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A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

The party man who offers his allegiance to party as an excuse for blindly following his party, right or wrong, and who fails to try to make that party in any way better, commits a crime against the country; and a crime quite as serious is committed by the independent who makes his independence an excuse for easy self-indulgence, and who thinks that when he says he belongs to neither party he is excused from the duty of taking part in the political work of party organizations.

THIS WEEK'S PAPER—SOME RANDOM COMMENTS.

We have elsewhere alluded to the letter of Mr. F. J. Merriam. He makes some suggestions that wheat growers will do well to keep in mind. The letters of Messrs. W. G. Smith and W. J. Walker are excellent specimens of the kind that we should like to get from every county in the State.

We would say something to our friend Jack Johnson, but for the knowledge that Harry Farmer is abundantly able to take care of himself. He will doubtless be heard from in due season.

"How to Improve a Worn-out Farm and Make Money on It"—that is a big problem and we should like to have it discussed by our readers. It is a pleasure to print our Virginia friend's experience, which we are sure will prove suggestive to others.

That the reader may appreciate the rhythm as well as the poetic sentiment of our fourth page poem, it is necessary to say that Carcassonne is pronounced kar-kas-sunn with the accent on the last syllable. The verse doubtless loses much of its beauty by translation, but it is nevertheless a striking poem, its significance hinging entirely on the last line. Carcassonne is one of the most charming and picturesque of all the ancient French cities. The old man had lived out his sixty years of life dreaming of a trip to it, but though his prayer seemed so near fulfillment, he died and never gazed on its "castle walls as grand as those of Babylon." And so "each mortal has his Carcassonne," the poet adds—some heart's petition that can never be granted, some unattainable ambition that may, like Tantalus's cup, seem to come within his grasp only to be withdrawn and teach him that "bliss unalloyed there is for none."

Seldom have we seen a neater satire on the inanities of high society than that clever article "At Five O'clock Tea." It is "chawming."

Mr. Alexander's chess article has already elicited three replies. We shall publish them next week.

An able speech packed full of information regarding the resources and possibilities of North Carolina—a speech that most persons will find it worth while to file away for future reference—was delivered by Congressman John H. Small in the House of Representatives a few days before the adjournment of the recent session of Congress. Copies of the speech may be obtained on application to the author at Washington, North Carolina.

We have all heard of the man who held a penny so close to his eye as to be unable to see a dollar a yard away. The tan bark industry of Western North Carolina convinces us that there are many men of this character still living. Thousands of dollars worth of timber is being ruined, the bark being sold, it is said, at little more than the expense of hauling, while the timber itself is left to rot. We are glad to notice that Senator Pritchard is confident that the Appalachian Park bill will become a law next winter.

We published in our news columns two weeks ago a notice of the annual picnic of the Wilson County farmers and Alliancemen. We should like to see such meetings held in every section during the leisure-season on the farm. The social feature alone would justify their existence, and when in addition to this, live questions are discussed by able and fair minded men, the good done is immeasurable. The farmers must get together more—in farmers' societies, in farmers' institutes, and in farmers' picnics. All will do good.

With no uncertain voice speaks the Caldwell County Democratic Convention on the subject of lynching, that body passing the following forceful resolution:

"That we detest and condemn lynch law, under whatever guise it is operated and on whatever plea exercised. It is demoralizing, degrading and brutal. It breeds contempt for lawful authority, disregard for the rights of others, is cowardly, savage and dangerous to civil government and a crime in the sight of God and man."

This is encouraging. May other conventions follow Caldwell's example and stand with her citizens in defense of law and order.

Let all our readers, young and old, male and female, give attention to what Prof. Holt has to say on page 5 as to the "Groundless Fear of Common Plants and Reptiles." We should like to see his article copied in every county paper in the State. There are too many boys today living, as he did, "in mortal terror of harmless snakes and harmless plants." The writer had an uncle, for instance, educated and intelligent, who firmly believed that a child would be poisoned by handling the common goldenrod. And for a child to grow up without knowing the native snakes, plants and birds is a calamity, as Prof. Holt well says. Won't some of our readers send some articles on this subject—articles calculated to develop an interest in the beautiful and interesting things in nature that surround every country home? There is the button bush, for example, mentioned on page 4; we had been seeing it all our lives, but didn't know its name till last year.

