

MESSAGE

OF

ROBERT K. SCOTT,

GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

NOVEMBER, 24, 1869.



COLUMBIA, S. C. :

JOHN W. DENNY, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1869.

MESSAGE

MESSAGE

ROBERT K. SCOTT

In the morning my second Annual Message to the General Assembly...

GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA

...and now it remains for me to say a few words in regard to the...

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly met on the 12th day of December...

The following message was received from the Governor...

For a bill and draft COLIMBER & G. financial condition of the...

MESSAGE.

*Fellow Citizens of the Senate
and of the House of Representatives :*

In transmitting my second Annual Message to the General Assembly, it gives me much pleasure to be able to congratulate you upon your occupancy of your new halls of legislation, which contrast so favorably in appearance and adaptation to their purpose, with those you recently occupied. May their lustrous beauty be typical of the brightening prosperity of our beloved State; of her unstained honor and untarnished credit; and may it witness the purity, the patriotism and the wisdom of her counsels, until her principles are as firmly established as the foundations of this edifice, and peace and prosperity prevail within her borders.

I am gratified in being able to inform you that much progress has been made during the past year in securely placing the finances of the State on a firm and healthy basis. This is owing greatly to the decided stand taken by you at the close of the last session, in declining to jeopardise the State credit by yielding to the pressure brought to bear upon you by individuals and corporations for State aid for the construction of railroads.

The financial reputation of a commonwealth, like that of an individual, depends upon the care with which it cherishes its resources, and the promptitude and fidelity with which it meets its obligations; and the correct and honorable business man who desires success is careful that his reputation and credit are not sullied by unwisely lending the use of his name to parties who have neither credit nor reputation to lose themselves.

The following statement exhibits the Indebtedness and the Assets of the State, October 31, 1869 :

Funded Debt of the State.....	\$6,183,349.17
The total amount of Assets held by the State, on that date.....	2,754,660.00
Interest falling due during the fiscal year, ending October 31, 1870.....	388,693.86

For a full and detailed statement of the financial condition of the State, I would respectfully refer you to the reports of the Comptroller and Treasurer.

The State debt is, comparatively, small, amounting in the aggregate to six millions one hundred and eighty-three thousand three hundred and forty-nine dollars, (6,183,349); the taxable property, at a low valuation, will amount to one hundred and ninety millions of dollars. During the past fiscal year, at a season, too, when our capitalists, merchants, farmers, mechanics, and others, had all their money invested in their various branches of business, a million of dollars for taxes was received into the State Treasury.

To more fully illustrate the ability of our people to meet all necessary taxes, I may refer also to the payment by our citizens, into the Federal Treasury, as internal revenue, of a tax amounting to the sum of \$2,622,690.68, making an aggregate of taxes paid into the State and Federal treasuries the past year of over three and a half millions of dollars. I would here recommend that you memorialize your members of Congress to use their efforts for a reduction of the internal revenue tax collected to such an amount as will meet the liabilities of the General Government, but relieve our people as much as possible of the tax collected to pay the national debt. I believe that the present generation should not be compelled to pay too much of the debt of a great country that is to be left by them as a rich inheritance to posterity.

The present tax system was new to our people, and it could not, perhaps, but be expected that much dissatisfaction would be felt in consequence of the change. But it is gratifying to be able to state that the taxes have been paid as promptly as those of any State in the Union. When the present State Government came into power, I found that the Provisional Government controlling the State from the close of the war, had contracted many debts for the prompt payment of which, as well as to meet the current expenses of the State Government, it was necessary to provide among these liabilities was a floating debt, amounting to \$477,965.30. This debt was due to various County officials, Sheriffs, Magistrates, Coroners, and other claims against the State. By authority of law, there had also been put into circulation Bills Receivable, to the amount of \$222,000. In addition to this was the past-due interest on the State debt, which had accrued from the first of July, 1867.

