VIRGINIA'S RESOURCES.

ADDRESSES BEFORE THE IMMIGRATION CONVENTION.

Prof. Wm. B. Alwood Shows a Profound Knowledge of the Various Sections of Virginia.

Among the many interesting addresses made before the Immigration Committee held in this city during the past week, the one which perhaps deserved the greatest publicity, was that of Professor William B. Alwood, of the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College, at Blacksburg. The paper read by this gentleman had for its subject "Agricultural resource and capabilities of the soil," a subject which will prove of great interest not only to the farmers of Virginia, but to all who have the welfare and the development of this Commonwealth at heart. Professor Alwood discussed this matter in a very thorough and exhaustive manner and explained in detail what may be expected of this State, if the numerous opportunities offered are properly made use of.

The following is a condensed reproduction of Professor Alwood's address:

The first demands of every population are food and clothing. These come primarily from the soil. This proposition needs no argument. Then, unless we can convince would-be settlers that we have a soil capable of supporting ease and furnishing a competency, to a dense agricultural population and that the ecomic conditions are favorable, your blandishments are in vain. Agricultural resources practically without limit, must be the basis upon which you seek to gain the ear of the house seeker. In considering the agricultural resources of a State of such varied character as ours, we must of necessity divide it into different boundaries or sections, having somewhat identical physical and climatic features.

For purposes of classification, geologists have divided Virginia into six regions, each of which comprises a strip of land extending somewhat diagonally across the State from northeast to southwest, varying much in width and boundary lines, yet in general they may be considered and spoken of as great parallel strips of land, each succeeding the other in steps as it were from the sea inland. Virginia belongs to the middle group of Atlantic Coast States, and within her borders the great Atlantic coast plain broadens out to its maximum breadth, attaining in some portions a width of 100 miles. This comprises the section of our State, commonly called Tide Water, and in extent is practically one-fourth of the area of the State.

THE SOIL EASILY TILLED.

The soil of this entire section barring some areas where clay predominates, is easily tilled, warm and highly responsive to the efforts of man. Prior to the advent of the white man, it was the red man's paradise and the well-known words of Captain Smith, that "Heaven and earth never agreed better to frame a place for man's habitation," is now, after the lapse of more than two centuries equally true as it was when man first trod its virgin soil in the "forest primeval." Consider the fact that an area of but little more than 21,000 square miles has 3,000 miles of shore line approachable by water craft, and lesser steamers almost without limit. What does this mean for the products of the soil? Such facilities for developing agricultural production on a cheap yet stupendous scale, is possessed by no equal area of this country.

But what are the resources of this section, what have they been in the past, what shall they be in the future? The soil is not especially a veritable of over-fertile soil, except in the most favored sections, but withstood a system of exhaustive culture for two centuries, which enriched its proprietors and covered this fair section with country mansions such as then found nowhere else upon this continent. Peace and plenty abounded and the lands of the manors dispensed a hospitality the like of which is seldom seen. What crops were grown in this former time? Principally corn, wheat and tobacco. Other crops found place in the systems of agriculture practiced, but only to a slight extent. These three were the money crops and all of them very exhausting to the soil. Especially so when grown consecutively for long periods of years.

A SHORT SIGHTED SYSTEM.

It cannot be denied that the system of agriculture, which prevailed in the past, was very short sighted and wasteful of nature's resources, but what are we to say of a soil which bore up so long under the strain of such cropping? It must be that nature has lavished here climatic conditions which render the soil wonderfully available to the note of the cultivator. And this is true. Here are found those conditions of heat and moisture which produce growth as nowhere else in the State, and this soil, though ruthlessly impoverished by man when abandoned for cultivation, at once clothes itself with some form of vegetation and begins the process of restoration. Under the old system of culture it yielded wheat at the rate of 10 to 20 bushels per acre, corn, 40 to 60 bushels per acre, tobacco, 500 to 600 pounds per acre, and its best lands were under incessant tillage. The late war nearly blotted out every vestige of its former productiveness and its owners left with altered conditions of labor, in a measure abandoned the soil to the mercy of tenant croppers, who proceeded to complete by swifter process, the destructive work of former years. This lecherous work has done its worst, and yet the soil is there, and now with the slow revival of agriculture under more benign conditions, it smiles in glad response to its benefactors and yields an abundant harvest to the labor guided by intelligence. Formerly it yielded its wheat, corn, and tobacco in sufficient crops to satisfy its proprietors. To-day the crops formerly grown are not the staples of this region, though still largely cultivated. The soil of this section has in many instances been turned to more lucrative production. Commercial facilities have made it possible for our tide-water farmer to cater to the tastes of the great urban population of Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York city, Boston, Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Chicago, and many lesser cities, and they have found it profitable to do so. Hence the choicest vegetables and early fruits are laid down at these great markets while those cities more northerly situated are yet suffering from winter's icy winds.

