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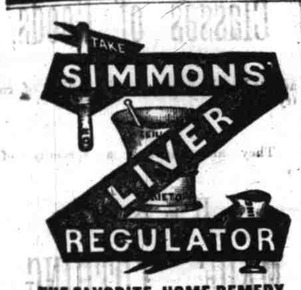

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PARSON LEE

To a drowsy country village
Came a certain Parson Lee;
And a man so quaintly different
From all other men was he,
That the Squire himself, a skeptic,
Came to church to hear him say,
And to note the strange things uttered
By this marvel of the day,

The eccentric said this planet
Was a true and goodly place,
And the only thing it wanted
Was the more of Heaven's grace;
And he sought to show the people
How to think and work and live,
So that each should help the other
And unto the needy give.

How the door that leads to heaven
Was most amply broad and wide,
And how each could turn the handle
And go easily inside;
That the very gentlest natures
In the world may yet be strong.
And how truth is always wisdom,
And all wickedness is wrong.

He explained how true religion
Was day-working, nothing more
That this world was not an ocean,
Nor we pebbles on the shore:
But that thinking men and women
Shou'd find better things to do
Than in twisting God's commandments
Or quite breaking them in too.

"As for acting like our neighbors,
Why, we none of us are fools!
You cannot be made a Christian
Under everybody's rules.
If your neighbor's not as good as
He or you would have him be,
Just you go ahead and beat him!"
Said this candid Parson Lee.

Next, he told them how complaining
Was a noxious choking weed;
That the flowers scarcely blossomed
Ere they changed to homely seed;
How that seed again sprung upward
And bore many flow'rets more;
And that life was ever fading
And renewing, o'er and o'er.

So, this man, by honest talking,
Worked his wonders in the town;
But he never cared for praises,
And he laughed at high renown,
Yet the people loved him dearly,
And they blessed god for the sight,
Till at last the master left them,
On a cold, dark winter's night.

Thus he went, they knew not whither;
Have you ever met him, pray?
You would know him by his smiling,
And the sunshine on his way.
We have hunted o'er creation,
Over land and over sea,
But no traces can discover
Of our missing Parson Lee.

Senator Merrimon on the Louisiana Question.

The Louisiana bill being under consideration in the U. S. Senate on Thursday last, Mr. MERRIMON obtained the floor and spoke until adjournment. We make the following summary of his remarks:

"He said that the Kellogg government was a military despotism, set up in defiance of the Constitution and the laws of the State of Louisiana. He then reviewed at length the relations of the State to the Federal Government, and the respective powers and obligations of each. He said that, in addition to the obligations of the General Government to Louisiana as one of the States of the Union, it was bound by solemn treaty stipulations with France to secure the inhabitants of Louisiana in their rights and liberties. He then maintained that Louisiana and other States of the South had never been out of the Union; that their ordinances of secession were null and void and of no effect, as they had no authority under the Constitution to pass such ordinances. Therefore he considered all the reason construction acts of Congress as unconstitutional, and null and void at the time of their passage.

They were revolutionary acts, but they were binding now, because the people of the South had accepted them, the Executive had recognized them, and Congress had, by subsequent acts, recognized and accepted them. They were in the nature of revolutionary acts, but having been accepted on all sides they became valid and of effect. Louisiana had, under these reconstruction acts, formed a new constitution, republican in form, and accepted as such by Congress. Under this constitution an election was held for State officers in 1872. Mr. McEnery was a candidate for Governor on one side and Mr. Kellogg a candidates on the other. He then stated the manner in which the returns were counted by the board which declared McEnery elected. Those returns were canvassed according to the constitution and laws of Louisiana, and the result was that McEnery was declared elected. No one could pretend that Kellogg was declared elected in any manner provided for by the constitution and the laws of the State. Therefore he was and could be nothing more or less than a usurper. It was claimed that at any rate Kellogg was *de facto* Governor.

He denied this in toto. Kellogg was no more *de facto* Governor of Louisiana than he (Mr. M.) would be *de facto* Governor of the District of Columbia if he should go before an officer and take the oath prescribed by law for the Governer of the District, and then, with a thousand roughs at his back, assume to exercise the duties of the Governor. In support of his position Mr. M. quoted from the constitution and by-laws of Louisiana.

