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NOBLE WORKERS.

The Baltimore American says: "Among the heroes of the day must be counted the Louisiana physicians who are fighting the battle of the people against the dreaded scourge, and who will not give up the fight, even when stricken themselves. It often takes more courage to face plague and pestilence in the sickroom than danger on the field, for in the former case there is none of the excitement of the fray nor the prospect of glory to win in the end. It is simply the sacrifice of life and of all that makes life worth living at the call of duty, and many a hero of the battlefield would shrink in fear and loathing from the danger fearlessly faced by these nameless heroes in humanity's cause."

MOCK HEROICS.

Senator Bailey, of Texas, is a bright young man who seems unable to resist the temptation to play the demagogue. In an address at a Confederate reunion at McGregor, Texas, a few days ago he said to the old soldiers: "Not only did you fight on the side of your neighbors, but on the side of right as well. They tell me I ought not to say that. A gentleman was kind enough to tell me that I might some day be nominated for the Presidency if I didn't take the side of the Confederate States. I told him that my nomination for the Presidency was a contingency that I had never allowed to have lodgment in my brain, but if there was anything in it I would give my chances for the Presidency for the privilege of defending the Confederate soldier."

This is pure buncombe. The Confederate soldiers, and there are not many of them left, need no defence, and if they did there is not a man in the South who is not ready to defend them. To do so requires no courage, no self-sacrifice, no exhibition of martyrdom. In truth, about every Southern politician, certainly every Democratic politician or place hunter, makes eulogy and defence of the old Confederate a partial part of his stock in trade. And this in spite of the fact that the Confederate veteran is the last man in the world needs defence before a Southern audience, especially, and before any intelligent audience anywhere.

Commenting with characteristic good sense on Senator Bailey's remarks the New York Sun says: "The Confederate soldier needs no defence at the hands of Senator Bailey or of any other politician; that he believed in his cause was proved by his valor on many fields that were lost before he fired a shot. On the subject of the Confederate's constitutional right to take up arms in defence of his State there are abler constructionists than Senator Bailey, and not all of them have been Southerners. Has not the question passed into shadowland of academic speculation? Who wants to turn it inside out but the politicians? And Jos. W. Bailey is one of them."

The character and record of the Confederate soldier is beyond the need of apology or defence. Even the constitutional right of the States to secede before the Constitution was interpreted by the sword is no longer a subject of dispute. Senator Bailey need not profess to fear that he injures his chances of becoming President by making needless defence of Confederate soldiers. No section of the country would hold such a display of alleged courage and self-sacrificing devotion against him. But he has, we regret to say, for he is a man of ability, been guilty of utterances that would make him appear meanly small as a candidate for the President of the United States and an aspirant for voters of all sections of this great country.—Miami Metropolis.

A MOVEMENT FOR QUARANTINE.

Gov. Cox, of Tennessee, has addressed a note to the Governors of all the Southern States, asking them if they will join in a call for a Southern conference on immigration and quarantine at Chattanooga early in November, and Mr. Schwing, president of the Louisiana Press Association, has issued an address to the newspapers of that state inviting a discussion of the question of federal control of quarantine. The foregoing call and address show unmistakably that there is in the South a strong inclination for uniform quarantine, and of course uniform quarantine means national quarantine.

The time has come for a change from the cross-roads, shotgun quarantine that has prevailed with destructive force every since the great epidemic of yellow fever in 1888. There was, of course, more or less of this sort of quarantine before that epidemic, but it is since that epidemic terrorized the people that the South has felt its full force and suffered intolerable annoyances and vast losses from it. The appearance of a case of yellow fever at any place in the South is the signal for stopping the wheels of commerce and bringing travel practically to a standstill in the Southern States.

The effectiveness of this sort of quarantine is questionable. It certainly hasn't kept the fever out of Louisiana towns this year. Neither has it kept it out of Natchez, Pensacola, Vicksburg and other places. Indeed if the fever in New Orleans this year had been as virulent as it was in 1887, it is safe to say that it would have spread all along the Mississippi Valley, just as it did in that year, notwithstanding the annoying quarantines established by local authorities.

