

## VOL. V.

### NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

#### A Column of Both Home and Foreign Happenings

#### ARRANGED FOR THE FIRESIDE.

Which Will Be of More or Less Interest to the General Reader.

The report of Commodore Melville, Chief Engineer of the Navy, has been made public and gives a detailed statement of the condition of all the warships, so far as their machinery and mechanical appliances are concerned. It shows that all the modern ships are in good condition; a few in which machinery is being overhauled. The old-timers are, as usual, reported antique, but not so much as they were some years ago. The New York Navy Yard has done the largest work of work, the expenditure \$346,927 on vessels, and the yardmaster, Mr. S. B. T. Norfolk yard disbursed \$122,320 on vessels, and \$49,471 on the yard. The Boston Navy Yard spent \$602 on vessels and \$10,115 on the yard. The Mare Island, California, yards disbursed \$123,302 on vessels and \$83,451 on the yard.

The report urges that a boiler-making plant be provided at the Norfolk Navy Yard, and the League Island yards. As to the new dry dock at Port Royal, S. C., it says: "The completion at this station of the only dry dock of the Atlantic coast, which will take the battleships, makes it imperative that there should be facilities for doing the ordinary repair work on the vessels which are placed in dry dock. The necessity for providing such repairs is too evident to require argument, especially as the great draft of water of these ships renders it almost impossible to take them either to Norfolk or New York Navy yards for repairs."

The Commissioner General of Immigration in his annual report shows that during the last fiscal year the arrivals of immigrants in this country were 443,267. Of these 240,366 were landed and 2,799 were debarred and deported at his expense of various steamship lines by which they were transported. Of those deported 776 were found to be under contract to perform labor in the United States made prior to their arrival and 2,023 were returned as belonging to other prohibited classes.

In addition 238 who had become public charges within a year after their arrival were returned to their countries. The Commissioner-General states that he knows of no immigrant landed in this country during the last year who is a burden upon any public or private institution. The amount of money brought into the country by immigrants was fully \$4,917,318, and probably largely in excess of that amount.

The report says statistics do not justify the conclusion that our alien population is growing in undue proportions. The figures for the past year compared with those for the annual immigration for the preceding ten fiscal years, discloses a decrease of over 21 per cent. It is stated at the Navy Department, in extension of the fact that the court of inquiry in the battleship Texas held behind closed doors, that it is not thought wise to give publicity to the probable weakness of the ship just at the present juncture when the eyes of other nations are directed to our naval military equipment. It is believed that the investigation is developing some startling facts about the structural strength of the ship's hull which has caused so much concern since her launch. The most remarkable thing about the recent flooding of the ship is that the water tight doors leaked and other compartments were flooded in addition to that in which the accident occurred. It is now developed on account of lack of stiffness in all the bulkheads of the ship and consequent warping of the frames and keel, that the water doors were closed fitted hermetically, as they should, and the cellular system of the vessel is therefore practically worthless.

The civil service commission will soon select a test case for prosecution in the courts to determine the extent to which the civil service law is applied in judicial assessment cases. There were many complaints of illegal assessments during and preceding the recent campaign, and various cases have been brought to the attention of the commission. The commission are now casting about for a fit case for a test and they will in a few days select one which they regard as likely to bring out the best results to civil service reform in a judicial decision.

While the findings of the naval court, which is investigating the recent foundering of the battleship Texas, have not yet reached the department, it is believed that the investigation is developing some startling facts about the structural strength of the ship's hull which has caused so much concern since her launch. The most remarkable thing about the recent flooding of the ship is that the water tight doors leaked and other compartments were flooded in addition to that in which the accident occurred. It is now developed on account of lack of stiffness in all the bulkheads of the ship and consequent warping of the frames and keel, that the water doors were closed fitted hermetically, as they should, and the cellular system of the vessel is therefore practically worthless.