The bill coming up again on Friday, Mr. MERRIMON renewed his remarks. He continued his review of the canvassing of the election returns, and said the Lynch board was entirely illegal and void. He denied there was any evidence to prove that any of the colored people of Louisiana had been denied the privilege of voting. The Republican party, he said, had accomplished its mission; it was founded on opposition to negro slavery, which had been abolished by the sword. Its acts now were not such as to commend it to the American people. He did not say what party would succeed it, but, its day was gone. He trusted in God that it would be swept away at the next fall elections.

TO THE OFFICERS AND FRIENDS OF THE BIBLE CAUSE IN NORTH CAROLINA.—We publish with pleasure the following Circular from Rev. C. H. Wiley, successor to Rev. P. A. Strobel, District Superintendent for the American Bible Society.

The vacancy caused by the resignation of the Rev. P. A. Strobel, District Superintendent for the American Bible Society, has been filled by my transfer from the field of Middle and East Tennessee, to which I was unexpectedly called five years ago. The many and strong ties formed in my new home, where I had a rich experience of the Devine goodness, and my devotion to the important work opened to me there did not cause me to forget my native State, where I had spent many years in labors of love for the public welfare; and now I return to renew attachments which neither time nor distance can weaken, and to devote myself to that cause which lies at the foundation of all individual and national prosperity, and in which I can co-operate with all races and all classes, and with every branch of the Church of Jesus Christ. God will bless and honor those, and only those, who honor His Word. And it is through the Ministry of this word alone that society is to be improved, good government secured, and the wilderness and solitary place made glad.

That department of this Ministry over which I am now placed in common ground to all denominations and I, therefore, confidently appeal to all who love the Lord Jesus Christ and the supremacy of His revealed Truth, and to every one who would promote the public walfare to unite heartily with me in efforts to deepen and widen the interest in that administrative system which is the chief instrumentality of the Church for the publication and dissemination of the written Word.

The American Bible Society, fostered and watched over as its Agent by the Church in America, has hitherto proved faithful to its great Mission, has been most abundant in useful labors, and is now engaged in operations of immense extent and importance; and I cannot but hope that its representative in this good old State will continue to meet with a cordial reception from every class, and that the Auxiliary Societies which cover the whole territory will be actively supported by the communities in which they are located.

It is my desire, the Lord willing, to visi every part of the State; but in the mean time, the eyes of the Superintendent should rest continuously on the whole field in one view, and therefore he should be able to look and operate through others, and to regard all local officers and agents of the Bible System as his assistants, and himself as one of a united band. The responsibilities and trials of my position are very great and I deeply feel the need of sympathy and aid on the part of every one who loves the Bible Cause; and I would respectfully call upon the officers of Auxiliary Societies, and upon all others who are able to offer suggestion or to furnish information important to my mission, to put themselves in communication with me and to co-operate in unceasing efforts to supply our people with the Word, of God, and to extend liberal aid to the American Bible Society in its vast and glorious work at home and abroad.

For the present my address is Greenboro, N. C., and due notice will be given of my change.

W. H. WILEY,
District Supt, for American
Bible Society in N. C.

April 24,1874.

It is estimated that it will cost sixty millions of francs and three years' labor to fortify Paris against foreigh enemies. The line of defense is to be pushed as far as Versailles and Montmorency, so that an invading army would henceforth have to form a belt of 120 instead of 60 miles. The advanced forts will be four to six miles distant, and the intervening spaces will be covered by the crossfire of powerful artillery. The circle of outworks will thus be sufficiently circumscribed to prevent an enemy from taking up a position between two forts.

Binding White Children to Negroes.—The Hillsboro *Recorder*, of the 22nd, has the following: "We learn from Mr. Mills, the enthusiastic friend of the orphan, that his contact with these unfortunates has developed the horrid fact that many white children in this State have either been bound out to negroes, or are serving them in a menial capacity.—He thinks that in Charlotte alone thirty or forty instances of this kind may be found. One case of peculiar horror he discovered there; that of a white woman, the widow of a Confederate soldier, employed as a cook in a negro family, and her daughter, a child of ten years, acting as scullion. Mr. Mills obtained possession of the latter, and took it to Oxford, but such was its ragged condition, that until he was aided by a benevolent Jew with a supply of clothing, she was unfit to be placed on the cars."