IS THIS BUSINESS PROFITABLE.

But you will ask is this business profitable? I can only answer that it has grown during the last twenty-five years from a small beginning to a yearly magnitude of five millions of dollars from the port of Norfolk alone, and every considerable port or railroad depot is a shipping point to further swell the grand total.

All of the garden truck crops and small fruits are successfully grown in the Tide-water section. Perhaps early potatoes constitute one of the largest crops of this region. The soil is perfect in its mechanical condition for all the operations necessary to the culture of this crop. And where underdrained and well-tilled, yields 20 to 30 barrels per acre of the finest tubers. Of kale, spinach and cabbage, I have seen fields that looked like a sea of green in extent and apparently every plant growing so perfect and even that it almost looked like artificial work. The first mentioned yields 200 to 300 barrels per acre, and the last two 150 to 200 barrels. Strawberries are coming to be more and more largely grown every year under the influence of this kind soil and genial climate and the yield reaches from two to three thousand quarts per acre without one-half the care and labor bestowed upon them in the North, and crops are on record of six thousand quarts per acre. Sweet potatoes must be mentioned as a crop of the first rank. Barring New Jersey, I presume our crop from the Eastern Shore and Norfolk region stands the highest of any one on the market as to quality, and the yield is only limited by the skill of the cultivator within the limits of 300 to 500 bushels per acre. Right in the midst of trucking interests we find excellent crops of corn, wheat and hay, and the peanut industry in which Virginia leads the world, is confined to this section. I can cite notable instances of corn and hay crops on the bottom lands of this section, in which 100 bushels per acre of corn has been grown, and two to three tons of hay. An average yield of 40 to 50 bushels per acre of corn is of common occurrence.

INFLUENCE OF THE GULF STREAM.

Under the genial influences of the Gulf Stream and our middle latitude we can grow in this region some crops all the year around. During the long periods that the soil remains frozen in more northerly latitudes, we are either preparing it for an early crop or recuperating it under a restorative crop like annual or crimson clover. Thus by the extremely favorable climatic conditions we can take off from two to three crops per annum, varying with their season and then grow a manuring or restorative crop of clover to furnish humus and the nitrogenous element of plant food in the soil. Also the immense marl beds and supplies of fish for the manufacture of fertilizers are prime factors in the future development of this region. It has been abundantly demonstrated by practical cultivators that the liberal use of marl will restore and render productive, the most worn soil, and it exists here in natural beds without limit. There are a few marked instances of successful orcharding in this section, but it is not the orchard section of the State by any means. However, it is pre-eminently fitted for the culture of early apples, pears and peaches, and some notable successes have been achieved in this line, but this industry has not been developed and is as yet receiving but little attention. If peach growing is successful in the coast region of Delaware and Maryland, why shall it not be in Virginia?

MIDDLE VIRGINIA'S FERTILITY.

Middle Virginia lies above Tide Water and comprises all that area from the head of tide to the foot hills of Piedmont. This is the largest of any of the physical regions of the State and comprises nearly one-third of its entire land area. It is not marked by the many navigable rivers of Tide Water, but is cut by these same rivers in their second course and abundantly watered by lesser streams. The sandy, loamy character of its soil renders it one of the finest soils to cultivate man has ever seen. Along the streams the soil is of an exceedingly natural fertility and much of the rolling land is capable of being brought into a high state of cultivation. In this region there are localities noted for many years for the peculiar excellence of their products, as the sweet sun-cured Orinoco tobacco of Louisa county, the bright tobaccos produced now quite generally over this region and the dark shipping types, which are now and have been for many years the standard of excellence in these grades of tobacco. While the culture of tobacco has gone steadily forward and yielded good returns, where competent brains and energy have been put into its culture, upon the whole, this large section of Middle Virginia has received less of impetus and new life since the war than any other section.

TOBACCO AND FRUIT CULTURE.

Tobacco has been and still is the great staple of this section. This fact of itself is evidence of the quality of its soil. The great evil of this whole area is that it has been farmed consecutively for two centuries without any idea of maintaining the vegetable matter—humus—in the soil, hence its barren, sandy appearance in many parts totally belies its real quality. Every where within this region where proper skill has been exercised, all of the truck crop of Tide Water grow in the greatest perfection and tobacco crops of the finest dark shipping grades are yielding there from 400 to 500 pounds per acre, grown on what were once run down plantations; and crops of bright grades of from 300 to 500 pounds. These are not stated as average crops, because the average farmer is pursuing a system of robbery upon the soil, whereby he impoverishes the soil and financially ruins himself and family; but these are statements of results which have been accomplished under intelligent culture.