If the the mosquito theory is correct, and its correctness seems to have been demonstrated in New Orleans this year, then the sort of quarantine we have here in the South is of very little benefit. Anyway, what is needed is a uniform quarantine, a quarantine that will not bring business to a stop whenever the fever appears in a Southern town and will not subject travelers to such hardships as to bring travel practically to a full stop.

Quarantine, both at the ports and in the interior, should be under federal control. Then we should have a uniform quarantine and the people would have confidence in it. It should be in the hands of men trained for the service required of them. They would see to it that the yellow fever was reported as soon as it appeared at any place in the country and steps would be taken to stamp it out. The fever wouldn't be permitted to run along for weeks and even months, as it is alleged to have done at New Orleans this year, with the hope that it would die out without its presence being known to the public. As long as local health authorities are depended upon to report the fever on its first appearance we may be sure that either through carelessness or for business reasons the disease will get a pretty firm foothold before an announcement of its presence is made. If national authorities had been in control of the quarantine at New Orleans this year the probabilities are that the fruit ships wouldn't have been permitted to pass the quarantine station so promptly after their arrival there, because the fact of the presence of the fever at any place where their cargoes were obtained would have been known, and care would have been taken to see that they carried no infection. The federal authorities wouldn't be any more competent probably than the state authorities are, but they wouldn't feel under as strong obligations to take chances in order not to interfere with commerce. They would make health their first consideration. And health is what the whole South wants. The great business interest of the South mustn't be made secondary to the interests of a few men at the ports. And the ports will not suffer under an intelligent and uniform system of quarantine. There should be prompt and hearty response to the call issued by Gov. Cox.—Savannah News.

The Manatee River Journal, one of the best weeklies in South Florida, and a credit to Bradenton, completed its 18th birthday on the first of September. The News extends its best wishes to Brother Humphries, and hopes he will continue to prosper.

STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST CULLED FROM OUR EXCHANGES.

A. H. Buck and associates are arranging for the erection of a shingle mill at Bowling Green.

The Starke ice company has been organized with \$20,000 capital stock by Paul E. Canova and associates.

The Winona Park Development company, incorporated, with \$10,000 capital stock, has completed organization at Auburndale.

Punta Gorda growers are shipping a carload per day of Smooth Cayenne pineapples, the finest in the world.—Punta Gorda Herald.

Marion and Putman counties are lining up for and against local option and the battle is becoming very exciting.

The high water in the vicinity of Kissimmee is interfering with the catfish business and they are scattering around in the marshes.

St. Augustine will have a number of buses to use on some of the narrow streets in the ancient city. There will be room for two to pass without crowding and they will be a novelty to many visitors.

The State Normal School, which has just closed, has been one of the most successful ever held in the State, which shows that the educational interest in Florida is steadily advancing. The teachers in attendance has been as enthusiastic as the faculty in charge.

Two convicts working in the Hickman turpentine farm on Shell Creek attempted to escape last week, and both were shot, wounded and recaptured by the guard. The Hickmans, by the by, sold out to the Consolidated company a month ago and moved away.—Punta Gorda Herald.

The planing mill, dry kiln and several thousand feet of lumber belonging to the Jasper Manufacturing company, were destroyed by fire Wednesday night. The saw mill and office were saved by hard work. The loss will reach \$20,000, with no insurance. Jasper has no fire company or fire protection.—Gainesville Sun.

An enormous addition to the rolling stock equipment of the Florida East Coast Railway has been made. One hundred Hart convertible cars have just been delivered to the company and seventy of these have arrived at St. Augustine, the other thirty being in Jacksonville. They each have a capacity of 88,000 pounds.

Recently a wildcat broke into the fowl house of J. B. Moody near Charlotte Harbor and killed forty-seven of his chickens. He lays the blame for this on Bruce Knight, whom he charges with having run out all the good dogs by introducing pointers and setters, and it was the want of good dogs that enabled the wildcat to commit the slaughter.—Punta Gorda Herald.

The railroads know pretty well what business is coming their way, and all those entering Florida are preparing for a very heavy winter travel. Indeed, the winter business will soon begin, thousands of the home people returning home from a summer outing, and thousands coming into the State from the North to locate for the winter, and even for the purpose of investing in a winter home.—Volusia County Record.

