

THE MORNING POST

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ROBERT M. PHILLIPS Editor

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The Post will publish brief letters on subjects of general interest. The writer's name must accompany the letter.

Brief letters of local news from any section of the state will be thankfully received.

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1905.

POSTERITY WON'T BE BOTHERED

Mr. John P. Heap, discussing the mortality among negroes in Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York in the National Magazine, gives figures to show that, although the white population of those cities is almost twenty times as great as the colored, the average percentage of mortality is 19 for the former race and 31 for the latter.

Mr. Heap gives as his explanation of this state of affairs that the negro as a rule sleeps where he can, eats what he can get and when he can get it, that he is not governed by any rules or laws of sanitation, that by reason of his poverty and in obedience to his instincts he crowds into the cities and there lives in the most unhealthy sections and is given over to indulgences, licentiousness and crime, that instead of being encouraged to increase the size of his family, the tendency is constantly the other way, that although the birth rate is constantly being lowered, yet because of his manner of living in crowded, dirty, ill-ventilated, poorly heated quarters and his consequent tendency to crime and disease, the death rate is getting higher, the mortality among negro children, especially in the larger cities, being something horrible to contemplate.

In Washington for the year 1902, Mr. Heap says, there were 715 deaths among colored children under one year old, or at the rate of 458.3 per 1,000 colored population under one year old.

What is true of the cities mentioned is also true in a general way of the southern cities, and the fact, regrettable as it is from a humane standpoint, is but another bit of testimony in the chain of evidence that is driving unbiased and independent thinkers to a realization that the days of the negro as a race to be reckoned with in the United States are, if not actually numbered, still coming to a close so far as our posterity is concerned, and if there be any real negro problem at all, it is generally admitted that our posterity is much more concerned with it than are we of this day and generation.

And in the light of figures like those quoted above, it looks as if our children and our children's children will not be seriously troubled with any negro problem.

The Morning Post is in receipt of the following wired information from Morehead City: "Somebody is away off their base about our Postmaster Morton ever voting the Democratic ticket. He never did, a full fledged Republican he has always been, while Willis, who wishes to succeed him, has always been a Democrat." You pays your money and you takes your choice.

HOLD OUT THREE WEEKS

All appearances indicate that right now is the crucial time for the cotton farmer of the south so far as this season's crop is concerned, and the outcome of this season's crop will have much effect on the prices next season, in the nature of things. Everybody is at sea, more or less, and there is no way to arrive at any definite facts as to the size of the crop. It's a genuine puzzle, with the odds in favor of the man who lays low and says nothing and saws wood against the cold blasts of winter, for at least he may be reasonably sure that he is losing nothing.

It surely is a puzzle. In the face of the big reduction in acreage and the generally expressed conviction that the crop would be a short one comes the last report of the government with its startling condition figures of 71.2, when some sixty-odd was confidently expected, even by the most pronounced bears. There are those, of course, who say that this report does not mean much for the reason that in a number of sections ginning was much earlier this season than usual. There may be something in that, but then others point out how in a great many localities the season was much later than usual. Then, as was to be expected, there are still others who have lost all confidence in the government reports, and refuse to pay any attention to this last one. If one tries to figure out the situation by a comparison of the reports of former years with the figures this year up to date, he is soon lost in the confusion of percentages and the apparent contradictions. As we said just now, it's a puzzle.

That is, it's a puzzle to try to predict the size of this year's cotton crop, but it's no puzzle for the cotton farmer to determine what to do just at this time when no one seems to know exactly where he is at. His best course is hinted at above, lay low, say nothing, saw wood for the winter and take no cotton to town. There's a rule in whist that says: "When in doubt, play trumps." There should be a rule in the cotton game saying: "When in doubt, hold your cotton."