The first industry in this section is scarcely to be mentioned as one of its money crops. Yet here is a soil which in its nature, mechanical texture, ease of drainage, etc., is without an equal in the State for many branches of fruit growing. It is not a winter apple section, but all manner of early orchard and small fruits can be grown to great perfection, and here and there are isolated examples of success already achieved. Melon raising and general trucking are practiced with remarkable success, so far as crop is concerned, where concentration of skill and effort are brought to work together. Wheat and corn are staple crops, but much of the soil is now too much depleted of humus to grow these exhaustive crops profitably. Here, however, as in Tide Water, the opportunity for improvement is boundless and cheap.

The black-eye peas and crimson clover offer a quick and certain restoration of humus and also serve to accumulate nitrogen in the soil.

PIEDMONT AND BLUE RIDGE.

Lying west inland from Middle Virginia we have that beautiful section of country called Piedmont and immediately succeeding it, the Blue Ridge. These two sections shade almost insensibly in each other and form together a combination of soils, exposures, and scenery which must be intimately known to be appreciated. Here as in the eastern portion of the State, it is the same story—exhaustive farming, wheat, corn, tobacco, has done the work upon the soil, until it would almost appear that man was bent upon its ruthless exhaustion. Fortunately all of the better soils of these two sections are practically inexhaustible. Man may deplete them, but the broken trap and epidotic rocks are so abundant in almost every foot of this soil that nature is constantly yielding by their decomposition fresh supplies and that without limit. The soils of these two sections are often stiff clay, in many places too heavy for easy culture in garden crops or trucks, but they are ideal fruit soils and when rightly handled so as to conserve their fertility, yield wheat, corn, oats, and all general crops in abundance. Thirty bushels of wheat, 50 to 75 bushels of corn, 40 to 60 bushels of oats, are grown with comparative ease and certainty on the best soils. Grass crops are grown without difficulty when once humus is restored to the soil sufficient to conserve its moisture and fertility.

FAVORABLE TO CATTLE RAISING.

I have seen cattle fattened upon the winter pasture on the red clay hills of Piedmont and orchard grass and meadow grass hold for years, when well seeded upon the soils. It is not a natural grass country, but skill in rotation and culture never fails to cover it with a fine sward. Notwithstanding the fact that it is not a grass country, it is now abundantly proven by example, that it can be converted into fine dairy farms, and sheep raising is one of the most profitable ventures of the good farmer. But upon the slopes of its hill sides, in the rich coves of its mountains practically throughout this entire region, there is unlimited opportunity to develop orchard and vineyard work. With these great opportunities of soil and climate, we have as yet but one special Virginia grape—Norton—and the wine from it has made Virginia Claret noted on two continents. In no other soil can this claret be produced with the same body and rich color as upon the soil of Piedmont, Virginia. We grow table grapes to the greatest perfection, but we have developed none peculiar to this soil and climate. I feel safe in saying, that it is possible to develop seedlings both of wine and table grapes upon our own soil, which shall render these regions as famous as those small regions along the Rhine, for their peculiar brands of wine.

In orchard fruits we have one variety which stand out with great prominence in this section, the Albemarle Pippin, and yet I do not believe it to be the most profitable; but its character is superb, it meets a great want. A common average receipt from vineyards is $40 to $75 per acre and where apples are choice and well-grown, I have known them to yield all the way from $100 to $300 per acre—the less figure is easily reached and the larger one is not unusual.

VIRGINIA'S BLUE GRASS REGION.

The region of the State included within these two physical divisions comprises the blue-grass country of Virginia, noted since the earliest times for its surpassing beauty and inexhaustible fertility. This section undoubtedly contains the richest soils of the State. Not that their absolute productive capacity is so much greater per acre than the other sections, but that this soil stands exhaustive farming better than lighter soils. This region is preeminently a grain, grass, and stock country. I have been able to personally compare it with the famous blue-grass region of Kentucky, and must say that in elements of productiveness, abundant water supply, and the other natural resources, it is equal to, if not superior to our sister State. Its soil formations are similar to those of the Hudson river and Mohawk Valley, which have been made by the industry of man the most charming agricultural districts on this side of the continent. And we have here in our Valley and Appalachia all the elements that have made those regions prosperous, and more, we have a climate devoid of extremes, generously lavishing upon man more bounties than he appreciates.

All of this country to the west of the Blue Ridge has long been considered the grainery of Virginia. It was looked upon by Washington as a store-house from which to draw supplies for the armies of the Revolution. The two contending armies in the war between the States made it a theatre of blood and carnage because of the supplies which it could yield.

DEMAND FOR VIRGINIA CATTLE.

From the Potomac southwest stretches this great valley and mountain for 350 miles, cut off by a wall, as it were, from Eastern Virginia, a State by itself, capable of producing food and raiment, if properly developed, for the population of the entire Atlantic sea board. Wheat, corn, hay, cattle and horses have been in the past and are still the products of this region. The soil has undoubtedly been run down in some instances, but it is no unusual crop to grow twenty-five and thirty-five bushels of wheat per acre; corn and other crops are produced in like proportions.