All of these various amounts have been paid, and the Bills Receivable redeemed. At the present time there is but a small floating debt that the State Treasurer will be compelled to meet. Owing to these payments, the expenses of the State Government were heavier last year than they will be for the present fiscal year, and the assessment of taxes may therefore be considerably reduced, and the tax burden upon the various branches of industry made lighter than the taxes of almost any other State.

even of the General Government. By the adoption of this plan, we at once fix the value of our securities where the resources of the State should place them. This measure would attract foreign capital, encourage immigration, and as our credit increases, individual property will enhance in value, and the general prosperity of our citizens be promoted. One important reason why the interest should be paid in the medium originally intended, and one that will strongly commend itself to your judgment as an act of justice to our creditors, is that some of our liabilities become due during the coming year, (1870,) for which provision must be made. It is, therefore, for the purpose of arranging these liabilities with the creditors as they become due, that it is important that we should offer them a security equally as good as the original investment. Not only is this to our interest, but good faith and justice demand it. It will be the means of meeting claims falling due, as the original obligation contemplated. To meet these liabilities at present would involve the necessity of so large an additional taxation that it would impose too heavy a burden upon the tax payers.

Not to provide for these liabilities might lead holders to infer by our silence that we neither feel nor intend to take any interest in their redemption, and they would necessarily become an undesirable and unsought investment. Should such an impression become current, these securities will be thrown upon the market, and the credit of our State bonds will suffer from a seeming indifference or carelessness of our credit.

I trust, therefore, that you will take this matter under earnest and careful consideration, and your favorable action may be the first step in assisting the financial men of our country in the solution of the gold problem. No section of country is so well prepared to both pay in gold and demand gold in return for the products of the soil furnished the markets of the world. If our business men could adopt the specie basis for all transactions, they would at all times be prepared for the financial crash that may come when the General Government determines to return to specie payment.

With the increase of commerce and intelligence, insurance upon both life and property has become a favorite security. Much of this business is carried on in this State by companies in no wise subject to our laws. Their property cannot be reached by the processes of our Courts, their solvency cannot be determined, and there is no adequate provision to secure the capital of our own companies to meet large or unexpected losses. I recommend that a law be passed requiring each company effecting insurance in this State, to deposit sufficient security with the Comptroller-General, indemnifying policy-holders against losses. This deposit should be graduated in proportion to the capital and business of the company, making it a misdemeanor, with adequate punishment of every agent at-

tempting to effect insurance until the company he represents has made deposit of ample securities to protect policy holders against fraud or attempted frauds.

In this connection I would further recommend that all banking institutions that are banks of deposit, other than National Banks, also Savings' Banks, Trust Companies, &c., be required to deposit with the Comptroller General sufficient securities in bonds and stocks to protect depositors against loss in case of failure. Some of our banking institutions are now receiving deposits, where neither the stockholders, nor any of the officers of the banks, are in any way personally responsible; and if in the event of fluctuations of the money market, any of these institutions should fail, the depositor would have no security to protect him against loss. It has been the policy of all the old States to protect the poor man, the widow and the orphan, for whose benefit these banks are professedly used, by limiting their investments to certain securities. I would also recommend that in the case of guardians and others having money of minors and others in trust, investments in State bonds shall protect the guardian, Courts, or party holding the trust, against the fluctuations of the money market. This will operate as a greater security for a careful and judicious administration of the investment. There is no possibility of the security becoming worthless, and it protects the guardian and trustee against the chances of investment in something more perishable or doubtful.

Under the law for the collection of taxes on the *ad valorem* system, there was expected to arise many embarrassments, in consequence of the difficulty in the selection and appointment of persons sufficiently acquainted with the system, or those who took sufficient interest to thoroughly understand it. Many irregularities, and, perhaps, cases of hardship, may have occurred to individuals from the unequal taxation of property in the State. For information on this subject, I call your attention to the very full and able report of the State Auditor, who has charge of that department, and has made himself fully conversant with all the details of the system, and the necessary changes that should be made.

BLUE RIDGE RAILROAD.

At the special session of the General Assembly in September, 1868, an Act was passed authorizing the endorsement and guarantee of four millions of bonds of the Blue Ridge Railroad Company, which bonds constitute a first mortgage on all the property of said railroad company in South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee. At that time it was believed that four millions of dollars, with such assistance as could be procured from other sources, would be sufficient to complete this great