Although the House committee on appropriations meets November 20th for the commencement of the session, the bills the estimates of the various departments have not been completed. The law requires these estimates to be submitted to the Secretary of the Treasury by October 1st, but this law has always been ignored under all administrations. In partial from the estimates will be ready when the House committee meets but will not be made public.

Upon the recommendation of the Secretary of the Treasury the President has ordered the revenue cutters Woodbury, Dallas, Hamilton, Windom and Morrill to cruise along the Atlantic coast from December 1st to April 1st, for the purpose of affording such aid as may be favorable to vessels in distress.

A medal of honor has been awarded to Thornton L. Taylor, late a first lieutenant in the United States Army, who was killed in the battle of Chancellorsville. During the engagement he saved the lives of two wounded comrades by carrying them from the field to a place of safety.

The Treasury Department has issued a call for the redemption of United States 6 per cent bonds issued under the acts of July 1, 1862, and July 2, 1864, in aid of certain Pacific railroads. The bonds are certain known as currency bonds, being due January 1, next.

The State Department is informed that the President of Nicaragua has granted amnesty to over 500 persons implicated in the revolution of last February and the conspiracy of September 8 last. The members of the rebel government and the principal generals of the defeated forces are not included in pardon.

### WEEKLY NEWS BUDGET.

#### Southern Pencil Pointers.

At Columbus, Ga., a rabid mule bit his driver, Joe Woten, and in a few minutes the mule was killed. He became worse, and though the wound has been cauterized, he developed symptoms of hydrophobia and is expected to die.

Fires at Atlanta, Tex., destroyed five of the best houses in that city. The loss, \$75,000, partly covered by insurance.

At Selma, Ala., Al and Bob Holly, brothers were killed at a negro cake-walk by the Hayes brothers, Henry and Jack. The Hayes brothers fled.

At Augusta, Ga., fifteen head of milk cattle, five horses and three mules were burned to a crisp. Loss, \$2,500.

Chas. B. Crisp has been nominated for Congress to fill the unexpired term of his father, Hon. C. F. Crisp, deceased.

A lynching occurred on the State line between North Carolina and Tennessee. Friday Mitchell, 35 years of age, for assault upon a child, was taken from officers at Allantown and hanged.

Geo. H. Hoffer, cashier of the first National Bank of Lebanon, Ky., is a self-confessed embezzler to the extent of \$110,000. He has been at it for six years.

A thorough investigation into the charges made by Jacksonville, Fla., gamblers against the mayor and police officials of that city is necessary.

Property owners in West Central City, Va., are putting up a building to prevent the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad men from laying tracks through their premises to connect with a number of big industries on the river front. They threaten to shoot anyone who trespasses.

A special to the Louisville Times from Danville, Ky., says: An attempt to burn the Danville Jail has been made and property to the extent of \$15,000 was destroyed. An unknown negro who was driven from a livery stable is suspected.

A special from Versailles, Ky., says all toll gates in Woodford county has been cut down and the tolls are now \$100. Similar depredations have been committed recently in Franklin, Owen, Anderson and Washington counties. The mules are composed of men who demand free turpicks in Kentucky.

At St. Louis, Mo., the national convention of the W. C. T. U. adjourned sine die Wednesday. To the executive committee is left the duty of selecting the place for the twenty-fourth annual meeting.

The choice lies between Buffalo, N. Y., and Detroit, Mich., but the choice may not be made for some time.

#### All About the North.

Announcement has been made in New York by the Children's Aid Society that Wm. Waldorf Astor had made a gift of \$50,000.

L. P. Hazen & Co. of Cincinnati, have been awarded the contract for the building of the new jail at Atlanta, Ga. Their bid was \$200,000.

The twenty round contest between Casper Leon, of New York, and Dave Sullivan, of Boston, before the Bohemian Athletic club resulted in a draw.

The Ohio Iron Company's furnaces and roll mills at Zanesville have shut down on account of lack of coal.