The cattle of this section fed upon its native grasses reach the highest perfection. I speak only well known facts, when I say that the Valley and Southwest Virginia cattle, especially the latter, often top the Liverpool market and are eagerly sought by buyers for export.

While this section is so justly favored for the products just mentioned, I must also do it justice and state that it is now in several sections developing the most extensive fruit growing industries in the State. Here are grown fine Albemarle pippins and all other standard orchard fruits. I have inspected single orchards containing 20,000 peach trees in fine thrifty conditions, and I have authentic statements of crops of apples which have yielded $2,500 per acre. Also the fruit and vegetable canning industry of this section surpasses that of any other State south of the Potomac river.

While Tide Water and Middle Virginia can surpass the western part of the State in growing early vegetables, this section can by reason of its elevation and cooler climate, far surpass the eastern part of the State in producing late vegetables.

THE FARMER'S POSSESSIONS IN THIS STATE.

Virginia has a land area in round numbers of twenty-five million acres. Of this less than one half is improved. The number of farms is about 120,000, 75 per cent of which are worked by owners and 25 per cent. by tenants. Our agricultural values are in round numbers—farms, fences, and buildings—254 millions of dollars; this item has risen 38 millions or about 16 per cent. in the last decade; implements and machinery, 6 1-2 millions of dollars, this item has increased 20 per cent in the last decade; live-stock 53 1-2 millions, this item shows an increase of 25 per cent during the last ten years and our total crops sold amount to about 50 millions of dollars per annum.

The above are large sums and though we hear so much about unprofitable cultivation—and I am sure there is much of this—yet they show a healthy growth. Still we have 15 millions of acres of land in Virginia uncultivated; and of that under cultivation I have seen very few farmers indeed worked to anything like their full capacity. Not one-half of our crop production is on a paying basis because of extensive farming and lack of skill. I fully appreciate the fact that prices have been reduced by keen competition, below what we have thought it possible to produce a crop profitable in the past. But this stern lesson of necessity will teach us to intensify our culture and diversify our crops.

Concerning high culture I wish to state that I have not seen 1,000 acres of land in Virginia that is thoroughly underdrained, yet all the experience of specialists in highly cultivated districts of other States points to the great advantage and real necessity of this practice, if we wish to attain a maximum of production. It is my belief that we have the natural advantages to make Virginia the California of the Atlantic coast; it remains to be seen, whether we shall improve our opportunity.

OLD APPLE ORCHARD.

A GRAND SIGHT FROM THIS CHAIN OF THE BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS.

What May be Seen from that Elevated Point—How the Mountain Received its Name.

BEDFORD CITY, VA., Oct. 20.—Special. On the north side of Bedford county in the Blue Ridge chain, is the Apple Orchard mountain. Headforemost and Onion (better known locally as "the Ingun") mountains, separate it from the twin Peaks of Otter, and it is much higher than either of those celebrities, being 4,257 feet above the level of the sea. The Apple Orchard is generally supposed to be the second mountain in the State in height, ranking as it does, next to Elliott's nob, in Augusta county, which is 191 feet higher. The maps of the United States Geological Survey of 1891, however, make it the fourth as Mt. Rogers and White Top, in Grayson county, are over a mile above the sea.

The distance from Bedford City to the foot of the Apple Orchard is thirteen miles. En route a person passes through a beautiful section of country, many of the farms being gentle, rolling, well cultivated and fertile land, yet he is close enough to revel in the grandeur of the neighboring mountains, which, at this season, are clothed in all their autumnal beauty. The magnificent and harmonious blend of the multitude of colors among the changing leaves, resplendent under the rays of the October sun, is spread out for miles before the passer-by, like a grand panorama. The scene carries one not familiar with such into ecstacies, and even to those who have lived amid it all their lives, the magnificent work of the master artist, Nature, every day presents some new beauty.

The ascent to the mountain is made from Wheat's Valley, and from bottom to top the distance is five miles. The Apple Orchard is not as steep as the Peaks, there being a series of comparatively level "steps," so to speak. A horse can be ridden to the top, but certain sections of the road remind one of the politician's path to duty—up hill and hard climbing.

A SPLENDID VIEW.

The mountain's shape can best be imagined by placing two letter "Us" curve to curve, the top being in the centre. On the summit is an open field about an acre in extent. The Times' correspondent is not conceited, but when on this point he felt himself above his neighbors and could not help looking down upon them. From this vantage ground nearly the whole of Bedford is in view, and the country beyond could be seen but for the encircling mountains. These give the county the appearance of an immense basin dotted over with small hills, neat looking farms, and small villages, while almost exactly in the centre lies Bedford City. Bedford, Botetourt and Rockbridge meet near the top of the mountain, and by affectionately embracing a large tree you also embrace the opportunity of being in three counties at the same time. From the west to the north and east the mountains obstruct the greater part of the view of Botetourt, Rockbridge, and adjoining counties, but nestling at the foot of a neighboring eminence may be seen a portion of the town of Glasgow. The huge bowlders on and near the top are piled up in fantastic positions. It is said that during the late war many deserters found them convenient hiding places.