The State Board of Agriculture was in session in Raleigh last week. The report of Commissioner Patterson, read at this meeting, showed that the fertilizer sales in this State for the season recently ended, were 292,580 1/2 tons. This includes about 15,000 tons of cotton seed meal, of which material no account has been taken in the previously issued statistics. Leaving it out of consideration therefore, the farmers this spring used about 278,000 tons of fertilizer compound with 291,000 last year and 232,000 in 1900. The proposition to increase the gift to the State Fair from \$750 to \$1,500, the amount appropriated annually for several years past, met stubborn opposition. The vote was a tie, whereupon Chairman Patterson cast the deciding vote in favor of the increase. Steps were preparatory to an active campaign against food adulteration—in which work State Chemist Kilgore has already rendered valuable service. Further particulars of this meeting may be given in our next number.

"KILL AND BURN" SMITH RETIRED.

It is decidedly gratifying to see that President Roosevelt has not dealt so leniently with General "Kill and Burn" Smith as the tender treatment of the reviewing court indicated that he would. That Smith be "admonished" or "cautioned" by the President was the extent of the court's recommendation, but Roosevelt decided that the case called for something more substantial. Now the General, by the President's order, has been retired from service with severe censure, and not on full pay, as the Charlotte Observer says, but with a salary materially reduced and with other allowances cut off. Whereof we are glad.

NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOLS FIFTY YEARS AGO.

It will astonish the average North Carolinian to learn how much progress the State had made in educational matters before the beginning of the Civil War, and how serious was the relapse resulting from the war and Reconstruction. When we consider with what exceeding great joy we, here in the dawn of the twentieth century, have hailed the coming of the long-promised four months' term in every district, it is interesting to turn to the first report of Dr. Calvin H. Wiley, Superintendent of Public Instruction, issued about 1855, and read: "The average time during which all the schools are taught in the year, for the whole State is about four months. * * * For nearly every four square miles of territory in the State, there is a schoolhouse, and of our fifty thousand square miles, not one hundredth part of it is out of the reach of the schools. There are perhaps two thousand schoolhouses—and from Currituck to Cherokee they are accessible to more than ninety-nine hundredths of our population, reaching to the shores of ever lake and river, to the heart of every swamp, and to the top of every mountain."

Means and opportunities considered our ancestors did a greater work than we are doing.

CONGRESSMAN SMALL ON OUR EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS.

Our reference in another column to the speech of Congressman John H. Small, reminds us that few men in North Carolina have labored more earnestly than he in behalf of better public schools. To the fact that this work is appreciated the complete failure of his opponent who attacked Mr. Small's advocacy of education for both races, bears striking testimony. A letter of Mr. Small's read at the recent session of the Teachers' Assembly was one of the most interesting of the many interesting utterances that we had the pleasure of hearing at that meeting. From it we make these extracts:

"The proper education of all the children in North Carolina is the most important problem which confronts the men and women of the State. It ranks higher than the promotion of our agricultural interests. It is of greater import than our industrial progress, because out of it will not only come progress and wealth, but all the other blessings which are the inheritance of a free people."

"The increase in the number of teachers and their capacity and qualifications for effective teaching have more than kept pace with the educational movement. I would, however, emphasize the fact that teachers alone cannot accomplish the education of all the children. Better school houses must be built, local taxation giving increased revenue and longer school terms must be encouraged and provided, and a sentiment favorable to public education must be created all over the State, particularly in the rural communities. This last work must be accomplished by broad-minded men and women, other than teachers, who must go out among the people and preach the blessed gospel of right and justice to all the children. These workers must exemplify their faith by having elections held and taxes voted in their respective communities. Ignoring considerations of popularity, standing by the right because it is right, pleading for justice long deferred, these bold missionaries must persevere until the stigma of illiteracy has been removed from the escutcheon of our State. In this brave company I have enlisted as an humble private and am ready to respond wherever duty calls."

TWO KINDS OF MEN WHO "ADVISE FARMERS."

