

The Smithfield Herald.

PRICE ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR.

"TRUE TO OURSELVES, OUR COUNTRY AND OUR GOD."

SINGLE COPIES THREE CENTS

VOL. 20.

SMITHFIELD, N. C., FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1901.

NO. 11.

A Defect in Our Educational System and a Possible Remedy.

The following extract is taken from an address of Mr. John Wilber Jenkins before the Raleigh Monday Evening Club:

"We have been hearing a great deal about our 'poor public schools,' and some of them deserve the name. But they are better than they ever were before, and the district school of to-day is a gem compared to the 'old field' school in which our fathers learned to read and write, and which they see surrounded by all the halo of time and distance. Our system of public schools is much better than that of many States that have a lower percentage of illiteracy. In all the ninety-six counties of the State there are schools as good as the majority of the people desire. If they want better schools, they would have them. There are in the State 5,422 white school districts and 2,488 colored districts, a total of 7,910. The receipts from taxes for public schools, and expended on them last year were \$1,031,327.94, as shown by the report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The school census showed 439,431 white and 220,198, total 659,629 children of school age. The enrollment in the schools amounted to 270,447 white, 130,005 colored, total, 400,452. But the average attendance, which accurately indicates the number of those who are receiving the rudiments of an education, shows that only 142,413 white and 64,505 negroes, a total of 206,918 attended the schools regularly.

"There is a school open in every district in North Carolina every year long enough for any child, white or black, to learn to read and write. There are ample facilities within the reach of every person of school age in the State to save him from becoming an illiterate. But the record shows that in the year of our Lord, 1900, after an educational campaign that extended over the State, and the passage of a Constitutional Amendment that prescribes an educational qualification for voting only 34 7-10 per cent of the whites of school age, and 32 3-10 of the negroes attended the schools.

"Is it not apparent, then, that the most radical defect in our system is the lack of means to persuade or compel attendance on the schools? If we could compel every child to take advantage of the school facilities that lie within his reach, illiteracy would be wiped out with the present generation of illiterate adults.

"The people of North Carolina have always been opposed to compulsion of any kind, and a lot of them scorn to pay their poll and property taxes because the State 'compels' it. They are independent enough to keep four dogs, and allow their children to attend school or not as they please.

"And the fear of the Great Unwashed One-Gallus Brigade is so much before the eyes of the politician, that he will never vote to tax the ravenous hound, or compel the Sand-Hiller or Mountain Boomer to send his child to school.

"Every child has a right to an education. He has a right to be given the proper implements with which to work out his own salvation in the world. And the State which is the guardian of the child, should see that he is not deprived of his rights.

"Around every cotton mill can be found some man who has moved into town from the country, and put his wife and little children to work in the mill, while he lies around the dirty little groggeries or village stores, talks politics, chews tobacco and drinks mean whiskey. He is wearing out the lives of his little children at the loom, dooming them to go through life with stunted bodies and darkened minds. He is a creature so low that an egg-sucking hound is the only thing that will keep him company. But yet the legislators fear this man too much to compel him to give his innocent little children a chance for existence and development.

Is there a greater crime in the calendar than that of the parent who will deliberately withhold from his child the advantages and opportunities that will mean all to him in life? Doesn't he commit murder on the installment plan?

"We ought to have compulsory education. But as long as that is not immediately possible, some means must be found to secure the attendance of as many children as possible on the public schools. What matters it if we had the finest school system on earth, if the children could not or would not take advantage of it? The people of each community must take up the problem for themselves. It is a State problem, but it must be solved locally. There are clubs and associations of almost every kind, missionary societies, educational clubs, literary associations—clubs that range from the Sisters of Sadness and Daughters of Darkness to the Amalgamated Society of Potato Bug Destroyers. And one hesitates to propose a new society or association.

"But why should there not be an association in every community to induce attendance on the schools, public or private? There could be a State organization with its headquarters in Raleigh, and with General Poon, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction at its head, with branches in every school district. There is no necessity for a meeting of the clubs, for each will have its own problems to solve, and can solve them best in its own way. But once a year the leaders in the work could meet here, and interchange ideas and plans, and stimulate interest in the work.

