PARDON OF NEAL

Calls Forth a Statement from Attorney-General Bellinger.

WHAT HE HAS TO SAY.

Protest Most Vigorously Against Certain Statements That Have Been Made About the Case.

Attorney-General Bellinger protests most vigorously against certain statements that have been made in connection with the pardon of Col. Neal. He does so because of his being the chief officer in charge of the prosecution of Colonel Neal. Here is his statement:

"While the case of the state vs. W. A. Neal was still within the control of the courts I felt that propriety, if not justice, dictated that the prosecuting officer should remain silent as to certain statements made in behalf of the defendant through the public prints, criticising the motives of the prosecution, impugning the impartiality of the presiding judge and tending to mislead the uninformed public as to the facts of the case; but inasmuch as the governor has granted a full, unconditional pardon to the defendant, justice to the people of the state, whose servants public officials are to the cause of truth and to the integrity and ability of one of the [illegible] over his ermine, impels me to speak, while the propriety of my course the future must decide.

"For the past few day numerous statements and predictions have been made in the daily press, as to the prime responsibility for which it is not necessary to inquire. It has been said, 'the attorney general, it is said, gave Colonel Neal's bondsmen a receipt, for the amount due by him to the state.' No such receipt ever was given, for the reason that it had been held all along by this office that the bondsmen were liable for only a part of what Neal was due the state, and only for this part was any receipt given or any money paid. Communication was begun with Neal immediately upon the receipt of the report of the committee, early in August, 1899, and continued from time to time unprofitably until August 29, when warrants were sworn out against him and his arrest followed.

"Demand was made on his bondsmen on September, 4, 1899, and the sum of $2,812 41 finally paid by them on the 29th day of the same month, after complaints were prepared, ready to be served in the suit against the bondsmen. The receipt given distinctly states the items of the shortage included in the sum.

"It was also said in Wednesday's State, by one apparently 'speaking with knowledge:' 'During the hearing (on petition for pardon) the governor asked Mr. Nelson some questions as to what amount Colonel Neal still owed the state, or whether by his acts the state stood in danger of losing anything. * * * Offhand replies were given to the questions asked by the governor, but later on written explanations will probably be filed,' and 'the governor will first refer the petition to the trial judge and the solicitor before going further in the matter.' I am justified in saying no reference of the matter was so made and consequently the prosecution now has the first opportunity to be heard; and did no one now speak in behalf of the state it might reasonably be inferred that the statements of fact contained in the petition remain unchallenged.

"Inasmuch as the governor, on the 15th of August, 1899, in transmitting the report of the investigating committee, said in his official letter to the attorney general. 'I ask that you take such action as the law requires and protect the interests of the state to secure the administration of justice. I would ask also that you advise me what further steps are necessary to be taken by me to carry out the findings of the committee, as contained in the report.' (Report, p. 4), and as he further said to the legislature: 'The whole matter was then placed in the hands of the attorney general with full power to act and protect as far as possible the interests of the state,' (Report, p. 6), it is reasonable to suppose that that officer knew better to what extent the state was to be affected than defendant's attorneys. Had he honored me with a request for information I should have shown him, from the copy of the report which his office had printed and sent to the general assembly, that the joint investigating Committee (Report, p. 16) reported to him officially that in addition to the items for which the bondsmen subsequently paid the state, Neal was liable for convict hire for three years, amounting to $7,400, and that the attorney general reported, in addition to the amount for which the bondsmen were chargeable, that 'on the account of the lease of convicts for three years the state has lost $2,600,' (Report, p. 7,) and I should have shown him, by the testimony printed in said report that (pages 68-107) Neal acknowledged that the notes which he had taken from the Ragsdales were discounted at the bank in order to raise money to pay his personal debts due the penitentiary on account of convict hire; that the Ragsdales were not even morally responsible for the amount; that he received the benefits arising from the lease of the convicts and that the penitentiary authorities now hold one of these notes, amounting to $2,600 for the hire of convicts for the year 1897. And I should have reminded him that in his report to the general assembly he used this language: 'It will not be improper for me in this connection to commend the thoroughness and efficiency with which this committee has discharged the difficult duties they had in hand, as you will see from the report herewith sumitted.' 'The attorney general has discharged his duties in this matter faithfully and I recommend his diligence.'"