At Pittsburg, Pa., the differences between the window glass workers and the manufacturers which have kept the factories of the county idle since May 30, have been settled. The workers have received a 10 per cent increase on their wages.

The pressmen of the Chicago Evening Journal are out on a strike because the management refused to recognize the union.

In New York, Frank P. Slavin, of Australia, has been elected Mayor of Chicago.

The fourth round Slavia after two minutes and fifty-six seconds of fighting, threw up his hands and quit.

At Cleveland, O., Irishmen and Hungarians have a bloody street riot in which knives and clubs were used with dire effect.

The State convention of Nebraska sugar beet growers, just closed, has passed resolutions in favor of the United States producing its own sugar and properly protecting the beet growers of Nebraska.

G. W. G. Ferris, inventor and builder of the Ferris wheel, died at Mercy Hospital, Pittsburg, Pa., where he had been treated for a week for typhoid fever. The disease is reported to have been brought on through worry over numerous business matters.

William Porter, 13 years old, was blown to atoms by a charge of nitro-glycerine on the farm of Samuel Deffenbaugh near Millersville, Pa., with several other boys. The charge was exploded by a boy named Deffenbaugh who was sinking an oil well. The boys found a quantity of nitro-glycerine, which was being used for drilling purposes. Porter in some way exploded it. All that the family have been able to find is a piece of skull and the boy's shoes.

President McKinley will be invited to attend the convention of the International Epworth League in Toronto, Ont., next July. The British empire is a race next year from Dover, England, to the Island of Heligoland.

A special from Paris says an actress named Mmie Glayules has been swindled out of 2,000 pounds (\$10,000) worth of jewels by an American named Caruben, who represented himself as the agent of the Watson company, New York, prepared to advance money on valuables.

Lo-Fengle, Wu-Twing-Fan and Hwang-Lum-Haeln, have been appointed respectively Chinese Minister to London, Washington and Berlin. Yang, the Chinese Minister at Washington, has been transferred to St. Petersburg.

### WAR DEPARTMENT WORK.

#### Secretary Lamont Makes His Annual Report.

#### STATE OF OUR FIGHTING FORCE.

Coast Defenses Being Improved With Great Rapidity—More Artillery Needed—Work at West Point is Highly Commended—New Ideas About National Guard Estimates for the Year.

WASHINGTON, D. C. (Special).—Secretary Lamont's report of the operations of the War Department for 1895 shows total expenditures aggregating \$51,903,898, of which \$13,595,098 was for pay of the army, \$1,488,286 for subsistence, \$2,867,454 for season's defenses and \$17,844,663 for river and harbor improvements.

The unexpended appropriation turned back into the Treasury at the end of last year was \$1,975,033, making, with two previous years, more than \$5,000,000.

Much of the report is devoted to a detailed exhibit of the work accomplished and now under way on the coast defenses.

On July 1, 1895, of our modern defense but one highpower gun was mounted. By July 1 next seventy highpower breech-loading guns and ninety-five breech-loading mortars of modern design will be in position, and by the following July 1 128 guns, 153 mortars.

A battery of two or three of these guns takes the place of the former pretensions fort, and is vastly more effective.

The subject of coast defenses is elaborately discussed, and the statement is made that the Endicott project, modified by the Engineer Corps, is in a fair way to be carried out, providing batteries and mines that are calculated to protect American ports from any fleet that could assault them.

Since the adoption of the present coast defense scheme \$26,457,169 has been appropriated, more than one-third of which was provided at the last session of Congress.

The armament of troops with the new magazine arms was completed in May, and the armory is turning out 125 rifles or cartridges per day. All the ammunition for small arms now made is supplied with small arms powder of American manufacture.

But little change has occurred in the water levels of the Great Lakes during the past year, and as no water has yet been drawn for use in the Chicago Drainage Canal, no further facts can be given as to the probable effect of abstracting 10,000 cubic feet of water per second from Lake Michigan. The

importance of providing reliable data concerning the probable effect of this and the opening of connecting channels is urged upon Congress.

