

**THE WIRZ MONUMENT.**

The Daughters of the Confederacy in Georgia have begun a movement to erect a monument to Captain Wirz who was executed directly after the Civil war on the charge of cruelty to the federal prisoners in the Andersonville prison of which he was in charge.

It is believed by these southern women that some public vindication should be made of the memory of a man whose life was sacrificed in the most passionate period of the reconstruction. Time and calmer investigation have done much to change the verdict rendered in days of excited and revengeful feeling. Still many are ignorant of the merits of the case, and one still hears the south denounced for cruelty to the prisoners of war.

The proposed monument will be an answer to this charge, since on it will be inscribed the official report made by Secretary of War Stanton on July 19, 1865: "Confederates in northern prisons, 220,000; union soldiers in southern prisons, 270,000; excess of union prisoners, 50,000; deaths in northern prisons, 26,536; deaths in southern prisons, 22,756." Thus showing that 12 per cent. of Confederate prisoners died in confinement in the north, while only 9 per cent. of federal prisoners died at the hands of those alleged "cruel" southerners.

Another inscription on the prospective monument will give honor to the four federal prisoners who were permitted to go from Andersonville to Washington to plead for an exchange of prisoners. When their plea was refused these honorable soldiers came back and again entered the prison they had left.

The "Horrors of Andersonville," where 35,000 prisoners were confined on twenty-seven acres of ground, with a guard of only 2,500 boys and old men were due solely to the refusal of the federal government to exchange prisoners, owing to a dispatch sent by General Grant, August 17, 1864, in which he said: "We cannot afford to exchange prisoners. It is hard on our men in southern prisons not to exchange them, but it is humanity to those left in the ranks to fight our battles. To release all Confederate prisoners now would insure Sher-

man's defeat, and would jeopardize our safety here."

The comment upon this was, "What a tribute to southern valor; that the poor, weak Confederates just from prison would defeat Sherman's well fed veterans and jeopardize the safety of Grant's army."

The persistent refusal of the government at Washington to exchange prisoners was very unfortunate. How could it be expected that a stripped and ravaged people, whose army was mostly naked and famished, and who were debarred from obtaining medicines and surgical appliances, could properly care for 35,000 prisoners of war—a great army itself. The problem greatly worried and distressed Mr. Davis. He did what he could under the circumstances. A most healthful spot—in the belt of black jack and piney woods that encloses Thom- asville—was chosen for the site of the encampment and stockade, which would have been much larger if enough men could have been spared to guard a larger area.

The prisoners were given the same food that was given the men who guarded them. When sick they were given such medicine as could be had. Several hundred were paroled from time to time, and sent over the surrounding country to buy any provisions they might find. The paroled soldiers helped attend their sick comrades and mingled freely with those outside. The treasury was drained of money to feed this army of prisoners, and appeals were made to the people for provisions—appeals that were responded to beyond the people's ability. In spite of all this over 12,000 died out of the 54,000 men— which, all in all, were at Andersonville. It was pitiful! So was the fate of the southern men thinly clad and freezing and dying by thousands in northern prisons. After the war the returning federal prisoners told of their sufferings at Andersonville, and great indignation was aroused. It was felt that as in the "Charge of the Light Brigade," some one had blundered. The blunderer stood too high to be punished, and so Captain Wirz—poor, a foreigner, his friends under ban, and no one strong enough to stand up for him, became the vicarious sacrifice. He was denounced as a monster, and hanged after three months in prison. He foresaw that time and calmer investigation would change the verdict against him, and his last plea was that his name might be publicly cleared of obloquy for his children's sake. It is out of regard

to this plea as well as to help vindicate the south of the unjust charge of cruelty that the Daughters of the Confederacy propose to erect a monument or a tablet to Captain Wirz. It was protested against at the last G. A. R. convention, but meantime the south has not protested against the proposed monument to John Brown. It would, perhaps, be as well if neither of these monuments were erected—as well as if the memory of wrongs were not perpetrated, but allowed to fade with the passing of time, which brings softened feelings, a clearer sense of justice and toleration—and finally a blessing for gentleness.—M. E. Bryan in the Sunny South.

Judge I. L. Farris, of Jacksonville, member-elect to the Florida legislature, spent Saturday in Ocala, having come to attend the funeral of his little brother, Flourney Farris, whose death occurred at Inglis Friday morning.

**A PRAYER—NO CARS!—NO CARS!**

A lumber man went to heaven one day?  
As sometimes lumber men do;  
And they gave him a job with princely pay  
Of running a lumber train through,  
To the Kingdom 'of Hell, with instructions to haul  
From the fiery brimstone bars  
All the railroad men he could recall,  
But—they gave him no cars!

So a message he sent to the realm of Hell,  
For the railroad men to be  
On the watch for his train. And he rang the bell  
With a chuckle of fiendish glee,  
And the men lined up as they writhed in pain  
On the fiery brimstone bars,  
But when the lumber man showed up  
With his train.  
My God! He had no cars!

And so through the endless cycle of years,  
The railroad men lined up  
And hope dispelled, with groans and tears,  
As they drain the bitter cup  
While the lumberman makes his run on time  
From their gates of pearl to the fiery bars,  
And the railroad men in anguish chime,  
My God! My God! No Cars!  
J. B.

**WILD GAME NOW AND IN OTHER DAYS.**

To the Editor Ocala Banner:  
I was raised on a farm. When a boy I used to set traps and catch quail; I remember once building a pen and catching quite a number of wild turkeys. I sold those quail and turkeys and in this way obtained enough pin money to take me to the circus, procure a store bought suit of clothes and occasionally hire a team to take my best girl out for a drive.

The boy on the farm is not allowed to do this now. Although a native of the state he is not allowed to trap either birds or wild turkeys. He is now required to pay a license for the privilege of shooting wild game and after paying this license he is not permitted to sell, even in the hunting season, any sort of game.

In whose interests, if I may ask, were these laws enacted?  
The man living in the city, who is too poor to have a kennel of dogs and purchase a sportsman outfit must do without the luxury of wild game. He cannot buy for love nor money these birds that are so plentiful in our woods.

I may be permitted also to say that when the boys on the farm were allowed to trap these birds they were more abundant than they now are. If our law makers really want to protect our game a statute forbidding them to be hunted with dogs would do the business.

The people of Florida should be allowed the privilege of capturing wild game as in times of yore and should be given the privilege of selling them.

These birds should be for the benefit of our own people and not especially for the benefit of a few sporting gentlemen.

The poor boy on the farm should be given a chance of earning a few pennies for pocket change by trapping these wild fowl.

**A DOGLESS MAN.**

Ohio seems to be a bad climate for governors. The democratic governor died and the lieutenant governor, who was promoted to the chair, is now sick.

**John White & Co.**  
LOUISVILLE, KY.  
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Highest market price paid for raw  
**FURS**  
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Ga.-Ala. Bus. College, Macon, Ga.

Senator Culom is sick.

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Pickwick Club . . . . . 1.25 13.00	land . . . . . 3.00	Laubenheimer, Rhine Wine, qts. . . . 5.00	Four Aces . . . . . 5.00
Diplomatic . . . . . 1.00 10.00	Apple Brandy, 2 yrs. old Mary . . . 3.00	Laubenheimer, Rhine Wine, pts. . . . 1.00	Pickwick Club X . . . . . 6.00
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