

**ESSAYS THAT WON
AULL ESSAY MEDALS**

By permission of the teachers and the writers we are permitted to publish the essays that won the Aull essay medals in the high schools of Prosperity, Little Mountain and Whitmire. Mr. E. H. Aull for several years has been giving a gold medal to that member of the graduating class of the three high schools mentioned who should produce the best composition of an assigned subject. This has been done to encourage English composition. The subject for the last school year was "Reconstruction" and of course all the essays are on the same subject. By permission of the teacher of the Little Mountain school we are printing also the essay that came second in the opinion of the judges who passed on them. There was a different set of judges for each school.

RECONSTRUCTION.

(Elizabeth McWaters, Prosperity.)
"There comes a song that awakes my soul,
It is the song of years that are gone,
They roll before me with their deeds."

So sings every true child of the new south, through whose veins flows the blood of those old heroes of that wonderful epoch in history known as "The Reconstruction."

At the close of the war the seceded States were in a state of utter exhaustion. We protected our struggle against Federal authority until further resistance was impossible, and laid down our arms only because there was no longer any power to use them. The complete subversion of our financial, political, and social systems was of a very grave nature.

We were bankrupt in our public finances and without private property.

We were without governments, and not allowed the power to frame governments except by the permission of Federal authorities.

Socially we were in a state of anarchy.

About this time there came into the field to ply their nefarious arts, the "carpet bagger" the soulless oppressor from the north and the "scalawag" the soulless plunderer from the south and for nearly ten years in South Carolina they robbed while they pretended to rule; they plundered while they professed to protect, until the state became so reduced in material strength and so dispirited under the heavy weight of such conditions that it was known as the "Prostrate State."

When our people had tried by every device ingenuity could discover to get relief from this wretched condition, came the movement of 1876. This was little short of revolution. Good men of all parties united to resist to any extremity the continuance of the Radical Government.

Lincoln's plan of reconstruction was that the civil government should be restored in the south as soon as armed resistance to the United States had been suppressed, and that it was the duty of the President to reconstruct the state governments. In 1863 he issued a proclamation to the effect that any government organized in any state of the Confederacy by voters who would take an oath to support the constitution and laws of the United States would be recognized by him as the true government of the state. But the number of voters must be at least one tenth of the total number of votes cast in the state at the election of 1860. All persons who had borne leading part in aid of the confederacy were excluded.

While this regulation prevented a large number of white persons from voting, it did not require that negroes should be allowed to vote. President Lincoln knew that a race just emerging from bondage was not capable of voting intelligently. A few of the southern states had organized Governments in accordance with the proclamation, and Lincoln had recognized them. If Lincoln had lived he would probably have succeeded in carrying out his policy of reconstruction.

As it was the ignorant negroes were called from the fields of cotton and corn to stand at the polls and vote. They were in the legislature as a law-making power, as judges in our highest and lowest courts, presiding over our senatorial bodies and serving as Speakers of the House of Representatives and as members of congress.

Every section prospered except the south. Here the negroes guided by their white leaders, formed an association known as the Loyal League for the purpose of keeping the white race under foot. They committed

murder, arson, and crimes of every kind.

But out of chaos, peace reigned. There sprung up the organization known as the Ku Klux Klan, spreading terror among the negroes. They hoped to keep enough of them from the polls on election day to enable the whites to regain control of the state governments. This organization did much in reconstructing the south.

As has been seen the path to reconstruction was sown with mistakes, blunders and failures, but there were many important successes which may be summarized as follows: Reconstruction secured undisputed rights of the blacks; it gave the negro an independent church and a right to education, and it gave to both races the public school system; it showed that free labor was better than slave labor; it destroyed the former leaders of the whites, and secured peace and order. On the other hand it placed the south in the hands of an inferior race, whose members were led to believe that political supremacy was their right by reason of their long servitude; that citizenship was not necessarily the reward of industrial efficiency and political honesty.

So we see fulfilled the prophecy of South Carolina's sweet singer, Timrod. Thus he sang concerning the south-land:

"But let our fear—if fears we have,
be still,
And turn us to the future,
Could we climb some mighty
Alp,
And view the coming years,
The rapturous sight would fill
Our eyes with happy tears."