Daniel J. Sully of New York, the man who ran cotton up to 15 cents a couple of years ago, who is in the city now and will talk to the Wake county farmers today in Raleigh, agrees with President Harvie Jordan of the Southern Cotton Growers' Association that the key of the situation is in the farmer's hand. Let him hold out three weeks now, says Mr. Sully, and he will be in a position to dictate to the world any reasonable price for the raw product. He declares that the prospects for high prices this season are remarkably bright. There are not so many bears in Wall street now as people think, he says, and there never was a time when the big men were so favorable to cotton as now.

In this optimistic spirit writes Editor Clarence H. Poe of the Progressive Farmer: "For there is everything to indicate that cotton is going higher. The surplus from last year is much smaller than was expected, and this year's crop is short, undoubtedly shorter than the world now believes, because unusually early opening in all parts of the south has made ginning receipts heavy up to this time, thus making it appear now that the crop is larger than it will be seen to be two months hence. Then cotton, we believe, will bound upward and the men who have bought and the men who have held will reap their rewards."

"We believe, therefore, that farmers ought now to hold cotton for higher prices, and that they ought to perfect local organizations of the Southern Cotton Association in every township in the south to aid in this work." "We have noticed something of late with much regret, and even alarm, for the cotton farmer. Although the executive committee of the Southern Cotton Growers' Association met in Asheville and fixed eleven cents as the minimum price for which cotton should be sold by the farmer this season, and although that action of the association seems to have met the approval of the local organizations, still we have seen a great deal of cotton marketed during the last few weeks, since the date of

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Children that grow too fast and those that seem hardly to grow at all, both need Scott's Emulsion.

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that Asheville meeting, at prices even below ten cents. Nothing will ever be accomplished if that sort of thing continues to any extent.

Now, of course, many of these growers may have excellent reasons for selling their crop. They may be in debt and in need of supplies and may have found it impossible to get banker or merchant to carry them along over the hard times. On the other hand, the banker and merchant may have the best reasons in the world for declining to make the advances asked for. The banker may have been compelled to accommodate some big depositor and hence be short of ready money; the merchant may actually need cash to pull him through a tight place.

But, notwithstanding all these good reasons that may exist in individual cases, it must be remembered that this is a great question of far-reaching economic expediency. It stretches out far beyond the necessities of the day or the morrow, or the year even, and reaches far into the future. The cotton farmer of the south, united in one determined and constant purpose, can dictate the price of cotton for the world's supply. That means much to the bankers and merchants of the south, does it not? And without a little help from the bankers and merchants in the moments of difficulty, the farmers never can stay united for any length of time. There is the situation as we see it. Now let all pull together.

As for the farmer who sells below the fixed minimum price just because he is afraid the price won't go any higher, he simply has no backbone and is not to be reckoned with, for we do not believe there are many farmers, in this state at least, who are without backbone.

THE DAILY INDUSTRIAL NEWS

The Daily Industrial News of Greensboro at last loomed up in the foreground on Sunday, and right large it loomed, too, with twenty-four pages and lots of news, full Associated Press dispatches and excellent local and state service. It dishes up its news to its readers in attractive style, with neat, yet catchy headlines. The new paper seems to have secured unusually fine advertising patronage. The whole appearance and make-up of the Industrial News is attractive and modern. The Post welcomes it to the journalistic field in North Carolina and, aside from its politics, hopes it will live up to the high aims outlined in the opening editorial.

We regret that Mr. Bruce Craven's article in Sunday's paper was received too late to avoid some typographical errors that might mislead a careless reader. The following paragraphs were printed erroneously and are here given correctly: "This happened at a 'religious college' and the one I believe to be by far the best in the state for religious influence; but like all others it depends too much on the 'Christian atmosphere' resulting from the pious lives of men too busy to lend a helping hand to pull a Pilgrim from the slough of despond."

"It is foolish to talk of doctrines and creeds, because a person who can not distinguish between the form and the spirit should be barred from teaching not because of doctrines but because of deficient mentality."

