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MRS. W. H. FELTON ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS; COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE FAVORED.

Atlanta Journal.

The editor of the Thomasville News takes issue with me concerning my former article, and says: "Mrs. Felton is in error" when I made free to criticize the general indifference of parents and guardians to the advantages of our public school system.

The Thomasville News decides that the difficulty is owing to our inferior teachers—poor teach, poor attendance!

I am acquainted with the workings of the State Normal school at Athens, and it does appear that we can have teachers fully prepared and qualified to conduct public schools in the country if even small effort is made on this line, and our county school commissioners are much to blame if they do not require teachers to be qualified before they are given a license to teach in any public school.

Far better to allow a school term to lapse than to engage and pay a person to teach who is not prepared to do good work as a teacher.

A good teacher should always be paid a liberal salary, but there are many who are teaching who could not make half of their present salary at any other business they might engage in.

There is great hue and cry about poor pay for the teachers, and there are said to be somewhere between 8,000 and 10,000 teachers drawing pay from the state's treasury.

But the pay, small as it is in some localities, beats a poor farm to death as a reward for labor.

A young man from an adjoining county called at our house some months ago. He had been teaching a five-months school at \$40 a month in the county I live in, and received \$200 in cash for his five months' work.

He laughingly remarked that his father had encouraged him to continue, because he had made much more clear money at teaching in five months than his father's farm had cleared in 12 months—with harder work.

It should be a first class country teacher who is paid \$40 a month. A poor young man or woman who can earn \$40 a month is doing well, and "doing well is hard to beat."

I am not convinced with the reasoning of the able News editor.

We might have schools at every road crossing, and good teachers ready to teach, but the fact remains that parents and guardians recognize no personal obligation to make the roll of pupils what such payment from the state demands, or what our legislators expected when they decided to offer to them "free, gratis, for nothing," the benefits of free schooling.

The taxpayers are bearing enormous burdens to supply money for these public schools. This money is obliged to come, or every dollar worth of the tax payer's property is subject to levy and sale. This school tax is collectable at the end of the law.

Now will the editor of The News tell its readers what pecuniary obligation rests upon the patrons of these schools to carry out the state's intention to educate all the children comprised in school ages?

I have personal knowledge of a school, where an excellent teacher was engaged to teach a country school. He was promised fifteen regular pupils—but the indifference of its patrons was so great that he had serious difficulty in getting fifteen to attend.

At different times during the four months thirty-two names were on the roll—but the attendance averaged less than half that number in four months. The school commissioner was very kind to the people in this vicinity. He did his very best to encourage the patrons to patronize an excellent teacher, but there was no improvement at the end of four months—and the teacher gave up his task, to go to a larger school in another state, with better salary attached.

Here, the state has been liberal, the teacher was exceptionally well prepared, the necessity was great, and the difficulty lay exactly where I declared it to be, in the neglect or indifference of the patrons.

No system of public school instruction can become stable and permanent without compulsory education. In the very nature of things this necessity exists.

When the state puts its iron hand in your pocket and forcibly extracts a part of your income for the payment of teachers, to instruct the indigent, that money should be scrupulously applied to the purpose as explained—and there should be equal force applied on parents to oblige the pupils to attend, after such school money has been forcibly taken and applied to the purpose as designed. Otherwise, this demand for school money becomes simple tyranny.

We are pitching this good money into a hole clear out of sight. It is like pouring water on the sand—the money is spent and no sign remains.

I understand the inability of appreciative patrons to inspire negligent neighbors to patronize a school. It does seem a pity that really anxious parents and guardians should be denied free schools because numb-scul patrons have no interest in keeping their children at school; yet, on the other hand, it is a shame and injustice that people should be sued and sold out by the sheriff to raise the school tax money for a population who are too indifferent to receive or accept the benefit of this wonderful opportunity.

If somebody would take the trouble to count up the tax money expended

in Georgia's public school system, since the experiment was made in the state, it would startle the commonwealth. For over thirty years the children of white and black have been granted public school education in Georgia, yet the changing convicts have grown from 350, in 1874, to nearly 3,000, in 1900.