One would naturally infer from the name that this mountain abounded in the fruit which caused so much trouble to Adam and Eve and their descendants, but such is not the case. On the summit is a large grove of a scrub growth of oak and a few chestnut trees, which, on account of the exposure, never attained a height above that of an ordinary apple tree, and by some freak the boughs are bent in such a way as to make the whole bear a striking resemblance to an apple orchard. Tradition says that it was from this that the mountain received its name. All the timber near the top is scrubby, but its size increases as the descent is made.

THE CLOUD IN THE VALLEYS.

One of the grandest sights to be seen is the clouds in the valleys beneath, rolling about like the white crested foam of the ocean or resembling immense banks of snow. But more picturesque still is to see a distant cloud on a level with the tourist, neither side looking black and forbidding, but under the soft light of the setting sun the tops of the misty vapor takes the most fantistic forms; now resembling an immense field with the golden grain gathered in sheaves or lying about in loose piles, again taking the appearance of a distant city with its spires and tall buildings. Every one of the myriad forms taken by the clouds in their rapidly changing positions present some new view to charm the eye of the beholder.

"The Falls" is an object of interest which the sight-seer must not overlook. It is about two miles below the top and is caused by Falling Water creek taking a leap of about 150 feet over a ledge of rock. The creek is a small body of water, but in making this fall presents an attractive scene to the lover of nature. Near the falls is the Raven rock, a solid mass of stone 250 feet long and about 50 feet high. Underneath it is a cave, but it has never been explored.

THE MOUNTAINEERS

The mountaineers raise small crops and large families, and at this season the latter are very useful in picking up chestnuts and digging ginseng. The mountain is literally covered with chestnuts this year, many reaching a size two or three times as large as usual.

A great deal of tan bark is gotten in the mountain and valuable timber abounds. Several hundred acres of trees were "belted" some years ago, and when they had died a spontaneous growth of grass, which will be valuable for grazing, sprang up. Nearly all the mountain is a rich, black soil, which, while not deep, is well adapted to certain kinds of vegetation. A number of springs rise near the summit, watering the land well. These streams are fairly well stocked with mountain trout. Pheasants, wild turkeys, and occasionally wild cats and bears afford sport for the Nimrods.

Taken all in all, the Apple Orchard, while out of the beaten path, is an interesting point to the visitor to the mountains, whether he views it from a commercial standpoint or that of an admirer of the works of nature.

DEATH IN AMBUSH.

esting the Tradition of Rattlesnak Spring.

"If there is any one in the world who knows how it feels to be snatched from the jaws of death I am that person," said a New Yorker, who had been about the world a bit, according to the Sun. "That by no means enviable or enjoyable sensation came to me in Texas; and, by the way, it seems to me that if I were going to make a curious and varied collection of snakes, venomous and non-venomous, I wouldn't feel away any time ashamed, but take the first train to Texas. I am not in the snake business myself, but during my journeyings in Texas, I became involuntarily as familiar with a lot of assorted serpents as though I had been a herd and inveterate consumer of the popular beverage with which many of the natives indulge themselves down there.

"But I only care to speak of one particular experience of mine with a Texas snake. This was a specimen of the ordinary rattlesnake that flourishes on the Texas plains. I made my first acquaintance with this interesting and cheerful reptile at the time the Texas Pacific railroad was being located through El Paso county. I was with the engineer corps that did the locating. Somewhere between the foothills of the Sierra del Diablo and the spot where we had our camp just then, there was a famous spring of cold and crystal water. It was called the Rattlesnake spring, because of the tradition, firmly believed in by the natives, that two big rattlesnakes were constantly on guard there. The water of the spring was alleged to have wonderful medicinal properties, but it was death to any one who attempted to drink of it unless he first slew the two rattlesnakes, for, as the legend ran, the moment he stopped to quaff the water one or both of the deadly guardians of the spring would strike him from their place of concealment and fill him with their fatal virus.

"That a rancher had once been found lying dead with his face at the surface of the spring, where he had evidently lain down to quench his thirst, two purple incisions in his temple and his bloated body, showing beyond question that he had been struck by a rattlesnake while lying in that position, was a well authenticated story in El Paso county, and the snake that had bitten him was killed in the rocks by the person who had discovered its victim.

"Still I had my doubts that any of the venomous reptiles habitually lay in wait there for thirsty roamers, and one Sunday I resolved to go to the spring to investigate. I strolled in the direction of the Sierra del Diablo, whose gleaming peaks and rocky front were apparently not more than a rifle shot distant, so clean cut did they stand out against the clear, blue sky; but they were a good ten miles from camp. I went alone on my journey, for the sufficient reason that no one would go with me.

