

The Progress.

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"Charles Anderson" Talks.

Black Bayou, La., Feb. 28, 1897.

Mr. editor, I have been thinking of dropping you a line for quite a while but one thing and another has caused me to put it off from time to time until I came near putting it off altogether, but your gentle reminder the last time I saw you set me to thinking I had as well try to fool you just once. You recollect that after reminding me of my promise to give you a few dots occasionally, you casually remarked that you knew I was a liar and you did not expect ever to see a scratching of my pencil. Well you see you have started me at last and perhaps you will have a harder time choking me off than you did in setting me on.

An old gentleman who used to pretend to know something about me and my ways, used to say that I reminded him of Sut Lovingood's dog: "You never could sick onto nothing you wanted him to catch and never could get him offen nothin he got after of his own accord. Well, that was in the halcyon days of my callow youth and like all other boys I wanted to boss the job, and could not see any difference between the rash reason (or the want of it) of impatient youth and the ripe judgment of experienced age. I think I have measurably passed that now, and am disposed to stop and ask a few questions occasionally.

For instance, where does the economy come in, in paying six hundred dollars a year for a free ferry across the lake at Mooringsport when we are phying a big tax to the railroad, which runs within a few miles of the home of every man who lives in Ward 2, and the hill portion of Ward 1? The fare from Ananias is only 10 cents to Mooringsport, and it does seem to me that the few who wish to cross over the lake for the purpose of trade could afford to pay their own way. I have heard numbers of people say that they thought when the railroad got into operation the appropriation for Mooringsport ferry would cease. This last season twice as much cotton was shipped from Vivian and Rodessa as from Mooringsport, and this would imply that two-thirds of the trade of that place had been deviated from it and that the present ferry accommodated only one-third of the people it did before. From this it would seem that justice would require at least a commen-

surate cutting down of subsidy to Mooringsport.

I believe in open roads, free bridges where practicable, public improvements and all necessary expenses, but do not believe it is just or proper to tax one portion of a community for the benefit of another unless this other has suffered some great disaster, or is a central trading point, and consequently of general benefit to the public. That the public money should be economically expended is part of the Democratic creed, and it goes without saying that every cent of it should be put where it would do the most good.

I have merely written the above questions Mr. Editor, as a starter—not for the purpose of getting up a row. I am personally acquainted with nearly every man in Mooringsport and like them all, and am not willing to do or say anything against the interest of any of them, but "Justice is justice" you know. You editors are supposed to know everything or at least pretend to know, and so I came to you to straighten this out for me.

If anybody disputes what I have said in this matter, I will send down a few figures next time. I am not particularly strong in figures but believe if this matter is looked into it could be pointed out where the parish funds could be used to better advantage than in paying a large amount out for the benefit of a comparatively few citizens of this parish. Mooringsport is a good town and the merchants are good business men, and genial, pleasant gentlemen and I have no doubt that that town will retain its present dimension for a long time yet. It does not impress me with the idea that it will ever grow to any great extent. Its geographical situation as Palmer Dickson would say is not indicative of any great growth. It is in the most inaccessible place a town could have been well put, and the railroad is about the only certain means of getting there at all. I could point out many disadvantages under which it labors but everything has its draw back's and there may be many compensating advantages which do not appear at first, but would probably loom up on a better acquaintance.

If you think this will do to print perhaps I will give Vivian a few touches sometime.

Respectfully,
CHARLES ANDERSON.

Subscribe for The Progress.

Gospel.

Written for The Progress.

Vicksburg, Miss., March 5, 1897.

In every age, and in almost every country, has its power been felt by the mind of man; Nations have been revolutionized by it, and the disposition and character of man entirely changed. The fierceness and the rapacity, the blood-thirsty cruelty and implacable hatred of the lion, the tiger and the leopard have been changed into the gentleness, the innocence and docility of the lamb, the kid and the dove, the poison and subtlety of the serpent, into the ingenuousness, the confidence and harmlessness of the child. Such are some of the figures used by the prophetic pen of inspiration, in illustration of the mighty revolution, which the Gospel should effect in man. Gloomy, dark and almost lost in ignorance of the true God and His worship, was the state of the world at the advent of the Gospel into it. In the strong and emphatic language of inspiration—"darkness had covered the earth, and gross darkness, the people." Commencing in the garden of Eden, with the promise of the "Seed of the woman" to vanquish the serpent, and progressing on, and rising higher, and higher, until it shall terminate in the entire mental, moral and spiritual revolution of the world. In accordance with the prophecy "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." The introduction of the Gospel into the world in its influences and general effects upon the character of man, was one of the most important events that has ever transpired in the history of our globe.

L. A. LANGFORD,

Give Heed.

To The Progress.

Rayne, La., Feb. 24, 1897.—Mr. editor, I write by request of some of our South Louisiana people, who wish me to say that they have great sympathy for the North Louisiana drouth sufferers, and we have been too contributing for their relief and are still willing to do so. But we see in some papers, The Peoples Tribune, Opelousas, of Feb 20th, for, "That in some cases the committees who have been appointed to appropriate the provisions donated, are selling it to the people to whom it had been given, and in some cases at exorbitant prices." I am person-

ally slow to believe the report, but it should be looked into and that at once, if it is correct, it should be remedied, steps should be taken and light on the subject given, sufficient to restore confidence. We have in this South Louisiana country a generous hearted people, they are willing to divide with their suffering brethren, but they will not contribute provisions to be speculated on. This thing should be looked into at once, as many will stop contributing till the thing is investigated.

Yours Respectfully,
J. S. SANDERS.

The Editor.

There came to our office this week the initial number of The Editor, of Ruston, published by the printing department of the Louisiana Industrial Institute, and edited by the faculty and students of the same institution.

This new comer into our fraternity is most excellently edited, showing the polished style of the scholars and student. The print is excellent, make-up, attractive and paper finely finished.

The Progress takes pleasure in welcoming The Editor and gladly places it on the X list.

NEWSPAPER HODGE-PODGE.

Some of our North Louisiana newspapers, notably Bienville Bell and Richland Beacon News, have given Major Beardsley, who owns the tap from Gibsland to Homer, fits for charging full freight rates in transporting food for the drouth sufferers. The large railroads all made great reductions but it seems that this neighbor to the unfortunate people, saw in their suffering and the desire of all good people to help them, but a means of gratifying a hoggish avariciousness.

Aunt Rose Winfield, near Rayville, says she is 118 years old, but Brothers Crisler and Dresser, Beacon-News, don't believe it. You "Mushn't spute a onis ole cul-lud lady's wurd," brethren!

Banner: Democrats says that the farmers in the Mississippi bottoms made splendid crops last year and those of East Carroll parish have bought more mules this season than they have in the last five years.

Mardi-Gras was celebrated in several towns and cities of our State this month. New Orleans didn't have all of the fun to herself.