thoroughfare, and open communication between the west and the southern seaboard. Every effort has been made by the President, General J. W. Harrison, and other gentlemen interested in the result, but without securing the assistance hoped for. We were, therefore, left to our own resources. Believing that the interests of the people of the State demanded the completion of the road at as early a day as practicable, the Company concluded to advertise for bids for its construction. On the 8th of July last the bids received were opened and the contract awarded to Messrs. Creswell and Co. A new survey, and an estimate of the cost of the work, had, previous to that notice, been made by the present Engineer. It was then ascertained that the great increase of the cost of such work over the original estimates made it apparent that the four millions of first mortgage bonds provided for fell far short of the means necessary to complete it, and that it would require about eight millions of dollars to put the road in running order. The Company, impressed with a sense of the importance of putting the work under contract, entered into an agreement with Creswell and Co., contingent on the Legislature endorsing a further amount of bonds sufficient to complete the work on its own first mortgage. It must be apparent to every member of the General Assembly that the first mortgage, covering the entire property of the Company, and the work but little more than half completed, the whole investment must remain as dead capital until the means are provided to finish the road. In any failure on the part of the Company to open communications with the West, the State must be the sufferer. It would be adding to a direct investment, already made, of a million and a half of money, a contingent liability of four millions of dollars, neither of which can be made to meet the accruing interest without the expenditure of more capital for the completion of the road.

One of two plans should be adopted at once. The first is to abandon the whole scheme of a direct railroad route to the West, lose the three millions of money invested by the State, the city of Charleston, and private individuals; repeal the Act of September, 1868, whereby four million dollars more of bonds guaranteed by the State would be sunk and made valueless, or assist the Company in their efforts to complete the work by such means as would be valuable to them, and at the same time not injure the credit of the State. This the Committee authorized to make a contract for the prosecution of the work believed could be done by an endorsement of the first mortgage bonds of the road by the State to an amount sufficient to complete and put the road in running order. If their view was incorrect, then the whole project, from its inception, was a blunder, and conceived without thought as to its cost, or the benefits to be derived by the people of the State by opening a new avenue to trade and commerce. A railroad that will not pay the interest

on its cost should never be constructed in a country where every well-managed road does pay largely. An arrangement was made by the Executive Committee that the company should meet the interest on the bonds put upon the market until the road was completed and put in running order, after which it was believed that a lease for a term of years might be given, by which the payment of its first mortgage debt and interest could certainly be guaranteed, thereby leaving the State without a possible risk of ever having to pay one dollar of her endorsed bonds of this road. Having hitherto taken strong grounds against any assistance to railroads, and against any increase of our State debt that would be liable to burden the people of the State with heavy taxes, I do not feel at liberty to make any direct recommendations in regard to the Blue Ridge Railroad, much as I appreciate its importance to the State, and feeling confident that it is the only railroad enterprise that will develop our resources, and make other roads leading to our seaboard valuable.

I leave the question with you, to consider whether the credit of the State at the present time admits of the prosecution of work on this enterprise. I have grave doubts whether the further endorsement of bonds at this time would not injuriously affect the value of our securities in the market, as many will not fully understand that the assistance to the Blue Ridge Railroad would be a contingent liability that the State would only be compelled to meet on failure of the Company to pay their bonds at maturity.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

The report of the Secretary of State herewith appended, exhibits the transactions of that office, for the year ending October 31st, 1869. Their multiplicity will give some idea of the entire amount of work performed by the various Executive Departments during the past year.

EDUCATION.

The report of the Superintendent of Education is necessarily incomplete, as the returns from several Counties have not yet reached him, but he hopes to be able, in a very short time, to present for your consideration a full and complete report. It is very desirable that an efficient and comprehensive law on this important subject should be passed at as early a period as practicable.

THE LAND COMMISSION.

Up to the present time, there have been purchased in the several Counties, for the purpose of the Land Commission, forty-five thousand acres of land, which is now in process of survey and division into tracts

of eligible size for purchasers and occupants. I recommend an additional appropriation to this beneficent object, of securing homes for the worthy and industrious mechanic and laborer, which will establish many small farmers in the place of the comparatively few heretofore holding that relation, and consequently will insure the better cultivation of the soil, and the expenditure of a greater portion of their earnings at home, instead of being dissipated in luxury and extravagance in distant cities.

The bonds issued for the purposes of the Land Commission must become a first class security, as they will not only have the credit of the State, but the money arising from the sales of the lands with their improvements, as an additional guarantee. The annual instalments of the payments for these lands will be ample to meet the interest on them, as well as to provide a sinking fund for their redemption at maturity, without the possibility of having to resort to taxation for that purpose. Their issue, therefore, can have no possible injurious influence on the credit of the State, but should rather enhance it, as the subdivision of large bodies of land, much of it uncultivated, into small and productive farms, would at once treble its value, and afford an increased basis of taxation to the same extent.