The army consists of 25,426 officers and men, or 284 below the legal maximum. The effective field strength on October 31 was 23,829.

Secretary Lamont calls attention to the fact that more line officers are now serving with their regiments than at any time since the war.

The discipline of the troops was never better than now. The trials by general courts-martial decreased fifteen per cent during the year, and never has the health of the troops been so good.

Under the new recruiting system 2488 men were enlisted last year, one-half at garrison posts without expense. Desertion is decreasing. Deserters in 1893 numbered 3578, in 1894 1632 and last year 1355.

The excellent military exercises of the corps of cadets at West Point has never been surpassed, and the corps numbers 322, the largest number ever attending at that institution. The thirty-five officers assigned to duty with the National Guard report steady improvement. Camps of instruction were held in thirty-one States and in several instances regular troops were encamped with the militia. The National Guard aggregate 111,887 officers and men. To maintain this force the States appropriate \$2,550,000 and the Government \$400,000.

Investigation this year has shown serious deficiencies in the arms and equipment of the militia. Secretary Lamont recommends that the Springfield rifle, calibre forty-five, be issued, that the States be allowed to return to the War Department obsolete arms.

The 310 Apache prisoners of Geronimo's band at Fort Sill have reached a self-supporting condition. Secretary Lamont recommends that the 35,000 acres they occupy be acquired by the Government, and that they be placed under control of the Indian Bureau.

The estimates for the year ending June 30, 1898, for permanent defenses and their armament amount to \$10,482,268, in addition to \$2,500,000 required to meet contracts authorized by the Fortification act of June 6, 1896.

Fire to the Jail. Thomas Carey and "Hoppy" Hopkins were locked in jail at Mead, Ark., charged with disorderly conduct, and shortly afterwards the jail was discovered to be on fire and before Carey and Hoppy could be rescued they were burned to death. It is believed they set fire to the jail, hoping to escape.

Southern Express Officers. At Savannah, Ga., the Southern Express company held its annual meeting last week and the following officers were elected: H. B. Plant, president; M. F. Plant, vice president; M. J. O'Brien, vice president and general manager; George H. Tilley, secretary and treasurer.

A Great Lock. A German has, it is said, invented a safe that on its lock being tampered with, throws open its doors, seizes and drags and locks in the burglar, and hands him and holds him in readiness to be conducted to the police court in the morning. A man in Manchester is going to improve upon this, and is experimenting upon an automation that will fix the burglar across his knee, and amuse him with a stick until the police arrive.

England doesn't hesitate at all to practice with her war ships—when she is certain that the fellow she is practicing on hasn't a warship of his own.

### THE APPOINTMENTS

Of the Western North Carolina Conference, as Read by Bishop Gal-lowsay.

The Western North Carolina Methodist Conference, after a six days' session, at Salisbury, adjourned Monday after making the following appointments:

CHARLOTTE DISTRICT, J. R. BROOKS, P. M. Charlotte, Tryon Street and North Graham Street—W. W. Bays and J. F. Butt. Trinity and Dilworth—S. B. Turentine and P. T. Durham. Church Street—H. L. Atkins. Brevard Street—C. M. Campbell. Charlotte circuit—R. S. Howie. Pineville circuit—T. W. Smith. Matthews circuit—T. P. Bonner. Sandy Ridge circuit—J. W. Clegg. Waxhaw circuit—A. W. Plyler. Clear Creek circuit—R. F. Bryant. Monroe station—W. R. Ware and W. M. Robbins. Monroe circuit—J. H. West. Polkton circuit—Supply B. F. Fincher. Ansoville circuit—G. D. Hermon. Wadesboro station—Parker Holmes. Morven circuit—R. M. Taylor. Lilesville circuit—J. C. Postell.