The difficulty lies exactly in the open disregard shown by the people who should send their children to school and who fail to compel their attendance. There is no proper appreciation of the benefit. Reform must come at this point to make the system a success.

Partisan Meanness.

News and Observer.

Sixteen negroes have been summoned by Holton to give evidence against the Democratic registrars at Greensboro. Why? Holton hopes to scare Democrats so that they will let unqualified negroes vote in the November election. There is another reason: Butler is busily engaged preparing trumped-up charges against the Democrats which he will present to the Senate at its next session. He knows he must walk the plank, but he wishes to make fair weather with the Republicans by giving them some basis upon which to begin their crusade against full Southern representation in Congress and in the electoral college.

This is the game the Fusionists are trying to play. In the first place, the Democrats will hold the election in November as they held it in August. No arrests or futile threats of punishment will force them to let unqualified negroes vote. They have made up their minds on that score and will not be moved from it. In the second place, the scare of loss of representation does not scare the people of North Carolina. They know that under the Constitution, Massachusetts and other States that limit suffrage must also lose, and that there are many obstacles in the way of carrying out the plan of cutting down Southern representation. They will fight that as they fought the Force Bill, and if they should lose they will accept their defeat as they accepted the bitterness of reconstruction and labor and wait until they can make the cruel act return to injure those who forced universal suffrage for the negro, which, after a time resulted in an injury to the national Republican party.

"Reddin' Up" in China.

Charlotte Observer.

One of the most vexed questions for settlement in China is that of indemnities to be paid. Italy, one of the least involved and interested powers, wants \$8,750,000 indemnity. If her claim is just, with this amount as a basis it has been calculated that Japan should have 25 times, Russia 15 times, Great Britain, Germany and the United States 10 times, as much, and that all together it would take \$600,000,000 to assuage the mental anguish that the Boxer riots have inflicted upon the nation.

It would tax China grievously to pay this sum. Something like \$1,500,000 is about all she can stand, it is said, if the money is to be raised from the customs duties. Sir Robert Hart, the great mathematical and methodical Englishman, who is in charge of the Chinese customs, collects now a 5 per cent ad valorem duty on all imports into China.

The collections easily suffice to pay the interest on China's debt to all quarters of the globe from which she has borrowed money. But if this ad valorem tariff is increased to an amount requisite to raise more than the above mentioned \$1,500,000, it would amount to a prohibitive tariff, would drive away the argosies of commerce, close up the avenues of revenue and kill the goose that lays the golden egg. Such, at least, is the calculation of The New York Sun.

The Chinese, we believe, are already heavily taxed for raising their internal revenue, which moneys, we suppose, are used to pay royalty and run the government. But perhaps part of her indemnity will have to come this way.

The indemnity plan is generally regarded as the way around annexation and slicing up of and maintaining the "open door." However, Chinese ports or Chinese provinces will, presumably, have to be occupied as security for promised indemnities. How, then, will occupy what and for how long? Indeed, to use the phrase of the country house-wife, "reddin' up" in China is a ticklish job.

Franks Had Been Indicted.

Raleigh, N. C., September 27.—The grand jury of the superior court here today returned a true bill against ex-State Senator J. A. Franks, of Swain county, for perjury. The case is a sensational one. Franks is a republican and was a member of the state election board. Two years ago a man named George W. Justice came here from Asheville as a lawyer, stole a number of lawbooks from the courthouse and was arrested on the charge of larceny. Franks became his security, giving a justified bond for \$50, and swearing he was worth that much in excess of all indebtedness. Justice fled the state and went to Alabama, forfeiting his bail. An execution sent to Swain county for the amount of Franks's security was returned with the statement that he was worth nothing. The bill against him which the grand jury today returned as true was drawn last July. All efforts to induce the authorities of Alabama to arrest Justice have failed.

HILL ARP'S LETTER.