Once upon a time men were heard to say, "Go West young man—" But now America is saying, "Go South, young man!"

"God makes it great and rich."

RECONSTRUCTION IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

(Evelyn Wise, Little Mountain.)
In 1671 Sir John Yoeman, an Englishman, came to South Carolina with some negroes from the island of Barbadoe. These negroes were sold as slaves to the settlers along the Ashley River. When a negro is sold as a slave it becomes his duty to perform the work given him to do by his owner. In return the negro is fed, clothed and protected by his master.

In 1800 it became a hobby of the Northern historians to picture to the world the slave treated as a beast. They never pictured for one time the devotion of the black mammy, to the children of their master. They only pictured slavery as a crime.

In 1850 we find the north very unjust in their dealings with the south. It was in 1850 that John C. Calhoun, the greatest statesman of his or any other time, made such an earnest appeal on the floor of the senate, for the north to be fair and just with the south.

But the north heeded not the appeal. In 1860 the north had become so unjust in their treatment to the south, that the people of South Carolina seceded. One of the bloodiest wars as yet recorded in history was the result. After four long years of bloody war the south was overpowered, but not defeated. Then the men who had followed Lee and Jackson from Fort Sumter to Appomattox Court house, returned to the once progressive state of South Carolina, to find their homes in ashes. The once fertile fields were stained with the blood of many of her brave and heroic sons.

President Lincoln's proclamation had set the negroes free, and they were in power. The state was under military rule. Murders were frequent and the murderer went unpunished. Burnings were frequent. The homes of the whites were fired upon in the darkness of the night. White ladies were openly insulted upon the public highways.

Then came the carpetbaggers from the north to plunder upon the helpless whites. They were even worse than the negroes. They incited the ignorant negro to commit many crimes. Among the carpetbaggers we have R. K. Scott of Ohio, who was elected the first governor under the negro rule. It was during his administration that the plans were made and executed to rob the state.

Even worse than the negroes were the few white men of South Carolina, that turned their backs upon their own people, that they might become wealthy. Among them we have Franklin Moses, Jr., and Thomas Robinson, who were both graduates of the University of South Carolina. Later they became so corrupt that

their names were erased from the college records.

At this time three of the state's congressmen were negroes. More than half of the legislature were negroes. They spent all of their time stealing from the state. Thousands and thousands of dollars were taken by the black thieves. Neither lives nor property were safe. Let us at a few facts.

In two years from 1868 to 1870 the state debt was increased from five million dollars to eighteen million dollars. Some few years before the war, the average tax levy was five hundred and fifty thousand dollars. In 1859 it was increased to two million. In 1870 the legislature paid a Radical newspaper two dollars and fifty cents an inch in ordinary columns to publish the proceedings of that body, which amounted to several large volumes. It was during that session that the legislature appropriated seven hundred thousand dollars, to buy land for the homeless. The land commissioners stole ninety thousand dollars in one deal alone. The state was charged to one hundred and fifty seven thousand, eight hundred dollars for wines, whiskies, cigars, drygoods and groceries purchased by the legislature for their personal use. The cost of one session which lasted only one hundred and six days was, seven hundred thousand dollars. In Ulster county there were about five thousand farms, twenty-nine hundred of which were to be sold for taxes. This is not only true in Ulster county, but in many others. To add to these outrages, the government placed rifles into the hands of the negroes, in order to keep the whites from the polls on election day.

At this time there was an organization effected by the whites, known as the Ku Klux Klan. They visited the unruly negro at night and afflicted such punishment, as fitted the crime the negro had committed. In some cases the punishment was death. The Klan did much to protect the lives and property of the state. They were a clan of determined men, many of whose members were the most prominent men of the state. They were so well organized that although many were brought to trial, it never amounted to much. So well was their work done, that they terrified the negro, and thus their work in reconstruction was great.

