

VOL. VIII.—THIRD SERIES.

RHODA GRANT. CHAPTER III.

"Almighty God, Whose only Son Over sin and death the triumph won, And ever lives to intercede For sinners who Thy sweet mercy need; In His dear Name to Thee we pray For all who err and go astray; For sinners whosoever they be, Who do not serve and honour Thee."

hungry. He began almost to repent of his decision, and to wish to turn back again; but his pride and the thought of seeing his angry father kept him back, and he went to bed for food and shelter at a farm-house at the roadside. The farmer and his wife came to the door and thought he was a tramp, and the dog barked furiously. He began telling his story, and when he said he had run away from home they only laughed at him, and advised him to go back as soon as he could. Tom was beginning to cry, when the farmer's wife, who was not an unkind woman, gave him a large lump of bread, and said he might go and lie down for the night in some straw in one of the outhouses, but he must be off in good time in the morning. Tom with a heavy heart lay down in some straw in a wagon, and so passed his first night away from home.

Next morning he got up early, and finishing the bread, some of which he had kept for breakfast, he was soon on the road again. After eight or nine miles the beautiful green country began to change, and to grow black and desolate. Instead of blue sky and bright sun a sort of murky cloud seemed to cover the heavens, and the sunlight struggling through it was pale and sickly. The roads were quite black, and grass and hedges seemed choked with coal-dust. All the ground appeared to lie in large mounds and hollows; and as he went on further, great heaps of coal, and the yawning mouths of pits, began to appear. There was a loud sound of engines and clattering of chains, and colliers, covered with black dust from head to foot, were hard at work in all directions. After passing one pit, Tom came to a second, and here he stopped to look about him.

He saw groups of dirty-looking cottages, where the colliers with their wives and children lived. He saw the great engine, with that looked like a huge black arm, lifting load after load of coal out of the pit; and then, at intervals, there were men going up and down in what was called a "skip," a sort of basket drawn up and let down by a chain. Every now and then he heard the sad-sighing sound made by the blast furnace, and among the other noises there was an incessant hammering of boilers going on.

Tom felt so curious about the pit, that as he saw some men go down he went to the edge and looked over. He could see nothing but a yawning dark gulf, which seemed to reach down into the bowels of the earth, and a feeling of fear and horror so overcame him that he became sick and faint, and would have fallen if some one from behind had not grasped him firmly by the shoulder. A rough voice said, "What are you doing here, lad? You were just going to fall into the pit, if I had not held you. Thank God that you were not dashed to pieces!"

Tom looked round, and saw the honest, kindly face of one of the engineers of the pit. He soon told his story, encouraged by Mr. Randall's kind manner; the story, perhaps, of many boys who have gone to work at the mines. Mr. Randall looked grave when he heard he had run away from home, but promised to find some work for him, on condition that he should at once let his parents know where he was.

"You'll find it a hard life, my lad, and maybe the folk you'll meet are far rougher people than you ever met before in your own village. It's a dangerous life, too, I warn you; and a man goes to be prepared for death if he intends to be a miner, for death may come at any moment."

JUDGE SETTLE'S WORK IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

When Judge Thomas Settle was sent to South Carolina last winter to look after the Electoral vote of that State, every one knew that he was there in the special interest of the Hayesites, and he received his pay therefor by his appointment to the District of Florida. He pretended to be the zealous friend of Chamberlain and of the Republicans of that State, but this friendship and his special mission is but evidenced in the following which we take from a special report to the Charleston Journal of Commerce giving a synopsis of the speeches made attendant upon the members of the Mackey House applying for admission into the legal Hampton House, after the dissolution of the so-called Chamberlain government. Pending resolutions requiring that the claims of all applicants be referred without debate to a joint committee of the two Houses, Representative Hamilton, who had for merely left the Mackey House and joined with the Hampton wing, made an eloquent plea for the men who had hitherto abused him. We quote from the report of Hamilton's speech, which report draws out the facts regarding Judge Settle to which we referred:

THE CAUSE OF VIOLENCE IN THE SOUTH.