Uncle Sam is dead. Good old Sam Pitts. He never changed his name when freedom came. "My old master was a good man," he said. "Dar was good people den and bad people jes' like dar is now—black and white, but de black has got wusser and wusser since dey got free. Effen a black man had a good master he was mighty well off, for he didn't have no sponibility. Effen I bin sho of a good master and my wife and children been sho of one and we all live together untill we die I wouldn't keer anything bout freedom. Niggers got too much freedom anyhow. My old master used to make der nigger gals get married and take a man and stick to him, but nowadays dey don't marry at all hardly. I got a lot of grandchildren what haint got no daddy to speak of and I don't know my sons-in-law. Dey don't come about in daytime. Dats what killed my old woman. She jes so mortified and so ashamed she never got over it. So many spurious children all round callin' her granny. Effen a white woman do dat way she is disgraced, but a black oman don't keer; she shine as big as ever and dey don't turn her out'n de church. In de old times she got a whippin and dey ort to have it yet. White folks don't quit whippin bad niggers; dey send em to chargin, and dey don't keer for dat. I hear dat dar is four or five thousand in dar from Georgy. How's dat—didn't have nary one before de war. Gwine to school too much I spek and work too little. Don't know what is gwine to come of all dese growin' up niggers. Dar is a dozen or more round de depot or trampin' around town don't nothin' all de time—livin' off den dey mummies and smokin' dese little paper seggars."

Old Uncle Sam didn't talk much, but sometimes he would lean upon his hoe or his ax and "spress his feelins." It did him good. He has been chopping my wood and helping me in the garden for thirteen years and we will mishim. He fell down paralyzed with his hoe in his hand. He was "the man with the hoe" to the very last, but he never was poor, for he made a good living and had many friends and owned a comfortable house and lot. They sent my wife for some grave clothes and he will be buried in a right decent suit of mine and we will go to his funeral.

I was ruminating about this good old negro who had seen thirty-three years of slavery and thirty-seven of freedom and knew the good and the bad of both conditions and then my thought wandered to the malignity of those who have slandered us so long without a cause. Here is a book of poems by Joan G. Whittier and thirty seven of them are pitiful appeals for the poor slave and invoking heaven's curses upon his master. He knew no more about slavery as it really was than he did about Barbara Freitchie and he fed the young people of New England upon poetic lies for thirty years and I instilled into their hearts that hatred from which they have never recovered. Strange it is that smart people will write about things they have never seen. Now, the idea of an uneducated negro slave getting down on his knees and making an apostrophe to the north star—and yet that is the title of one of the poems—"The Slave's Apostrophe to the North Star." That nigger was possum hunting right then, but the poet makes him to say:

"Star of the North, I look to thee,
"Thy light and truth shall set me free."

But enough of this. The question still survives what will become of the negro. And that other question looms up before us, what will we do with 10,000,000 more of them over in the Philippines? A more senseless war was never waged. It was conceived in sin and is being carried on in iniquity. Prosperity! Yes, it is war that glosses over suffering and death and grief with a coat of prosperity. But it is nothing but a coat. War always produces a semblance of prosperity, for armies have to be fed and clothed and equipped. Ships have to be built and cannon made and a thousand things collateral to these show activity and give employment to labor and to capital. This activity began with the Cuban embargo and still goes on, but in the long run somebody will have to foot the money bill. The bill for blood and suffering will never be paid. Who wants the war but contractors who are growing rich from their profits? When I was last in Texas I heard a cattle man say he hoped that Russia and England would get up a fight, for he had 100,000 head of cattle that would go up 50 per cent in a day. Daily wages don't go up, but everything the laborer is obliged to consume has advanced. How about cleck hire, male and female, in the towns and cities. How about child labor in the factories—not all the factories, but in most of them, for there are not many Gumbo Jordans at the head of southern cotton mills. What a beautiful tribute his people paid him in Columbus when he returned from Europe. What a touing ovation those factory workers gave him. Why can't the owners of every mill do the same by their operatives and secure their love, which is worth more than a crown of gold. I read in an Atlanta paper about a woor woman who swor her son would not be nine years old until next Christmas, but her husband certified to the superintendent of the

mill that he was eleven so as to get him a place, for no boy under ten would be employed.