A new Wilmington daily, The Independent, a four-page evening paper, appears in our exchanges as a welcome addition. As its name indicates, the paper is without political affiliation. The initial number is well gotten up, with a good line of local news and good selections of general interest.

Southern Educational Association Asheville, N. C., Oct. 9.—Special.—At the last meeting of the executive committee of the Southern Educational Association it was decided to hold the next meeting of the association in conjunction with the Association of Colleges in Nashville, Tenn., November 22-25, 1905.

Excellent programs for the general sessions and the several departments are nearing completion. Special railroad rates (one fare) and boarding rates will be made as in the past.

When a grill fishes for admirers, does she use a bow-line?

THE CLANSMAN

By Man-Up-a-Tree

Now that all the hysteria consequent upon the production of the rather remarkable Clansman is in a measure subsided, and the many victims are in a fair way to recovery, it looks as if it were getting safe for me, from my arboreal perch, to make a few calm, disinterested remarks, without fear of being pulled down and torn limb from limb. So now for a few disconnected thoughts.

In the first place, a question. Is it necessary to teach southern people that intermarriage between white and black is a racial crime? For, in the final analysis, that is the real motive force of the play. Thirty years ago, at the north, a public lesson of this kind might have done some good in certain quarters. If any real good can result from it now, it has not yet been satisfactorily pointed out. A bright young unmarried woman of Raleigh was indignant that anybody should think that she as a southern girl could learn anything from a play like that.

It has been said that the play is an answer to Uncle Tom's Cabin. If that is so, the answer comes when the question is practically forgotten; the answer comes forty years after the devastating war that was largely brought on by the agitation stirred up by the abolitionist's book.

But the Clansman is not an answer to Uncle Tom's Cabin. It deals with southern conditions at a different time and with utterly different conditions. Uncle Tom's Cabin dealt with the negro as a slave, with his physical condition from a professedly humanitarian standpoint. The Clansman has to do with the free negro, his threatened dominance over the white man and his iridescent dream of social equality; how he was made the dupe of the unscrupulous northern politician, and how finally the white man of the south had to assert himself by means of the mystic Klan, by which he so scared the ignorant blacks that they were incapable of taking advantage of what power was allowed them by the carpet-baggers of the north. Where, then, is the similarity or comparison?

In one thing perhaps. The Clansman is evidently as much of an exaggeration on its subject and side as was Uncle Tom's Cabin of the life at its period. For instance, where is the historical basis for the last act of the Clansman? When did a mulatto lieutenant-governor of South Carolina look himself in his library with the daughter of the leader of the United States Congress, attempt to force her consent to a marriage with him by a promise to pardon her lover, and when she attempted to escape choke her into insensibility and summon two negro soldiers to carry her into an adjoining room, there to guard her and prevent any outcry, and when her father comes in to see him and indignantly refuses to consider him for a son-in-law, hold the old statesman a prisoner, too, give orders to his two soldiers that if they hear a shot fired in his room to kill the young lady immediately, then send for a parson to perform the marriage ceremony then and there, only to have his plans cut short by the entrance of the Ku Klux Klan in all their insignia in broad open day light? Where in any true history of South Carolina, written or spoken, will that be found?

A dilemma is presented by the production of this play. Taking one horn of it, the author's sole object is to make money. If this be true, then Mr. Dixon's opinions on sociological problems cease to have weight, and the play cannot be regarded as teaching any lesson and must be classed merely with other money-makers clamoring for popular favor and getting it. Taking the other horn, that the author meant to teach some lesson, what can it be? As said before, it cannot be to impress upon us the impossibility of legalized miscegenation. Is it to teach a lesson to the abolitionist? It does that, and to the queen's taste, but there are no abolitionists now.

Then it must be produced with the object of throwing some light upon what some persons are pleased to call the present negro problem. But if this is the case, why was not the time of the play brought down nearer the present? There has to be considerable guessing done to connect it with the negro question of today. If that is the object of the production, it is certainly concealed as much as possible, and the chances are that the average citizen who witnesses it will never see the point.