The most remarkable fact in the recent history of the Southern States is the instant and complete cessation of political disturbances, murder, violence and lawlessness which has followed upon the stoppage of Federal military interference. Arkansas, for instance, was so given over to lawlessness under the carpet-bag rule that Republicans declared constantly that they would not dare remain in the State if Congress did not oust the Democratic Governor Garland and maintain the Republican Brooks by armed forces. But, happily, Congress refused to do this. The State passed into the complete control of the Democrats in the spring of 1875, and peace, order, obedience to and respect for laws at once took the place of violence and lawlessness, and have been maintained ever since, no one making the least complaint. Indeed, a large negro emigration began to set into Arkansas from other States soon after it fell into the hands of the Democrats—surely a most forcible commentary on the wisdom of the policy of local self-government and Federal non-interference.

A GRAND OPPORTUNITY.

It is stated that over two hundred thousand Germans, mostly in independent circumstances, living in the south of Russia, are preparing to emigrate to the United States to avoid being drafted into the army. Taking the usual estimate that every adult is worth a thousand dollars to the State where he locates, this Russo-German host will add two hundred millions to productive industry of the States which they may select for their homes in this country.

FOR THE LADIES.

Jenny Lind's hair is snow white. A lady has been awarded a scholarship in the law department of University College, London. A young woman in New York has recovered \$600 from the dentist for breaking her jaw while pulling a tooth. "Courtship is bliss," said an ardent young man. "Yes, and matrimony is a blister," snarled an old bachelor. In Paris everything in feminine fashions is as tight as nature can endure. Chicago extends to husbands in some cases. Woman—lovely woman—may yet see the day when the telephone will take the place of the knot-hole in the yard fence. The telephone will be useful for paternal families to announce to his daughter and her lover sitting in the parlor that his eleven o'clock. Rev. Mrs. Van Cott wishes all the galleries in the Methodist churches would burn up, so as no longer to give refuge to meeting disturbing sinners.

Narrow Gauge Railroads.

It seems that Narrow Gauge Railroads are growing in favor rapidly in this State. The subject is being agitated and preparations are being made to build them in several different parts of the State. A co-incidence of Narrow Gauge railroad meetings occurs to-day. A meeting is held in this place in the interest of the C. & L. N. G. Railroad, and one held in Curry county to-day looking to the completion of the Greensboro and Mt. Airy Narrow Gauge. The people in that section are wide-awake on the subject, and are determined to finish their road, and we would be pleased to see a like interest manifested here as to our Narrow Gauge. This road will greatly aid in the building up of our country, and nothing should be left undone that would bring about an early completion.—Piedmont Press.

THE SOUTH.

A fairer region than the Southern States cover the sun never shone upon. The soil is adapted to the most useful and precious productions; it is irrigated by the grandest rivers that furrow the surface of the earth; imbedded in its mountains lie inexhaustible deposits of mineral wealth, and its climate is genial and propitious to labor and the enjoyment of life. The Southern people are a brave stock—gallant in the field, chivalrous in feeling and endowed with lofty traits of character. We wish them well. We desire nothing better than to help them to better days and to the revival of their former prosperity. Let them throw down the walls of separation that prejudice and sectionalism have built up, and their fields will grow green again beneath the fertilizing tide of enterprise, labor, and capital that will pour over them from the North. Let them imitate the example of Athens, who inscribed a universal welcome to the world on the gates of Athens, and the busy hum of industry will take the place of the lethargy that now reigns in their principal cities, and the seaports will again be the centres of prosperous trade and commerce. Above all, cease to proselity the stranger. If he seeks his own fortunes he will promote those of the people among whom he settles.

GENERAL LAND AND MINING REGISTRY.

The act establishing this Department, ratified in General Assembly, March 12th, 1877, provides for a General Land and Mining Registry, in connection with and under the control of the Department for the sale or disposition of real property as follows: Sec. 17. The said Department is authorized and directed to establish and keep in its office, in the city of Raleigh, a General Land and Mining Registry, wherein shall be recorded (if the owners shall so request) all the farming, mineral or other lands offered for sale in the State, with a brief and truthful description of the same. And the Department shall act as agent for the sale or disposition of such property as may be registered as herebefore provided, and shall sell or dispose of such property upon the terms and conditions as stated and fixed by the owner thereof; and the Department shall be allowed the sum of one dollar for registration, and two and one-half per cent. commission on gross amount of said transaction.