"There should be no dues of any kind connected with the clubs, but all must give their time for love of the cause. The local club would first have to get a copy of the school census, and then a copy of the roll of the public school. Those who do not attend school can thus be easily ascertained. This is the working material. Some member of the club should visit each family that does not send its children to school, and ascertain the reason. If there is a real reason, such as lack of money to buy books, or lack of proper clothing, it can be easily remembered, for no man would refuse to give a few cents to buy a new book or a decent coat for a boy who wanted an education. If it is indifference of the parents, their attention should be called to the great importance of giving their children an education and the changed conditions that demand educated men and women in every walk of life. If the children are at work in a mill and the father is idle and shiftless, he ought to be arrested as a vagrant, or compelled to put his children in school, and go to work himself. The principal difficulty will be found in the indifference of parents to education. To overcome this education must be made so fashionable that no one who thinks anything of himself or his family will suffer his children to grow up in ignorance. And ignorance must be made disreputable in a community. These people must be made ashamed of it. And the children themselves must be interested in the schools, and in study. This would be the work of the clubs, and it is no easy task.

"But it is an important one, and one that must be accomplished before we educate the children of the State. Compulsory education is best. But as we cannot get that, we must have some substitute, and I propose that we form a State Educational Association, with Attendance Clubs in every community."

The least in quantity and most in quality describes DeWitt's Little Early Risers, the famous pills for constipation, and liver complaints. Hood Bros., Hare & Son, J. R. Ledbetter.

The Ocean View Hotel at Wrightsville Beach was burned Saturday night, with bath house, pavilion and several cottages. The loss is about three-fourths covered by insurance, and the property will be rebuilt at once.

NEW PENSION LAW.

An Act to Amend Chapter One Hundred and Ninety-Eight of the Laws of Eighteen Hundred and Eighty-Nine for the Relief of Certain Confederate Soldiers and Widows.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. There shall be paid out of the treasury of the State of North Carolina, on the warrant of the Auditor, to every person who has been for twelve months immediately preceding his or her application for pension a bona fide resident of this State, and who is incapacitated for manual labor and was a soldier or a sailor in the service of the State of North Carolina or of the Confederate States of America during the war between the States and to the widow remaining unmarried of any deceased officer, soldier or sailor who was in the service of the State of North Carolina or of the Confederate States of America during the war between the States (provided said widow was married to said soldier or sailor before the first day of April, eighteen hundred and sixty-five), the following sum, annually, according to the degree of disability ascertained by the following grade, viz.: First, to such as have received a wound which renders them totally incompetent to perform manual labor in the ordinary avocations of life, twenty-two dollars; second, to such as have lost a leg above the knee or an arm above the elbow, sixty dollars; third, to such as have lost a foot or leg below the knee, or hand or arm below the elbow, or have a leg or arm rendered utterly useless by reason of a wound or permanent injury, forty-eight dollars; fourth, to such as have lost one eye, and to widows remaining unmarried, and all other soldiers who are now disabled from any cause to perform manual labor, thirty dollars. If the fund collected from the special pension tax in any year should be insufficient to pay in full the aforesaid pensions, then and in that event the State Treasurer shall pay said pensions out of the general fund in the State Treasury: Provided, however, that in no year shall the total amount paid for pensions exceed two hundred thousand dollars.

Sec. 2. That section three of chapter one hundred and ninety-eight of the laws of eighteen hundred and eighty-nine be amended by striking out all of said section after the word "grades" in line four. And section one of said chapter one hundred and ninety-eight of the laws of eighteen hundred and eighty-nine is hereby repealed and section one of this act substituted in place thereof. That all persons entitled to pensions under this act, whether heretofore drawing pensions or not, shall appear before the County Board of Pensions on or before the first Monday in July, nineteen hundred and one, for examination and classification in compliance with the provisions of this act: Provided, that all such as are unable to attend in person shall present a certificate from a credible physician living and practicing medicine in the community in which said applicant resides, that the applicant is unable to attend.

Sec. 3. That all laws and clauses of laws enacted since the first day of January, eighteen hundred and ninety, granting pensions to any particular individual named therein, are hereby repealed.

Sec. 4. That no inmate of the Soldiers' Home at Raleigh, nor any person who was a deserter or who receives a pension from any other State or the United States, shall be entitled to a pension under this act.

Sec. 5. That all ex-Confederate soldiers and sailors who have become totally blind since the war, or who lost their sight or both hands or both feet in the Confederate service, shall receive from the public treasury one hundred and twenty dollars (\$120) a year, to be paid monthly

by the Clerk of the Superior Court of their respective counties, as provided in the Public Laws of eighteen hundred and seventy-nine, chapter one hundred and ninety-three, and the amendment thereto in chapter three hundred and forty-one of the laws of eighteen hundred and eighty-three and chapter six hundred and nineteen of the laws of eighteen hundred and ninety-nine.