It must be conceded that the production of the Clansman tends to stir up race feeling, create bitterness between the whites and blacks. That was evidenced strongly both in Norfolk and Richmond. In the latter city it is related that the whites in the pit and the negroes in the gallery alternately cheered and hissed according as the white man or the black man was on top on the stage. There was a situation ripe for a race riot right in that Richmond theatre that night. Omitting other considerations, to set the parties concerned by the ears is a mighty poor way to solve any problem.

As for the play itself and the acting, I have only one remark to make, and it's a very irreverent one. As I looked at the performance I could not help feeling that the heroine, the old abolitionist's daughter, showed very bad taste by not falling in love with Lynch instead of Ben Cameron!

Yancey's Philosophy 50 Years Ago (Washington Post.)

It was just about fifty years ago that William L. Yancey in a splendid oration compared and contrasted the civilizations of the north and the south to the disparagement of neither, and to the laudation of both. The capitol at Washington, he said, was typical of the south and her genius for government, while the patent office was typical of the north and her genius for material development. The constitution was mainly the product of southern thought, and the south had guided the political destinies of the country from the beginning. The north was practical, the wealth-maker, the shop-work-er and the shopkeeper.

But, as was inevitable, a day came

when the scepter departed out of the south and took up its abode in the stronger section. The seat of power was become the seat of authority. It was not without a tremendous struggle, but power prevailed, and for two-score years the government and our social, financial and industrial policies have been altogether northernized. There is no doubt that in a material sense the progress has been stupendous, marvelous. The physical energies of this people were not only never equaled by any other people, but never approached by any other. To resolve was to perform; to desire was to realize. No obstacle presented itself that was not surmounted, no difficulty obtruded itself that was not overcome. Chicago is a product of northern genius. Pittsburg is even a greater wonder than Chicago. There was no sentiment to hamper the men who developed the great cities—no sentiment in the civilization they created and typified.

And in this terrific race for the dollar everything was subordinated to speed. The goal, the goal, the goal, and nothing but the goal, was the thing, and the goal was wealth, and nothing but wealth.

Is it strange that such conditions have been produced as are disclosed in the investigations of the great insurance companies of New York?

The public conscience has voted itself aroused. Let us hope it is, and yet there is room to fear that it is only sorry the skeleton was revealed. It is a rather tough old conscience, and is not going to fatigue itself walking the floor of nights. It has the digestion of a cormorant and will not lose much sleep or much flesh worrying and repenting.

If one will read that marvelous oration cited he will find little difficulty in reaching the conclusion that the present civilization of America vindicates the philosophy of William L. Yancey in that great effort.

Graft in politics is bad, graft in life insurance is worse, and the combination is intolerable.—Washington Post.

"It was almost a miracle. Burdock Blood Bitters cured me of a terrible breaking out all over the body. I am very grateful." Miss Julia Flybridge, West Cornwall, Conn.

"Want any typewriter supplies?" asked the peddler, sticking his head in the office door.

"No," replied the young business man, absent-mindedly. "I just got her a box of bonbons only an hour or so ago."—Philadelphia Press.

Cause of Lockjaw

Lockjaw, or tetanus, is caused by a bacillus or germ which exists plentifully in street dirt. It is inactive so long as exposed to the air, but when carried beneath the skin, as in the wounds caused by percussion caps or by rusty nails, and when the air is excluded and produces the most virulent poison known. These germs may be destroyed and all danger of lockjaw avoided by applying Chamberlain's Pain Balm freely as soon as the injury is received. Pain Balm is an antiseptic and causes such injuries to heal without maturation and in one-third the time required by the usual treatment. It is for sale by W. G. Thomas, Robert Simpson, Bobbitt-Wynne Drug Co.

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Reverse News

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