NEWS ITEMS.

DETERMINED TO COME. Maj. Wilson, President of the W. N. C. R. Road, is to be felt.—This week he increases his convict force to quite 400, has purchased four miles of iron and will begin laying it in a few days. We very much regret that circumstances which neither President Wilson nor Gov. Vance can control, prevent them from at once availing themselves of the law allowing 500 convicts to the Western Road. For want of funds to buy the necessary tools, &c., they now have quite as many of the convicts as the company can handle. Maj. Wilson will add to the number, though in small numbers, as rapidly as circumstances will permit. The business of the road will soon begin to increase, doubtless, and by the fall we hope to see full 500 able bodied men hard at it. Maj. W. hopes that all of us won't emigrate from Buncombe, but just wait awhile, and see if he does not mean solid, earnest business. Push ahead, gentlemen—Heaven knows we are all willing.—Asheville Citizen.

A Bit of Rascality that Didn't Work Well.

As an evidence of the class of men that U. S. Marshal Douglass has kept in his employ, we will simply relate an incident which occurred in this place last week, upon which comment is unnecessary. Deputy Sheriff Rich, the jailor for this county, visited Douglass' office for the purpose of obtaining the necessary blanks to be used in making up his account for keeping Federal prisoners in our county jail. Marshal Douglass' Clerk, one Cronenberg, furnishes the blanks wanted and volunteered to fill the same up, "they would then be all right." Mr. Rich said he could fill them up. Cronenberg said he was Col. Douglass' Clerk, and he was paid by the Government to do this work. Whereupon Mr. Rich left his statement of account and the blanks with the clerk to be filled. Subsequently calling for the same, they were handed him prepared, but at the same time he was requested to sign a note for \$25.00 for the work done. This he refused to do when Cronenberg demanded that he sign a \$10.00 note before taking the accounts, stating that it was customary for him to get pay for such work. Sheriff Rich not being the man he was looking for on this occasion, he filled to get his ten dollar note signed, which made him wrothly.

THE NEW BEDFORD (Mass.) STANDARD THREATENS THE SOUTH WITH A SOLID NORTH.

The New Bedford (Mass.) Standard threatens the solid South with a solid North. The Standard forgets, however, that the South is only solid as against Radical misrule and corruption, and has in this particular the sympathy of a solid Democratic North.

ALL SORTS.

Ignorance is at the bottom of a great deal of the crimes committed in this world. Many men do wrong because they do not know any better. But then a great many are wilfully ignorant. Paul Morphy, the noted chess player, of Louisiana, who is now practicing law in New York city, wishes it distinctly understood that he is not insane, statements to the contrary notwithstanding. It is stated that an illicit still in Georgia has a barrel of powder buried under it, and means for an explosion arranged in various ways, so that the first revenue officer that comes about will be sent on the fast air line to the moon. Col. J. C. Harper is President of the Board of Directors of the Western Insane Asylum. John A. Dickson, of Morganton, was made Secretary and Treasurer. Convict labor has been dispensed with on the work, it being decided that skilled labor was less expensive. The acute and quick-witted Rev. Amos A. Hayes, of Vermont, well known throughout New England, was once saucily accosted by an impudent tailor, with the question: "Mr. Hayes, how old do you suppose the devil is?" "Anybody keep your own family record?" was the immediate response. Joy to the Sewing World.—At noon to-day will expire the last of the series of patents upon the essential portions of the sewing machine, which have enabled the owners to exact a royalty from all manufacturers. From this date anybody can make a machine without legal hindrance, and we shall see prices tumble. Hereafter we can buy machines as cheap as they are sold in England, in the plate, which expires to-day is for the needle plate, an essential in every machine.—Albany Messenger, 24.

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