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VOL. 71.

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY MAY 28, 1890.

NO. 22



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Chapel Hill Commencement.
The Richmond & Danville R. R. Co. will sell round trip tickets to Chapel Hill, N. C., and return for parties attending the annual Commencement exercises, University of North Carolina, June 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th, good returning until and including June 7th '90, at following rates from points named; from Charlotte, \$6.00; Salisbury, \$4.85; Greensboro, \$2.90; Henderson, \$3.15; Oxford, 2.70; Raleigh, 2.25; Selma, \$3.55; Goldsboro, \$4.35; Winston-Salem, \$3.95. Rates from intermediate points in same proportion. From stations, Greensboro to Raleigh, inclusive tickets will also be sold June 6th and morning of the 7th with same limit as above.

Commencement, Salem Female Academy.
The Richmond & Danville R. R. Co. will sell parties attending Commencement, Salem Female Academy, round trip tickets to Winston-Salem, N. C. May, 29th to June, 3rd inclusive. Good returning until and including June 5th, '90, at following rates from points named; from Charlotte, \$5.30; Salisbury, \$3.70; Greensboro, \$1.50; Durham, \$3.95; Raleigh, \$4.85; Selma, \$5.75; Goldsboro, \$6.25; Oxford, \$5.15; Henderson, \$5.45. Rates from intermediate points in same proportion.

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The house is conducted on the small-profit system, with a strict care for the best and most reliable materials.

The goods are marked in plain figures, and nothing is left undone that is calculated to entitle the house to a confidence that is essential to prosperity.

On the main floor will be found the departments of Silks, Worsted Dress Fabrics, Lane Wares, Dress Trimmings, Ladies' Muslin Underwear, Knit Underwear, Domestic Velvets, Corsets, Hosiery, Gloves, Handkerchiefs, Umbrellas, Buttons and other small wares, Toilet, White Good, and everything pertaining to a world's outfit in the dry goods line.



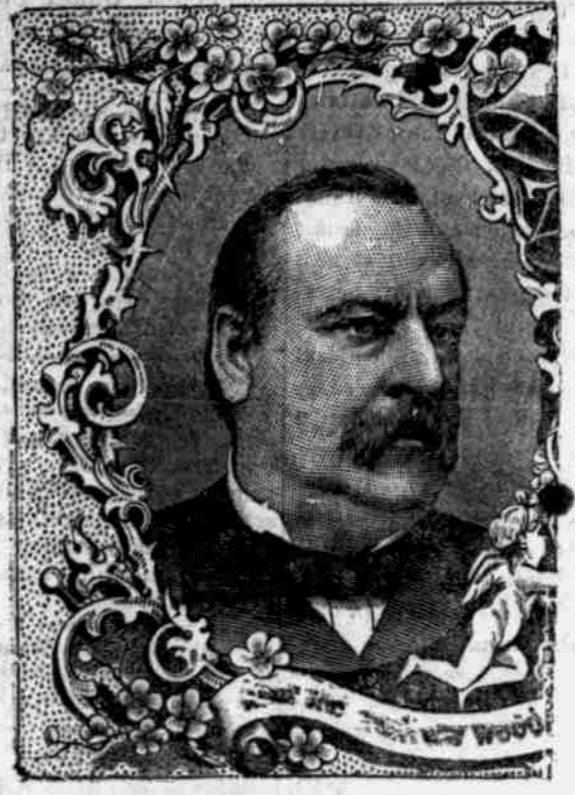
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TO THE FARMERS.
CLEVELAND ENDORSES THE ALLIANCE PLATFORM OF PRINCIPLES.

Because it Springs From the People--The Land-Owners Should Rule the Country. Why Tariff Reform is a Vital Question for Agriculturists.

STUBENVILLE, Ohio, May 12.—J. A. Hill, corresponding secretary of Oak Grove Lodge, No. 22, Farmers' Alliance, near this city, wrote to ex-President Cleveland a few weeks ago, enclosing a copy of the declaration of purposes of the Alliance, and asking for Mr. Cleveland's views thereon. Among the declaration of purposes are the following:

To labor for the education of the agricultural classes in the science of economical government in a strictly non-partisan spirit.

To secure purity of the elective franchise and to induce all voters to intelligently exercise it for the enactment and execution of laws which will express the most advanced public sentiment upon all questions involving the interests of laborers and farmers.

To suppress personal, local, sectional and national prejudices, all unhealthful rivalry and all selfish ambition.

Mr. Cleveland replied as follows: J. A. Hill, corresponding secretary etc.:

DEAR SIR:—I have received your letter accompanied by a copy of the declaration of principles of the Farmers' Alliance.

I see nothing in this declaration that cannot be fully indorsed by any man who loves his country, who believes that the object of our government should be the freedom, prosperity and happiness of all our people, and who believes that justice and fairness to all are necessary conditions to its useful administration.

It has always seemed to me that the farmers of the country were especially interested in an equitable adjustment of our tariff system.

The indifference they have shown to that question and the ease with which they have been led away from a sober consideration of their needs and their rights, as related to this subject, have excited my surprise.

Struggle as they may, our farmers must continue to be purchasers and consumers of numberless things enhanced in cost by tariff regulations. Surely they have the right to say that this cost shall not be increased for the purpose of collecting unnecessary revenue or to give undue advantages to domestic manufacturers. The plea that our infant industries need the protection which thus impoverishes the farmer and consumer is, in view of our natural advantages and the skill and ingenuity of our people, a hollow pretext.