"I found the spring. It was four miles from the foothills, in a rocky basin, and the water came up in cool and tempting volume. I saw no sign of the presence of rattlesnakes, although the surroundings looked snaky enough, and no mistake. I was hot and thirsty, and after a close and careful scrutiny of all the rocks and scrubby bushes around the spring, I was satisfied that if the water was under the guardianship of rattlesnakes they must have gone off duty for that day. Yet, if I hadn't been so terribly thirsty, I believe I should have come away without trying the water, all the same; but as it was a tramp of six miles back over the hot and barren plain, to return without quenching my thirst was not to be thought of, and I prepared to lie down on the rock at one side of the spring, just whe they had found the dead and swollen ranchman, I suppose. I brought my face so close to the water that I could see myself and everything about me reflected in the crystal depths as distinctly as if I had been gazing upon a French plate mirror.

"It is well for me that these reflections were so intense and vivid, for I paused a moment to gaze into the spring at the remarkable mirroring. Suddenly something that I first thought was the reflection of a nodding twig or tendril, agitated by the brisk breeze that was blowing, shot back and forth, thrown into deep outline by the snowy bottom of the spring. But as I gazed my heart turned to cold and my thirst was forgotten. The swift moving, quivering reflection I had thought was a twig or tendril was the mirrored reflection of the long and forked tongue of a snake, as it shot back and forth from beneath a shelving rock, which, seen from above, hid the lurking danger from view. Coiled in a crevice beneath that sheltering rock, not two feet from one side of my head, and with part of its own frightful front visible by reflection, was an enormous rattlesnake, ready to strike.

"For an instant I seemed paralyzed, but knowing that another instant's delay would probably be death to me, I ducked my head clear to my shoulders beneath the water, the position I was in making it impossible for me to rise quick enough to escape the danger. As I ducked I felt the snake's strike. I wore a heavy wide-collared flannel shirt. The snake's fangs struck the shirt near the lower edge of the collar, not an inch away from my jugular. The instant I felt the strike I sprang to my feet. The hooked fangs of the reptile were fast in the texture of the collar, and as I got to my feet I raised the rattler with me. Its long body squirmed and contorted along my side and clear to my feet.

I drew my revolver as quickly as I could, and placing the muzzle against the reptile's head, blew it to pieces. The limp body of the reptile fell to the ground, but not much quicker than I fell myself.

"There seemd no more life in me than there is in a dishrag. It was a good while before I got strength and nerve enough to get on my feet again. When I had recovered sufficiently I straightened the dead snake out. With its head gone it measured two good paces long—not an inch less than six feet. It had sixteen rattles, which I took as a trophy and have to-day. I don't know whether this was one of the two alleged rattlesnake guardians of the spring or not, for I spent no time looking for another one. Neither had I nerve to try again for a drink at the spring, but got away from there as soon as I could.

"When I reached camp I was about as nearly famished as any man ever was who got over it, and if there is any one in the world who knows how it feels to be saved at the very jaws of death I am that person."

A DIFFERENT IDEA OF CLEOPATRA.

A Reply to the Article by Lillian Lewis in Last Sunday's Times.

Some very startling statements are put forth in The Times for October 14th by Miss Lillian Lewis. Time can never make right wrong, nor wrong right. If we tell what is true we offend humanity, if we tell what is not true we offend God. I will not deny flatly any statements made in the article on Cleopatra, although she stated facts which no one can confirm. I wish to give a few examples and compare them with Miss Lewis' statements.

Everything we know about Cleopatra has come down to us by history, and how can any one two thousand years after Cleopatra is dead put all history aside and make her out directly what history says she is not. If the facts stated about Cleopatra are false we have no assurance that any history is true. If what Josephus, if what Plutarch, if what Tacitus, if what all the writers of that day gave about her is false, how can we trust any of the rest of their history. This is as bad as the scare that Shakespeare was not himself but Bacon. History is the conscience of the world, and the conscience of the world is against the statements made by Miss Lewis.

Antony first saw Clepatra when she was but fourteen years of age, she was then flirting with a son of Pompeys. In the year of B C 46 and B C 44, she was living in Caesar's gardens at Rome, as the great man's mistress, and there Antony had been the most zealous in paying her honor.

Ater Caesars death Antony tried to get her son put on the list of Caesar's heirs. There is abundant evidence of this. Antony met Cleopatra again in the summer of 41 when she was twenty-eight, and in the bloom of her beauty. She displayed her charms so effectually that he became her slave from that time on. His worst dreds begin from the time he met her. To please her he had her sister dragged out of the temple in Miletus and murdered and he put to death all she choose to denounce. The recent article states "Cleopatra was a good woman."

