

**Agricultural and Popular Education.**

It is now twenty years since the editor of this paper submitted to the State Agricultural Convention the outline of a scheme of popular education, as a substitute for the miserable one in practice at the time, which resulted equally in the waste of mind and money. Events have served to confirm the writer in the convictions that he then entertained. In fact, events now render the scheme which he then submitted more than ever the necessity not only of South Carolina, but of all the States of the South. In that day, the Agricultural Society itself was a subject of ridicule, as, indeed, were all societies and schemes which contemplated the overthrow of a dull routine in the growth of new ideas. The time seems to have come when dullness will no longer dare to cover itself with the mantle of conservatism. We must try and sow some fresh ideas now, if ever, and we reproduce the preamble and resolutions then submitted and to be found in the proceedings of the State Agricultural Convention. We may hereafter follow these resolutions with a few illustrative considerations, and yet, perhaps, they will suffice to go abroad as they are. Our present experience of evil will, perhaps, sufficiently show to our planters, here and everywhere, the many great benefits which must result from the employment of such a system, carried out faithfully by teachers and overseers. We commend them to the consideration of future legislation, with a prayer to the goddess Themis that she sends us hereafter a superior order of representation from her courts and chambers:

Whereas, in consequence of the scattered condition of our settlements throughout the country, the present plan of our poor school education is found inoperative in most instances, and partial and unsatisfactory in all—those towns and cities alone excepted where the number of pupils is sufficiently great to justify the employment of competent teachers:

Be it recommended to the General Assembly of the State, now in session, that a tract of land not to contain less than 1,500 nor more than 5,000 acres, centrally chosen, or as nearly so as practicable, be procured in each of the districts, with which the poor establishment of such district shall therefore be endowed; that on the said tract of land suitable buildings shall be erected for the reception and accommodation of such a number of poor boys as, according to the census of the district, it shall be likely to contain; that provision be made of all the usual and necessary utensils for farm culture as practised in said district; that it be moderately stocked with horses, cattle, sheep and all such other animals as are found useful in such an establishment; that, when this is done, a teacher of known intelligence and integrity be procured, who shall receive an adequate salary for the tuition of all pupils who may be placed under his care by the commissioners of the said district; and that, for certain periods in the day, and in certain classes and divisions, to be hereafter determined by the commissioners, he shall have entire control of their studies and their time; that at all other periods the said pupils shall be placed under the control of a competent intendant or manager, who shall direct their labors and industry while preparing them as farmers and planters for the proper performance of such duties in after life as may seem best to correspond with their condition and necessities; and that the commissioners of each district be empowered to receive as indentured apprentices to the poor school of said district, on behalf of the State, all such boys the parents of whom may be desirous of securing for them the advantages of such tuition, and all such orphans as, governed by a praiseworthy ambition, may be willing to avail themselves of the same—the term of apprenticeship in no case to be less than three nor more than seven years—unless in the case of such youth who may be already greatly advanced towards the years and purposes of manhood, and who, at the discretion of the commissioners, may be received for a still shorter period.

Be it recommended yet further,

that, on the same plantation or tract of land, but removed from close proximity to the dwellings and the school house of the boys, there be erected suitable houses for the reception and accommodation of poor girls, who shall be placed under the tuition of one or more female superintendents, from whom they shall learn the ordinary elements of a plain English education, and in addition such duties of a farm and household as ordinarily devolve upon females in our country; that they shall spin, weave and sew, attend to poultry and the dairy, the culture of the silk worm, if it be deemed advisable, and be taught also to fashion and make their own and the habits of the boys—the latter, in turn, performing all those severer labors of the plantation as will yield sufficient food and provision for both establishments.

Be it further recommended, that, in addition to the studies of the ordinary English grammar school, the master of the male department shall be required to instruct his pupils in a competent knowledge of simple land surveying.

It is recommended also that the dress of the boys be made uniform, and that the elder boys, ranging from the years of fifteen years to eighteen, be provided with light muskets, and be subjected to the drill and instruction, once a month, of the neighborhood captain of militia.

Resolved, That these recommendations be respectfully submitted to the General Assembly, with the prayer of this Convention, that they be subjected to examination and experiment in three of the districts of the State, in order that their operation may be witnessed previous to their general adoption as a system for all the districts. That in order that the experiment should be fairly made, the districts chosen should be one in each of the grand divisions of the State, the upper, the middle and the lower country; and that the present commissioners of the districts chosen be requested to take charge of the entire subject.

