

DEATH OF VICE-PRESIDENT HENDRICKS.

Thanksgiving festivities of last Thursday were rudely disturbed by the announcement of this National calamity, which occurred on the evening of the 25th ult., at his residence in the city of Indianapolis.

The nation has lost a trust-worthy servant and the Democratic party a distinguished representative.

The last Congress failed to elect a President pro tem of the Senate, and should any accident befall the Executive before the meeting of that body, the United States would be in a peculiar dilemma.

THE GOVERNORS MESSAGE.

The message of the Governor as sent to the Legislature—a condensed report of which will be found in our columns this week—is a lengthy document, and in the main, replete with good counsel and good sense.

Some measures have been urged as practicable and expedient, while others have been introduced with earnestness and zeal. We concur, fully, with him excepting, in the preference given to an increase of the Circuit Judges, instead of having County Courts.

The above is a very imperfect outline of Mr. DesChamps' report, many parts of which were roundly applauded. Every farmer in Clarendon and Sumter Counties ought to have heard him. Mr. DesChamps has made a success of farming on a home-made basis, and his methods are worthy of careful study.

It is encouraging to find the State still climbing the hill of prosperity, and we have, as a people, just cause to be satisfied. The Governor has taken up the cause of the poor, disabled soldiers in a way most commendable; and we hope and believe that our General Assembly will suffer these Guardians of our honor and our cause, to no longer hobble through life as living monuments of the ingratitude of a people.

Atlanta Prohibition.

Atlanta has taken a front rank among the Prohibitionists by the remarkable and hotly contested victory won in the recent election held in that city.

The victory is truly a great one, and those who love the cause should feel greatly encouraged. They need only post a few sentinals now at the salient points, and march on to further conquests.

The Presidency of the Senate.

By the election of Grover Cleveland to be President and Thomas A. Hendricks to be Vice-President of the United States, the people of this country declared their wish that the Democratic party should administer the national Government from March 4, 1885, to March 4, 1889.

If the new President of the Senate is a Republican, the death or disability of Mr. Cleveland would defeat the popular will as thus expressed.

We rejoice in the conviction that no mischance is likely to deprive the nation of Mr. Cleveland's services. Nevertheless, in common with the great body of the Democratic party, we should like to see the Presidential succession so arranged that whenever a vacancy occurs the officer designated to act as President will belong to the party in power.

In other words, it ought to be impossible for the death or disability of a President to restore to power his political adversaries.

If the Republican Senators in Congress were large-minded men, they would choose a Democrat for President of the Senate.—N. Y. Sun.

HOME MADE MANURES.

The following extract from the Watchman and Southron of a meeting of the Sumter Agricultural Association on the 21st of November is an instructive as well as interesting explanation from Mr. L. H. DesChamps of his remarkable success in farming:

"After a short time spent in finishing up old business, the main feature of the day—reports on various subjects—was entered upon. Mr. L. H. DesChamps, of Clarendon, led off with a Report on

HOME MADE MANURES.

which was very instructive and entertaining. Mr. DesChamps said that he was a retired mechanic, and had been "patching," not farming only fifteen years. When he first began he made three hundred bushels corn on 50 acres; now he makes 1,000 bushels corn on 30 acres. He did not state the yield of his cotton the first year:

this year he made 32,000 pounds seed cotton on 20 acres, with the worms in it on Aug. 31. Used only \$2.72 1-2 worth of commercial fertilizer per acre. He has made 28 bales cotton on this 20 acres during average years. Mr. DesChamps uses ten cords of home made manure per acre. He prepares deeply, putting his manure so low that it never interferes with cultivation. He believes in drawing the cotton roots down so that they may be well supplied with moisture. Returns all of his cotton seed to the same land.

"How does he make so much manure?"

