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"FOR GOD, FOR COUNTRY, AND FOR TRUTH."

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NO. 10.

BILL ARP'S LETTER.

A few days ago I received a letter from a friend and it was post-marked Pelzer. He said I was wanted there to talk to the people, and he ventured to fix the day and the compensation for loss of time and waste of tongue. I had never heard of Pelzer nor could I find it on my antiquated map. But I did find it on one of later date, and supposed it was some small village that had a cotton mill and a dam on the Saluda and some tenement houses. Nevertheless, I accepted the call, for the offer was liberal. The next mail brought a similar invitation from Piedmont, another mill town, only six miles from Pelzer.

So I journeyed from Atlanta to Greenville, and there changed cars for my destination, which was only 20 miles away. It was night when I reached the place. My good friend, Mr. Padgett, who is the Democratic postmaster, took me to his house. I had not seen the town, for it was quite dark. "What is the prospect for an audience?" I inquired. "Very good," he said. "I think you will have several hundred people out to hear you." "Why, how large is your town? What is your population?" "About 7,000," he said. "I was amazed. A town twice as large as Cartersville and I never heard of it and it is not on my map. He explained by saying that it was only twelve years old, and had four large cotton mills that employed over 2,000 operatives, and consumed nearly 100,000 bales of cotton, and the company owned some 3,000 acres of land, and all the houses and stores and churches and several miles of the river. "Did you advertise me pretty well?" I asked. "Oh, yes!" he said. "We church folks told it to everybody we met, both in the town and in the country, and they all said they were coming." "Publish it in the paper?" said I. "No, no. We have no papers here, and no printing office. We did not even have a poster or a hand bill but we talked it a good deal." Well, I listened and wondered, and my confidence was shaken. After a bountiful supper and a little mixing up with the children, we went to the large church where I was to hold forth, and found it already pretty well filled. In a brief time I stood before more than 500 people, and was inspired to make my best effort, for I had an orderly and attentive congregation, and we all fell in love with one another. I never had a more gratifying lecture occasion. Next morning was spent in viewing the city and the mills and the library. The merchants carried immense stocks in large stores, and there were many nice residences for the managers and heads of the various departments, but they were all built and are owned and leased by the mill company. This company owns and controls every foot of land and everything that is on it. Captain Smythe, of Charleston, is the king, the czar, a big-hearted, brainy man, and everybody respects and loves him. He is a son of that celebrated Presbyterian minister of Charleston who during his ministerial life was a notable man in religious circles. I remember that he was one of my father's friends. "Who is your mayor?" said I. "We have none; no mayor nor aldermen, no municipal corporation, no marshals nor police. Captain Smythe runs the town. Everybody who comes here for employment is investigated carefully. His antecedents must be good or he can't stay. We have no lawyers nor editors; don't need any. We allow them to come in and look around." "Did you know that I was a lawyer?" said I. "Oh, yes; but we learned that you had quit the practice and reformed, and so we invited you."

"I don't see any negroes about here," said I. "No, we don't want them. There are a few, but they live outside. Some of them cook and wash for us, but Captain Smythe don't want us to mix with them or depend upon them. He wants everybody to depend upon themselves as much as possible." "And so you have ruled out lawyers, editors and negroes?" "Yes," said he, "and there are no saloons or blind tigers or cigarrettes." "How about doctors?" I asked. "Oh, of course we have doctors; yes, we have two doctors and one dentist and four preachers, all select, and one photographer." The company has a good library and pays a man to

visit mill No. 4, an up-to-date mill in all respects. It is operated by machinery that is generated two miles away at some falls of the Saluda river. It is 128 feet wide and 528 feet long and is four stories high. In the mill room I saw 60,000 spindles in two others there were 1,100 operatives to attend to this mill, and it takes 100 bales of cotton for a year's supply. Just think of it. The superintendent, Mr. Guy, had the elevator to run about half way up between floors so that I might have a good view of the machinery and the busy boys and girls in this spinning room. This room he called his children's room; not the children's room, but my children's room, he said. Scores of little chaps not more than ten years old who looked their love for him. They were the brightest and healthiest children I ever saw in a mill, and earn from 25 cents to 60 cents a day. Many of the grown girls earn from 60 cents to \$1.25 a day,

