

BIBLICAL RECORDER

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JOSIAH WILLIAM BAILEY, EDITOR.

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THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

The Governor's message is an exhaustive paper. It is a complete report on the condition of the State's affairs and institutions; and every line of it is elevated. The Governor's utterances invariably mark him as a man of the nobler type. The reader will be more interested in his recommendations, and in his general policy, than in the information about the institutions, and we will therefore turn to them.

The first recommendation is that all property be assessed at its true value, whether railroad property or farm property. The Governor regards the present law as sufficient. It is a matter, therefore, of administration rather than legislation. Whether this will lead to a tax on railroad franchises or not, we cannot say. It is not wholly definite.

The chief subject on the Governor's mind is education—popular education, universal education. He pleads manfully against the division of the school funds according to the races. He not only argues from high ground, but he brings to bear the more impelling arguments of expediency and wisdom. We commend this section of the message to those of our readers who have differed with the Governor.

He recommends appropriations for buildings in the State University, the State Normal College, the State A. and M. College (white), and commends these and the other institutions heartily to the General Assembly.

His position against the employment of children is worthy of him: He recommends that the employment of children under twelve years of age be absolutely forbidden, and likewise that the employment of children for night work, under fourteen years of age, be forbidden. He also recommends that eleven hours be fixed as the extreme length of a day's labor in manufacturing establishments, and that in night work ten hours shall constitute a day.

He calls for separate provision for the dangerous insane in the Penitentiary. He says rightly, insane people, whether dangerous or otherwise, ought not be kept in the penitentiary. And he earnestly recommends the enlargement of our hospitals for the insane.

As to intoxicating liquors he recommends the passing of a law prohibiting the sale of liquor everywhere but in incorporated towns, and the application of the same restrictions that now apply to liquor-selling to liquor-manufacturing.

He makes a worthy plea against lynchings. He recommends the appointing of a Code Commission. He advises that North Carolina send a liberal exhibit to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis. He commends the Audubon Society for the protection of birds and game.

He hopes that the members of the General Assembly may see their way clear "to make a beginning in the discharge of our duty to the young criminals, who by your action may be saved and made useful men."

The State's indebtedness is \$319,419.41, due to increased cost of living and to low taxation assessments. It is impossible, he says, to meet the floating debt of the State, together with current expenses and the absolutely necessary permanent improvements. He recommends, therefore, an issue of \$500,000 in bonds to run for fifty years.

We regret that the Governor has taken this step. We understand his view of it; and we appreciate the fact that the bond issue is exceedingly limited. But a precedent of issuing bonds in time of peace is not wholesome. Another Assembly may convene and cite this precedent

for extravagance. Again, a State should pay as it goes. To argue that it cannot, is to argue that its system is wrong. There is no extraordinary reason to justify the extraordinary recourse to a bond issue. Moreover, the bond issue will be an invitation to plunging extravagance. If the present General Assembly shall issue bonds, we warrant that the next will find a larger deficit and a more urgent call for bonds than this one has. The heavy pressure in the lobby for increased appropriations these last ten years is responsible for the condition of the Treasury. Bonds in a time of peace cannot be explained and cannot be securely defended. According to the State Treasurer's report, the State's income is only a few thousand dollars less than its expense. A wise economy is always a wholesome precedent, and from any point of view a good thing. Practice economy, increase assessments, find new subjects of taxation; but do not set the precedent of issuing bonds in a time of peace and prosperity.

NEGRO LAND TENURE IN THE SOUTH.

The Rev. G. S. Dickerman contributes to the January number of the Southern Workman a valuable article, compiled from the last census, on the land tenure of Negroes in the South.

"The most remarkable exhibit of Negro ownership of farms," says the writer, "is afforded by Virginia and Maryland. Virginia contains 100 counties and only one, Accomac, has so small a proportion as 13.5 per cent of owners and managers. Only 9 counties have less than 40 per cent and only 79 less than 50 per cent. More than half of the counties have over 70 per cent, 33 over 80 and 12 over 90. Moreover, if we compare these figures with those for white farmers it will be found that in 39 counties a larger per cent of the negroes own their farms than of white farmers. It is very much the same in Maryland.

Of course it is to be borne in mind that these farms of the negroes are generally very small, especially as compared with those of the whites, often containing no more than two or three acres, and this perhaps in a swamp or pine barren where the ground is so poor as to be called almost worthless. Yet even in such cases, the actual ownership of a piece of real estate with the most modern improvements, signifies a great advance over a condition of absolute penury.

THANKSGIVING.

I will give thanks unto thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made:

Wonderful are thy works,

And that my soul knoweth right well.

My frame was not hidden from thee,

When I was made in secret,

And seriously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

Thine eyes did see my imperfect substance,

And in thy books were all my members written,

Which day by day were fashioned,

When as yet there was none of them.

How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God!

How great is the sum of them!

If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand:

When I awake I am still with thee.

—David, the man after God's own heart.

I make a record deeper than the skin. THE SOUL.

POSSESSION.

Cleon hath a million acres,

Ne'er a one have I.

Cleon dwelleth in a palace,

In a cottage I.

But the poorer of the twain

Is Cleon, and not I.

Cleon, true, possesseth acres,

But the landscape I.

Half the charms to me it yieldeth

Money cannot buy.

Cleon sees no charm in nature,

In a daisy I.

Cleon hears no anthems ringing

In the sea or sky.

Nature sings to me forever,

Earnest listener I.

State for state with all attendants,

Who would change? Not I.

THE HUMAN HEART.

(Selected.)

We may, if we choose, make the worst of one another. Every person has his weak points; every one has his faults; we may make the worst of these; we may fix our attention constantly upon these. But we may also make the best of one another. We may forgive even as we hope to be forgiven. We may put ourselves in the place of others, and ask what we should wish to be done to us, and thought of us, were we in their place. By loving whatever is lovable in those around us, love will flow back from them to us, and life will become a pleasure instead of a pain; and earth will become like heaven; and we shall become not unworthy followers of him whose name is Love.

There is a story of a German baron who made a great Eolian harp by stretching wires from tower to tower of his castle. When the harp was ready he listened for the music. But it was in the calm of summer, and in the still air the wires hung silent. Autumn came, with its gentle breezes, and there were faint whispers of song. At length the winter winds swept over the castle, and now the harp answered in majestic music.

Such a harp is the human heart. It does not yield its noblest music in the summer days of joy, but in the winter of trial. The sweetest songs on earth have been sung in sorrow. The richest things in character have been reached through pain. Even of Jesus we read that he was made perfect through suffering.

NOT FATAL, ALAS!

Please tell me, what is an adenoid? My son keeps his mouth wide open when he sleeps and snores a great deal. Whenever he has a cold he is a positive nuisance in the family. My doctor says he has adenoids, and must be operated on.—Mrs. Clara L., Batavia, Ill.

Your doctor is quite right in suggesting an operation which can be done without very much constitutional disturbance, and by using an anesthetic, without pain. The adenoid is a growth which comes in the back part of the nose, what in medical parlance is retro-nasal. No one ever dies from the presence of these growths but—Woman's Home Companion. The sentence is not completed. You may read it,—“But” they ought to; or,—“But” their wives do; or,—“But” their friends do.

We know some eminent Baptists that have adenoids. We favor raising funds to have them operated upon. We shall run the subscription acknowledgments individually not in the lump, in order that contributors may designate their beneficiaries. Name your man and send your money.