The excellent record made by the Florida rifle team at Sea Girt and the announcement of the dates for the encampment of the First Infantry at Lake City and the Second at Orlando, has aroused renewed interest in the State militia. Florida has just cause to feel proud of its soldier boys. Every business man who has members of the Florida State troops in his employ should at once announce to them his cheerful granting of leave of absence from business during the encampment. To be efficient, the State troops must have the instructions which they can get only in the annual encampments—and it should be the unanimous wish to have them as efficient as are the members of the regular army.—Times-Union.

As had been expected, the city is being maligned in the press, especially in the State of Florida. A Tampa paper under big headlines and certainly without the least sign of authority makes out that "three deaths have already occurred at Pensacola on account of the fever." This is not under a Pensacola date line. It appears to have been written in the office of the Tampa sheet and there is nothing in the entire article qualifying such a statement. All messages which have been sent from here, both in the Associated Press service and in the special line have been written guardedly, and while the city is placed prominently with the other infected places in the South, still what is regarded and professionally reported as the truth alone is being sent out. There is no sensationalism—at least there has been none sent thus far.—Pensacola News.

BALLOON ASCENSIONS.

The Close of the Day Is the Best Time to Make Them.

"Did you ever know why it is that a balloon ascension at a country fair, promised for 2 o'clock in the afternoon, never occurs until about 6?" asked an expert parachute jumper.

"It always happens, and the explanation generally is that the preparations for the ascension could not be made in time. This is rarely the case, for the balloonist never had any intention of going up earlier than just toward the close of day. The reason for this is that not only is an ascension at any other time fraught with a little more danger on account of the winds which usually prevail, but also because by these same winds the balloon and parachute are apt to be carried too far away, perhaps so far that injury may befall them before they can be recovered."

The old and experienced balloonist never makes an ascension except just at sundown, because with the going down of the sun the winds subside considerably. He can go almost straight up, break away his parachute and come down in the very lot from which the ascension was made.

"There is really very little danger in parachute leaping when the man who does it is experienced. The parachute must open and bring him down safely, though he will have a hair raising drop like a chunk of lead for about 100 feet, the distance usually covered before the big bag opens. Then he can guide his descent readily by raising or lowering this side or that in order to spill a little air and thus keep it from drifting."

"A balloon can't be guided, but a parachute with a man of experience hanging to it can be controlled as easily as a boat, for the reason that by tilting it on one side you can force it in the other direction and thus maneuver so that if it is desired you can deposit yourself on the very spot of the ascension. It is only the inexperienced men who drift or those who fear they may incline the bag too far for safety."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

BITS FROM THE WRITERS.

Audacity stands in the place of ancestors to those who are not well born.—Lucas Cleve.

A long, slow friendship is the best; a long, slow enmity the deadliest.—Seton Merriman.

Among the quieter satisfactions of life must be ranked in a high place the peace of a man who has made up his mind.—Anthony Hope.

Many men have ability, few have genius, but fewer still have character. Character is the rarest thing in England.—John Oliver Hobbes.

Who steals hearts steals souls, wherefore it behooves woman to look that the lock be strong and the key hung high.—F. Marion Crawford.

Any fool can get a notion. It needs training to drive a thing through—training and conviction; not rushing after the first fancy.—Rudyard Kipling.

Important Officials.

Whether the officers mentioned by Mr. Whinton in his "History of Antrim" (New Hampshire) regarded their position seriously and lived up to their official dignity is not told. It is certain that the small boys would have hailed the opportunity of exercising such functions with glee and would have discharged their duties with vigor and alacrity.

In 1793 the town of Antrim officially appointed three responsible persons to fill the position of dog pelters. It was their duty to sit near the meeting house door and to pelt, drive away or cane any dogs that dared to enter the sacred edifice. In the official records of the town are found votes of subsequent years, continuing the vocation of the dog pelters.

One might question which would make the most disturbance in the church, the chance dog or the pelters in the exercise of their official duties.

Scolding Reform.

It is accepted as a truism among educators that no child can be made permanently good by simply scolding. The overcolored child is made worse by the process, and the overcolored politician is likely to deteriorate, and for the same reason. Even a good dog will try to earn a bad name if he has it thrust too often upon him. Probably it would be an exaggerated statement to say that the essential spirit of reform in this country is the spirit of the scolding parent, but it resembles it too often.—George W. Alger in Atlantic.