It can't be possible that the "Future London," is chargable with such gross negligence—that the leading citizens fo the place are so indifferent to the claims of the poor whites as to permit such revolting associations as the *Recorder* mentions above. There must be some mistake about it. Ignorance of the fact is not a sufficient excuse, if these things are true.

Royal Oddities.

The King of Bavaria is eccentric. His engagement to marry a princess is said to have been suddenly broken off because she persisted in refusing to express admiration for Wagner's music. Among his freaks was construction of a lake on the top of his palace, in which he sailed about in a boat for recreation. A few years since he took a notion that he wanted to see a representation of an eruption of Mount Vesuvins, and immediately ordered a court pyrotechnist to proceed, regardless of cost, to produce such a spectacle on the mountain near his secluded palace. He complied with the order, but the representation was not satisfactory. The court pyrotechnist at Vienna was then sent for, and he made extensive preparations and give entire satisfaction, and had an order for its repetition, the King expecting and thinking that he was and would be the only spectator. He, however, heard that the villagers had assembled at the foot of the mountain and had witnessed the spectacle also. On hearing this he countermanded the order for its repetition, sent the pyrotechnist home, and, ordering the burgomaster of the village before him, severely rated him for allowing the people to approach the mountain.

From the Daily News.

"A Daughter of Bohemia."

This is the title of one of the most intensely interesting society novels I have ever read. It is a book of very decided power, and shows that the author is steadily advancing in her career as a writer of fiction. There are passages of exceeding beauty, and the whole production is the workmanship of an artist of great talents and of the finest taste. It is the best novel I have ever read from a Southern pen, and North Carolina may well be proud of her distinguished and very highly gifted daughter. The characters are few but admirably individualized; the story is really of absorbing interest; the style is clear, animated, finished, elegant; the tone pure and enobling; the descriptions minute, olaborate and often beautiful, and the conversations remarkably fresh, entertaining and brilliant. It is well done throughout, and should take rank with the best love-stories of the times. Miss Fisher has no cretchets to ventilate, no theories to advance, no mysterious problems to unfold. She sits down to tell to the entranced reader a story of Southern life, and with the skill of a practiced and charming narrator she unravels the threads of her plot with a grace, a facility and a power worthy of all admiration. Whilst the tone of all her works is noble and pleasing, and over them is thrown a bright and genial glow of goodness and humanity, in "A Daughter of Bohemia" there is added a grandeur of dramatic interest that renders it specially enthrilling and praiseworthy. In the beginning of the story we have premonitions of the storm that is to burst at last in fury and madness, and to bring desolation and despair to more than one heart, and death to our unhappy victim. The appreciative reader will sincerely thank the author for the creation of Nora Desmond, whose beauty is not more lustrous and unrivaled than her character, as revealed at last, is lovely and heroic. Indeed the conception and management of this character appears to me to be of a high order of art. There are scenes of pathos too that will quicken the heart-throbs and fill the eyes with tears. In all the book there is not a dull line or page.

But I only meant to express my high gratification at the perusal of this last production of Miss Fisher, ("Christian Reid" as she chooses to call herself,) without attempting either analysis or formal criticism.

T. B. KINGSBURY.

Raleigh, April 21st, ,74.

Does Mr. any one imagine that every body must sneeze when he takes snuff! It can't be that there is so little respect for the opinions of others. Miss Fisher is indeed a charming writer—story teller, she has well won an enviable reputation; but "A Daughter of Bohemia" will add nothing to it, if we except the pure English and beautiful style which lend a peculiar charm to all her writings.

Party Discipline.

Independent candidates are the ban of party organization. To ensure the harmonious workings of our party, we should by all means prevent the divisions that necessarily ensue whenever a so-called Conservative refuses to abide by the action of our nominating Conventions.

Without party discipline, our organization would speedily vanish, because aspirants for office would seek to attain the object without considering the will of their associates. To settle difference, to bring forward as nominees those persons who being favorites in their respective localities, have more than average strength we must submit to the dictation of the party assembled in Convention.