ASHEVILLE DISTRICT, D. ATKINS, P. M. Asheville, Central church—O. W. Byrd. North Asheville—E. L. Bain. Haywood Street—M. A. Smith. Bethel and Biltmore—J. W. Downum. Weaverville circuit—L. E. Stacey. Sulphur Springs circuit—Wilbur Leggett.

Swannanoa circuit—G. F. Kirby. Leicester circuit—L. F. Cordell. Cane Creek circuit—J. A. Sorocosa. Saluda circuit—E. M. Crowder. Hendersonville station—W. H. Willis.

Mill River circuit—E. H. Poe. Brevard circuit—L. A. Falls. Ivy circuit—Supplied J. B. Hyder. Hot Springs circuit—G. T. Rowe. Spring Creek circuit—T. B. McCurdy. Marshall circuit—T. F. Gibson. Sunday-school editor—James Atkins.

FRANKLIN DISTRICT, T. E. WAGO, P. M. Franklin station—D. F. Carver. Franklin circuit—J. H. Bradley. Macon circuit—E. B. Shelton. Waynesville station—B. D. Sherrill. Clyde circuit—T. B. Johnston. Canton circuit—W. G. Mallonee. Haywood circuit—W. M. Boring. West Haywood circuit—A. W. Jacobs.

Webster and Dillboro station—J. J. Gray. Highland circuit—G. J. Owen. Cullowhee circuit—R. L. Sprinkle. Whittey circuit—J. W. Bowman. Bryson City station—J. E. Abernathy. Andrews circuit—J. T. Stover. Hayesville circuit—F. W. Bradley. Hiwassee circuit—Sup. Z. V. Cordeau. Murphy station—J. H. Brendel. Bethel Academy—J. R. Long, sup. GREENSBORO DISTRICT, P. J. CARRWAY, P. M.

Greensboro, West Market street—J. H. Weaver. Centenary—J. E. Gay. Greensboro circuit—W. S. Hales. Reidsville station—H. F. Christyberg. Ruffin circuit—J. B. Tarbor. Wentworth circuit—J. M. Price. Jameson circuit—S. D. Stamey. Pleasant Garden circuit—S. T. Barber and P. L. Grooms; J. H. Craven, sup.

High Point Station—S. H. Hilliard. Redman station—J. E. Wooley. Ashboro station—A. A. Crater and G. H. Crowell. Ramsear station—H. H. Jordan. Randolph station—R. S. Webb. Uwharrie station—T. S. Ellington and L. W. Crawford. East Uwharrie circuit—E. G. Pusey. Trinity High School—J. W. Strider and Sup. T. A. Smoot. V. L. Marsh, student at Randolph-Macon College.

MORGANTON DISTRICT, J. W. JONES, P. M. Morganton station—W. H. Leith. Morganton circuit—W. V. Hunsbott.

Table Rock circuit—L. L. Smith. Marion Station—T. G. Rogers. Old Fort circuit—E. Meyers. McDowell circuit—W. H. Perry. Rutherfordton circuit—G. W. Ivey. Broad River circuit—J. B. Carpenter. Green River circuit—J. D. Carpenter.

Burnsville—Sup. R. H. Penland. Bald Creek circuit—J. D. Gibson. Bald Creek circuit—M. Y. Seale. Elk Park circuit to be supplied. Estateo circuit—W. S. Cherry. North Cove circuit—Sup. M. L. Taylor. Silver Creek Mission—Sup. J. C. Brown.

MT. AIRY DISTRICT, H. M. BLAIR, P. M. Mt. Airy Station—W. R. Barnett. Mt. Airy circuit—J. P. Rogers. Pilot Mountain circuit—T. H. Peagram. Dobson circuit—Sup. S. D. Moore. Elkin and Jonesville stations—W. L. Sherrill. Wilkesboro circuit—W. L. Dawson.