Having been confined, as a source of information, to common rumors and to the articles published in the newspapers as to the facts presented on behalf of the defendant, I am not informed of any evidence laid before his excellency to make him change his conclusions as to the facts established by the committee's report and I reiterate that after taking advantage of the law to save the loss of $2,600, which the bank now sustains, and after collection from J. B. Watson for the benefit of the bank that amount due for convict hire for another year, the state has lost on account of the official misconduct of W. A. Neal at least $2,600, as formerly reported.

I notice in today's State a statement of what, by way of euphemism, we may call his excellency's reasons for granting the petition of pardon. These appear, generally speaking, to be three:

First. That the petitions were numerously signed "by gentlemen of the highest reputation and standing." This reason is forceful possibly because "the voice of the people is the voice of God" to the audito. whose worship is directed in a certain direction.

Second. The sureties of the official bond of Neal urged the pardon upon the ground that the defendant had repaid them what they were compelled to pay the state on account of his defalcation. This reason would itself be conclusive if the prosecutions had been brought by the state for the benefit of these bondsmen.

Third. It seems to be taken for granted that humiliation and repentance for the deeds done in the body are satisfaction before the law for the violation of the criminal statutes of the state.

Were the governor, under our constitution, clothed with the priestly power of absolution on account of a change of heart and a promise of a better life, this reason would perhaps have weight, but one can scarcely throw off the conviction that had this penitent been friendless and weak he would have been left to the chain gang to "bring forth fruits meet for repentance."

As it would be an injustice to conclude that the reasons for granting the pardon are fully set out in the statement above analyzed, I shall look to the allegations of the petition and the statements contained in the letters handed out by the governor for publication and make such running comment as appers to me pertinent.

The petition states that:

(a) "The offense of which Neal was convicted was a technical violation of the law." In addition to saying that all crimes under statutes are technical violations of the law I call attention to the [illegible] defendant before the joint investigating committee and upon his trial in court, in which he confessed that at the time of the collection of the funds in question he made false statements to the bookkeeper as to the amounts collected, stated that he had expended the funds for his personal use and finally, in contradiction these confessions, swore on the stand that he had properly accounted for them, and this is referred to in the petition as a "full and frank statement."

(b) "At a former term of court he was tried and acquitted of breach of trust with fraudulent intent as to the same funds for which he was indicted and convicted for not turning over to his successor." I have before me all of these indictments in the cases. The indictment upon which he was acquitted charged the fauculent conversion of only $244. The indictment under which he was convicted charged the failure to turn over sums aggregating $1,544. So that for three separate sums, which he has converted to his own use, has never been acquitted of, even tried. There is still undisposed of against him in the court of general sessions an indictment for breach of trust for the conversion of $300, but inasmuch as his humiliation and repentance is expected "to redeem his life and reinstate himself in the good opinion of his fellow citizens," it would probably be an unjustifiable expenditure of public funds to press this prosecution at the next term of court.

(c) "This sum of money was paid, as heroinbefore stated, prior to trial and with no idea of compromise." As before stated, the money was paid only after the defendant had been arrested and had given bail, and then by the bondsmen, against whom suit was threatened.

(d) "As the law has been vindicated and the amount found due on his bond paid. * * *" If this statement is not intended to imply that the state has been held harmless in full by this payment, then it does mean that the reimbursement of the bondsmen should be considered full satisfaction before the law for Neal's misdeeds.

(e) "Such being the statute and the facts showing that he had not turned it over within thirty days, the jury could not but find a verdict of guilty." Surely his Excellency could not so soon forget that on the motion for a new trial before Judge Gary on July 1 his Honor was subjected to the painful ordeal of having stated before him as grounds for a new trial: "Because the court refused to charge the jury in regard to the authority of the superintendent of the penitentiary.

"Because the court failed and refused to charge the law as set forth in Section 551.

"Because your honor's rulings during the progress of the trial were not a fair and impartial exposition of the law and were prejudicial to the constitutional rights of the defendant."

At last the amende honorable has been made to his Honor, Judge Gary, and the petition bears evidence to the impartiality of the judge and to the performance of duty by the jury. Alas, justice has come on laden wings and rejoication's generosity is tinctured with a suspicion of expediency.