If any person claiming to affiliate with our party sets at defiance the rules established for our government, he should be warned in words not to be misunderstood that the party will protect itself, and will not permit his action to defeat their will. Such a person necessarily assumes more for himself than his associates. He sets himself above party discipline. He claims for himself more freedom than he accords to others; and by his action he would recklessly split the party and hestroy its force. There is but one course to be pursued if we would retain a perfect organization and preserve our party strength and that is to support the regular nominees without regard to personal preferences. To fail in this duty is to annul the bonds that binds us together. No true Conservative, no man worthy of party support will act so as to jeopardize the success of the organization. And whenever an aspirant, ambitious of office, so far forgets himself as to deny his obligation to party fealty, he should be forced into the opposition and not be allow to sit under our colors.—*Crescent.*

THE Republican papers of this State are raising a cry that the Democratic-Conservative party are striving to array race against race. This is false and they know it. It is the negro who is drawing the line of color. It is the negro who is throwing down the gage. They are clamoring for the passage of the civil rights bill. They are prescribing white men in sections where they are in a majority That the negro should be dissatisfied with the shabby treatment he has received from his white allies, in the limited quality of spoils given to him, is but natural, but that he should claim preferment and office simply because he is a negro, or wish to deny it to a white man because of a different of the skin, shows an antagonism founded in malice and hate, the result of the teachings of unscruplous white men. We repeat that the negro is forcing on us the issue of color, and unless a stop is put to it, self-protection, the first law of nature, will force us to accept it. In this the negro is prompted by the leaders of the unprincipled party with which he is now allied, and unless he rejects further leadership from such men a bitter antagonism will be brought about which will result most disastriously to the best interests of his race. We have a registered majority of over 45,000 white men, and with our bitter experience in the past of white Radical rascality and the fate of poor South Carolina to think over, an undue elevation of an inferior race, entirely under the influence of unscrupulous and designing white men who sink every other consideration for that of pelf and plunder, will not be quietly submitted to.—*News*

M. S. LITTLEFIELD.—The Editor of the Wilmington "Journal" is on a visit to Florida. He writes as follows of Littlefield:

Our quondam friend Littlefield still holds forth at Jacksonville, and we understand entertains his friends in royal style. He has a fine residence, elegant yacht and equipages, and enough money to purchase immunity from arrest, and those who know what Florida Governors are, well understand how much that takes.

He got four millions of dollars of Florida Bonds to complete the Jacksonville, Pensacola and Mobile Railroad from Quincy to Pollard, a distance of two hundred miles. He built twenty miles to Chattahoochee, and there it ends. To be sure he did not pay his contractors, but that was a species of financiering in which he was skilled by his experience in Western North Carolina.

During the pendency of the bill before the Legislature, Littlefield's drafts in sums convenient for commercial purposes were in circulation freely on the streets of Tallahassee. The members seem to have them to such an extent that one could suppose that their per diem had been paid in this scrip.

Northern Sentiment.

Alluding to the war in Arkansas, the New York *Herald* says:

The condition of the Southern States is a scandal. We can never feel that we have perfect peace until we have perfect reconstruction. Dante, in his immortal poem, speaks of visiting that hell where the surface of the black waters was ever bubbling. It was because of the sighs of suffering souls imprisoned beneath the waters. We never see these bubblings and restless movements of Southern society without feeling that they represent the imprisoned souls beneath, and hoping that the time may come when they will be released from their thraldom, and admitted to the responsibility of a generous and untainted citizenship. * * * Our best wishes go with the Southern people in their efforts to destroy the vampires who have fastened upon them and now have their will. Our reconstruction thus far is a scandal and a shame.—We have shown that we could destroy the Confederacy, but we have not shown how to restore the Union. Arkansas is only a series of distressing scandals.

A White Man's Party.

The Charlotte Democrat makes the following significant suggestion:

"It is every day becoming more apparent that here in North Carolina the white people will have to do as they did in Virginia at the last State election, organize a white men's party and declare that white man shall rule the State. The issue is being forced on the whites by the colored people themselves, and it is being forced on those who have been friends, but in whom the colored men seem to place no political confidence

* * * We are in favor of according to the colored man all necessary rights, but not as provided in the blood-letting Civil Rights Bill proposed by old Sumner. We shall always favor the rule of white men as the best means to promote the material interests of both black and white citizens."