The next winter Antony spent with Cleopatra. At this time great despondency reigned among the Jews throughout Judea. In Palestine there was great excitement over the bloody acts of Antony. When the exiled Maccabean prince had conspired with the Parthians and had been supported by Roman exiles of the party of Brutus and Cassius, the action of Antony was awaited. Jerusalem trembled and the Euphrates was undefended; feasting and pleasure reigned in Alexandria.

The queen played at dice with the Trinniver, drank and hunted with him, wandered through the streets by night with him, played rough tricks, she dressed as a servant-woman he as a servant-man.

She let him escape neither by night nor by day. On one occasion she drank crushed pearl that the meal would cost one million sestertii as she had bet. She had foreign pickled fish hung by divers on his hook as he fished.

She induced the Senator Plaucus to dance as Glaucus, naked, at one of her banquets, painted blue, his head reathed with seaweed, a tail waving behind him as he went on all fours. Yet it is said Cleopatra was a good woman. Why was all Judea in a rage if the lovers were married? Antony had another wife at any rate, Fulnia was jealous of Cleopatra and stirred up a war to call away her husband from the Egyptian queen. Fulnia was another lady whose heart was not tender when she thrust a hair pin through the tongue of one who denounced Antony. History when we have no reason to deny tells us that a favorite amusement for Cleopatra was to kill slaves with various kinds of poisons to see which would produce the most violent death. How could such a woman be a noble wife, a loving mother. Why should history have been impartial to her. It stated that she was beautiful, bright in conversation, of ready wit, and cunning ways. The poets of the day wrote of her beauty and wit, but none tried to stamp out the fact that her heart was capable of the blackest crime. She plotted against Antony when she heard he was enamored with Marianne. The country was harrowed with heavy tax to carry on the festivities at Alexandria. Cleopatra was devoted to Antony, and in the autumn of 30 B. C., when Antony stabbed himself, she likewise committed suicide. How can anyone speak of such a woman with admiration.

ST. GEO. T. G.

LONGEVITY OF A HORSE.

Their Usefulness Throughout Life Depends on Their Care.

The usefulness of our working animals depends on their care and feeding. The late Dr. Fisher had a team of mules that were supposed to be eighteen years of age, and yet they worked constantly. A writer in the Country Gentleman, of a recent date, says:

It is common opinion that a horse of twelve years is too old for service, but I have one at the present time that is thirty years old, and good for a ride of thirty miles a day yet. He is doing his usual work, and keeps his level beside a mule only six years old in the plow or the wagon. I once bought a mule that was said to be forty-five years old, and the evidence was certainly trustworthy that he had been worked in one family thirty-five years, as I bought him from the grandson of the man who had him all that time. I think I am correct in saying that the noted trotting mare, Goldsmith Maid, went into the breeding stable only when twenty-six years old, and many of the best of the racers have lived over thirty years.

There is a record of a Shire horse in England that reached the age of fifty-nine years, at which his teeth and eyes were still good, and he was then pensioned off by his owner on a farm. My forty-five-year-old mule did good service drawing empty railroad cars into a mine which I was then working, to be loaded with iron ore, and I kept him at it two years, when I gave him to the person who bought out my interest in the property. He was still at the same work two years after that. My old horse is still able to shell his corn as well as my young mules can, and how much longer he will work I suppose depends on his ability to feed, which just at present seems to be assured for several years, as evinced by his vigorous neigh when I go into the stable at feeding time. And occasionally he takes a colt-like frolic with his companions in the pasture.

Now, if it is possible for a horse, by means of good feeding and general care, to live and work to such an age as this, how much is the aggregate loss which occurs through neglect and mismanagement on all the farms in the country? I have had this horse ten years, and he has never missed a feed or had a moment's sickness. He had been used with kindness, and has never been touched by a whip since I have owned him, always having been eager to work, and kind and gentle. His knowledge is so wide and accurate that it shows how much more valuable for use a horse of this age may become than a young one, for he understands many things said to him, and thus saves lots of trouble; he can be used in the cultivator without a line, and will as carefully avoid treading upon a plant in the end of a row as if he knew why he should not do it, following the rows accurately, and turning at the ends without any guidance. And this education, only possible after some years' acquaintance with an owner, is one more advantage for an old horse.

"A grateful Mother"

endorses a remedy her son is taking for MALARIA. We do not know her and she writes of her own accord to praise

Brown's Iron Bitters.

The letter is dated July 17, 1894—just the other day—

Washington, D. C.

" . . . . My son is taking Brown's Iron Bitters for dangerous Malaria, and it has done him *a great deal of good.*"

MRS. MARY LEACH,
911 Grant Ave., N.W.

Perhaps you're suffering from the same disease!