The real reconstruction began under Governor D. H. Chamberlain, a white man of Massachusetts. In his first message to the legislature he urged that the taxes be reduced. He pointed out the unnecessary extravagance of the former session, and asked that it be cut down. He also ordered the negro troops to lay down their rifles and disband. It was during his administration that many of the robberies were brought to light and many of the robbers fled the state.

The campaign of 1876 was one of the bitterest in the history of South Carolina or any other state. Chamberlain was the Radical nominee. General Wade Hampton, a man who always led his men to victory against the Federals, was the Democratic nominee Hampton and his colleagues made speeches all over the state. They were accompanied by men wearing the red shirts known as The Red Shirt Boys of '76. They rode to all the campaigns all over the state, urging Hampton with their cheers.

The election passed off quietly. Hampton was declared to be the nominee. Chamberlain also declared to be the nominee and refused to leave office. Then the call was sent out all over the state for the Red Shirt Boys to come help seat Hampton. Special trains were run into Columbia bearing the Red Shirt Boys with their guns and rifles. Hampton was made governor. But another difficulty confronted them. The Democrats did not have a majority in the legislature. At this time S. S. Bridges, a negro, was a member of the legislature from Newberry county. Some white men from Newberry county took Bridges into a hotel and bought his vote for fifteen hundred dollars. This was the decided vote and thus Hampton was seated.

Then came the complete change in the affairs of South Carolina. Her people were again in power. Good government was again established and lives and property were again made safe. The people went back to work to rebuild their country with new faith and courage. The great leaders in this work were the former Confederate soldiers, aided by their wives and children. We do not find enough space in history devoted to the noble woman of South Carolina, who played such a noble part in the reconstruction. Progress is rapid. Schools have been built and filled, the most efficient teachers. Cotton mills have been built, and today South Carolina

rank third in the cotton production.

Let us look at South Carolina of today. All over the state are high schools training South Carolina boys and girls, to become useful men and women. One can hear the hum of millions of spindles, spinning South Carolina cotton into cloth. Everywhere is progress. The entire state is covered with a net work of railroads. Good roads are found everywhere. Today we lift our hearts in thankfulness, that we live in a state with a history, a state which is the grandest in the Union, namely, South Carolina.

RECONSTRUCTION.

(Theodore Hay, Whitmire.)

No correct idea of what reconstruction was can be obtained without some knowledge of the changes brought about by the war. These changes brought up many very important questions and the first and greatest question to be determined was what was to be done with the South. This perplexing question involved three different subjects; the status of the individual whites, the future of the negroes, and the relations to the union of the states which had seceded. The north had conquered the south in the great struggle therefore it was for her to answer this question. The south had no part at all, she was conquered and had to abide by what the north had to say.

There were many theories held with regard to the commonwealths which had seceded. Some persons held that they were conquered provinces; others that they had lost their statehood and become territories. Others held that the south had committed suicide as it were, and that the Federal constitution and laws did not apply to them. Abraham Lincoln said that the question of whether the seceded states so called were in or out of the union was "a mere pernicious abstraction." He held that the southern states were never out of the union, but that they were out of their practical relations with the union. Unfortunately for the south the congressional plan of reconstruction was the one put forth by Thaddeus Stevens, who held that the states had committed suicide. They therefore stationed fine military departments in the south, whose special duty it was to see that the requirements of congress in the reconstruction of the state governments was carried out. This plan of government was naturally very offensive to the south, for it made the negro practically ruler over his former owner. The southern white men had no voice in political matters and it was left to the negro to carry on the government. These former slaves were ignorant of political affairs and had always been in the habit of doing as they were directed. Some of the northern men taking advantage of the ignorance of the negroes came south to make their fortunes out of the government. These men were known as Carpet Baggers and the lower class of southerners men who joined them were known as Scalawags. These people influenced the ignorant negroes to vote as they directed and they put ignorant men in office who mismanaged affairs and got the south greatly in debt. The carpet baggers and scalawags would take whiskey to the polls and get the negroes drunk and then make them levy heavy taxes on their former owners' land. The negroes took charge of our state university and made a negro school of it.

