

## The Progressive Farmer.

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### A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

The Hinterschlag Professors knew syntax enough, and of the human soul thus much: that it had a faculty called Memory, and could be acted on through the muscular integument by appliance of birch rods. Alas, so it is everywhere, so will it ever be; till the Hodman is discharged or reduced to hod-bearing; and an Architect is hired, and on all hands fitly encouraged; till communities and individuals discover, not without surprise, that fashioning the souls of a generation by Knowledge can rank on a level with blowing their bodies to pieces by Gunpowder; that with Generals and Field-marsals for killing, there should be world-honored dignitaries, and were it possible, true God-ordained Priests, for teaching. —From Carlyle's "Sartor Resartus."

### CURRENT EVENTS: THE DRIFT OF THINGS AS WE SEE IT.

In this State last week the newspapers gave more space to the Wilson murder trial than to any other matter of news; from a National standpoint the Postoffice Department scandals continued to hold the center of the stage; in foreign affairs, the new King Karageorgesvitch's inauguration and triumphal entry into Belgrade was the most notable incident. In the political world, ex-President Cleveland's angry denial of an interview in which he was quoted as renouncing all further political ambition attracted much attention.

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#### Race Feeling at the North.

This month has brought two rather notable illustrations of race feeling at the North. Near Belleville town in the State of Illinois on the 7th inst. a negro was lynched and his body burnt, and at Wilmington, Del., last Monday a negro was burnt alive by an infuriated mob of Northerners.

The Delaware negro's crime was a horrible one; he had outraged and mortally hurt a young school-girl, the daughter of a prominent minister. The mob is said to have numbered more than 2,000, and its members were unmistakably preparing for their bloody work for hours before the negro was taken from the jail Monday night. Yet the authorities took no such steps to protect the negro as would have been taken in many a Southern State. Says the Charlotte Observer's correspondent: "The State and county authorities took no action. The Wilmington militia was not ordered out, though it could have reached the scene after the mob began to assemble in time to have saved the negro. Police re-inforcements were not sent to the prison until after the mob assembled."

The lynching in Illinois—the State over which the shade of Abraham Lincoln keeps eternal vigil—was even more shocking and indefensible. The superintendent of schools in Belleville refused to renew the certificate of a negro teacher, and the negro, feeling that he had been discriminated against because of his color, shot and fatally wounded the superintendent. Harper's Weekly asserts that few Illinois juries would have sent a white man to the gallows for a crime committed under such circumstances. But the negro teacher had been but a few hours in Belleville jail before it was surrounded by a tumultuous crowd. Overpowering the guards, they brought out the prisoner, beat him almost to death, hung him to a telegraph pole, and then burned his body to a crisp. We submit that there is hardly a place in the South where such a crime would have called forth such barbaric punishment.

We hope that no Southern man will think of these Northern outrages as in any degree palliating or excusing lynch law in the South. We refer

to them only to illustrate the fact that race prejudice and mob law are not sectional evils. The negroes who are now leaving North Carolina for Northern States will not find better treatment or better friends than they have here. They will not find it easier to get work and they will not find their rights better safeguarded. Governor Aycock told the writer last week that he has found in his long practice in North Carolina courts that here the negro actually has the advantage in a civil suit with a white man—so desirous are our juries of guarding the weaker race against any form of oppression by the stronger.

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#### Negro Equality and Negro Crime.

We are reminded just here of a rather notable statement recently made by Congressman Bankhead of Alabama, regarding the negro problem and the "new" negro crime, the "new" crime being that against white women. It was, as he argues, almost unknown before the days of Reconstruction and "political equality" legislation. As to this, the words Major Robert Bingham, of our own Bingham School, may be quoted:

"It was almost unheard of in slavery. The whole manhood of the South left their women in the hands of the negroes and went to the front during the Civil War with the feeling that the women were safe in the hands of the slaves. And they were safe, although on many plantations there were a hundred negro men and not a white man in a mile. No woman in the whole South was ever molested by a negro during the Civil War nor for a number of years after war."

The last clause quoted tends to corroborate the argument of Congressman Bankhead. The crime against white women, he asserts, did not begin until the negro's mind had been filled with unwholesome ideas of social and political equality, the result of the Reconstruction legislation some years after the war.

But all this has long been known. The new claim put forth by the Alabama Congressman is that the "new" negro crime has greatly decreased in his own State since the adoption of its new Constitution, and that not a case has been reported in Mississippi since that State disfranchised the blacks.