North Wilkesboro circuit—H. C. Sprinkle. Sparta circuit—W. K. Boyer. Healing Springs circuit—Seymour Taylor. Jefferson circuit—A. J. Burruss. Watanga circuit—A. G. Gant and W. L. Nicholson. Creston circuit—J. P. Lanning. Boone circuit—E. W. Dixon.

SALISBURY DISTRICT, J. R. SCHOOP, P. M. Salisbury, Church street—T. F. Marr.

Chestnut street—Sup. A. L. Coburn. Salisbury circuit—D. P. Tate. Woodleaf circuit—J. F. England. China Grove circuit—J. A. Peeler. Concord, Central church—J. E. Thompson.

Forest Hill—J. D. Arnold. Bay's chapel—W. E. McGhee. Concord circuit—G. G. Harley. Mt. Pleasant circuit—A. E. Wiley. Salem circuit—J. J. Brooks. Norwood circuit—A. A. Clark. Albemarle circuit—L. L. Johnson. Gold Hill circuit—C. M. Gentry. Lexington station—R. H. Parker. Linwood circuit—J. S. Nelson.

Thomasville station—L. T. Mann. SHELBY DISTRICT, J. J. BURN, P. M. Shelby Station—C. G. Little. Shelby circuit—T. T. Salyer. King Mountain circuit—Z. Paris. Gastonia station—W. M. Bagt. Madenville circuit—M. T. Steele. Stanley Creek circuit—P. E. Parker. Mt. Holly circuit—C. O. Wilson. Mountain Island station—R. L. Onwby. Lincolnton circuit—W. E. Womble. Lowesville circuit—D. M. Litzker. Cherryville—J. P. Reynolds. South Fork circuit—E. M. Merritt. Bellwood circuit—A. R. Surratt. Folkville circuit—J. D. Rowle. Forest City circuit—J. A. Cook. Henrietta station—J. A. Rowles. Bessemer City circuit—J. W. Roberts. Bellwood High School. STATESVILLE DISTRICT, J. C. ROWE, P. M. Statesville station—R. M. Hoyle. Statesville, West End, James Wilson, Sup., and R. G. Barrett. Statesville circuit—J. O. Shelley. Iredell circuit—S. S. Gasque. Mooresville station—M. H. Hoyle. McKendree station—R. G. Tuttle. Troutman circuit—J. B. Moore. Mt. Zion station—Ira Irwin. Rock Springs circuit—J. C. Mook. Catawba circuit—C. C. Brothers. Newton circuit—M. D. Giles. Hickory station—F. L. Townsend. Connelly Springs circuit—P. L. Terrell and R. S. Abernathy. Lenoir station—T. A. Boone. Lenoir circuit—J. H. Moore. Caldwell circuit—Albert Sherrill. Alexander circuit—L. M. Brower. Student—Latta H. Triplett, Trinity; N. R. Richardson, Conference colporteur.

WINSTON DISTRICT, F. E. WOOD, P. M. Winston Centenary—W. S. Creasy. Burkhead—G. W. Callahan, W. W. Alba, superan. Grace Church—J. A. B. Fry. Winston circuit—J. H. Fitzgerald.

Forsyth circuit—M. C. Field. Madison circuit—C. E. Sherrill. Danbury circuit—T. W. Mansfield. Stokes circuit—W. H. L. McLaurin. Davidson circuit—D. H. Cowan. Zion and Prospect—J. J. Edes. Kernersville circuit—W. M. Curtis. Summerfield circuit—B. A. York. Yadkinville circuit—S. P. Douglas. East Bend circuit—C. A. Wood. Mocksville station—J. A. Green. Mocksville circuit—R. H. Vestal. Farmington circuit—M. T. N. Stephens.

TRANSFERRED. W. D. Sasser to North Carolina Conference; J. H. Hall to Denver and stationed at Morrison Memorial; A. P. Tyrer to North Carolina; C. F. Evans to Kentucky and stationed at Lexington.