Among the letters which his Excellency has been considerate enough to give to the papers for publication, along with his reasons, and presumably as meeting with his approval in sentiment, are some charging that "the people believe that theprosecution against Col. Neal was actuated by political prejudice and was simply persecution." Now if anyone doubts the propriety of my conduct in appearing in this matter before the public, let him read carefully the words quoted, let him remember that they refer to officers of the state, and that publication of this slander was made with the approval of the officer to whom these letters were addressed. So general in its character is the charge that common fairness would demand specifications. Who were "actuated by political prejudice?" Was it the general assembly who appointed the committee, the committee who investigated the charges and reported to the governor, the governor who instructed the attorney general to begin proceedings and reported the findings of the committee to the general assembly, the judge who presided over the trial, the jury who passed upon the facts, or the attorney general and solicitor who conducted the prosecution in the facts of the case?

If the governor was a party to the nefarious conspiracy he has made amends and will doubtless have that mercy extended to him that he has so freely bestowed. If all the others remain subject to the charge I deem it fortunate for myself to be found in such company.

REPLIES TO THE LETTER WRITERS.

In reply to those letter writers to the governor who say that "the state has not lost one cent by Neal, he paid the amount he was ascertained to be owing in full," I say they speak from absolute ignorance and I challenge them to produce the evidence to sustain the statement; and to those who say that "Col. Neal did not turn over his money while the matter was still in the hands of the investigating committee, but as soon as the case was settled he did so," and that "there was not one scintilla of evidence showing any criminal intent to defraud the state," I would put the question: Did you hear the trial, have you read the report of the investigating committee, are you prepared to say that you have any knowledge whatever of the case.

I am aware the pardoning power is the prerogative of the chief executive, but I am mindful that it is a delegated and representative power, to be exercised for and on behalf of the people. It is not to be a personal forgiveness, made full and bounteous by an official act.

Mercy is of many kinds; we often hear:

"The quality of mercy is not strain'd:
It droppeth as the gentle rain from Heaven
Upon the place beneath: It is twice bless'd:
Ah, yes,
"It blesseth him that gives, and him that takes:
'Tis mightiest in the mightiest: it becomes
The throned monarch better than his crown.
His sceptre shows the force of temporal power,
The attribute to awe and majesty,
Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings."

It would at least be a wise precaution for the criminal who comes upon the good fortune of Col. William A. Neal as a precedent to be followed in the future to look well to his social position, the number and standing of his friends, and his sensitive disposition to suffer humiliation and repentance; for otherwise some poor devil who has sold his crop under lien, and failed to pay the debt secured thereby within ten days, may wake up to find that while he slept in the darkness of his friendless despair, so sheltered that this "bounteous rain of Heaven" had run off the eaves and had failed to wet him.

It is to be hoped that the future will not recall that—

"Mercy is not itself, oft looks so;
Pardon is still the nurse of second woe."

PAUL IN A BASKET.

Dr. Talmage Draws His Sermon from This Bible Incident.

Story of the Disciple's Providential Escape from the Infuriated Mob and the Lesson It Teaches.

[Copyrighted, 1901, by Louis Klopsch, N. Y.]
Washington, Aug. 25.

A Bible incident not often noticed is here used by Dr. Talmage to set forth practical and beautiful truth; text, II. Corinthians 11:33: "Through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall."

Sermons on Paul in jail, Paul on Mars hill, Paul in the shipwreck, Paul before the sanhedrin, Paul before Felix, are plentiful, but in my text we have Paul in a basket.

Damascus is a city of white and glistening architecture, sometimes called "the eye of the east," sometimes called "a pearl surrounded by emeralds," at one time distinguished for swords of the best material, called Damascus blades, and upholstery of richest fabric called damask. A horseman of the name of Saul, riding toward this city, had been thrown from the saddle. The horse had dropped under a flash from the sky, which at the same time was so bright it blinded the rider for many days, and, I think, so permanently injured his eyesight that his defect of vision became the thorn in the flesh he afterward speaks of. He started for Damascus to butcher Christians, but after that hard fall from his horse he was a changed man and preached Christ in Damascus till the city was shaken to its foundation.