We do not know to what extent the Bankhead doctrine is worthy of acceptance, but it is at least highly interesting. Our own opinion is that the non-existence of the crime before Reconstruction was due quite as much to the self-control developed by the discipline of slavery as to any feeling of humility.

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#### The Financial Outlook.

There seems to be a widely prevalent feeling that we have passed the crest of our tidal wave of prosperity. Prices of standard securities on the Stock Exchange have declined alarmingly since last October; promoters of new enterprises have found floating a more and more difficult task, and Mr. Morgan's "undigested securities" of last winter remain generally unassimilated. The best statement of the financial outlook that we have seen is the following from the Chicago Christendom: "Steadily and slowly prices have dwindled day by day until last week the market was just about where it was in 1900 before President McKinley's last election, when the greatest stock boom in the history of the world began. That boom ended in the panic of May 9, 1901, but a secondary-wave of enthusiasm carried prices to even higher levels until checked last fall, when tight money forced much quick liquidation. An attempt to force up the market again was made last January, but since then liquidation has been steady and continuous and in enormous volume. On an average, prices have declined thirty points, or thirty per cent of the par values. It is estimated by some that about \$15,000,000,000 of stocks are traded in on the New York Exchange and the New York curb, so that the decline has

wiped out \$4,500,000,000 of wealth. This is doubtless an extreme estimate. It is self-evident that such destruction of wealth, even though it was largely so-called 'paper wealth,' must have a most serious effect on the country. Thousands of men who were rich and ready to embark in new enterprises are now poor or financially crippled."

We do not look, however, for any very serious shock to the general prosperity of the country. An eminently sane view, in our opinion, is that taken by an authority on matters of finance in the July World's Work. "On most previous occasions, when financial reaction of this sort has swept over the country," he says, "it has found the country's trade and industry in an inflated and more or less disorganized condition. The consequences of the readjustment turned out therefore to be as serious to trade on such occasions as they were to the Stock Exchange. These signs are not visible now. The phenomenon which has almost invariably attended such reaction—a sudden shrinkage in consuming power and mercantile demand—has not been witnessed at all this season."

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#### The Educational Campaign in North Carolina.

Few of our readers, we daresay, have forgotten the campaign for better schools waged throughout North Carolina last summer—the "educational campaign," it was called. The Superintendent of Public Instruction selected the speakers and arranged the program for them, and the Southern Education Board paid their traveling expenses. (Governor Aycock paid his own.)

A similar campaign is to be waged during the next two months, and the following speakers have agreed to participate: Governor Aycock, ex-Governor Jarvis, Hon. C. B. Watson, Dr. C. D. McIver, Hon. John H. Small, Hon. J. Y. Joyner, Hon. R. N. Page, Hon. R. F. Beasley, Dr. Edwin Mims, Prof. Plato Durham, Dr. John C. Kilgo, Dr. E. W. Sikes, Prof. J. B. Carlyle, Dr. Charles E. Taylor, President F. P. Venable and Prof. M. C. S. Noble. Other names will be announced later. We hope that every reader of The Progressive Farmer will do all in his power to make these educational rallies successful.

#### THE COST OF THE CATTLE QUARANTINE.

On page 2 we are printing an article by Dr. Tait Butler, State Veterinarian, on "The Cattle Tick and the Cattle Quarantine"—the best statement that has ever been made of the meaning of the warfare on cattle ticks in North Carolina and its vast importance to our agricultural interests. We think it quite fortunate that we are able to present so clear and forceful a presentation of this important matter, for there is very general ignorance of the purposes of the warfare on cattle ticks, and of the facts on which it is based.

North Carolina does sorely need more live stock. The State is admirably adapted to beef production. Every farmer who raises a diversity of crops can make a much larger profit by feeding cattle than by selling feed to others. Soil fertility cannot be maintained without more stock.

But the presence of the tick is a fearful stumbling block in the way of all progress in the cattle industry. On every animal sent under quarantine restrictions to Northern markets the tick levies its tax of one-third to one cent a pound, live weight. And by destroying their potential value in Northern markets, the tick also levies its tax on all cattle sold in Southern markets. If its absence means a saving of \$150,000 every year to sixteen sparsely settled mountain counties, how much would its extermination mean to the eighty-one counties that are yet tick infested!

But Dr. Butler's article does not need to be reinforced by any words of ours. Read it and file it away. He is doing a great work for the State, and the Board of Agriculture and the farmers generally should co-operate with him to the fullest possible extent.