HOMESTEAD RELIEF.

The law securing a homestead, worth one thousand dollars, with the products thereof, and five hundred dollars' worth of other personal property to each head of a family whose property may be levied upon for debt, continues to fulfill its beneficent design, but there is no sufficient reasons why its benefits should be restricted to the landholder. The professional man, the mechanic, the farmer, and the laborer, are equally entitled to its advantages. At present, the proprietor of the Homestead may rent out portions of it to the farmer, the mechanic, and the laborer; and if, by sickness or misfortune, they should get behind-hand, their little property is liable to seizure, even the food provided for the family may be taken from them, and they expelled from their humble shelter, and exposed to the severities of winter; and all this while their landlord is enjoying in comfort the munificent bounty of the State. This is neither right nor just, nor in accordance with sound public policy. The poor, the unfortunate, and the helpless, should ever be the special objects of public regard. I therefore recommend to your favorable consideration the propriety of so amending the Homestead law, that its principles should be applied to the laboring classes, and that the personal property of the professional man, the farmer, the mechanic, and laboring man, including their books, tools, implements, cattle, clothing, furniture, and provisions, shall be exempt from seizure and sale for debt, to the amount

of five hundred dollars. This will only be carrying out in good faith the principle established by the Homestead law, and extending to all the benefits and exemptions now confined to comparatively a few.

THE MILITIA.

The records of enrolment not having been yet completed, and the quota of arms and accoutrements appropriated to the State not having been received from the Federal Government until recently, the organization of the Militia has been somewhat impeded. It will be hastened, however, as rapidly as practicable, and I hope soon to be able to report that the requirements of the law have been fully complied with.

JURIES.

A change is demanded in the system of selecting juries. As at present managed, it is liable, and perverted, to great abuse, on account of the character of the persons placed upon them. Men have been appointed on Grand and Petit juries who were at the time, and are now, under heavy bail on charges of complicity with murder; and in one case, when one of these accused individuals was foreman of the Grand Jury, bills for murder submitted to them by the Solicitor of the Circuit were ignored and thrown out, notwithstanding the oaths of witnesses who identified the accused as participants in the murder. Cases are decided, not by the guilt or innocence of parties, but in accordance with the political bias of the juries; and, from the intensity of prejudice existing, it is vain to expect a better condition of things while the present system of drawing juries continues. This corruption of justice at the fountain head demands a prompt and efficient remedy, which will place the jury box above the influence of politics, and fill it with our best and most intelligent citizens, whose reputation places them above reproach and above suspicion.

PARDONS.

The number of pardons granted since my last Message has been unusually large, which is in part to be attributed to the fact that many of them were granted a few days before the expiration of the sentences. These were pardoned to preserve their civil rights, and were recommended by the Superintendent on account of their good behavior. Others were pardoned on the petition of friends and citizens, with the concurrence of the Judge before whom they were tried. And others, again, from the fact that their punishment was prompted by political motives and prejudices. In all cases of pardons, they were granted for reasons which commended themselves to my sense of justice and humanity.

MAGISTRATES' COURTS.

I have heretofore directed your attention to the subject of Magistrates' Courts, and would urgently renew my recommendations on the subject. The wide latitude heretofore given to the discretion of Magistrates and Courts has had the effect to crowd our jails with petty offenders, at a heavy expense to the State, much of which could be avoided by giving final jurisdiction to Magistrates' Courts, with right of appeal, of all minor offences, such as petit larceny, simple assault and battery, and other misdemeanors of similar grade, with power to determine the question of guilt, and its extent, and to inflict penalties by fine. This would obviate the necessity of a good deal of Sessions business, and the cost of witnesses' fees and expenses. A fair and reasonable fee bill should be established, as there is much complaint that Magistrates and Constables are guilty of making extortionate exactions from the poor and ignorant. Many cases have been so manipulated as to involve the largest amount of costs, and others again have been instituted for malicious purposes, frequently from political motives or political objects. When such cases have been substantiated, I have promptly removed the offenders, and many of them, in my opinion, deserved a more rigorous punishment. I have been apprised of cases where Magistrates have attempted to interfere with the State Constables while in the discharge of their duty, and recommend that adequate punishments be provided for such offences. Severe penalties should also be provided for carrying concealed deadly weapons, a cowardly practice, which has become entirely too prevalent.