and the average pay of them all is 62 cents. This is good wages, for their work is easy and healthy. The rooms are never too hot or too cold; for the temperature is kept uniform by fans and heaters in the basement. Nongrease or fatty matter is used on the machinery—nothing but pure mineral oil. These children are required to leave the mill at certain periods and go to their public schools, which are supported by the company. I visited the school and found 300 of the pupils gathered in the large room to receive me and listen to a brief talk about my old school days and some words of encouragement to cheer them up. Mr. Guy the efficient superintendent of mill No. 4, is an Augusta man, and has been in the mill service for forty-four years. In the packing room I observed that all the bales are marked to Shanghai, China, and I heard that China is the best customer of southern mills. That government used to buy from New England and old England, but they buy all their goods by weight and not by the yard, and in course of time John Bull and the yankee got to mixing white clay with the starch to make the cloth weigh heavy, and so they turned their trade down south, where people didn't adulterate everything they make to sell. Said Mr. Guy to me: "There is no sizing in these goods except that made of pure boiled corn starch."

Nearly all the capital in these great mills is from the south; and there's millions in them, for Piedmont is on the same river and is only five miles away and has two large mills and another is going up at Belton, a few miles below. In fact, the traveler through upper Carolina is hardly ever out of sight of a smokestack. In a few years that State will consume all the cotton that is grown in it. What a glorious prospect.

All around Pelzer and Piedmont the farmers are prosperous; for they have a regular, eager market for everything they grow, and I saw their wagons coming in on every road. I visited Piedmont and stayed a day and night. It is a duplicate of Pelzer, though not so large; having about 5,000 people. It is most efficiently managed by Mr. James Orr, Jr., a son of the governor and statesman. He, too, is a king and a czar, and his word is law about everything. He is respected and loved by every man, woman and child in Piedmont; and the stockholders have nothing to do but look on and receive their dividends semi-annually. Piedmont is more elevated than Pelzer, and the views from her hills are charming. And then her flowers; oh, the beauty of them. Out-door chrysanthemums and roses were in all their glory. Mrs. Richardson sent my wife a box full of yesterday's express that excelled anything that I ever saw in a conservatory. She gave a caution to the expressman in these lines on the box:

"If you desire to climb the golden stair, Handle these flowers with exceeding care. If you expect to play the golden harp, Speed them with safety to Mistress ARP."

The lyceum and public library at Piedmont is an interesting place to visit and is liberally patronized by the workers in the mills. Connected with it is a home made insurance or benefit association, a kind of savings bank where for a deposit of ten cents a week the family of the depositor gets forty dollars whenever a death occurs. This is of course to provide for funeral expenses and a decent burial. In this library is the finest collection of Indian relics I ever saw anywhere.

Fortunate people to have such philanthropic guardians. Old Father Pelzer does not live there, but he is near enough to keep a fatherly eye on these numerous children. He is a Charleston millionaire, but lives at his up-country home, not far from the beautiful Mill City that he founded and which bears his name. Just think of it, my Georgia friends; 60,000 spindles turning in one room, and 1,400 looms weaving in two others. Why should not every cotton growing county in Georgia, yes, in South Carolina, do likewise. Our county produces ten thousand bales annually and surely our farmers can build a mill large enough to manufacture it and double its value.

BILL ARP.

An Evasive Answer.

"John," said a clergyman to his factotum, "I shall be very busy this afternoon, and if any one calls I do not wish to be disturbed."

"All right, sir. Will I tell them you're not in?"

"No, John; that would be a lie."

"An' what'll I say, yer reverence?"

"Oh, just put them off with an evasive answer."

At supper John was asked if any one had called.

"Yes, there did," he said.

"And what did you tell him?" asked the clergyman.

"I gave him an evasive answer."

"How was that?" queried his reverence.

"He asked me was yer reverence in, an' I sez to him, sez I, 'Was your grandmother a hoot owl?'"

At a recent duel the parties discharged their pistols without effect, whereupon one of the seconds interposed, and proposed that the combatants should shake hands. To this the other second objected as unnecessary. "Their hands," said he, "have been shaking for half an hour."

EDUCATION OF THE NEGRO IN THE SOUTH.

Baltimore Sun

A case which was argued in the Supreme Court of the United States on Monday involves a most interesting and important point—namely, whether the State of Georgia must provide equal school facilities for whites and blacks. The Board of Education of Augusta, it appears, is about to establish a high school for white children in that city. A number of colored residents have taken the matter to the courts, asking that an order be issued either compelling the Board of Education to give colored children the advantages of a public high school or to refrain from carrying on white high schools for the support of which the petitioners are taxed. The case involves the construction of the Federal Constitution, and in some measure the right of Federal courts to determine how money collected by the several States by taxation shall be expended.