In last Thursday's issue of Charity and Children the farmer readers of that excellent paper are warned against the men who have had no practical experience on the farm, yet constantly belabor our agricultural population with gratuitous advice as to the proper way to manage a plantation. Says Editor Johnson:

"Surely no set of men in all the earth have had so much advice offered to them without money or price. Ever since we can remember the editors of newspapers, some of whom do not know a shovel from a bull tongue, have pleaded with the farmers to diversify their crops. And professors and preachers, politicians and statesmen have talked piously and wisely about the extravagance and laziness of 'our agricultural population.' We remember that an eloquent and learned college president made a Statewide reputation on the necessity of scientific hillside ditching, though he could not drain a half acre lot to save his neck. All this sage and top-lofty talk by men on the outside of the fence has created in the mind of the average farmer a suspicion that what is printed or spoken in the way of advice to farmers is mostly buncombe. And he is right. Much of it is exactly that very thing. The finest farmers we know are not very glib either with tongue or pen; but they know their business. They are doers rather than talkers. It is all very well for a man with a 'biled' shirt to sit in the shade and tell the farmers how it ought to be done, but it is about as sensible as it would be for him to write an article on how an engineer should run his engine or a saw mill man his business. The farmer is going to do the best he can for himself, and he will be apt to listen to a man who knows how to advise him, but a 'professional' who farms in the shade, he will not hear."

There is some reason for this warning, for there is a class of writers of the character described by our contemporary, and some so-called farm papers air their ideas regularly. The pity of it is that the impractical advice given by such fellows has cast a shadow of suspicion over the work of many men well qualified to lead the farmers into more progressive and profitable ways—has even led some farmers to look on all agricultural papers as humbugs.

It may not be inappropriate therefore to say just here, that the men mentioned by Charity and Children are never permitted to mislead Progressive Farmer readers. Our correspondents are men who have had actual experience in managing farms and who have made money at the work. To illustrate, let us see who are the men who have contributed to our agricultural department this week.

First, there is Mr. F. J. Merriam, of Battle Hill, Ga., one of the best known and most successful farmers and truckers in the South. He and his partner, Mr. Nash, have made as much as \$5,000 per year by their work. No sane man would say that the average farmer can learn nothing by reading the views and counsel of such men.

Then there is Mr. W. G. Smith, a large tobacco planter of Caswell County, a progressive farmer, an advocate of better stock and better methods.

Harry Farmer down in Columbus County has had many years experience as a farmer, and has shown his neighbors and his readers many helpful improvements and many ways of bettering their condition.

Mr. O. W. Blackwell is one of the largest strawberry growers in the South. No other one man, we believe, ships so many berries to the New York market.

And there are before us as we write this, left over for publication next week, an article on spraying by Mr. Franklin Sherman who has given this and kindred matters years of study, and an article on sheep-raising by Mr. Samuel Archer who has managed big flocks successfully in the Great West and whose wool has won premiums in Europe and America.

Such men as these are the men who speak to our readers week after week. The editor himself, while he very seldom feels called on to advise farmers about the conduct of their affairs, leaving that to the splendid corps of correspondents he is so fortunate as to have gathered about him, was born and reared on a farm, has done nearly every kind of ordinary farm work, and worked in a cotton field the day before he began his labors on The

Progressive Farmer. And his father is still farming.

While the farmers must be warned against inexperienced and impractical counsellors, any man who attempts to discredit all advice to farmers commits a serious blunder. There is no surer road to improvement open to them than by getting the experiences and the views of the most successful and best equipped men of their craft as they speak week after week through the columns of such papers as The Progressive Farmer.

Nor must we forget that men not now managing farms of their own, but who keep in touch with farm work at agricultural colleges and experiment stations and who have given years of study to the scientific as well as to the practical side of farming, are not to be confounded with the inexperienced "biled shirt" fellows that our contemporary attacks.

The Thinkers.

POLITICS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

We are devoutly hoping that North Carolina in particular and the South generally are coming now close to better days politically. It is high time. For thirty-five years we have been battling with one issue—the negro. Negro, negro, negro, has been the cry from every stump in every campaign since we can remember. Other issues have come in it is true, but they were secondary. This only was paramount.

In order to settle this issue an amendment to our Constitution was made which practically disfranchised the negro. That amendment is now in force, and so far as we know, is likely to remain for some time to come. This issue being settled is it not time to turn our attention to other issues? Is it not wise for our politicians to lay fear and trembling and prejudice aside and do just a little for the moral, mental and material development of our resources? Let the negro rest, dear politicians, and in the name of reason and common sense and good taste give us something more interesting and more helpful, less antagonistic and less prejudicial to think and talk about.

Soon a political campaign begins in this State. A vast deal needs to be done in behalf of the State's present and future citizenship and the State's splendid resources. We need better laws, better schools, better roads, a more equitable system of taxation and the like.

For our part we do earnestly beg that our politicians set before themselves this higher, holier and better task of bringing these things about.