THE NEW STATE HOUSE.

In accordance with the Joint Resolution to provide for the fitting up of certain portions of the New State House, I advertised for proposals for the execution of the work in the newspapers of this city and Charleston. Mr. James M. Allen, being the lowest bidder, was awarded the contract. Of the manner in which it has been executed, it is unnecessary for me to speak. You are surrounded by his work, which is its own eulogium.

The necessity of providing for the accommodation of the remaining officers of the State Government, will require an additional appropriation, and I respectfully recommend that provision be made for completing such other portions of the building as may be deemed advantageous and proper.

THE UNIVERSITY.

The report of the Faculty of the University of South Carolina has been transmitted to the Trustees, for their examination and action, and their report will be submitted, at an early day, for your consideration.

THE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

I transmit for your consideration the annual report of the Regents of the Lunatic Asylum, accompanied by the reports of Dr. J. W. Parker, the Superintendent and Physician, and of John Waties, Esq., the Treasurer of the institution. The report of Dr. Parker shows that at the commencement of the year the number of patients was 204, to which have been added during the year 94, making in all 298. From this number 64 have been discharged, leaving 234. Of those discharged, there were cured, 47; died, 14; eloped, 1; removed, 2. Of those received, 67 were cases of more than one year's standing and regarded as chronic; 13 were idiots or imbecile; 14 were epileptic; 65 were white, and 29 were colored: males, 49; females, 56. Of those who died, 2 were from old age and inanition; 3 from diarrhœa; 2 from exhaustion; 1 from hypertrophy of the heart; 1 from cancer; 1 from paralysis; 2 from convulsions; 1 from hydrothorax, and 1 from ascites; total, 14. During the year the health of the institution has been good and exempt from malarial disease. The product of the farm was 168 bushels of wheat, 18 bushels of rye, a good crop of oats and peas, about 400 bushels of corn, a good harvest of fodder and hay: and from 11 acres of ground there have been ginned and packed 12 bales of cotton, and there are about 4 more to pick. Up to the close of the war the number of colored patients never exceeded 5; during the past year the number admitted was 29. This large accession of patients has rendered additional accommodations necessary. A separate house is recommended for the accommodation and treatment of idiotic patients.

The Treasurer's statement shows that the receipts during the year have been \$48,244.65, and the expenditures \$48,399.56, being an excess of expenditure of \$154.81. The outstanding indebtedness of the Asylum is about \$5,000, which is not of a pressing nature, and should be met by collections. The County Commissioners are still largely in arrears, although a circular was addressed to each Board last February, indicating the amount required by the several Counties to meet their past indebtedness and future advances. About half the Counties have paid, and a list of those still owing will be furnished to the Comptroller General. Of the amount appropriated by the Legislature, (\$19,000,) \$14,984.55 has been drawn and expended, and an order on the State Treasurer is held for \$2,000, payable November 1st and December 1st, making \$16,984.55, and leaving an undrawn balance of \$2,015.45. It is estimated that the provision required to be made by the State for the maintenance of its beneficiaries, from January, 1870, to January, 1871, will be \$15,000.

The report of the condition of the Asylum is very satisfactory, and will compare favorably with that of any similar institution in the coun-

try. The recommendations contained in it are deserving of your consideration. The Asylum is not a suitable place for idiots and imbeciles, whose condition requires an entirely different treatment from that of lunatics; and they can only be properly attended to in a building specially appropriated to themselves. I trust that the appropriation for that, and the increased accommodation necessary for the patients in the Asylum, will be made. Dr. Parker, the Superintendent, has efficiently discharged the duties of his office for upwards of thirty-three years, and as there is some misapprehension on the subject, it is but justice to say, that while he has administered the duties of many offices connected with the Asylum, he has only received the compensation pertaining to his own, that of Superintendent and Physician.

DEAF, DUMB, AND BLIND.

The Asylum for the education of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind, at Cedar Springs, Spartanburg County, has been recently reorganized, by the appointment of Prof. J. M. Hughston as Superintendent, Mrs. W. B. North as Principal of the School for Mutes, and Miss Jane J. Rogers as Assistant; Mr. W. B. North Assistant Teacher of the Blind, and Professor of Music; and Mrs. Ann R. Neagle as Matron. The buildings, which are somewhat dilapidated, are in course of repair, and I have reason to hope the institution will soon be in successful operation. I earnestly recommend it to your fostering care and attention.