Those who are not familiar with conditions in the South might infer from the suit instituted by the colored people of Augusta that they are the victims of unjust discrimination and do not receive a fair share of the school funds of the State or city. This is highly improbable. If the colored taxpayers of the South were to have the benefit of all the money they pay into the State, county and municipal treasuries, the entire amount would not, it is likely, give them the school facilities which they need and now enjoy. Unless Georgia is unlike every other Southern State, the whites practically pay all the expenses of the State government and the cost of maintaining the schools and asylums. In Virginia a few years ago it was estimated that colored taxpayers contributed less than 10 per cent. of the sum required to defray the annual expenses of the State government. The proportion may be slightly higher in Georgia than in Virginia, but there can be no question of the fact that in Georgia, as in Virginia, there would be few schools of any kind if the taxes paid by the whites were in the same proportion as those paid by the negroes.

The generosity of the southern white people in providing educational facilities for the negroes is worthy of the highest commendation. It is not sufficient to say that it was their duty to do what they have done. If they had pursued a different course under the conditions which prevailed after the Civil War, they could not have been censured very severely, for their property had been destroyed and many of them were almost penniless and unable to provide properly for the educational needs of their own children, much less the needs of the children of their former slaves. It is greatly to their credit that, under such trying circumstances, they did not discriminate against the negro, but allowed his children to have a share of school funds which were derived almost entirely from taxes paid by the whites. This fact should not be overlooked, in view of the proceedings instituted by the colored people of Augusta—proceedings which might produce a misleading impression upon the minds of those not familiar with the facts.

In several Southern States movements have been inaugurated from time to time to devote the taxes paid by whites exclusively to the education of white children and to give to the negroes for the education of their children such sums as they might pay into the State treasury in the form of taxes. If such a plan had been adopted, the Southern negroes would have had very few schools, while the educational facilities provided for the whites would have been materially increased and improved. Although there might have been justification for such a division of the school funds, the suggestion was never favored by a majority of the white taxpayers in any Southern State, regardless of the legality of such a division. They have continued to educate the negroes at their own expense and at the expense of white children, never stopping to inquire whether the results justified the expenditure, although at times they may have had serious doubts on the subject. If they had taken the attitude now assumed by the colored people of Augusta, or had divided the school funds in proportion to the taxes paid by the representatives of each race, they would have had more and better schools for white children. If they had objected to taxation the object of which is the support of colored school, the negro would be in a very bad way as far as his opportunities for getting an education are concerned. It is possible the Supreme Court of the United States may decide that there shall be no white high schools unless institutions of a similar character are provided for colored pupils. But such a victory in the courts would be really a misfortune for the colored people of the South. It would inevitably provoke comparisons between the amount of taxes paid respectively by the negroes and the whites, and the latter might be compelled, in their own defense, to regulate expenditures according to the proportion in which each race contributes to the maintenance of the schools. In that event the negro would not find the school facilities for his children as liberal as they are under present conditions in the States of the South.

The Baptist State Convention meets in Asheville December 6th.

HORRIBLE AFFAIR.

Nashville Advocate.

We have never heard of a more terrible tragedy than that which took place on the 20th ult. in Leake county, Miss. A respectable farmer named John Gambrell, living at a considerable distance from any neighbor, went to the adjacent town of Canton to sell his cotton. When he returned he discovered that his house had been burned to the ground, and that the charred bones of the five members of his family were in the smoking ruins. As a matter of course the whole community became grieved over the occurrence. Suspicion fell upon a negro named Joe Le Flore, who, on being arrested, confessed that he had murdered Mrs. Gambrell and her children, and had then set fire to the house to conceal his crime. He also implicated two or three other persons in his crime. Without the least delay he was fastened to a stake, a heap of fagots was piled about him, and he was literally roasted to death. The persons whom he asserted to be participants in the crime were all arrested. One of them, however, proved an alibi by a respectable white citizen, and was turned loose. The rest are held till it can be determined whether they are really guilty. If it should be proven that they had any connection with the murder it is certain that they will be speedily put to death, without the intervention of judge or jury. The correspondent of the Memphis Commercial Appeal, who is on the ground, and has carefully studied the situation, says: "The temper of the people is peculiar. They are not excited and bent on killing for the love of slaughter, nor do they seek to wreak vengeance on negroes. They are aroused as they never were before. They know that while one of the best citizens was away from his wife and children that his home was entered, and that ruthless murder was done. The horror of it is beyond comprehension. Gambrell has no enemies; he is a quiet farmer, having a small farm, and so far as goes in this county is prosperous. He had about two hundred dollars in the house, and when he left he had no idea that this would excite the cupidity of men to the point that to obtain it they would murder five persons, burn them, and risk the chances of capture and death. It is now a fight in self-defense. The country is sparsely settled, and the people feel that unless the quintuple tragedy is avenged fully, that every man who directly or remotely is concerned in it is hunted down and made to suffer the tortures of a slow death coming in the most excruciating form, he who next may leave wife and loved ones will have no reason to hope that they may not die as did the wife and children of John Gambrell. Throughout the South, away from cities, every man is truly lord of his own castle. He must protect his own home from the ruthless murderer. The sheriff in the county does not prevent crime in the way that he and his deputies patrol the county. He comes into evidence only after the act. Hence it is that such posers as are now in Leake county are moving in self-defense. They hope to strike such a blow that will stand as an awful warning to any wretch who, driven by cupidity or lust, seeks to gratify either even if he must commit murder." Our readers know with what vigor and earnestness we have denounced all the forms of mob law. But what shall we say in a case of this kind? That the law ought to take its course is certain. But who can wonder that its operation should be suspended under such circumstances? Let any man ask himself what he would do if his family had been dealt with as John Gambrell's was. The recurrence of such events as this sicken us to the heart, and almost cause us to lose hope. But we still insist that no action of any bad negro or of any number of bad negroes is an excuse for indiscriminate hostility toward the negroes as a race. Hundreds of thousands of them are harmless and useful citizens, and deserve to be protected in all their rights.