[illegible] authority for his arrest, and the popular cry is: "Kill him! Kill him!" The city is surrounded by a high wall and the gates are watched by the police lest the Cilician preacher escape. Many of the houses are built on the wall, and their balconies projected clear over and hovered above the garden outside. It was customary to lower baskets out of these balconies and pull up fruits and flowers from the gardens. To this day visitors at the monastery of Mount Sinai are lifted and let down in baskets. Detectives prowled around from house to house looking for Paul, but his friends hid him, now in one place, now in another. He is no coward, as 50 incidents in his life demonstrate, but he feels his work is not done yet, and so he evades assassination. "Is that preacher here?" the foaming mob shout at one house door. "Is that fanatic here?" the police shout at another house door. Sometimes on the street incognito he passes through a cloud of clinched fists and sometimes he secretes himself on the house top.

At last the infuriated populace get on sure track of him. They have positive evidence that he is in the house of one of the Christians, the balcony of whose home reaches over the wall. "Here he is! Here he is!" The vociferation and blasphemy and howling of the pursuers are at the front door. They break in. "Fetch out that gospelizer and let us hang his head on the city gate. Where is he?" The emergency was terrible. Providentially there was a good stout basket in the house. Paul's friends fasten a rope to the basket. Paul steps into it. The basket is lifted to the edge of the balcony on the wall, and then, while Paul holds the rope with both hands his friends lower away, carefully and cautiously, slowly but surely, farther down and farther down, until the basket strikes the earth and the apostle steps out and afoot and alone starts out on that famous missionary tour the story of which has astonished earth and Heaven. Appropriate entry in Paul's diary of travels: "Through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall."

I observe first on what a slender tenure great results hang. The ropemaker who twisted that cord fastened to that lowering basket never knew how much would depend upon the strength of it. How if it had been broken and the apostle's life had been dashed out? What would have become of the Christian church? All that magnificent missionary work in Pamphylia, Cappadocia, Galatia, Macedonia would never have been accomplished. All his writings that make up so indispensable and enchanting a part of the New Testament would never have been written. The story of the resurrection would never have been so gloriously told as he told it. That example of heroic and triumphant endurance at Philippi, in the Mediterranean Euroclydon, under flagellation, and at his beheading would not have kindled the courage of 10,000 martyrdoms. But that rope holding that basket, how much depended on it! So again and again great results have hung on slender circumstances.

Did ever ship of many thousand tons crossing the sea have such an important passenger as had once a boat of leaves, from taffrail to stern only three or four feet, the vessel being waterproof by a coat of bitumen and floating on the Nile with the infant lawgiver of the Jews on board? What if some crocodile should crunch it? What if some of the cattle wading in for a drink should sink it? Vessels of war sometimes carry 40 guns looking through the portholes ready to open battle, but the tiny craft on the Nile seems to be armed with all the guns of thunder that bombarded Sinai at the lawgiving. On how fragile craft sailed how much of historical importance!

The parsonage at Epworth, England, is on fire in the night, and the father rushed through the hallway for the rescue of his children. Seven children are out and safe on the ground, but one remains in the consuming building. That one awakes, and, finding his bed on fire and the building crumbling, comes to the window, and two peasants make a ladder of their bodies, one peasant standing on the shoulder of the other, and down the human ladder the boy descends—John Wesley. If you would know how much depended on that ladder of peasants ask the millions of Methodists on both sides of the sea. Ask their missionary stations all around the world. Ask their hundreds of thousands already ascended to join their founder, who would have perished but for the living stair of peasants' shoulders.

An English ship stopped at Pitcairn island, and right in the midst of surrounding cannibalism and squalor the passengers discovered a Christian colony of churches and schools and beautiful homes and highest style of religion and civilization. Fifty years no missionary and no Christian influence had landed there. Why this oasis of light amid a desert of heathendom? Sixty years before a ship had met disaster, and one of the sailors, unable to save anything else, went to his trunk and took out a Bible which his mother had placed there and swam ashore, the Bible in his teeth. The book was read on all sides until the rough and vicious population were evangelized, and a church was started and an enlightened commonwealth established, and the world's history has no more brilliant page than that which tells of the transformation of a nation by one book. It did not seem of much importance whether the sailor continued to hold the book in his teeth or let it fall in the breakers, but upon what small circumstances depended what mighty results!