Later—News has just come that old Uncle Sam is not yet dead. They began to dress him for the grave and suddenly he showed a sign of life. Maybe he will live to have his obituary read to him—who knows. I read my own many years ago in a western paper when the original Bill Arp died in Texas and the editor thought it was I. But Uncle Sam will hardly live through the night.

P. S.—That multitudinous poem has not ceased to come. Yesterday brought a copy from Minnesota and one from the state of Washington. Only 347 have been received up to date. I can hardly find thanks to go round.

The Situation.

Washington Times.

Reports from the Middle West are of the most encouraging nature to the supporters of Bryan and Stevenson. Mr. Hanna is forced to admit that Indiana is "very doubtful." So is Illinois, Michigan is by no means as safe as could be wished by Mr. McKinley's political managers, and even Wisconsin is "demanding attention."

In New York the Democracy is more thoroughly united than it has been for a dozen years, if we are to accept the statement of representative leaders there. Richard Croker pledges a hundred thousand majority for the ticket in Greater New York, and if he is able with the aid of Tammany to make good this pledge there is no reason why the thirty-six electoral votes of the Empire State should not be given to Bryan.

The circumstance that four years ago McKinley carried New York by a plurality of two hundred and sixty-eight thousand is not an insuperable barrier to Democratic success there this year. The voters of that State are more changeable than the voters of any other part of the country, and it is quite as probable that a big majority can be reversed as that a small one may be.

It is a fact of vast significance that Democratic voters gave Mr. McKinley his enormous majority in 1896, and Democrats can take away as well as give.

Blood hounds from the penitentiary were put on his track and an exciting chase ensued. He was discovered in a tree on the outskirts of the town, and was taken below to his victim, who positively identified him.

The negro was taken to the edge of the village, and surrounded by the mob, shivered with fear. The preparations for death were quickly made. A rope was flung over the limb of a big oak and the men stood ready to lend a hand at the rope.

Then a halt was called and the manner of death discussed by the mob. To decide the matter a vote was taken and the balloting showed a majority of the crowd to favor death at the stake. The stake was prepared and the negro was bound to it with chains. Pine knots were piled about him and the flames were fired by the husband of the negro's victim. As the flames reached to the wretch's flesh his wild cries upon God for mercy and help could be heard for miles. The crowd looked on, deaf to his cries, and in an hour the negro was reduced to ashes.

Townsend, before being bound, confessed the crime, and said he was also implicated with Alex. Floyd, who was hung a couple of weeks ago for an attempted assault on Miss Kate Pearson.

As this is the second white woman assaulted in this vicinity within a month, it is believed there is a conspiracy among the negroes.

\$672,476.20 for Sufferers.

AUSTIN, Texas, Sept. 30.—Governor Sayers today prepared the following statement relative to the Texas flood sufferers:

The amount of money received by me up to 12 o'clock noon of September 30, 1900, for the benefit of the storm sufferers on the Texas coast is \$672,476.20. This sum includes \$3,892.59 that remained in my hands of the fund contributed for the relief of the Brazos River Valley sufferers last year. It also includes all drafts and authorizations to draw and which are in transit and are yet uncollected.

"This statement, it must be borne in mind, only embraces moneys and remittances that have been made to me directly and also amounts for which I have been authorized to draw.

"During the present week I will submit to the people of the United States a complete itemized statement of the entire fund that has come into my hands, giving the amount and source of each contribution and also the manner in which the sum total received by me has been expended and distributed.

"Every portion of the storm-stricken district is being provided for."

The South Carolinians should not complain because many North Carolinians voted in their recent primaries. We believe in reciprocity up here. In many of our elections we have had the assistance of South Carolina talent; but it was always black, and inasmuch as we lent the South Carolinians white men to help them out in their recent contest our neighbors over the line seem to have the better of the proposition.—Charlotte Observer.

STATE NEWS.

The Winston registrar cases are to be tried before Judge Boyd at the October term of the Federal Court in Greensboro.