THE PENITENTIARY.

The report of the Commissioners of the Penitentiary, and the accompanying report of the Superintendent of the Institution, will be found full and highly satisfactory. The Superintendent states that on taking charge of the institution on the 23d of January last, he receipted for 201 prisoners. There have been received since 301; recaptured, 4; making an aggregate of 506. There have been discharged on expiration of sentence, 51; died from disease, 7; died from injuries received in attempting to escape, 1; pardoned, 136; escaped, 16; total, 211; leaving in confinement, 295. A great number of those pardoned were nearly at the expiration of their several sentences, and the Superintendent is of the opinion that this policy has greatly aided in enforcing discipline and diminishing the number of punishable offences during the year. The total amount expended was \$61,522 50; and the amount of work executed, as estimated at contract price, and of materials and stores on hand, amounts to \$93,675.69, leaving a balance to the credit of the institution of \$32,153.19.

The Superintendent recommends, and the Commissioners warmly concur in the recommendation, that there should be a guard of enlisted men for the Penitentiary; that a small farm of one hundred acres or more should be attached to the institution for the employment in agriculture of convicts sentenced to short terms of imprisonment; that permanent workshops should be constructed; and in consideration of the increased duties devolved upon the Superintendent, by abolishing the office of Draughtsman, his salary be increased from \$2,000 to \$3,000, and that he have power given him of shortening the term of imprisonment of convicts who have uniformly conducted themselves properly, say one-twelfth, which recommendations are respectfully submitted for your consideration and decision.

LIBRARY AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The report of the State Librarian, and Keeper of the State House, is appended, and will show that he has been sedulous in the discharge of his duties. I recommend his suggestions to your favorable consideration.

THE CENSUS.

I transmit the report of the Commissioner of the Agricultural Bureau, containing a tabular statement of the results of the enumeration of the inhabitants of this State so far as they have been ascertained from the returns made to his office. The statement embraces the returns of twenty Counties, and there are still eleven to be accounted for. As it is expected that the missing returns will be received in a few days, any further remarks are deferred until the completion of the report.

QUARANTINE.

The report of Dr. Robert Leiby, Health Officer for the Port of Charleston, is a highly interesting document, and satisfactorily demonstrates that, with proper vigilance and activity, exotic diseases and epidemics may be excluded from that port by an efficient quarantine. This is of great importance to the City of Charleston as a commercial seaport, and also to its citizens, whose lives have been frequently placed in jeopardy by negligence and incapacity. The necessary quarantine buildings, including a new hospital, and Steward's house, on Morris Island, with eight hundred feet of causeway from the creek, and a residence for the Health Officer on the State lands at Fort Johnson, have been completed, at an expenditure of \$7,000, leaving a balance of the appropriation made for that purpose, of \$1,000, which will be expended for bedding, furniture and stores for the hospital. Dr. Leiby's suggestions and recommendations are entitled to much weight, and are respectfully recommended to your earnest consideration.

ARSENAL.

The number and value of arms and accoutrements now in possession of the State involves the necessity of providing a building for their preservation and safety, and I recommend for your consideration the propriety of making an appropriation for that purpose.

SHERIFFS.

Some legislation is desirable in reference to Sheriffs. The careless management of jails, and the frequent escapes of prisoners in their custody, and other irregularities, require a more rigid responsibility. Complaints have been made of the food furnished to prisoners, and the Grand Juries should be required to make periodical examinations and presentments of the condition of the prisoners and jails. I would recommend that a ration of good quality be established by law, and that it should be furnished by contract, as it is but too evident, from the fact of their frequent detention of prisoners in jail, that the ration is a matter of speculation to the jailer. The ration at the Penitentiary costs but eighteen cents, while fifty cents each is allowed to the Sheriffs for prisoners in the jails. There are other abuses connected with the office of Sheriff which require investigation and reform.

THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

The duties of the Board of County Commissioners are of an arduous and comprehensive character, and in the honest and faithful discharge of them are involved much of the reputation and efficiency of the State Government. Their attention should be especially directed to the condition of the roads and bridges in their respective Counties. All persons liable to road service should be made to perform it to the full extent of keeping them in good repair, or to contribute an equivalent in money for their exemption. Bridges and other structures should be let by contract, of which due notice should be given. The County Auditor should always be present at the meetings of the Board, and act as Secretary, keeping the journal of their proceedings, and all orders on the County Treasurer, authorised by the Board, should be signed by him, and made a matter of record.