*Nick-Naw* is a wretched fun-periodical of New York, full of dreadful effects of mirth, diabolical attempts at wit, and all sorts of rare atrocities, which are the very mock of humor and the sublime of stupidity. Let no such stuff find a market in the South at least, especially as the brutalities of the jests are not only as bad as the stupidity, but very frequently at our expense.

The United States Government is undoubtedly concentrating troops in large numbers on and along the Rio Grande, no doubt with regard to their future use in Mexican affairs. The North now insists more strongly than ever on the Monroe doctrine.

Three colored soldiers (one belonging to the Home Guard) have been arrested in Charleston, for the robbery of a paralytic gentleman in his bed. Crime is on the increase in the old Queen City.

**“THE LATEST.”**—The correspondent of the *New York Times* writes from that great place of fashion, Saratoga:

The male portion of the community will rejoice to know that waterfalls are nearly out of date; those worn at all are thrown up higher on the head, with a fall of curls—a decided improvement. But the last Paris fashion—the Grecian style—(three bands confining the hair) is now all the rage.

**THE SPIRIT OF SPRING.**—In reply to the radicals, the *New York Journal of Commerce* says: It is generally supposed hereabouts that the people of the South are exhibiting a very commendable spirit, and behaving remarkably well under all the circumstances. But it is sadly probable that we have politicians who design and desire to keep the country in trouble, and to make dissension the normal and unchangeable condition of things. In times of peace and calm, demagogues sink out of sight more easily than in times of excitement. Hence their desire to keep the war alive.

**THE MARKETS.**—The *Herald*, of the 22d, quotes gold, in New York, at 142½, and steady. The cotton market dull and heavy, at 35 to 51 cents.

Cotton, in the Charlotte, N. C., market, as we learn by the *Democrat*, commands 33 cents per pound, currency.

The *Winnsboro News* quotes cotton at 18 cents in coin and 26 cents in greenbacks per pound, with an upward tendency.

**To the President and Directors of the Greenville and Columbia Railroad Company.**

**GENTLEMEN:** It is generally stated that you intend to abandon the line of road from Alston to this place, and to build on the other side of the river. In connection with this, let me call your attention to a brief statement of facts. The city of Columbia and many of the citizens subscribed largely to the stock of your road, considering it as indispensable to the prosperity of the city that rapid conveyance be had with the chief cereal region of the State, and an outlet for their cotton, bacon, &c., forming so large a portion of the yield of the interior plantations. While in operation, these conditions were realized—the abundance of provisions and rapid increase of Columbia in every material respect attested to how great an extent. In fact, benefitted us more than the others combined, as there was a through business and yours centered here. The loss of your road by freshet, in January last, has been felt by all classes, more especially in the great dearth of provisions. A few of the prices paid here, contrasted with those of the up-country, will furnish the best comment. At this point, flour is \$18 per barrel, and 35 cents per pound, bacon 30 cents per pound, corn \$1.50 to \$2 per bushel. In the up-country, flour is 85 per barrel, and 15 and bacon 12½, respectively per pound, and corn 75 cents per bushel. In abandoning your original line from Alston hither, you will keep us from the great benefits derivable from your road for nearly two years. As no one can doubt the scarcity of money will greatly cripple you in making advantageous contracts, and your assets, like those of all other Southern railroads, are strictly passive. Now, what is the actual status of the old line? 6¼ miles are in good order hence to Frost's Mills; 2 miles are in good order the other side of Frost's trestle; 3 miles are in good order above Littleton; 2½ miles are in good order below Littleton; 14 miles in running order out of 25 miles, leaving only 11 miles to be repaired, and this can be done fully in ninety days, as it is well known the General Government is very anxious for the road to be put in running operation as early as practicable, and will render every assistance possible in rebuilding, &c. A bridge is not necessary over Little River—the span being but 60 or 70 feet, and a trestle will answer every purpose; Crane Creek Bridge is in good order; Frost's “big” trestle was nearly completed in February, and the necessary timbers are still there with which to complete Frost's upper trestle; most, if not all, the timbers are near and ready for erection; Booker's trestle, nearly all benches prepared for raising; of the large trestle near Alston, the most important portions of the wood-work are on the spot, and the bent iron can be straightened. The piers of the Broad River Bridge are intact, and the wood work is the only expense that will be incurred, as the iron of the old bridge can be recovered. But by ignoring this bridge for the present, you can forward passengers and freight through in sixty days, i. e., by utilizing the river, as was successfully done in '52. The grand washes in Cedar Creek bottom can be treated without filling; indeed, it would be advisable to leave them open, to furnish free passage to subsequent freshets. You will need two to three miles of good iron for your trestles, which you can get from the upper end of the live by substituting inferior rails on your turn-outs. You have several good engines and sufficient cars, both freight and passenger, to meet the demands of the present business. Cotton, provisions, lime and wood—all greatly needed, would rush down, and money, so imperatively demanded, freely circulating, and in sixty days our people would commence to breathe again. So much for the one, now for the other side. It is necessary to build 28 miles of new road, at a cost of \$650,000 to \$750,000. You will have to haul and boat the iron over the river; when on the other side, it will have to be hauled again, say five miles. Your present iron is old and not worth all the expense of transportation. You will have to pull down and haul the material of the Broad River Bridge piers to the new location, and wagon transportation, besides being slow and uncertain, is most expensive. You cannot reach this point under eighteen to