An Odd Blunder.

When the British admiralty built the splendid naval barracks at Chatham they fitted up one of the largest rooms in fine style for court martials and had "Court Martial" inscribed on a big brass plate on the door. When it was about to be used for the first time the discovery was made that the regulations require all naval court martials to be held on the water.

Not Playing Favorites.

"Yes, mum, O'll make yes as good a cook as the next wan." "I don't know anything about the next one, but you'll have to be better than the last one."—Houston Post.

Social Axiom.

"I think I will invite the Bronsons. I know they would be glad to come." "But, my dear, people who would be glad to come are the very ones you should not invite."—Puck.

Merch.

Harmless mirth is the best cordial against the consumption of the spirit. Wherefore jesting is not unlawful, if it trespasseth not in quantity, quality or reason.—Pailer.

AN OCEAN GRAVEYARD.

Sable Island Is a Most Dangerous Place For Navigators.

Sable Island, sometimes and not too extravagantly termed the graveyard of the Atlantic, is set among shoal waters that afford the best of feeding ground for the particular kinds of fish that Gloucester men most desire, halibut, cod, haddock and what not, and so to its shoal waters do the fishermen come to trawl or hand line.

Lying about east and west, a flat quarter moon in shape is Sable Island. Two long bars, extending northwesterly and northeasterly, make of it a full, deep crescent. Nowhere is the fishing so good or so dangerous as close in on these bars, and the closer in and the shoaler the water the better the fishing. There are a few men alive in Gloucester who have been in close enough to see the surf break on the bare bar, but that was in soft weather and the bar to windward, and they invariably got out in a hurry.

Two hundred and odd wrecks of one kind or another, steam and sail, have settled in the sands of Sable Island. Of this there is clear and indisputable record. Of how many good vessels that have been driven ashore on the long bars on dark and stormy nights or in the whirls of snowstorms and swallowed up in the fine sand before mortal eye could make note of their disappearing hulls there is no telling.

A Gloucester fisherman needs him that the bones of hundreds of his kind are bleaching on the sands of Sable Island, and yet of all the men who sail the sea they are the only class that do not give it wide berth in winter.—James B. Connolly in Scribner's.

Smallest Bird.

The golden crested wren is the smallest not only of British, but of all European, birds. Its average weight is only about eighty grains, so that it would take seventy-two of the birds to weigh a pound. The length of the feathers is about three and a half inches end the stretch of the wings about five inches, but when the feathers are taken off the length of the body does not exceed one inch.

A MEDIAEVAL NAVY.

The Queer Implements of Attack and Defense That Were Used.

Very strange to modern eyes would be the armament of Great Britain's mediaeval navy. The very names of many of the implements of attack and defense sound queer. According to books, in the year 1337 the vessels of the navy were furnished with "pringalls," ancient spring guns; "bergoons," coats of mail; "bedons," small helmets; bows, arrows, double targets; "pavises," large shields placed at the sides and serving the purpose of protection against the enemy; and against the enemy; lances and "firing barrels." As early as 1337 the stores belonging to one vessel at that time were three iron cannon, five chambers, a hand gun and three old stone bags, probably for shot. Another ship had an iron cannon with chambers and one brass cannon with one chamber.

Among other implements of war used at that time were "cannon paviors" or stone shot throwers and "murtherers," which were smaller and threw any kind of shot. There were also "basiliaks," "port pieces," "fowlers," "sakens" and "bombards." The bombards were of hammered iron made of bars welded and bound together with iron bands. They threw stone shot weighing between 10 pounds and 195 pounds. A battery of these erected on a slip of land at the naval battle of Chloggia (1390) between the Venetians and the Genoese did great damage. They were loaded over night and were fired in the morning.

Froissart tells of a bombard used in one of these ancient sieges that "might be heard five leagues off in the daytime and ten at night. The report of it was so loud that it seemed as if all the devils in hell had broken loose." Brass ordnance was first cast in England in the year 1335. The pieces had various names. Many of different caliber were mounted on the same deck, which must have caused great confusion in action in finding for each its proper shot.

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