The Color Line in Cuba.

HAVANA, Nov. 18.—Three Americans, Hanson, King and Holland, have each been sentenced to two months' imprisonment and to pay a fine of \$65 and two-thirds of the costs of the proceedings, for placing over their saloon a sign reading: "We cater to white people only."

Their place had been closed January last by order of the civil governor, because they had refused to serve a colored Cuban general, but they had been allowed to open the saloon again on promising to serve the public without distinction of color. The defendants have appealed the case, the costs of which already amount to \$2,000.

A letter has been published in a paper of this city, written by another colored Cuban general, complaining that the owner of a barber shop had refused to cut his hair on account of his color.

Kicked to Death by His Gun.

Kansas City Journal.

Near the Halmboldt the other day Mr. D. Wittich accidentally discharged both barrels of his shotgun while holding the gun before him. The shock rebounded, striking him in the stomach and inflicting injuries from which he soon died. With inanimate things as well as prize fighters in possession of the secret of the solar plexus, it is safe.

PRISON REFORM NEEDED.

N. C. Christian Advocate.

The Advocate has no sympathy with carping critics, nor with those who for selfish or political purposes seize upon every mistake on the part of men in authority to heap a tirade of abuse on their heads or write bitter things against them. But there are times when the most conservative and patient must speak out.

We have not felt called upon heretofore to speak of the humiliating, not to say disgraceful, things developed in the management of the convicts in our State prison and the farms connected with it. But recent investigation by the committee appointed by the last Legislature have brought to light a condition of affairs that is to us painful in the extreme. If the evidence reported by the daily papers, and notably by the Raleigh News and Observer, is true, then there is an immediate and imperative demand for a revision of our whole system of prison discipline.

That some must be punished all admit—that persons who violate the law must suffer the penalty. This is necessary for the public welfare. That it is necessary to have prison discipline goes without saying. But wanton cruelty to these unfortunate people is a crime against them, against the public, and a wrong in the sight of God. Such treatment cannot be tolerated by a Christian people or connived at by a great State.

On the Roanoke farms it is stated that 50 per cent. of the prisoners are whipped; at the central prison, Raleigh, 30 per cent. How severely nobody knows outside the prison walls. The thud of the whip and the cries of the sufferer do not reach the outside world; they fall on the ears of men like themselves, who may at any time be subjected to the same torture.

There is no inspector of prisons to make investigation and give information to the people, and the law does not limit the number of stripes laid on the backs of these sufferers. That is left to the discretion of the official in charge, and the lash is laid on until he is satisfied. The people of North Carolina owe it to themselves and to humanity to demand a radical reform in the management of prisoners and convicts.

Great discretion ought to be used in selecting persons to control our prisons. It is a mistake to put them in charge of cold, hard, or cruel men. Men of the best habits, of the highest integrity, and of the strictest sense of justice and right should be put in charge.

Even convicts have some right and these rights ought to be rigidly protected. They are deprived of liberty, they are denied all the privileges that others enjoy, they are put to hard, exhausting labor, surely they are entitled to humane treatment. They should have plenty of wholesome food, comfortable clothing, and such religious privileges and instruction as will enable them to understand the plan of salvation and appropriate the benefits of the Christian religion.

Reflections of a Grass Widow.