twenty-four months, had you full facilities.

The South Carolina Railroad will be finished by 1st October. The Charlotte Railroad by 1st November. Your road will still be unfinished, if you attempt to carry out your project. By rebuilding your old line, you form immediate through connections, so earnestly desired by the General Government; and, since Governor Perry is a prominent director of the road, the impulse given cannot be over-estimated. Once here, and you still wish to build on the other side—the new survey—you can commence at Smith's Branch and work up. You will then have your own motive and car power to do your hauling; your own employees and works to build the bridge, &c. The earnings in the meantime can be applied to the furthering of the new route, and, in the course of three or four years, sooner, if needed, you can be in full operation. The old iron will be available to pay, in part, for the new, or you may be able to sell your old line to the Spartanburg road. Abandon your present line, and you force that important feeder of your road to seek some other connection; for the President of the Charlotte Railroad Company is very energetic, and will, no doubt, offer the Spartanburg Railroad Company great inducements to connect with his road. Again, as regards the planters, many of whom purchased lands contiguous to the portion of your road, about to be abandoned. Would you be acting in good faith towards them? Have they not already suffered sufficient losses, but that they must have what is left swept away? Recollect, that a charter of a railroad company is not given to it, that it may become a source of oppression to the public, and of pecuniary benefit to its stockholders, but to foster every source of production, through speedy conveyance, and assist in building up a people in a that renders it great and respectable, and that assistance is now demanded of you by the suffering citizens of Columbia.

**STOCKHOLDER.**

**HONORARY SUICIDE.**—Recently (say some of the Paris papers) the Emperor of Japan had reason to be highly dissatisfied with one of his officers, and sent him the “renowned” sabre. It is a sort of honorary sword, very beautifully carved and finished. As this officer held high rank and had hitherto given his prince every reason to be satisfied, the latter sent him, in order to alleviate the effect of the message as far as possible, one of his own swords set with diamonds, and selected his prime minister as bearer. The officer received the present, and was well aware what it signified. After reverently regarding the instrument of his punishment, he quietly left his house, went to the port, got on board of a French ship bound for Havre, and safely reached Paris, where he sold the sabre for 150,000f.

The *New Orleans True Delta* says it has been positively ascertained what was the fate of the specie sent away by the New Orleans banks at the time the city was captured by the Union forces. Immediately upon the surrender of the Confederate armies, a commission was sent by the banks into the Confederacy to look after and, if possible, to secure this money. Telegraphic advices have been received from them which do not leave room to doubt that the money was used by the rebel authorities prior and at the time of the grand collapse. It has also been pretty clearly ascertained that large sums of this money were appropriated by some high Confederate dignitaries for their own personal profit. There were about \$1,500,000 of this specie in all, and its loss will prove a serious blow to the banks.

On the 8th inst. in California, the notorious Billy Malligan, who was exonerated by the Vigilance Committee of San Francisco in 1856, shot and killed two men while in a fit of delirium tremens, and was about to fire again, when a policeman shot him dead. He had defied all previous efforts to arrest him.