THE STATE CONSTABULARY.

The report of the Chief Constable gives a full and satisfactory exhibit of the operations of his office. The amount of labor performed has been considerable, and, in many instances, has been of a delicate and hazardous character. There have been some cases where complaints have been made of their conduct, but upon investigation, it has been found that the dissatisfaction was with the law itself, rather than with the manner in

which it has been executed. They have had much to contend with in the opposition of portions of the community to the arrest of criminals, and aiding them in their efforts at concealment and escape. The press has greatly assisted in thrusting impediments in their way while engaged in their duties, by their perversion of facts and abuse of the officers. It is to be sincerely hoped that the folly and injustice of this course will be apparent, and those interested in the peace and prosperity of the State, in the protection of life and property, and in the supremacy of the law, will feel it their duty to aid and encourage the State officers in the enforcement of it. In a recent instance, where an organized band of incendiaries had commenced their work of destruction, by the burning of several stores, and threatening further proceedings of the same character, I felt it my duty to issue my proclamation, warning the incendiaries of the atrocious character of their crime, and the consequences to which it might lead, and this was perversely and mischievously tortured into an invitation to commit the crime denounced, and its justification. I am glad to state that this falsehood was so base and malignant as to be repeated but by few, and the effect of the proclamation has been most salutary, in having accomplished the arrest of ten of the alleged incendiaries, and the dispersion of the remainder. While there have been some atrocious crimes committed recently, the authors of which are still at large, I am glad to say there has been an improvement in the general tone of the community, and a disinclination manifested by responsible persons to lend themselves to the schemes of the factious and designing, and of being compromised by countenancing the turbulence and lawlessness of their ignorant and misguided partisans.

PUBLIC PROPERTY.

There is a considerable amount of public property in this city, Charleston, and other portions of the State, which has been for a long time exempt from taxation, and productive of no revenue. I recommend that an investigation be made of the location, extent, and probable value of this property with a view to the sale of such portions of it as may be deemed advisable, so that it may be placed on the tax list, and contribute its share to the public revenue.

LABOR AND CAPITAL.

Among the evils of civilization may be deemed the antagonism of capital and labor, and the strifes and conflicts which generally accompany it. Perhaps in no portion of our Republic has this antagonism been more imperiously enforced, and more distinctly recognized, than in South Carolina, where, among the large landed proprietors, who owned, to a great extent, the soil, and controlled its legislation, the free laborer

was considered on a level with the slave; and if there was any discrimination it was in favor of the slave, who had an owner, and therefore a protector, in the controlling class; while the free laborer owned himself and had to care for himself, and no solicitude was felt for him except upon the eve of an election, when his vote was wanted. If tainted with the blight of labor, it was of no consequence how intelligent or worthy, in other respects, the individual might be, an interdict like that which expelled our first parents from Eden rested on him, and the remark of some supercilious maiden, "he is only a mechanic," has been the fiat of ostracism to many a promising and aspiring young man from the charmed circle of "good society," and frequently of exile from friends and home, to a community where labor was not a disgrace, nor being a mechanic disreputable. Of the extent of this vital loss to the South some estimate may be made from the fact that in addition to the many thousands scattered throughout the West, there are upwards of seventeen thousand Southerners, a goodly portion of whom are from South Carolina, at the present moment devoting their talents and energies to the building up and extending the already enormous business of the city of New York. And yet many of the class whose former dominance was so baleful to the general interest and prosperity of the State, insensible to the afflictive lessons of the ordeal through which they have so recently passed—learning nothing, forgetting nothing—not realizing that they are only the shadows of the power they once exercised, still "assume the god, affect to nod," while not only their sceptre, but their dominion is rapidly passing from them into the hands of the speculator and the money lender, and of those who feed and fatten upon the vices, the weaknesses, and the misfortunes of mankind.