Mr. H. T. King, editor of King's Weekly, of Greenville, had his hand badly mashed Friday by getting it caught in his newspaper press.

John Farren, colored, who has been in the penitentiary for less than a year for killing a negro woman of Salisbury, has been pardoned by Gov. Russell.

The hangman got in his work at Clinton and at Tarboro last Friday. At Clinton Archie Kinsauls paid the penalty for the murder of Jno. C. Herring, Oct. 27, 1898. At Tarboro, on the same day, Chauncey Davis was hanged for the burning of a residence, May 8, 1899.

Senator Butler is the most progressive kicker in North Carolina. He is arranging an indignation meeting campaign. Of course he is exceedingly indignant—losing one's grip on a \$5,000 job, with absolutely nothing in prospect, is enough to beget indignation.—Alamance Gleaner.

The prize family, for size, in North Carolina, has just moved to Greensboro, and settled at Proximity. The family consists of a husband, a wife and 21 children. The head of the family, A. M. Farrington, was, until recently, a widower with a number of children. He married a widow with several children, thus gaining the distinction of being the head of the largest family in the State.

Mr. R. F. Black, of Light, this county, comes to the front with the biggest snake story of the season. Mr. Black says that one day last week he discovered an enormous chicken snake in his henery. He shot and killed it, and says by actual measurement the snake was 10 feet long. It had devoured two half grown chickens before it was killed.—Lexington Dispatch.

Col. A. W. Shaffer, of the State Board of Health, is making an examination of the water supplies of leading towns in the State. Col. Shaffer, who is one of the directors of the Board is making these examinations under the direction of the State Board of Health for the ascertaining the existence of disease germs, if any such exist. The analysis is made by the State bacteriologist.

C. M. Ray, who is one of the editors of the Mill News published in Charlotte, will be sued for libel by Rev. J. F. Austin, who has been a prominent labor organizer in this State. In an editorial published recently some very serious charges were made against Austin by the Mill News, and he was spoken of as one of the most dangerous lecturers because he was capable of as much meanness as anyone in the crowd.

The Central Carolina fair, at Greensboro, promises to be a big affair. It will be opened formally October 9 by Judge James E. Boyd. Its greatest novelty will be the dog show, the first yet given in this State. George Gould, Pierre Lorillard, Mackey and other Northern sportsmen, who have extensive kennels and control many thousands of acres of land near Greensboro, have joined the local sportsmen in making the dog show notable.

The Greensboro Water Supply Company is in the hands of a receiver. This action was taken before Judge James E. Boyd, of the United States Circuit Court, sitting at chambers in that city Saturday morning, and was brought about at the instance of Guardian Trust and Bonding Co., of Baltimore, holders of \$110,000 bonds of the water supply company. Insolvency is charged in that the company has not paid the interest on its bonds. Mr. R. R. King is appointed receiver by Judge Boyd.

Mr. Woodson Daniel, who lives in Davidson county, was in Lexington a few days ago, wearing a pair of pants which he has owned and worn a good deal every year for 60 years. He bought them in Mr. John Murphy's store in Salisbury sometime during the fall of the year before the Tippecanoe campaign in 1840, that being the fall of '30. Mr. Daniel is 82 years old and rode a mule from his home, 18 miles distant, and back in the afternoon. The pants are navy blue with a small bronze silk check. It is yet very strong goods. He said it sold for \$1 per yard.

Western Democrats Roast Wolcott.

VICTOR, Colo., Sept. 29.—The Democratic county convention and club of Victor, Colorado, adopted the following resolutions unanimously:

"Whereas, Governor Roosevelt and party were not received in Victor with the tolerance and courtesy due to the governor of a sister state therefore.

Resolved, That we, the Democrats of Victor in convention assembled deplore the spirit of intolerance and discourtesy displayed on that occasion and disavow all responsibility for the disturbance of the speakers in a public hall and for the subsequent violence indulged in by members of the Republican marching club; further,

Resolved, That we also deplore the folly that induced the Republicans of Colorado to provoke the disorder by bringing Governor Roosevelt to this city under the auspices of the cordially detested traitor and renegade, Senator Edward O. Wolcott."