Practical inference: There are no insignificances in life. The minutest thing is part of a magnitude. Infinity is made up of infinitesimals; great things an aggregation of small things. Bethlehem manger pulling on a star in the eastern [illegible] the book of a unknown sailor's mind the evangelization of a multitude. One boat of papyrus on the Nile freighted with events for all ages. The fate of Christendom in a basket lowered down from a window on the wall. What you do, do well. If you make a rope, make it strong and true, for you know not how much may depend on your workmanship. If you fashion a boat, let it be waterproof, for you know not who may sail in it. If you put a Bible in the trunk of your boy as he goes from home let it be remembered in your prayers that it may have a mission as farreaching as the book which the sailor carried in his teeth to the Pitcairn beach. The plainest man's life is an island between two eternities—eternity past rippling against his shoulders, eternity to come touching his brow. The casual, the accidental, that which merely happened so, are parts of a great plan, and the rope that lets the fugitive apostle from the Damascus wall is the cable that holds to its mooring the ship of the church in the storm of the centuries.

Again, notice unrecognized and unrecorded service. Who spun that rope? Who tried it to the basket? Who steadied the illustrous preacher as he stepped into it? Who relaxed not a muscle of the armor dismissed an anxious look from his face until the basket touched the ground and discharged its magnificent cargo? Not one of their names has come to us. But there was no work done that day in Damascus or in all the earth compared with the importance of their work. What if they had in their agitation tied a knot that could slip? What if the sound of the mob at the door had led them to say: "Paul must take care of himself, and we will take care of ourselves?" No, no! They held the rope, and in doing so did more for the church than any thousand of us will ever accomplish. But God knows and has made record of their undertaking. And they know.

How exultant they must have felt when they read his letters to the Romans, to the Corinthians, to the Galatians, to the Ephesians, to the Philippians, to the Colossians, to the Thessalonians, and when they heard how he walked out of prison, with the earthquake unlocking the door for him, and took command of the Alexandrian corn ship when the sailors were nearly scared to death and preached a sermon that nearly shook Felix off his judgment seat. I hear the men and women who helped him down through the window and over the wall talking in private over the matter and saying: "How glad I am that we effected that rescue! In coming times others may get the glory of Paul's work, but no one shall rob us of the satisfaction of knowing that we held the rope."

Something occurs to me quite personal. I was the youngest of a large family of children. My parents were neither rich nor poor. Four of the sons wanted a collegiate education, and four obtained it, but not without great home struggle. We never heard the old people say once that they were denying themselves to effect this, but I remember now that my parents always looked tired. I don't think they ever got rested until they lay down in the Somerville cemetery. Mother would sit down in the evening and say: "Well, I don't know what makes me feel so tired." Father would fall immediately to sleep, seated by the evening stand, overcome with the day's fatigues. About 35 years ago the one and about 37 years ago the other put down the burdens of this life, but they still hold the rope.

But there must come a time when we shall find out who these Damascenes were who lowered Paul in the basket, and greet them and all those who have rendered to God and the world unrecognized and unrecorded services. That is going to be one of the glad excitements of Heaven, the hunting up and picking out of those who did great good on earth and got no credit for it. Here the church has been going on 19 centuries, and yet the world has not recognized the services of the people in that Damascus balcony. Charles G. Finney said to a dying Christian: "Give my love to St. Paul when you meet him." When you and I meet him, as we will, I shall ask him to introduce me to those who got him out of the Damascene peril.

We go into long sermons to prove that we will be able to recognize people in Heaven, when there is one reason we fail to present, and that is better than all—God will introduce us. We shall have them all pointed out. You would not be guilty of the impoliteness of having friends in your parlor not introduced, and celestial politeness will demand that we be made acquainted with all the Heavenly household. What rehearsal of old times and recital of stirring reminiscences! If others fail to give introduction, God will take us through, and before our first 24 hours in Heaven—if it were calculated by earthly timepieces—have passed we shall meet and talk with more Heavenly celebrities than in our entire mortal state we met with earthly celebrities. Many who made great noise of usefulness will sit on the last seat by the front door of the Heavenly temple, while right up within arm's reach of the Heavenly throne will be many who, though they could not reach themselves or do great exploits for God, nevertheless held the rope.