"He always lays by July 12th, whether ready or not." From then to fodder-pulling time he is hauling in pine leaves, etc. Has had such piles in his lot that a cow once fell from one and broke her neck; and cannot put the straw near the fence or the stock will jump out. In January after breaking cotton land as deep as a good animal (and a farmer should have no other) can pull long, narrow plow, he strikes out a circle in his plot; on this spreads stable manure several inches deep, then cotton seed, on this acid phosphate and kaimit, and over this a foot to 18 inches of lot manure. This is continued until the pile is ten to twelve feet high; over this the fine lot manure and rich earth is spread so deep that no steam escapes during fermentation. He considers that those heavy applications of compost act upon the land like leaven, making it spongy and very retentive of moisture. In reply to the question "What have been your net yearly receipts?" he said, "I cannot now say exactly for each year; but since I have been patching, I have invested eight or ten thousand dollars in lands. And not meaning to boast, I do not owe any man a dollar."

The above is a very imperfect outline of Mr. DesChamps' report, many parts of which were roundly applauded. Every farmer in Clarendon and Sumter Counties ought to have heard him. Mr. DesChamps has made a success of farming on a home-made basis, and his methods are worthy of careful study.

PROF. ALLEN ON THE KINGSTREE EXAMINATION.

The editor of the Clarendon Enterprise, a newspaper published at Manning, S. C., in his issue of 22nd Oct. last, charged me, as one of the examiners, with "imprudent irregularities," and, by necessary implication, with direct partiality, in the examination of applicants from Williamsburg County for the Citadel Beneficial Cadetship. Feeling that his charges, so far as they referred to me, were wholly unfounded, and therefore needed explanation and modification, I have used every means in my power, consistent with a proper self respect, to induce the author of the charges to do me the simple justice the circumstances seemed to demand. Thus far he has declined to do so. I therefore ask the indulgence of the public in the publication of this card.

The day appointed for the examination referred to was in bed, sick. Mr. H. J. Haynesworth, at my request, kindly consented to act with Mr. E. G. Chandler, the other examiner, in conducting the examination, but distinctly stated at the time that he would leave the grading of the papers, which were to be written, to Mr. Chandler and myself. If this arrangement and understanding was not entirely satisfactory to the applicants they made no objection. When the written examination was presented to me for inspection no complaint was made, and I did not open the seals until, in company with Mr. Chandler, I had retired to a place of quiet. We then scrutinized each paper patiently, carefully examining all that was written by each, comparing with the standard furnished us from the Academy, and grading thereby, according to the merits of each, as uniformly as our judgment enabled. Not until we had completed the examination and grading of the papers, did we open the envelope containing the slips with the name and number of each applicant, by which the author of each paper was to be identified. Up to this time I was absolutely ignorant as to whose labors I was pronouncing judgment upon. After this I prepared a statement of what had been done, (which statement I enclosed to Gen. Hagedorn, Chairman Board of Visitors, as I had been requested to do,) giving the grades of each applicant, without any award by us, or suggestion from us.

In the above statement I fail to see, so far as I am concerned, any "irregularities," prudent or imprudent, or the slightest suggestion of partiality with which I am charged by necessary implication. I therefore hereby pronounce the charges of the editor of the Enterprise, so far as they refer to me, unjustly false, and challenge him to the proof. The editor commences his attack by saying: "We have had some little observation in public examinations, and the conviction forces itself on our mind that all men are not born examiners. We have a very pointed case in another County, showing that the fault lies not always on the side of the examined, but frequently on the side of the examiners." I make no apology for reminding him that I too have had some experience and observation in teaching, and the conviction is fixed in my mind that all men are not born teachers. A very pointed case has recently come within my observation, showing that the fault lies not always on the side of the taught, but frequently on the side of the teacher. If the above reminder is too pointed for the editor of the Enterprise to accept upon my ipse dixit I will inform him that I have in my possession written evidence that I feel assured would extort from a discriminating public the same verdict. The editor of the Enterprise caused copies of his paper containing his attack upon me to be liberally distributed throughout this community, and I know not where else; but of the issue containing my statement I neither received a copy myself, nor have I heard of an extra copy sent to this office. Does such conduct savor of Christian charity? Does it show any desire for justice? Is it even consistent with common courtesy? If my attempt, to establish and build up a school at this place has jarred the disposition of Mr. Nettles towards me, and the object of his unprovoked attack is to cast upon me such odium as will cripple any little effort I may make in that direction, let me assure him that his apprehensions are altogether "too previous."