Sec. 6. That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 2d day of March A. D. 1901.

W. D. TURNER,
President of the Senate.
WALTER E. MOORE,
Speaker House Representatives.

Mr. Carnegie and the Scotch Universities.

America's greatest philanthropist, Mr. Andrew Carnegie, has recently given to four Universities in Scotland the sum of ten million dollars.

The Baltimore Sun gives the following brief history of these great schools:

The University of Edinburgh was founded in 1582. During the year 1899 the total number of matriculated students in attendance was 2,348. Of these 836 were enrolled in the faculty of arts, 1,499 in the faculty of medicine, 368 in law, 47 in divinity, 476 in science, and 22 in music. Among the matriculated students were 239 women.

St. Andrew's University is even more ancient than Edinburgh, having been founded in 1411. It originally included three separate colleges and corporation: St. Salvator's, dating from 1450; St. Leonard's, 1512, and St. Mary's, 1537. In 1747 the two first named were united and took the faculties of arts and medicine, St. Mary's being devoted to theology. University College, founded at Dundee in 1880, was made a part of the University of St. Andrew's in 1897. The average number of students in attendance is about 200.

The University of Glasgow was founded by a bull of Pope Nicholas V in 1450, receiving a new charter from James VI of Scotland in 1577. Its organization was remodeled by the Universities of Scotland acts of 1858 and 1880, by which each of the Scottish universities given a similar organization. During the session of 1899 there were 1,953 students in attendance, of whom 306 were women. Of the total 834 were students in art and 661 in medicine.

Aberdeen University was founded in 1494 by Bishop Elphinstone as a Studium Generale, in which he constituted a college in 1505 known as King's College. In 1593 George Keith, fifth Earl Marischal College, which came to be also a university distinct from the former foundation. These two universities were united in one institution in 1860 and now form the University of Aberdeen. There are 23 professors and more than 800 students. The University of Aberdeen has been making great progress of late years, and during the last 10 years has expended over \$500,000 in sites and buildings. Like the other Scottish universities, it confers the whole range of academic and professional degrees.

Mrs. Lyman J. Gage, wife of the Secretary of the Treasury, died Friday night.

Reidsville voted \$15,000 of bonds Tuesday for a new white graded school building.

Near Hunting Creek, Wilkes county, the body of P. C. Johnson was found hanging to the rafters of an old tenement house. He had been for years one of the most prominent and upright citizens of the community and no cause for the rash deed is known. In the same neighborhood a minister, Rev. J. C. Moore, committed suicide a year ago, and James Marlowe was murdered a few months ago. In February William Sparks was found dead in his wagon near the same place.

Hazing at West Point.

Washington, May 22.—The names of the cadets who have been dismissed from the West Point military academy as the result of the recent disturbances there are as follows: Henry L. Bowlby, Nebraska; John A. Cleveland, Alabama; Traugott F. Keller, New York; Raymond A. Linton, Michigan; Birchie O. Mahaffey, Texas. All these cadets are of the second class.

The following cadets have been suspended:

Olan C. Aleshire, Illinois; Benjamin F. McClellan, Mississippi; James A. Shandon, Minnesota; Charles Teleford, Utah; all of the second class. Also Thomas N. Gimperling, Ohio, and Harry Hawley, New York, of the third class. These cadets are suspended without pay until April 1, 1902.

The order of dismissal is signed by Secretary Root, and states that it is issued by direction of the President upon recommendation of the military academy. The same language is used regarding the suspensions.

Let His Daughter Die.

White Plains, N. Y., May 21.—J. Luther Pierson, of Valhalla, five miles from here, was found guilty to-day of allowing his two-year old daughter to die while he prayed for her recovery instead of calling in a doctor. He was indicted for violating the provisions of subdivision 1 of section 288 of the Penal Code, by omitting without lawful excuse to perform a duty imposed upon him by that law, that of calling a doctor to attend his two-year old daughter, who was suffering from catarrhal pneumonia.