Come, let us go right up and accost those on the circle of Heavenly thrones. Surely they must have killed in battle a million men. Surely they must have been buried with all the cathedrals sounding a dirge and all the towers of all the cities tolling the national grief. Who art thou, mighty one of Heaven? "Why, I am the humble man that I might take care of my parents in their old age, and I endured without complaint all their querulousness and administered to all their wants for 20 years." Let us pass on round the circle of thrones. Who art thou, mighty one of Heaven? "I was for 30 years a Christian invalid and suffered all the while, occasionally writing a note of sympathy for those worse off than I, and was general confidant of all those who had trouble, and once in awhile I was strong enough to make a garment for that poor family in the back lane." Pass on to another throne. Who art thou, mighty one of Heaven? "I was the mother who raised a whole family of children for God, and they are out in the world Christian merchants, Christian mechanics, Christian wives, and I have had full reward for all my toil." Let us pass on in the circle of thrones. "I had a Sabbath school class and they were always on my heart, and they all entered the kingdom of God, and I am waiting for their arrival." But who art thou, the mighty one of Heaven on this other throne? "In time of bitter persecution I owned a house in Damascus, a house on the wall. A man who preached Christ was hounded from street to street and I hid him from the assassins, and when I found them breaking into my house and I could no longer keep him safely I advised him to flee for his life, and a basket was let down over the wall with the maltreated man in it, and I was one who helped hold the rope." And I said: "Is that all?" And he answered: "That is all." And while I was lost in amazement I heard a strong voice that sounded as though it might once have been hoarse from many exposures, and triumphant as though it might have belonged to one of the martyrs, and it said: "Not many mighty, not many noble are called, but God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty, and base things of the world and things which are despised hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not to bring to naught things which are, that no flesh should glory in His presence." And I looked to see from whence the voice came, and lo! it was the very one who had said: "Through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall."

Henceforth think of nothing as insignificant. A little thing may decide your all. A Cunarder put out from England for New York. It was well equipped, but in putting up a stove in the pilot box a nail was driven too near the compass. You know how that nail would affect the compass. The ship's officers, deceived by that distracted compass, put the ship 200 miles off her right course, and suddenly the man on the lookout cried: "Land ho!" and the ship was halted within a few yards of her demolition on Nantucket shoals. A sixpenny nail came near wrecking a Cunarder. Small ropes hold mighty destinies.

A minister seated in Boston at his table, lacking a word, puts his hand behind his head and tilts back his chair to think, and the ceiling falls and crushes the table and would have crushed him. A minister in Jamaica at night, by the light of an insect called the candle fly, is kept from stepping over a precipice a hundred feet. F. W. Robertson, the celebrated English clergyman, said that he entered the ministry from a train of circumstances started by the barking of a dog. Had the wind blown one way on a certain day the Spanish inquisition would have been established in England. But it blew the other way, and that dropped the accursed institution, with 75 tons of shipping, to the bottom of the sea or flung the splintered logs on the rocks.

Nothing unimportant in your life or mine. Three naughts placed on the right side of the figure one makes a thousand, and six naughts on the right side of the figure one a million, and our nothingness placed on the right side may be augmentation illimitable. All the ages of time and eternity affected by the basket let down from a Damascus balcony.

Still in the Business.

Church—I see a man milliner uptown has gone into politics.

Gotham—Well, he's a trimmer yet.—Yonkers Statesman.

Drowned at Sea.

The navy department Thursday received a cablegram from Capt. Craig, of the Albany, dated at Aden, announcing that Frank Schilz and Timoth McCarthy, while sleeping on the poop deck of the Albany on last Sunday night slid overboard, buring an exceptionally heavy roll of the vessel. Capt. Craig's cablegram stated that he remained in the locality where the accident occurred all Sunday night and until after daylight Monday, but the men were not again seen, and their bodies could not be recovered. On the following Monday George Perkins went overboard and was drowed, but his body was recovered and will be buried ashore at Aden.

Four Men Killed.