Washington Allston, who stood at the head of American artists a half century ago, was at one time so reduced by poverty that he locked his studio in London one day, threw himself on his knees and prayed for a loaf of bread for himself and wife. While thus engaged a knock was heard at the door, which the artist hastened to open. A stranger inquired for Mr. Allston, and was anxious to learn who was the fortunate purchaser of the painting of "Angel Uriel," which had won the prize at the exhibition of the Royal Academy. He was told that it was not sold. "Where is it to be found?" "In this room," said Allston, producing the painting from a corner and wiping off the dust. "It is for sale, but its value has never been adequately appreciated, and I would not part with it." "What is the price?" "I have done fixing any nominal sum. I have always, so far, exceeded any offers. I leave it to you to name the price." "Will four hundred pounds be an adequate recompense?" "It is more than I ever asked for it." "Then the painting is mine," said the stranger, who introduced himself as the Marquis of Stafford, and from that time became one of Mr. Allston's warmest friends and patrons.

There was more than the usual ceremony in Mr. Beecher's church in Brooklyn on Sunday, occasioned by the accession of more than one hundred members to the communion. This was celebrated by a multitude of floral decorations and a cross surrounded by a crown, emblazoned "Victory." After the service, Mr. Beecher distributed the roses among the new members, a somewhat picturesque and appropriate custom. Then was sung a "Te Deum," after which Mr. Beecher made what might be called a joyful discourse. He did not think Christianity should be gloomy and painful. The New Testament was full of the idea of rejoicing; and joy, to Mr. Beecher's mind, was a sign of love, virtue and holiness. There was a popular idea that religion was a commercial transaction, paying a certain amount of sorrow here for the sake of a very large dividen of joy hereafter; but this was not the true view.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION.—It will be seen from our Albany news of this morning that the bill providing for the compulsory education of children was yesterday passed by the State Senate. It is right and proper that no child should be allowed to grow up to claim the rights of a citizen of the United States without having enjoyed the advantages of a common school education. Parents, of course, have a right to educate their children where and how they please; but the State has a right to say that they must be educated. More and more compulsory education will become law among the civilized nations. It has long been the law in Prussia, where it has worked wonders. It is now the law in England, and, sooner or later, the principle will be adopted by all the States of the Union.—*N. Y. Herald.*

The Supreme Court of Tennessee has decided as illegal a law, passed a few years since by the Legislature of that State, imposing a special or privilege tax. The grounds of the decision are:

First, that no power resides in one department of government to destroy another, or impair the free exercise of its functions; second, that lawyers constitute a part of the judiciary, and are essential to the free exercise of its functions, as well as for the protection of the citizen in all his rights as for the aid and instruction of the court in the administration of the law; third, that to allow the right of specific taxation as to lawyers, is to allow it as to the courts. There is no limit to this power of taxation, once admitted. In the exercise of it the Legislature could destroy, by taxing out of existence, the judiciary, and thus annihilate a cardinal branch of the government.

SMALL-POX.—Dr. Conrad, Professor of the Washington Medical University of Baltimore, in a recent paper read before the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland upon the treatment of small-pox, gives some interesting statistics concerning the number of cases treated at the Marine Hospital. Says he: "Had varioloid innoculation 1, died 1; never vaccinated or no cicatrik 410, died, 265; unknown if ever vaccinated 189, died, 90; said they had been vaccinated but no cicatrik 102, died, 61; having imperfect marks 262, died, 82, recently, that is from one to eight days, vaccinated 20, died, 18; having one good mark 166, died, 5, two or more good marks 84, deaths, none; total treated, 1,234, deaths 522; total mortality per cent, 42. There was not a singel case of death when the patient had a good mark from vaccination, done after the age of puberty. Doctor Conrad stated that of the numerous remedies he tried for small-pox scarcely any were of any efficacy; but a tablespoonful of vinegar taken three or four times a day was of more help than anything tried."

THE LICENSE QUESTION IN OHIO.—The Convention which is framing a new Constitution for the State of Ohio has been engaged for weeks in debating the question of regulating the sale of liquor. Finally, the Convention agreed to submit an article to be voted upon by the people separately from the Constitution. The vote is to be "License" or "No License." If "License" prevail, the Constitution will provide that license to traffic in intoxicating liquors may be granted, but the section shall not be so construed as to prevent the Legislature from making laws to restrain and regulate sales, and to compensate for injuries arising therefrom. If "No License" prevail, the Legislature will have power to prohibit the sale by whatever penalties may be deemed appropriate. Under the present Constitution, the sale of liquors in Ohio is free; that is to say, it is not licensed. The State gets no revenue from the traffic, which is carried on in a semi legal way. There is no prohibitory law, but there are laws which provide penalties for damages sustained from the purchase of liquor. If the license provision be adopted, the liquor dealers of Ohio will pay a license for the first time in many years.

THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES DECIDES FOR PROHIBITION—NOT AN INALIENABLE RIGHT.—The Supreme Court of the united States, in a case appealed from Iowa, has recently decided that a State can enact and enforce any and all prohibitions of the sale of intoxicating liquors, as the right to sell them is not one of the immunities and privileges of a citizen which the fourteenth amendment of the Constitution forbids the State to abridge.—*N. Y. Christian Weekly.*

Chief Justices Taney said: "If any State deems the retail and internal traffic in ardent spirits injurious to its citizens and calculated to produce idleness, vice or debauchery I see nothing in the Constitution of the United States to prevent it from regulating or restraining the traffic, or *from Prohibiting it* altogether if it thinks it proper."—5 Howard, 277.

A temperance movement has been commenced at Machester, England. On Sunday, April 12, a meeting took place on the fair ground at Knott Mill. From a temporary platform about a dozen workingmen's wives addressed an attentive crowd on the evils of intemperance. The chairwoman said she had been a teetoteller twenty-seven years and had never regretted it. Some of the speakers were members of the Good Templar lodges, and were styled "sisters," and all had in some way or other been brought over to total abstinance through the terrible example of drunken husbands or fathers. One woman introduced herself as "no faraway bird, but the daughter of old Joe Blank, the drunkenest man in Deansgate;" another speaker, also locally connected, said she "had been twenty-one years drink-cursed, having for a husband the greatest drunkard that ever walked the streets of Manchester." This woman's husband, who was at one time never without an excuse to thrash her, was now a reformed character. At the close of the speeches a number of persons took the temperance pledge.

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH.—The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the South assembled at the Public Library Hall, in Louisville, Friday morning. About two hundred delegates representing every Southern States except Virginia, were in attendance, including all of the six bishops. Rev Dr. Paine, as senior bishop, presides. Dr. T. O. Summers, of Nashville, was re-elected Secretary, and standing committees were appointed.

In the afternoon resolutions were offered providing for the appointment of a committee of seven to ascertain the parsonages and school buildings held, kept and claimed by the Methodist Episcopal Church in violation of the rights of the Methodist Church, South, and under what circumstances the Methodist Episcopal Church obtained possession of such property. The point being made that the resolution is very important, its discussion was postponed.

To the State Press.

The second Annual Convention of the Press of North Carolina will assemble in the city of Raleigh on Tuesday, May 12th 1874, at 10 o'clock a. m. The meeting will be held in the Senate Chamber.

Invitations to visit the various public institution, schools &c., have been extended, and accepted by the committee of arrangements for the Press Convention.

On the evening of May 13th the Board of Trade of Raleigh will give a splendid supper to the Press Convention and other invited guests.

Messrs. Holt & Moore, Haw River, N. C., have made arrangements for an excursion to their Mills and Factory, on May 14th, and a special train will leave Raleigh at 8 o'clock for that point, and return the same day.

Col. T. M. Holt, President of the N. C. Ag'l. Society, will give a complimentary dinner to the Press and other invited guests, at his residence, Haw River, on the 14th, at 2 o'clock p. m.

A hop will be given in honor of the Press Convention by the Oak City Pleasure Club on the evening of the 14th inst.

The hotel proprietors have very kindly offered the hospitalities of their houses to members of the Press *free of charge.*

Every arrangement has been made for a pleasant meeting, and a hearty welcome awaits our brethren of the editorial corps.

The programme will appear in the evening papers on Monday, May 11th, and morning papers of Tuesday, May 12th.

R. T. FULGHUM, Sec'y.,
N. C. Press Convention.
Raleigh, N. C., May 5:h '74.

A Wild Goose Story.

A very curious little stry, all about a flock of geese, comes to us from Butler county, California. On the 28th of last month a thunder storm passed over this district, accompanied dy hail and snow and very vivid forked lightning.

