnishing a justification for mob violence as anything possibly could. As near, we say, for after all there is no justification for a violation of law."

— Warm milk is now being used as a specific for diarrhœa. It is said a pint every four hours will check the most violent attack.

The Granges of the Patrons of Husbandry.

The idea of the order of the "Patrons of Husbandry" was originally borrowed from an association which for many years had manifested a feeble existence in a community of Scotch farmers in North Carolina. The objects of this Scotch society, so far as can be ascertained, appear to have been the purchase of all needed supplies from first hands and at wholesale rates, and the cultivation of more intimate social relations among its members; that is, it was a secret co-operative, industrial and social association among those already allied by mutual work and interest and sympathy. It was meagre in number, and narrow in influence, to a degree that the fact of its existence was unknown beyond the limits of the little community affected by its institutions. Nor was it until the spring of 1868 that the idea of these Scotch farmers first began to be mooted abroad, and became known to the people of the West. During the previous winter, Mr. O. H. Kelley, of Itasca, Minn., and a dozen other leading agriculturists of the West, happening together in Washington, held frequent interviews in relation to the interests of the farming population of the great West. It was at this time and place that the farmers' movement first suggested itself to their minds, upon learning of the character and operation of the little Scotch society in North Carolina, whence sprung the agricultural revolution in its present shape. At once the idea was seized upon, and adapted to meet the purposes of a national organization. Early in the year 1868 a "grange" was organized in Itasca, Minn., under the supervision of Mr. Kelley. This was the first grange organization in the United States, except the organic germ in North Carolina. Another grange was speedily organized in Newton, Jasper county, Iowa; and in a short time a third entered upon a feeble existence at Waukon, Allamakee county, Iowa. Here and there in various parts of the West and Northwest, other granges were organized from time to time; but the improvement had not yet taken firm root, and its existence was still precarious. At the end of 1871, the order had been introduced into Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois, but, up to the close of the year 1871, its entire number in the four States named is estimated at not over seventy-five thousand.

Quickened by a new impulse, and strengthened by a powerful vitality, its progress within the past twelve months, beginning with the year 1872, has been not less than wonderful. From its weak army of seventy-five thousand, it is claimed that, in the same four States, its membership has swelled to the more formidable number of four hundred and fifty thousand, and is constantly increasing with the same rapid vigor. At the same time, the order has been introduced into a large proportion of the remaining States, and some of the Territories, and is extending not only to the North and West, but also to the East and South. It is this prodigious growth, rapid advance, and general diffusion throughout the country, that gives the deepest significance to this movement. In Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and particularly in Georgia, the agricultural classes are organizing granges with the same avidity which characterizes the movement in the Northwest. Altogether, it is found in active operation at the present time in twenty States, two or three Territories, and in the Canadas.

Williamston Springs.

On Wednesday morning last we took the cars and in due time arrived at this well-known place, and by the kindness of the Rev. Mr. Lander we were escorted to the Female College building, and being introduced to his estimable lady, ourself and better half were made to feel quite at home. Williamston is a great place now, and it is destined soon to become greater. While we are in the College let us state the fact that during the last session there were ninety-nine pupils in the institution, and so extensive is the reputation of President Lander and his corps of seven teachers, that the contract is now being executed for an additional brick building, three stories high, 80 feet long and 60 wide, at a cost of $5,500, and to be completed by the first day of November next. The property belongs to a joint-stock company, of which Maj. A. M. Hamilton is President, and Mr. C. E. Horton Secretary and Treasurer. The Directors are Maj. G. W. Anderson, Mr. John B. Boazman, Rev. Sam'l. Lander, Dr. W. A. McCorkle, Mr. W. L. Prince and Mr. John L. Williams.

It is now vacation time, and the building is being put in fine order for opening again on the second Tuesday in July, which is to-day. Mrs. Clarinda McCullough is the matron of the College, and it is destined to enlarge its boundary and usefulness.

The town of Williamston is beautifully situated, the railroad passing through its centre, and the lovely spring with its healing water coursing through its shady grove, and gravelly walks—an inviting retreat for the constitution broken down by disease, or the mind seeking relaxation from the too heavy pressure of business. Yes, we like Williamston, its high, dry and white sandy roads, its shady groves, its social and hospitable inhabitants; and we admire the pains taken to make strangers and friends feel comfortable and happy.

With a population of 800 inhabitants, undisturbed by the noise and profanity of the public doggeries so common in thickly settled communities, Williamston stands a living monument to good order, intelligence and refinement, and may she long enjoy it. But she needs a good hotel to accommodate those who are every day craving to enjoy her climate and benefits. It is true that Mr. Deal is adding extensively to his residence, but is unable to accommodate all desirous of sojourning with him. We found Mr. C. P. Pelham, Sr., of Columbia, there, and also Mr. C. P. Pelham, Jr., who was in bad health, but improving rapidly, and perfectly carried away with the mineral water. His younger brother was also at Mr. Deal's, lying very ill with meningetis, which he contracted in Anderson some thirteen weeks ago, but was removed to the Springs several days since, and is improving rapidly. Many visitors are there, and we found others trying to engage accommodations.—*Greenville Republican.*

IN A FIX.—Not long ago a minister was called on to preach in a certain town twice on the same day. In the morning he preached a certain sermon in the Methodist church, say, and in the evening he preached a different sermon in the Presbyterian church. He used his manuscript in both cases, though not confining himself closely to it. At night he thought he was familiar with his sermon, and merely placed his manuscript in the Bible to have it convenient in case of emergency. After he had progressed smoothly for some time he found it necessary to refer to his paper, and when he opened it, lo! behold, it was the wrong sermon, and the right one was at home in his trunk! What a damper! But he got through.—*A. R. Presbyterian.*

— "Teacher, there's a gal over there a winkin' at me!" Teacher—"Well, then, don't look at her!" Boy—"But if I don't look at her, she'll wink at somebody else!"