In an accident Monday at the new bridge which the Southern railway is building across the Congaree river, near Columbia, four men were killed, three injured, one fatally and two seriously. The accident occurred at 8:30 o'clock Monday morning and was caused by the falling of two steel girders about 70 feet long, weighing fourteen tons each.

RESUMES ITS WORK.

The Political Summer School Opens Once More.

SENATOR McLAURIN ABSENT.

A Mill President Presents the Commercial Democracy's Side of the Argument.

The Ohio Speakers.

The State Political Summer School resumed operation at Spartanburg on Tuesday of last week. The meeting was devoid of sensational features. There were present Messrs. Hemphill, Johnstone, Henderson, Latimer and Evans, but a new volunteer lecturer on the textile industry—Col. Carey, a mill president, entered the arena.

HON. J. J. HEMPHILL.

The first speaker introduced was the Hon. J. J. Hemphill who delivered a rattling good speech; punctuated with jokes, and made a good impression. He reminded one of a trained athlete upon a gymnasium floor, being easy and graceful as well as displaying the power he possessed. He took it for granted that the people had assembled here to discuss issues that were vital to the [illegible] and the country. These issues were as old as the fundamental principles of the great parties. He held that this necessity had arisen by reason of the efforts of one man to raise whole planks from the Republican platform and put them into the Democratic platform and then force the people to stand upon them. The leading issue of course was the question of expansion—modern expansion. Expansion was founded, he held, upon Democratic principles; but this new variety was on an entirely different plan—one utterly foreign to our customs, institutions and modes of thought. The speaker then described the Philippine islands and presented many facts and figures to show how many cotton goods America sold them last year. He figured that the islands bought from us goods amounting to 7 cents per capita, and that if this trade is divided up South Carolina will get one hundredth part of a mill. He discussed the small trade to be secured and applied the same reasoning to China. Then he compared the results of trade with these foreign countries with those of our trade with Canada, showing that Canada with five millions population did hundreds of times more business with us than China. He wanted true expansion pushed but with the people who had something to expand. He went on to show that Spain had all along been a weak nation and if any of the big powers had wanted the Philippines they could long ago have taken them. He was opposed to the ship subsidy absolutely and wanted all laws putting restrictions upon ships floating the American flag repealed. They should be built and owned in this country. Then he entered into the much vaunted ship subsidy of Great Britain and showed that she had merely paid for the carrying of the mails as we do, but she was paying only 40 cents per ton against our $1 23 for the same service.

HON. D. S. HENDERSON SPOKEN.

Hon. D. S. Henderson was then introduced and he made a forceful speech, thoroughly commanding the attention of his hearers. He called attention to the fact that today was the anniversary of the date of the primary for United States senator to be held one year hence. There was on foot a deliberate effort to overturn the principles of Democracy, those principles as old as the country itself. He had every faith in the people and believed that they would stand to these principles and kill out this effort now in its very inception. Senator McLaurin had told them at Charlotte that it was about time for them to abondon these principles and embrace those of Republicanism. He was sorry the junior senator was not present. He wanted to see him on the stump in order that these issues to be raised might be fully discussed. McLaurin had shown a disposition to avoid these meetings. At Gaffney Tillman had taken him unawares. When the opportunity came to discuss these things McLaurin was always unavoidably detained. He would not misstate the senator's position. The senator had been calling for Republican principles—what he advocated was merely Democratic in name. Mr. Henderson read copiously from Senator McLaurin's speech delivered a few days before the ratification of the Paris treaty, in which he held that a colonial policy was unconstitutional and that it was not proper to spread religion at the point of the bayonet. Mr. Henderson called attention to that position and that now assumed. Could they take such a man as a leader? If later on when it came to the State convention to elect delegates to the Kansas City convention he held these views he should have called on the people of Marlboro to send him to that convention so he could have presented those views before those charged with the making of the party platform. Mr. Henderson paid high tribute to Gen. Wade Hampton, being heartily applauded, and read from the general's recent interview. The speaker then ran over the political history of the country showing what were the fundamental principles of Democracy and contrasting them with Republican principles.

COL. JOHNSTONE.