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VIRGINIA NAVIGATION COMPANY'S JAMES RIVER LINE for the seashore, cheapest and most pleasant route to Norfolk, Portsmouth, Old Point, Newport News, Claremont, and James River landings. Connections—At Old Point and Norfolk, for Hampton and Smithfield, Va., Washington, D. C., Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York. James river by daylight. Great tourist line. Jamestown, Dutch Gap, and war scenery. Rates less than half charged by rail. Fare to Portsmouth, Old Point, and Norfolk, $1.50 and $1. Steamer Pocahontas leaves Richmond every MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY at 7 A. M. (STREET CARS GO DIRECTLY TO STEAMER'S WHARF) for above-named places. Through tickets on sale on steamer and at Garber's Agency, No. 901 Main street. Baggage checked through. State-rooms engaged for day or night. Music by a grand orchestron.

FREIGHT.—Freight received daily for above-named places and Eastern North Carolina; also, for Eastern shore of Virginia and all regular landings on the James river, at LOWEST RATES, and through bills issued.

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General Offices—Planters' Bank Building.

RAILROADS.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY.

(PIEDMONT AIR LINE.)
SHORTEST AND QUICKEST ROUTE SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST.
SCHEDULE IN EFFECT JULY 1, 1894.
LEAVE RICHMOND:
TRAIN No. 37, 12:50 A. M.

SOUTHERN EXPRESS, daily for Danville, Greensboro, Winston-Salem. Connects at Danville with the Washington and Southwestern Vestibuled Limited; carrying Sleepers to Asheville and Hot Springs, Columbia, Augusta, Savannah, Jacksonville, and Tampa; Atlanta, Birmingham, Memphis, Shreveport, and New Orleans. At New Orleans and Memphis connections are made for all points in Texas and California. Sleepers Richmond, Va., to Danville and Greensboro.

TRAIN No. 35, 12:40 P. M.

FAST MAIL, daily for all points South and Southwest. Connects at Moseley with Farmville and Powhatan railroad; Keysville for Clarksville, Oxford, and Durham.

Carries sleepers Danville to Columbia, Augusta, Savannah, Jacksonville, and Atlanta. Parlor car Atlanta to Birmingham.

TRAIN NO. 17, 6:00 P. M.

AMELIA ACCOMMODATION, daily except Sunday for Amelia Courthouse and intermediate points.

ARRIVE AT RICHMOND.

Train No. 12, 6:20 A. M.; No. 36, 4:50 P. M.; No. 18, 8:45 A. M.

YORK RIVER LINE via WEST POINT.

DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY.
THE FAVORITE ROUTE TO BALTIMORE, PHILADELPHIA, AND NEW YORK.
LEAVE RICHMOND:
TRAIN NO. 16, 4:45 P. M.

Baltimore Limited, daily except Sunday, for West Point, connecting with York River steamers for Baltimore, at which point connections are made with rail lines for Washington, Philadelphia, New York, &c.

TRAIN NO. 10, 3:10 P. M.

LOCAL EXPRESS, daily except Sunday. Stops at all stations. At Lester Manor, connects with stage for Walkerton; also, connects with Baltimore steamer at West Point daily except Sunday.

STEAMERS LEAVE BALTIMORE 5 P. M. DAILY, EXCEPT SUNDAY.

Trains from West Point arrive at Richmond at 9:05 A. M. daily, 10:40 A. M. daily, except Sunday and Monday, and 8:20 P. M. daily except Sunday.

TRAIN NO. 44, 7:00 A. M.

LOCAL MIXED, daily except Sunday; leaves Twenty-third-Street station for West Point and intermediate points.

Ticket office at station, foot of Virginia street; open thirty minutes before departure of all trains.

City ticket office, 901 Main street.

J. M. CULP, Traffic Manager.
W. A. TURK, Gen. Pass. Agent.
W. H. GREEN, General Manager.
J. S. B. THOMPSON, Superintendent.
JNO. M. BEALL, Trav'g Pass Agent.
920 east Main street, Richmond, Va.

ATLANTIC COAST LINE.

RICHMOND AND PETERSBURG RAILROAD TIME TABLE.

Commencing SATURDAY, October 6th, 1894, at 12:01 A. M., trains on this road will run as follows:

TRAINS SOUTHWARD.

No.	Leave Richmond.	Arrive Petersb'rg.	
45—	*9:00 A. M.	9:35 A. M.	Norfolk Spec'l.
23—	*9:05 A. M.	9:50 A. M.	Through Train.
43—	*2:55 P. M.	3:42 P. M.	Acco'moda'n.
403—	*12:23 A. M.	12:55 A. M.	Atlanta Spec'l.
51—	*5:50 P. M.	6:13 P. M.	Norfolk Train.
35—	*7:11 P. M.	7:46 P. M.	Fast Express.
37—	*11:50 P. M.	12:35 A. M.	Acco'moda'n.

TRAINS NORTHWARD.

No.	Leave Petersburg	Arrive Richmond	
32—	*2:44 A. M.