Unless all signs are misleading the good people of the State are tired of the old issue, and if it is revived designing politicians will be to blame for it. The whole coming campaign and the election to follow should be conducted on a high scale of honesty, equity, justice and integrity—and if it is not we believe the demagogues, the designers and manipulators will be to blame for it. If this is "commercialism" make the most of it—Elon College Christian Sun.

WE'VE HAD ENOUGH.

The campaign in this State is opening up. There is never a lack for issues when offices are at stake. Men find both reasons and excuses for opposing one another in getting at the governmental milk trough. And it is natural. It is so in every enterprise where there is competition. Competition creates opposition. But in politics the opposition is more intense than anywhere else. We pray that our State may be delivered from the bitterness and strife that marked the summer campaign of 1900 preceding the Amendment election in August. Neighbors and friends fell out and feeling ran high. Two years have served to largely allay that feeling. And there is no necessity to reopen the strife this year and revivify the differences and feelings of two years ago. The State is never benefited, morally, religiously or industrially, by a bitter campaign. It is to be hoped that the issues this year will be real and not fancied ones, and issues which concern the people vitally in the affairs about them. We shall rejoice for the people to put their veto of disapproval upon any man who goes about with firebrands to stir up the passions of the people and inflame their feelings stronger and more virulent than is needful. The industrial, social and educational necessities of the State furnish campaign material

enough for the man who wants to discuss real, live issues.

Yes, we've had enough of the things that inflame men's passions. To be sure there are those who would be without employment if the policy were changed from passion to peace. We rejoice in free and open discussion. It does good. But we can get along without the fellow who stirs up the people to do and say unreasonable things. Relegate to the rear the man who thrives on the strife of his fellows and we shall be infinitely better off. There will be campaigns and issues and heated discussions and hard fights. These things will be, but they should not be made the occasion for inflaming our people and creating strife.—North Carolina Baptist.

THE WIDENING SYMPATHIES OF MAN.

Consider then the beginnings of patriotism. At the very first, the seed of the future nation was the regard of family; the ties of common birth held men together and the first feeling of patriotism was the love of family. But the family grows, developed by lateral branches, expands and becomes the clan. Patriotism is the devotion to the clan, and the clansman will fight and die for its supremacy.

Then comes the time when the clans, tired of the roving life of hunters, halt a moment and settle down in a chosen spot, the tent becoming permanent evolves the dwelling house, and the encampment of the clan becomes at last a city. Patriotism now is civic pride, the clan absorbed into a multitude of clans is forgotten; men speak of themselves as Athenians, not as Greeks, as Romans not as Italians. It is the age of cities.

The city extends its adjoining grazing fields, they include outlying towns, other cities, and finally the State comes into being. Patriotism no longer confines itself to the walls of the city, but is enlarged to encompass the entire province. Men are Hanoverians or Wurtembergers not Germans; Scots or Welsh not English; are even Carolinians or Alabamians rather than Americans.

But the States are federated, pronounced boundaries fade, State makes common cause with State and at last the nation is born. Patriotism at once is a national affair, a far larger, broader, truer sentiment than that first huddling about the hearthstone of the family. The word "brother" may be applied to men unseen and unknown, and a countryman is one of many millions.

We have reached this stage at the present, but if all signs are true, if all precedent may be followed, if all augury may be relied on and the tree grow as we see the twig is bent, the progress will not stop here.

By war to the Westward the family fought its way to the dignity of the nation, by reaction Eastward the nation may in patriotic effect merge with other nations, and others and still others, peacefully, the bitterness of trade competition may be lost, the business of the nations seen as a friendly quid pro quo, give and take arrangement, guided by a generous reciprocity. Every century the boundaries are widening, patriotism widens with the expansion, and our countrymen are those of different race, even different nations.

Will it not go on, this epic of civilization, this destiny of the races, until at last and at the ultimate end of all, we who now arrogantly boast ourselves as Americans, supreme in conquest, whether of the battle-ship or of bridge-building, may realize that the true patriotism is the brotherhood of man and know that the whole world is our nation and simple humanity our countrymen—Frank Norris, in the World's Work.

There should be more comfortable school houses. Better school houses will help to solve the question of better attendance. Better school houses is better than compulsory attendance laws. School houses should be made not only more comfortable but more attractive. Not only the school houses and the school grounds should be made more attractive but the seats and desks should be made more comfortable. The surroundings we now have in the public school buildings belong to a past age. We should not only have better methods of teaching, better teachers, and increased salaries but better school houses and equipments.—Asheboro Courier.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach has resigned as British Chancellor of the Exchequer.