Struggle as they may, our farmers cannot escape the conditions which fix the price of what they produce and sell, according to the rates which prevail in foreign markets, flooded with the competition of countries enjoying freer exchange of trade than we. The plausible presentation of the blessings of a home market should not deceive our

depressed and impoverished agriculturists. There is no home market for them which does not take its instructions from the seaboard, and the seaboard transmits the word of the foreign markets.

Because my conviction that there should be a modification of our tariff laws arose principally from an appreciation of the wants of the vast army of consumers, comprising our farmers, our artisans and our workmen, and because their condition has led me to protest against the present imposition, I am especially glad to see these sections of my fellow-countrymen arousing themselves to the importance of tariff reform.

Yours very truly,
GROVER CLEVELAND.

SCENES OF MOURNING IN STRICKEN ASHLEY--THE STORY OF THE DISASTER.

Robert Roberts, One of the Companions of the Foolhardy Fire Boss, Tells What Happened in the Mine After the Case In.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., May 20.—It was a sad Sunday in and about the borough of Ashley. The terrible calamity at the Jersey mines which, on Thursday last, crushed out the lives of twenty-eight sturdy miners, drew a pall of grief over the community and plunged hundreds of manly into the depths of despair.

Three days ago these same were happy and contented. A long illness had only recently been followed by work, and the Jersey was the only colliery in the vicinity which was ordered to start up. In consequence those employed in that mine were congratulated and envied by thousands of other miners who saw no sign of returning employment for them. The little homes of the twenty-eight men, whose blackened, torn and blistered bodies were brought up from the dark chambers on Friday, took on a bright appearance.

HOW IT HAPPENED.
Thirty-one men are at work in an upper vein. Their are four veins in this colliery, but these thirty-one miners are not more than 100 feet below the surface. They are nearly a mile away from the main slope down which they passed in the morning on their way to work. The vein is large and the chambers roomy. There is no inconvenience in working down there. The big fan at the breaker supplies them with plenty of fresh air, and while outside workmen are compelled to labor with the mercury at 80 and a hot sun pouring down upon them, here in these subterranean vaults the thermometer stands at 70.

Presently the men in the upper lift are startled by frightful echoes that come thundering through the dark, honey-combed galleries of the colliery. Their trained ears tell them what has happened. The earth has dropped somewhere off in the distance, and they know that between them and their means of exit an impassable barrier is placed. It is a moment of supreme alarm. They are hemmed in 100 feet below the surface and with no possible way of

getting out. How long before the deadly gases will rush upon and lay them all low in death is the question each man puts to himself.

IN TOTAL DARKNESS.

The moment the drop occurred that made these thirty-one prisoners down in the Jersey, also plunged them in total darkness, for every light was extinguished in an instant, and imagine, if possible, what kind of darkness it was that surrounded these men. Naturally they crept toward each other to counsel together. As the moments passed they felt no inconvenience from the lack of air. This encouraged them. They knew well enough that rescuers would begin at once and their full dinner pails, as well as the recollection of the Sugar Notch rescue of 1879, when a score of men were brought out safe and sound after ten days imprisonment in a colliery there, inspired them with hope.

Roberts, one of the two men who lives to tell the story of that subterranean convention, says that as they became assured that they would not be suffocated, propositions were considered as to whether it would not be advisable to make the attempt to get out by the way of an old opening which Fire Boss Allan, who was among the imprisoned, said was certainly not more than 1,200 or 1,500 feet from where they were.

EXPLORING THE DUNGEON.

It was a doubtful suggestion, to say the least, for their movements in the direction of escaped must be made in the awful darkness that surrounds them, as each miner knew that it would be courting death by explosion to light a lamp, as after all cave gas accumulates in great quantities and in places previously considered safe. After a long deliberation Fire Boss Allan could enlist only two men, Robert Roberts and Anthony Frane, to follow his lead and take the chances. With a good-by to those who declined to go, the three started upon their dismal and doubtful journey. They sought the gangway and slowly followed it circuitous windings. Every now and then they halloed back to those left behind who replied with encouraging shouts.

After a while, however, they reached a point where no answering echoes could be exchanged. For two long hours the three men worked their way toward the old opening which Allan had reference to. At last they came to a point in the gangway which marked the foot of a steep decline. It had a pitch of thirty degrees and was over 200 feet long. Here Allan became discouraged at the surrounding darkness. The steep was slippery and uncertain. By the aid of a light it could easily be surmounted, and once at the top they were within 300 feet of the old opening and the surface. It was worth the venture, he thought, to tempt fate by lighting his lamp. His companions begged him not to do so, but to quiet their fears he assured them there was no possible danger, and the lamp was lighted.

THE EXPLOSION.

Unhappy inspiration! Like the roar of 10,000 cannons was the awful detonations that followed. A vast amount of gas was ignited by that foolhardy act of one who should have known better. The fire boss and his two companions were knocked to the ground senseless, but not dead. But like a shot from a cannon the burning gas flew onward toward the little group of twenty-eight, who were huddled together, waiting and hoping with patience the music of the pick overhead, which should tell them that rescue was near.

In the twinkling of an eye they were transformed into torn, bleeding and blackened corpses. Loaded cars that stood on the gangway track near them were shivered to atoms and the mules attached to them roasted alive. It was a terrible sight to look upon when, later on, these mangled remnants of men were lifted out of the mine and borne away to the improvised morgue at Ashley.

The man who thinks he is bright is seldom inclined to keep it dark.—Buffalo Courier.

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