Insurrectionary fires continue to prevail in Russia. In spite of all the efforts of the Government to prevent them, and to arrest suspected persons, whole villages, and even towns, continue to be burnt down. The destruction is supposed to be the work of the Poles.

The United States Pacific Railroad has placed under contract 1,200 miles of the new line of telegraph to be built before the end of July. The whole line from Chicago to San Francisco will be completed in one year.

A line of steamers has commenced running between Charleston and Philadelphia. A. Getty & Co. are the Charleston agents.

**Local Items.**

The College Chapel, at the head of Sumter street, is being renovated and repaired for the meeting of the Convention, on the 13th prox.

Mr. T. S. Nickerson has engaged the Methodist Female College building and will open it as a hotel in a few weeks.

**FRUIT.**—Mr. George Shields sent us another “pleasing remembrance,” yesterday morning, in the shape of a basket of beautiful peaches and nectarines. May his shadow never grow less, and his supply of the juice of the former and “bee manufacture” always be large, is our earnest wish.

**COLORED TROOPS.**—Several companies of colored troops passed through this city yesterday, on their way, as we are informed, to garrison the interior towns. A correspondent of the *New York Herald* asserts, with which we entirely agree, that the policy of placing negro troops to garrison Southern cities is a very questionable one. These troops, many of them but recently slaves, look upon all the people of the South as their enemies, and in their new position are disposed to lord it over them as much as possible, which, of course, is extremely distasteful and annoying. The result is, constant difficulties are occurring, which tend to provoke bad feeling between the two classes at a time when it is essential to cultivate the most friendly relations. A removal of the colored troops would have an extremely beneficial effect.

**Coin and Paper Money.**

It is rather a curious fact that the only coin now in current use on this Continent which is not round, is the fifty dollar gold piece struck from California, which is octagonal in form. All the coins in Europe are round. In Japan they have oblong wedges of silver. It is curious, too, that for many years money has been made out of paper, when leather or cloth would seem to be more durable. Yet paper, when representing coin, lasts a great while; and not unfrequently the Bank of England received unnoted of extraordinary age, and the Bank of Bengal in India, recently was called to pay several thousand pounds of notes so old that none of the present generation remembered the pattern.

It is also worthy of remark that gems or precious stones have never been used for money, nor has platinum or any other metal taken the place of gold. In Africa a species of shell forms the circulating medium, the value of which fluctuates sometimes twenty per cent a week. But all civilized countries have gold as the standard of money value, and all other circulating media are but representatives of the great standard. Only the Hindoo has never learned to test coin by the hand.

Of all gold coin, that of England is perhaps the most beautiful. A new, fresh gold sovereign is probably as graceful and attractive a coin as exists. Next to it, the American eagle is the most elegant gold coin. The twenty franc pieces of the present kingdom of Italy are also very neat.

Possibly the smallest gold coin in use is the French five franc piece; although a few half dollar gold pieces have been struck off in California. At present there are current in France, in every day traffic, coins bearing the noble face of the first Napoleon, both as Consul and Emperor; the heavy rounds of Charles X and Louis XVIII; the shrewd countenance of Louis Philippe, and the similar features of the present Emperor. In some cases, Napoleon III is represented with, and in others without, a laurel wreath.

The most beautiful silver coinage is that of Russia, each piece being in itself a work of art, so finely and elaborately is the die cut. On the other hand, the ugliest silver coinage is that of the free city of Hamburg. Each piece, adulterated and poorly cut, is usually found encrusted with dirt and filth, and looking like a refuse fragment of tin. The silver coinage of Germany is also very bad.

In Italy, except the portion subject to the Pope and the Emperor of Austria, the franc piece is taking the place of former coins; though local coinage of the former Duchies of Parma and Modena still infests those portions of the country. Naples also retains, in retail traffic, the complicated coins in use under the Bourbon rule.

Perhaps the neatest paper money in use is that of Greece, which is manufactured by American engravers and workmen. The old bank currency of this country is very often elegant. The worst and most wretched paper money in the world is the five kreuzer note of Austria, printed on a soft, thick, grayish paper, which has the faculty of washing and rubbing away like ordinary blotting paper.

More than eighty vessels of burden are now up at the North for sailing or steaming to Southern ports. Lines of steamers are freighted, or in progress, for Charleston, from the several ports of New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Boston.