Now to guard against such mismanagement and negro rule the southern gentlemen, who had returned from the war, formed secret societies known as the Ku-Klux-Klan and the Red Shirts. Their main object was to counteract the influence of the carpet baggers and make it impossible for that class of northern men to get control of local affairs. Then if they could succeed in doing this they could easily overrun the negro rule. They would break up the drunken political meetings of the negroes and punish them when they committed crimes. These men did a great deal for the south and had it not been for them we may have been for years longer under the negro rule. The Red Shirts and Ku Klux carried the election one year for Governor Hampton by secretly slipping the negro votes from the ballot boxes. These men are often criticised as whole for doing outrageous things among the negroes while when we look up the matter we find that only a few of their numbers did such things.

Within a year, however, affairs had quieted down and a general amnesty act and other milder legislation helped to placate the southerners. Soon the supreme court, by important decisions, made it plain that the individual states, in spite of the new constitutional amendments, could control their own citizens in many important

ways. Thus the years of the southern reconstruction would secure the control of affairs were allowed. While the seceded states were reorganizing they were still under the rule of military governors, and continued to be so until President Hayes was elected. After his election he removed these governors and let the southern states have a voice in their government. Soon after this was done there was a marked sign of recovery in the south. A new republicanism, as well as a new nation, arose out of the controversies between 1865 and 1877. President Hayes understood his mission in American history when he said: "My chance to serve my country is to give it peace, to let sectional animosities die, to clear the way for new phases of national politics. I am the end of an era."

this is a very important meeting of the Committee.

At this meeting of the Committee the rolls of the Democratic Clubs of the County will be examined. Any person desiring to complain of errors therein will be present for that purpose. Any person denied or refused the right to enroll will be heard by the Committee.

The members of the Committee will be prepared to submit their recommendations for managers, and to designate the polling places.

Frank R. Hunter,
County Chairman.
B. E. Leitzsey,
Secretary.

7-25-21.

WANTED—Teacher wanted for Central school. Term begins the 15 of October. Salary \$40 per month. Apply to any one of the undersigned.

L. A. Shealy,
Pomaria.
J. D. Koon,
Pomaria.
G. W. Seybt,
Pomaria.
Trustees.

MEETING OF COUNTY DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Notice is hereby given that the County Democratic Executive Committee of Newberry County will hold a meeting at the Courthouse at Newberry, S. C., on Monday, the 7th day of August, 1916, at 11 o'clock a. m. All members are urged to be present, as

EXCURSION

— TO —

Little Mountain

AND RETURN VIA

C. N. & L. R. R.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4TH

— FOR —

Newberry College Reunion

SCHEDULE AND ROUND TRIP FARES

Special Trains with ample Coaches will leave Columbia, Gervais Street, A. C. L. Station at 7:00 A. M.

Lv Columbia, Gervais St.,	Round Trip
A. C. L. Station..... 7:00 a. m.....	\$1.25
" Leaphart..... 7:17 ".....	\$1.00
" Irmo..... 7:27 ".....	75c
" Ballentine..... 7:39 ".....	50c
" White Rock..... 7:47 ".....	40c
" Hilton..... 7:51 ".....	30c
" Chapin..... 8:05 ".....	25c
Ar Little Mountain..... 8:30 ".....	

Special Train will leave Newberry on following schedule:

Lv Newberry..... 9:30 a. m.....	60c
" Prosperity..... 9:50 ".....	30c
" Sliges..... 10:05 ".....	10c
Ar Little Mountain..... 10:15 ".....	

(Children at Half of the Above Fare)

Returning special train to Newberry leaves Little Mountain 4:15 p. m. Arrives Newberry 4:55.

Returning to Columbia leaves Little Mountain 6:00 p.m. Arrives Columbia 7:30 p. m.

Several prominent Orators have been invited to speak, and a good time is assured all who enjoy a day's outing and fine dinners.

For further information phone
E. A. TARRER, C. A., Phone 1040.

Annual Mountain and Seashore

EXCURSION

AUGUST 16, 1916

— VIA —

Charleston and Western Carolina Railway Company.

To Spring and Mountain Resorts in North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

For fares, etc., call on Ticket Agent or address
ERNEST WILLIAMS,
General Passenger Agent.