Chicago Tribune.

A wedding fee is not wholly wasted. It helps to support the preacher.

There is no fool like an old fool—except a young fool who marries one.

Never throw a pair of old shoes after a bride. Save them and give them to her. She will need them some day.

If you are faithful in sewing the buttons on your husband's trousers he will think you ought to be able to make your own bonnets.

If you humbly ask your husband for money you spoil him. If you demand it he raises a fuss and wants to know if you think, by George, he is one of the Rothschilds.

Never marry a man with the idea you are getting one of those superior young men you read about in Julia Magruder's or Frances Hodgson Burnett's novels. They don't exist, my dear.

Don't save the letters your husband wrote to you in the days of your courtship. If he should find them some day by accident and read them he will be much disgusted.

If your husband turns out to be the man you thought he was when you married him, and never gives you a cross word, don't tell any other wife about it. She will not believe you.

"Five Don'ts" Society.

New York Sun.

"The society of the Five Don'ts" is the title of a society recently started in Brooklyn by Henry N. Niles of 660 Quincey street. The "Five Don'ts" are: 1. Don't ride simply for pleasure on Sunday.

2. Don't (save in an ocean voyage) ride in a public conveyance on Sunday.

3. Don't read a Sunday newspaper on Sunday.

4. Don't buy anything on Sunday, except in case of an emergency.

5. Don't mail letters on Sunday.

The members sign a pledge to obey the rules of the organization for one year, and to send a written explanation to the secretary when a violation is committed.

"Harry," said an essay on

PART OF SUPT. MEBANE'S REPORT.

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction has completed the statistical portion of his report for this year. It shows that the receipts were as follows: State and county poll tax \$303,313; special property tax, under local acts, \$15,781, and poll tax \$9,751; fines, forfeitures, etc., \$14,413; liquor licenses \$71,122; other sources \$56,275; total \$896,531. The balance on hand last year was \$189,681.

The disbursements were: For white school teachers \$520,415; negroes \$216,491; Croatan Indians \$1,420; white school houses \$42,237; negro school houses \$15,061; county superintendents \$21,175; commissions to county treasurers \$18,444; teachers' institutes \$2,200; boards of education \$6,471; city schools \$46,356; other purposes \$40,744; total disbursements \$936,891; balance on hand \$165,655.

The apportionment to the white schools is \$575,441, and to negro schools \$226,894. The assessed value of white property is \$246,713,000 and of negro property \$8,980,000. There are 151,548 white polls and 71,744 negro polls. The amount actually paid for the schools by whites is \$522,808 and by negroes \$71,183.

Of children of school age there are 406,787 whites and of these there are enrolled 233,217, while the average attendance is 140,162. Of negro children there are 199,600, of whom 127,399 are enrolled, and the average attendance is 67,148.

The average salary of white teachers is males \$26.33 per month, females 23.65. Of negro teachers males \$22.53, females \$19.70. The average length of school terms is for whites a trifle over fourteen weeks and for negroes a little under thirteen weeks. There yet remain 715 log school houses in the State.

It thus appears that of the white children 7-20 or a very little over one-third, attend school, while of the negroes almost precisely one-third attend. Taking the polls as a basis the average wealth of a white man is \$1,353, and of a negro \$126. The negroes pay almost \$1 each for schools; again taking the polls as a basis the whites pay \$607,000 for schools, the negroes pay \$71,183. In other words the negroes pay about one-seventh, while they are in proportion to the whites according to polls, as 7 is to 18; in other words a little over one-third in numbers.

As to Graveyard Fences.

It was a Maine graveyard and the fence thereof was in a most disreputable condition.

Some of the neighbors were trying to start a movement to re-fence the cemetery, and it was meeting with general approval till the caustic wit of Darius Howard was aroused.

"What for?" he inquired. "What's the need of fencing the graveyard? There ain't no one inside that wants to come out and I'm darn sure there ain't any one outside that wants to get in. So what's the use of a fence?"

And the fence was not built till folks had ceased to chuckle over the thrust of Darius.

Dentist—I see that I shall have to kill the nerve.

Patient—For heaven's sake, don't! It would ruin me in my business. I'm a life insurance agent.

The Schley home fund committee hopes to have a sufficient fund in hand on January 1 to buy a house for Admiral in Washington.



"Sweet Bells Jangled Out of Tune and Harsh."

Shakespeare's description fits thousands of women. They are cross, dependent, sickly, nervous—a burden to themselves and their families. Their sweet dispositions are gone, and the bells seem sadly out of tune every where they are ready. They can be

McFEE'S McELREE'S

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