I will here state for his delectation and satisfaction that present indications give no promise whatever that my little school of a Seminary here will ever bloom up into such grand proportions as to obscure the magnificence of his mountain of a Rugby. I am not surprised that Mr. Nettles should feel an interest in his former pupils: nor even that he should feel a pride in one who has been a conspicuous pupil of his school for so long a time. I would cordially congratulate him in this, as well as in any reasonable effort he might make for their promotion; but he should beware how he allows pride, vanity, or conceit to hurry him into such sweeping and unqualified declarations, based solely upon the statements of an interested party, who, however sincere his motives, is only too liable to reach erroneous conclusions.

Again asking the indulgence of the public,

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I hereby, for the present, bid adieu to the editor of the Clarendon Enterprise and to Mr. S. A. Nettles, hoping that the sober second thought will lead him to repentance, and that he may yet show himself entitled to my forgiveness, and worthy of my confidence and respect.

NAT. ALLEN.

Kingstree, S. C., Nov. 14th 1885.

JORDAN PENCILINGS.

Jordan, S. C., Nov. 23d 1885.

Mr. Editor: The ancient long-ago worn out, and now oft' repeated expression, "Jordan is a hard road to travel," is manifestly inapplicable to our Jordan.

Jordan is a remarkably healthy place, with excellent water, and surrounded by fertile farming and finely timbered lands, well watered and drained by numerous streams. Much of these lands can be rented or purchased at low prices, and no place in the whole country offers greater inducements to settlers.

There is, now, an excellent and flourishing school here under the charge of our promising young friend J. Harry Lessene, who lately graduated with distinction at the Manning Academy.

Now for the crops. Corn that has been properly cultivated produced a full average yield, and those who labored industriously have the satisfaction of knowing they have harvested enough for "man and beast." The yield of cotton—ah! here comes the rub—is much less than last year, and this coupled with very low prices has somewhat discouraged the otherwise happy farmers, and greatly disappointed the expectations of the merchants. A full crop of rice is made, but pease and potatoes are both less than an average in point of yield. However, no other crop is so disastrously short as cotton. Some of our farmers have finished planting oats, while others have just commenced to prepare their land. Most of those who planted early are they who, wisely, saved their own seed-oats.

The game law, it seems, has noticeably increased the game birds of this section, as well as those regarded useful from an entomological standpoint. Bear, deer, and turkeys, for the same reason, have rapidly multiplied in Santee swamp, a few miles from here, within the last few years.

Pinckney Tindall, a negro, killed a bear, a few nights since, near Santee swamp, which weighed nearly five hundred pounds. Pinckney had seen many tracks under a persimmon tree and that night climbed it to watch for Bruin. He found an opossum up it, that weighed fifteen pounds, after securing which, he resumed his watch, and when the old growler approached and commenced to eat the fallen persimmons, he shot and killed him.

A large buck approached very near Mr. J. R. Auld's school house, a few days ago, and stood at the spring, where Mr. Auld and his students get drinking water, 'till he saw Mr. Auld in the door when he scampered.

Mr. J. A. Sprott has a pair of hogs as fine as I ever saw. They are thorough-bred Yorkshires purchased of a celebrated breeder of Phila., and, although only nine months old, one of them looks as if it will weigh at least two hundred and fifty pounds.

That pestiferous class of swindlers, peddlers and traveling agents, have infested this section this year and, in multifarious ways, have fleeced some people in obtaining exorbitant prices—prices out of all proportion to cost and value—for their articles. I am heartily opposed to these glib-tongued talkers with their committed to memory speeches, and believe they are just as vile humbugs and perfidious frauds as the nocturnal seed cotton buyers, the "pop skull" whiskey vendors, who are the bane of our land. ECHO.

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March 4