As the hail began to fall and the lightning flashed, thousands of wild geese, which were in the ponds of shallow water which exist in that locality during very wet winters, suddenly rose up in a great flutter, as if many hunters had discharged a volley among them. They went up and up, apparently to rise above the fearful cloud. It was nearly dark, and those who saw them rise thought no more of it until morning, when they began to find dead geese and hear of hundreds being picked up by the neighbors. Some seven hundred had been found. One man picked up on his farm all two horses could hall for their feathers. Their heads were badly torn and their bills split into fragments. Many of them had the feathers of their backs crisped and burnt and their bodies burst open. The portion of the country thus affected was about a mile and a half wide and reached several miles into Butts county. The terrible lightning in this cloud was witnessed by people on the Honcut in Yuba county and in the central portion of this county The thunder was heard twenty miles distant.

"Fifty Dollars, or I Scream."

The pranks of a lady—at least in appearance—along the line of the Missouri Pacific Railroad recently have caused the depletion of the pocket-book of several hotel proprietors at different towns, and among them Warrensburg, and while the money was parted with, there is still at least peace in the landlords' households. It will suffice to narrate how this female "did her little job" at Warrensburg, as related to a Dispatch reporter:

She visited the town in the capacity of a book agent, to impress upon the incredulous the advantage to be gained by a subscription to the "most interesting and instructive work ever published." Arriving in town at noon, she immediately went to a hotel, which shall be nameless, and registered. She was shown to a room and made her toilette. The next step was to ring a bell which ushered a boy in her presence, to whom she communicated the fact that she desired to see the landlord. The message was delivered to the landlord, and in the course of a few minutes he met her face to face in her room. As she entered the room she quietly locked the door, and placing the key in her pocket, said:

"Now, Mr.——, I wish to have a few moments, chat with you."

"Well, ma'am," replied the landlord. "What you have to say, say it quickly, for I am in a hurry."

In a very self-composed manner the book agent drew herself up, and said she: "Now, Mr. ——, you are a married man, are you not?"

"Yes, ma'am," meekly replied the landlord.

"You have children, two of whom are nearly of age, have you not?"

"Yes, ma'am," again replied the husband.

"Well, then," said the book agent, "if you have any respect for yourself or family, pay me fifty dollars or I will scream."

the landlord was bewildered, and being a mildman protested only in well-rounded phrases. This but made matters worse, and desiring to avoid a disagreeable reflection upon his wife and children he agreed to pay her fifty dollars; which he did, and on the evening train she left for Pleasant Hill, where it is said, she played the same game.

The landlord at Warrensburg thinks it rather expensive to pay fifty dollars to keep a woman from screaming, but there are only a few who know of it, and being a rather dignified gentleman, and one whose private character is spotless, he is not joked about it.—*St. Louis Dispatch, April* 20.

How They Drop Shot.

A reporter of the Baltimore *American* thus describes one of the many processes of making shot in one of the shot-towers of that city: One of the "secrets" of the manufacture is the mixing of the lead with a certain proportion of a combination of mineral substances called "temper." The "temper" is fused with the lead, and gives the molten metal that consistency which makes it drop. If it were not for the "temper" the lead would be moulded by the sieve, and would form little pencils instead of round shot. When "BB," shot, for instance, are to be made, the lead is poured into a pan perforated with holes corresponding to that size. The little pellets come pouring down in a continous shower, and fall into a tank filled with water on the ground floor. In their descent of 200 feet they become perfect spheres, firm and dense, and they are tolerably cool when they strike the water, although the swift concussion make the tank foam and bubble as if the water was boiling furiously. The shot must fall in water, for if they would strike any firm substance, they would be flattened and knocked out of shape. To get the little pellets perfectly dry after they have been in the "well" is the most difficult and troublesome process of the whole manufacture. An elevator with small buckets (very much like those used in flour mills) carries the shot up as fast as they reach the bottom of the "well," and desposits them in a box sixty feet above the first floor. The water drips from the buckets as they go up, and not much is poured into the receiver above, although it is intended to be a sort of dripping machine. From this receiver the shot run down a spout into a drying pan, which greatly resembles a gigantic shoe, made of sheet iron. The pan rests at an angle which permits the wet shot to roll slowly down to the chamber below, and the pellets become perfectly dry as they pass over warm sheet iron.

The roots of all plants are never revealed to the sunlight or the open air, but are hid under ground, so that they themselves are never seen; but they appear in their branches, flowers and fruits, whose green foliage, sweet fragrance and delightful flavor argue that there is a root and life in them. Thus, the graces of the Spirit emplanted in the soul, though themselves invisible, yet discover their being and life in the track of a Christian's life, marked at every stage by his words, his actions, and the frame of his carriage.