### LOVES HER CHICKENS.

Odd Pets of Jessie Bartlett Davis, the Sweet Singer.

A few miles from Chicago is Willowdale farm, the property of Jessie Bartlett Davis, the sweet contralto of the Bostonians. Every summer Mrs. Davis surrenders up her professional duties, forsakes the whirl of society and the summer resorts, and hies herself to her comfortable farm house in its grove of willow trees and becomes for a few weeks a veritable country dame. Off toward the west of the house, writes a recent visitor, lie the stables, crowded with thoroughbred horses. Among them is Paloma, the white Arabian mare, a favorite with the singer. Next to the stables lies the kennel, noisy with the bark and whine of collies and fox terriers.

"Horses and dogs are glorious beasts," said Mrs. Davis. "They are worthy of man's highest care and attention. But, oh, I am so afraid of them. I love animals, but I cannot make pets of them all. Come with me and I shall show you what I love best."

And she led the way to her barnyard, where coops and henarries held sway. Without a hat to shield her head from the sun, and dressed in a simple light gown, open at the throat so that the winds may strengthen the fair skin and delicate muscles that surround the seat of her power, she goes forth every morning directly after breakfast to feed and tend her family of 400 chickens. Think of it! 400 beautiful white leghorn fowls, with feathers like snow and combs like flaming poppy headresses! Imagine her standing at the gateway when the sun has just risen gloriously, her sleeves rolled up from her dimpled arms, her yellow hair radiant in the light! Suddenly she lets out her rich contralto voice in its full power, singing a morning call to her pets. Then, like an avalanche, 400 white, noisy things, summoned by the well-known voice, come, half running, half flying, to her feet, and approach fearlessly her gentle hand as she stoops to scatter meal about the ground.

"These are my pets," she said. "White leghorns. I am fond of my chickens. They come up to me, and seem almost to demonstrate fondness for me in return. I take the greatest pleasure in the world in caring for them, setting my hens and raising the broods of young. I spend the entire morning in the barnyard, often to the neglect of my practicing."

### BILL ARP'S LETTER.

#### MEETS AN OLD FRIEND WHO RECALLS THE DIM PAST.

#### Philosopher Tends the Flowers and Sweeps the Walks.

Now that the elections are all over, let us wash our hands and turn over a new leaf. It is a curious paradox that a general rule a man can't be elected until he first falls from grace. Politics makes a strange mixture of Calvinism and Arminianism. But I reckon we will all survive our disappointments and, as Dr. Miller used to say, learn to spell the word acquiesce. He always pronounced it with the first e long like it was acquiesce. This seems to be the young men's era and I reckon they can run the machine, but I must say that it has been a long time since I have had my choice in anything outside of home. I am doing reasonably well under my own vine and fig tree, where I am elected all the time. The fact is, I never fall from grace inside of my own premises, though sometimes things are not calm and serene even there.

I worked hard yesterday clearing up the flower garden and got in quite a sweat of perspiration. The leaves from our big trees had blown all over the beds and the chrysanthemums had fallen down and had to be staked up and tied and the old cans stooks had to be cut down and removed. By the time I had got everything in good order and the leaves all burned and the walks raked out I thought it was about time to receive some praise from somebody, for I had observed that Mrs. Arp was sewing by the open window and occasionally gave me an uxorial glance. And so I sat down on the lawn and mopped the honest dew from my aged forehead. Suddenly she drew near the window and remarked:

"I wish you could just see Mrs. Crawford's front yard and flower garden; they are as clean as a parlor. I was there yesterday at the meeting of the aid society and everything was lovely. Mr. Crawford certainly knows how to keep a place in order."

