

The Progress.

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Some Solid Thoughts.

To the Editor of The Progress.

GRAND CANE, LA.,
February 5th, 1897.

DEAR SIR:—I have, for many years, thought it quite strange why it was the South did not engage in the manufacturing of all the needs of such as come through the process of skilled labor. Often we hear it said that no country can grow rich that depends solely on agriculture. It is said that England's wealth grew out of the factory. New England has grown rich from her manufacturing and mining industries. In the South we have as many natural advantages as any country on earth; Many more than England or the northern part of the United States.

The reasons assigned for the slow progress of manufacturing industries in the South, is a lack of capital. I was talking recently with a gentleman on the subject of cotton mills in the South. He said if we could induce men with capital to come here and invest their money in cotton mills, it would be but a short time before the South would rival the New England States in point of wealth. I attempted to prove by theoretical argument that it was not the lack of capital the South needed, but that it was a want of confidence; not that character of financial confidence we read so much about, as suggested by the "sound money" people, but a confidence in our ability to do anything that is possible for men to do when they understand how it should be done.

The development in modern inventions has made the road plain that leads to the possible hum of the cotton spindle in every town in the South. Steel arms and iron hands have displaced, in a measure, the necessity of well-trained labor. Before ingenuity did so much, it was quite necessary to have well-skilled labor in all the departments of manufacturing industries. Should it be necessary to have skilled labor here before a factory of any kind could be operated, there are thousands of the best skilled men and women in the North who would gladly come south for a job.

As I said above, it is not capital we need so much. Capital never did build anything; labor has done it all. Every factory, town and house in all the world was built by labor; every farmer and the thousands of millions of bales of cotton was sought out by labor.

What is stranger still, all the

factories, towns, etc., do not belong to the men who built them; not one of those beautiful brick buildings in the city of Shreveport are owned by the men who piled the brick, one on the other, and cemented them with mortar, not one. As a rule, the hands that apply the trowel, the chissel, the hammer, find rest under a rented roof.

If you ask me how can we build and operate factories without first interesting men who have a surplus of capital, and who would be willing to invest their money in a manufacturing enterprise, I would answer: The first class of people to become interested are the men who are willing to work, and who will take pay out of their products. In other words, if ten men can be induced to make brick, and they have a knowledge of brick molding, and they agree to take brick for pay, what is it that would stand in the way of these ten men making, provided they can exchange brick for food and raiment, or other necessaries of life.

We live at a time and in a country where we have forced co-operation. Capital forces labor to co-operate with it, whether labor is willing to do so or not. What we want is volunteer co-operation. We want a system of co-operation that will give to each one his full share of the products of his toil.

Time and space prevents me from outlining the kind of a co-operative system that will build up and develop the rich resources of this beautiful country.

In conclusion, I will say, if you feel an interest in this subject, I will, in future, say more.

I am, fraternally,

DESOTO.

Brother Nixon.

The Progress takes pleasure in noting the advent or re-advent into the journalistic field of Mr. John T. Nixon, who has assumed control of the Washington Post, this State. Mr. Nixon is really no novice in journalistic work, but has been connected with one or two of the sprightliest papers in Louisiana.

We take pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of the first number of Washington Post after he took charge and we take pleasure in exchanging.

Call and see the new models Rambler Bicycles, \$89, Louisiana Cycle Company, Limited, 203 Milam street.

At Home Again.

Our merchants are returning home from their purchasing trips and have come well fixed for the Spring trade.

Among those who are already in are Messrs. Ben Holzman, Jules Dreyfus; of Jules Dreyfuss dry goods Co., J. H. Jordan, of Jordan and Booth, Samuel Dreyfuss, of the Kahn dry goods company limited, all prominent dry goods men and clothiers.

Those Public Documents.

In our preceding issue was an article entitled Queer Public Documents, which indirectly intimated that a gentleman of prominence had used the United States mail for shipping private wearing apparel, under the guise of public documents, and the Caucasian, of our city, wants The Progress to call names.

This of course we cannot do for the reason, first; no charge was made, no location laid, no name referred to, for the reason there given, it would do no good, and second; the statement might have been but a reminiscence, referring to an act which might have occurred back in the long ago.

Since then we have made a more thorough investigation revealed the fact that those trunks which Reminiscence talked about were not trunks but Congressional boxes—two, one of which was filled with public documents indeed, and the other nearly so, the wearing apparel alluded to, being really some cast off garments placed in, by no member of the family, to make the box compactly filled. This is the box that flew open revealing, not public documents but wearing apparel.

It was a strong piece of circumstantial evidence which was used against a certain gentleman whom, while believing him to have, in a most cold-blooded and heartless manner done our editor personal injury, we are unwilling to have him stand falsely accused by any act of ours.

Let us not tamper with a constitutional convention until the moral sentiment of our State is strong enough to secure a fair election. When we do make a new constitution let it be done by delegates who are the absolute choice of their constituents, who had been granted the privilege of casting a fair, free and untrammelled ballot.

The Little Gem carries the finest line of wines whiskies and cigars in the city. Opp. Union depot.

[Written for The Progress.]

FAREWELL TO SHREVEPORT.

Farewell to your hills, with cool shady peak,
And your gentle slope down the valley to greet,
Where sunshine and shadow may play hide and seek
'Mid the flowers and ferns that bloom at your feet.

Farewell to the land where the oriole sings,
Where the gay mocking-bird builds her a nest,
Where the humming-bird floats on tireless wings,
And the lone whippowill sings me to rest.

Farewell to my friends; they are numerous, too;
Enemies, I have none, as far as I know;
The precious, sweet moments I've gathered from you
Will memory hold dear wherever I go.

Farewell to the church at the head of the street;
I've oft passed your portals weary and sad,
'Till the preacher arrived, when I sat at his feet,
And was charmed by the gifted, yet tender, La Prade.

Farewell to the dust, which so peacefully sleep,
'Mong the grass covered hills, with valleys between,
Others will now stand where the lone willows weep
And lovingly see that the grave is kept green.

Lo! I turn to the land of the rising sun,
Where, 'mid the graves of my kindred, I'll try
To patiently wait till my day's work is done,
Contented to live, or contented to die.
Bordeaux, Tenn. G. S. NEWSOM.

Tourist's Guide Book.

The Progress is indebted to that great metropolitan daily, The New Orleans Picayune, for a copy of its "Tourist's Guide Book to the city of New Orleans."

New Orleans being the pride, as a city, of every Louisianian, by birth or early adoption, all like to pay at least an occasional visit to this great mecca, and to those who are not acquainted with the various objects of interest nor where they are located, will find this book of unestimable benefit to them, for by its directions all these points become easy to find. And to those who go there frequently this book contains stores of valuable information which will be interesting.

The Progress is authorized to state that anyone desiring a copy can obtain it by sending 14 cents to the Picayune.

We thank our big brother most heartily for this courtesy.

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