Col. George Johnstone made another characteristically strong speech and by his expressive delivery and forceful way of putting thing he won friends just as he did at Union. He said it was the imminent peril he considered South Carolina to be in just now that brought him before the people. He gave, as at Union, the reasoning by which he had reached his conclusion on the issues now before the people. He had observed South Carolina's onward movement since 1876 and believed that South Carolina would soon be the leading textile State in the Union. He had looked carefully at the men who advocated these new principles and found some who had voted for Bryan expressing publicly the hope that McKinley would be elected. The principles involved in all this were those of our forefathers, those Jefferson had fought for. They were calling it Commercial Democracy. He didn't know exactly in what it was commercial unless it was in federal patronage. This was the article of commerce and the postoffice the exchange of small trade. He dwelt upon the fact that the Democratic party had always been the broad party; that it had always had the true expansion policy. But this is a very different expansion from that we are now called upon to adopt. He said there had been no expansion from the elder Adams on down which the Democratic party had not originated; likewise there had been no treaties. It did and does stand for these things. It was preposterous now to twit the Democratic party with stagnation and inaction. Col. Johnstone then clearly pointed out the difference between the expansion of those days and the imperialism of the present day. The contest we are now engaged in, he said, is no ordinary one. It is a death grapple of the forces of Freedom and Monarchy and in it is the germ of destruction of the institutions which we have built up and stood for. Col. Johnstone then took up the religious destiny idea, and disclaiming any intention to be irreverent asked as at Union, how Christ would look in the uniform of an American general marching at the head of an advancing army carrying cannon with rifles to those who did not want it.

ANOTHER MILL PRESIDENT.

Congressman Latimer was presented as the next speaker. Before he could say anything a man in the hall wanted to ask him something about a Populist convention. He told his questioner he would answer later and proceeded to say that there had been an idea afloat since the Union meeting that some attack had been made on the cotton mill presidents and he wished to give a portion of his time to one of them to make a reply. He thereupon presented Col. Jno. B. Carey, president of the Lockhart mills. Mr. Carey was greeted with vigorous applause and was given a most respectful hearing. He made quite an eloquent defense of the cotton mill presidents. He said an honorable class of men had been attacked at Union and their character had been assailed. He was not a politician, but merely wished to present a few facts. He gave an interesting account of who these mill men were, most of them true South Carolinians; Confederate soldiers and sons of Confederate soldiers. Others were those who had come and cast their lot among us. He pictured what they had done for the State. He denounced the politicians for having brought on this war, and said that now it was on we ought to accept the consequences and do the best possible. The mill presidents were all men of peace. He gave an outline of expansion as the mill men saw it—an expansion of trade. He said, "Expansion as the mill men understand it is the reaching out from our own shores and extending into the marts of the world, with our ships sailing under our own flag, laden with American products of the loom, of the shop, of the mine and of the field."

LATIMER HITS HARD

Mr. Latimer then took the stand again and made a very vigorous speech which took well with the crowd. The man in the audience who questioned him when he first arose accused Latimer of having been in a Populist convention at Kansas city. Mr. Latimer denied this, and said that after the Democratic convention in Kansas City had completed its business another had assembled, but he had not been a member of it; nor had he had anything to do with it. Then the congressman dived into Senator McLaurin with the gloves off, and vigorously denounced him. He said McLaurin had betrayed everything he had ever had anything to do with. He had started out opposing the Reform movement. He had undertaken to run the campaign of W. D. Evans and elected himself. He had been opposed to the dispensary, after the Darlington trouble. A year or two ago in Washington McLaurin had come to Congressman Strait and Wilson and himself and had tried to get them to sign a proclamation with him to lead the people into the Republican party.

EVANS TELLS A TALE.

Ex Governor John Gary Evans was at his new home today. He was given hearty cheers when he was presented. He stated that he had not intended to make a speech today; that he had expected to give his time to other speakers. He did say a few things of interest, however. He asserted that he had known all this time, and claimed credit for predicting it, that McLaurin would do as he had done. He had been in Washington once and had gone to Tillman and our congressmen and told them that McLaurin was a Republican at heart, and asked them to watch him. He had told Latimer about it and told Latimer to go ahead and oppose him; that he would step aside as he had just been defeated and did not care to run again just then. Latimer had said he had plenty of documents that would beat him, but he did not run. E. J. Watson.

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