Well, that disturbed my tranquility a little and I was about to say maybe you had better get him to come up here and fix this one, but I didn't. But I wasn't serene at all and ventured to remark that Mr. Crawford didn't do it, for he had to weigh cotton all day and I reckon it was Mrs. Crawford's work. I paused for a reply, but she resumed her needle and thread and I sat and ruminated. When I came to dinner I continued my broken remarks and said that Mr. Crawford didn't have four acres of big oak trees to litter up his little front yard and I thought that a carpet of rich brown leaves was an unsightly thing no-how. She asked me to send down my plate for some chicken. After another pause I remarked that I had long since found out that we couldn't have every good thing in one place. We couldn't have a beautiful grove and a fine flower garden near it for flowers won't grow under shade. Those beautiful roses that Mrs. Laramore sent me have the sunshine all the day.

"Let me help you to do one of these poached eggs," she said.

"But I reckon," said I, as I handed my plate, "Mrs. Crawford had things fixed up extra fine because the aid society was coming."

"It is going to meet here next week," my wife remarked in a mollifying tone of voice. "Won't you have a glass of buttermilk; it is fresh and good."

And so I gave it up, and after dinner she came out and was quite profuse in her admiration, for she knows that it takes lots of encouragement to keep me at work. I'll keep on cleaning up until that aid society comes and goes. I'll watch the leaves as they fall and catch 'em in my hat. I'll sweep and sweep every walk and then Mrs. Crawford can be so kind and please me to Mr. Crawford and put him in pants. I'm going to put out two more rows of strawberry plants today, for she hinted that we had hardly enough. I heard her tell the girls that she was ashamed of the old patched-up carpet in the dining room, for it had been down for four winters, and she wished she did have a large rug to put under the table. I'll surprise her with one some of these days when I sell my gold mine. It will sell now, I reckon, since McKinley was elected, for there is gold in it. It was the only thing I had that Sherman's bummers didn't pick up and carry off.

I traveled the other day with an old soldier from Atlanta to Cartersville. He couldn't find a seat, and looked troubled as he toted his old valise up and down the aisle. So I pulled his coat and made him sit down by me. He looked thankful and in reply to my inquiry, said he was going to Calhoun, and from there to his son-in-law's in the country, a couple of miles. He said he wanted to see Sally and her children mighty bad.

"Sally is a powerful good woman," said he, "and she has a good, industrious husband, and they are gittin' along mighty well considerin'." My old woman died eight years ago, and I'm so lonesome at home that I go about and about and stay with our married children. That's all that an old man can do for comfort."

This old veteran was nearing his four score and was still quite alive and lively. He followed old Joe Johnston all the way down from Chittanooga and had never been over the ground since. How the old man's eyes brightened as I pointed out Kennesaw mountain, though he said he marched on the other side, toward New Hope church.

"We had a hard fight over there," he said, "and we valiantly salvaged

om, as the boys said. We kept old Sherman powerful busy burying of his dead."

I pointed out Lost mountain, and when we reached the station that they used to call Big Shanty, the old man stretched up another inch and pointing his trembling hand, said: "Right over there is the spring where I used to fill my old canteen. Yes, I would be glad to stop long enough to walk over there and take one more drink of that water. We licked them yankees all around here, but there was too many of 'em—too many. They just come up out of the yearth like locusts in Egypt."

The old man was familiar with every place we passed, and talked fast and eagerly. When he told me he was from old Winnett and had a farm on Yaller river, I was drawn closer to him and asked him about the Craig and Vaughans and the old Moses Liddell place and Shoal creek and Montgomery's mill pond and Fairview church and the old manual labor school. The old man looked at me again and again with a bewildered curiosity and finally ventured to ask what my name be.

"Did you know the Alexanders and Stricklands and Nathan Hutchins?" said I.

"Oh, yes, I knowed Dr. Alexander and all his boys," and all the Stricklands from old Milza down, and I knowed the Hutchinses. I come down to Atlanta with Fitz Hutchins the morning. He's one judge, you know, and he's a good friend of mine. I knowed all the boys. Clarence ain't fur from me."

"What mont your name be?" said he.

"Did you know an old man in Lawrenceville named Asa Smith?" said I