Pierson testified that he was a member of the Christian Catholic Church of Chicago, that he did not believe in doctors or medicine, but that his game for all diseases was faith. Coroner Schaffmeister testified that he made an investigation on Feb. 4th last, when he was told the child was dead. He found that the victim of faith cure was a two-year old girl. "Pierson told me," said the Coroner, "that he had ample means to hire a doctor, but that he did not believe in them. He said he believed in diseases, but that it could be healed only through prayer."

Flood in East Tennessee.

Elizabethtown, Tenn., May 22.—A flood from the Dee and Watauga rivers swept through the low lying section of Elizabethtown during the night, drowned three persons, carried away sixty-two dwellings and caused damage in the rich farming district of Carter county estimated at \$1,000,000. Nearly every farm house for some distance along both rivers was destroyed or washed from its foundations and it is possible the loss of life will be greatly increased when full reports are received.

With a rush unprecedented in the history of this section, the waters tore down through the Dee and Watauga channels last night, carrying away dozens of bridges and small buildings. When the flood reached Elizabethtown it made quick work of sixty-two small dwellings along the river banks, where were sheltered 250 persons. Three were drowned in their efforts to escape. Several others are reported missing.

All means of communication was destroyed and news of the disaster did not reach outside points until late in the morning.

New Berne Journal: There is now living at Long Point plantation, Jones county, a colored man who claims, and can prove his claim, that he was born in 1780. The name of this very aged colored man is Israel Jones, and when seen last week by a Journal representative was well and contented, thanking the Lord for the blessings given him. Israel's only affliction seems to be blindness. He talks with a good deal of intelligence in what he says.

CLAYTON NEWS.

Our town has not been represented in THE HERALD for some time, but nevertheless, we are still prospering.

Mr. Jno. S. Barnes spent last week in Asheville as representative to the Grand Lodge of I. O. O. F. He reports an excellent trip.

The Clayton Cotton Mill is progressing nicely. They expect to make yarns by middle of July. Nearly all of the machinery has been installed.

Mr. J. B. Hudson, of Smithfield, was in town Tuesday.

Miss Juanita Ellis is home again. We are delighted to have her among us once more.

Dr. Nat T. Holland, who has been attending the Virginian Medical College, has returned home. Dr. Holland is a talented young man and deserves credit for the progress he has made in the study of dentistry.

Miss Lizzie Debnam, while visiting in Selma last week was taken away from her native land to the matrimonial state unawares to her people in Clayton. Some of our young men look terribly downcast. Clayton is getting quite romantic.

Mr. A. R. Duncan, the postmaster here has been very sick. We are glad to know he is now convalescing.

The rainy weather is trimming our crops in green.

Mr. W. A. Barnes, who has been at Durham, N. C., for the past few months superintending the 5 and 10 Cent Store of which he is president, is home now slightly sick. We hope he may soon recover, that he may return to his post.

The Clayton School closed last Thursday, May 16th. The school has progressed nicely under the management of Prof. W. J. Newbold, its present principal.

Dr. J. J. Young is having a nice dwelling erected on Railroad street. Mr. W. G. Parrish is superintending the work.

Mrs. Charles W. Horne has just returned from an extended trip to Northern cities. She is furnishing her new residence which is just completed. This is a handsome structure and adds to the beauty of our town.

Quite a number of our town people anticipate attending the T. I. Commencement. We always enjoy the exercises, as fitfully rendered by the students of this grand institution.

Some of the children here have whooping cough. It is hoped the dread malady will not be spread.

We heard a newspaper man say in regard to THE HERALD: "It is the best newspaper in the State, and the cheapest I ever knew."

We will try to give you more Clayton news next week.

RAY.

SELMA NEWS.

Dr. J. B. Person returned from New York Tuesday night.

Dr. R. J. Noble went to Durham Tuesday to attend the meeting of the N. C. Medical Society.

The graded school election is all the talk now. It looks like it will almost be unanimous.

Mr. H. F. Peedin gave Dr. Noble a hen egg Monday that weighed 3 1/2 ounces. He has a fine stock of chickens.

The trains from Norfolk to Danville came through here this a. m. on account of a washout on the Atlantic & Danville road.

The progressive pea nut party given by the Misses Hoods on Wednesday evening was very much enjoyed by all who were present. Music furnished by Miss Lula Tisdale was highly appreciated by all. After several songs watch cards were presented; according to the cards Miss Malle Preston will be the first young lady to get married and Dr. J. W. Hatcher was doomed to be an old bachelor. After ice cream was served we all left deploring we had spent a most pleasant evening.