The man Kinsauls, upon whom the sentence of the law executed at Clinton Friday had better reasons than he knew for his objections to being hanged by a Populist sheriff. A horrible, sickening hotch was made of the business. It was Lord Bacon who wrote: "I think nature should do me great wrong if I should be so long in dying as I was in being born." It was not nature, but the sheriff of Sampson, who inflicted upon this murderer some such punishment as the wise man desired to be spared. Nine minutes at the first attempt and eight at the second, with the interval between the two added, must have meant the better part of a half-hour consumed in transferring this wretch from this world to another.—Charlotte Observer.

A Letter From Home.

Atlanta Constitution.

William, this is wrote to you to let you know that cotton is 10 cents an' the sheriff has levied on all you made. Also to inform you that your two mules has been took for a note you didn't pay, an' that your house ketches on fire an' burned down Wednesday. Also to say that gold has been found on your place, and your creditors are diggin' of Hopin' this will find you enjoyin' all happines, an' that you will have a merry Christmas, when it comes, I remain, dear William, the same as ever."

GENERAL NEWS.

The enrollment at West Point Military Academy this year is the largest in its history—428 cadets—with still 53 vacancies.

The first record of death in a football game this season has been made in Chicago. The returns may now be expected to come in at a lively rate.

After a quarrel which has extended over two weeks, two young men of prominent families, of East Point, a suburb of Atlanta, met Friday evening and fought with pistols. One of the men, Sheffield Harrington, was shot in four places, and the other, Walter Hudson, was wounded once. Both are believed to be fatally wounded.

Society in Wyoming has hit upon a novel amusement.

The entertainment is called an 'onion sociable.' Six young ladies take an onion into a room, and after one of them has taken a bite out of it a young man is admitted. If after kissing them all, he fails to tell which of them bit the onion all the girls are obliged to kiss him."

Head of Mormon Church and His Wives.

Salt Lake, Utah, Dispatch, Sept. 27.

Three of the sons of President Snow, of the Mormon Church, have filed information in the church courts charging that their father has refused and neglected to support his legal wife, their mother. They declare that she is in destitute circumstances and that the favorite wife, with whom the president lives, is conspiring and exercising undue influence to induce Snow to deed his property to her and her children to the exclusion of his other wives and children.

All Snow's wives except one live in hovels while the favorite occupies with him a palatial residence and has numerous servants, horses and carriages.

The "City of Charlotte" Burned.

KINGSTON, O., Oct. 1.—The private car of the North Carolina Exposition Company, belonging to that State, was burned to the ground here this morning. William Bacon, the manager, and an assistant were awakened by a dog and barely escaped with their lives. The car contained exhibits of the mineral and agricultural resources of North Carolina, and was valued at \$18,000.

A Homicide in Stanley.

ALBEMARLE, Oct. 2.—Last night about 8 o'clock Frank Swarengen, who lives near Porter's, eight miles from Albemarle, became involved in a row with Will Hinson, which cost him his life. Swarengen was shot by Hinson five times, dying in an hour and a half after the shooting. It seems that both men were partners in a government distillery and a dispute over some whiskey was the cause of the homicide. Hinson did not attempt to escape, but was arrested by the sheriff.

Necessary With Low Shoes.

"I don't see why you have to have such expensive silk stockings," he growled.

"Purely as a matter of economy," she replied sweetly.

"Economy! Where does the economy come in?"

"Why, your dear, blind old fellow!" she exclaimed. "Haven't you ever noticed that with low shoes and beautiful silk stockings a woman's skirts never drag in the dust and the mud?"

Clear Yourself or Get Out.

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C., Sept. 29.—United States District Attorney Holton is quoted today with having told Mr. Blackburn, the assistant district attorney, that he must either prove the charges made against him (Blackburn) by the Wilkesboro Chronicle false or withdraw from the Congressional race.

Love alone interprets all life.