But, notwithstanding the decrepitude and decay of so large a portion of our former property holders, the moneyed influence still wages its strength in opposition to the rights of labor; and availing itself of the resources at its command, has assumed not only to determine the wages of the laborer, but to fix his social status, and to treat him as a subordinate and as an inferior and dependant, to be coerced into submission by the dread that resistance would result in the loss of employment to himself and of bread to his family. And the workingman, like the bridled horse unconscious of his strength, has been content to occupy the abject position assigned to him, of toil and drudgery, of penury and degradation, for the scanty means of subsistence doled out to him, while his children have grown up uneducated and unrefined, without the means of improving their condition, reckless of the past, hopeless of the future. But although in these struggles, hitherto the advantage has generally been with the capitalist, the workingmen, by realizing the importance of concentrated effort, and of proper organization, are meeting their employers on more

equal ground, insisting that they shall have a voice in determining the value of their labor; and in many instances these demands have been complied with. Success has encouraged others who are pressing toward the same goal, and I am cheered in the hope that the day is not distant when the employer and employed will realize that they are mutually dependent upon each other; that the rights of the one, and the interests of the other, are perfectly compatible, and equally deserving of recognition and respect, and that all will acquiesce in the sentiment that a fair day's work is entitled to a fair day's wages.

In communities where the system of compulsory labor existed, the antagonism of labor and capital was greatly aggravated, the capitalist being the master and the laborer his slave, whose labor and person alike were under his control, and who regarded him but too frequently only in his legal relation of "chattel," in whom he had no other interest, and felt no other sympathy, than the amount of labor he could exact from him, or what he could sell him for in the market. But this system of coercion and degradation, which defied the claims of humanity and the restraints of law, and which, in debasing labor, injuriously affected all, both white and colored, who lived by it, was, in the order of a wise and beneficent Providence, suddenly stricken—mortally and irretrievably—to the earth; the relations of master and slave were instantaneously abolished, and the workingman was made free to dispose of his person and his labor in whatever direction or manner he might deem most advantageous. While in many cases a remnant of the old habits remains—the recollections of kindnesses received on the one hand, and of faithful service on the other,—a large majority are yet loth to recognize the full equality before the law of their former slaves, and grudgingly dole out to them their scanty earnings, as though it was a gratuity and not a right; and their deferential courtesy is but too frequently repaid with arrogance, exaction and abuse. These exhibitions of bitterness and injustice are greatly to be deplored, and require the prompt and effectual interposition of law to protect the workingman in his rights, and to enable him to fully realize that he is the owner of his own labor, and entitled to a fair compensation for it; that he is the protector of his wife and children; that his home is his sanctuary, where none can molest him or make him afraid; and that he is secure in his right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

I earnestly recommend, therefore, the passage of such laws as will protect the workingman from the rapacity and dishonesty of his employer. Men who have been faithful and diligent in fulfilling their contracts, by putting in and laying by the crops, as was universally admitted at the time by the public journals, when the necessity for their labor has some-

what relaxed, have been driven from the plantation upon some frivolous pretext, and all compensation for their labor refused them; and these outrages are palliated and excused by some of the very journals who were previously loudest in praise of the laborers. Thus at the close of the season, without money and without employment, the laborer is thrown upon society to beg or starve; to become depredators on the community, and candidates for our jails, and penitentiary. Others, in the division of the crops, have been defrauded by their employers, giving rise to quarrels, and bloodshed, and more than once, murder has been added to robbery. These evils should be remedied promptly, and I earnestly recommend for your consideration the establishment of a special tribunal in each County, to have cognizance of all cases between the laborer and his employer, with simple rules for their adjudication and settlement. Labor and capital should be both protected in such manner as to prevent either from encroaching on the other. Contracts should be made in writing, and rigidly enforced. The laborer should be required to perform his contract with fidelity, and no opportunity should be afforded to the contractor or employer to evade payment when the contract has been fulfilled. The remedy should be plain, simple, and cheap. Every inducement should be held out for the encouragement of industrious, economical, and temperate habits in our laboring population, and premiums for these excellencies might be advantageously bestowed by industrial organizations. A man who eats but will not work, is a bad member of society, and should be made to accept some honest means of making his living. Idlers should not be countenanced, and habitual loafers are legitimate objects of suspicion, who if not criminal, are in a fair way to become so. It is from such sources our jails and penitentiary receive their largest contributions.

It should be the earnest effort of every man to secure a home, however humble, for himself and family, and add to its comforts gradually from his earnings. It is to be hoped that facilities for acquiring such homes will be greatly augmented, and that an increased number of industrious and deserving persons may soon be settled on their little farms, with the pleasant conviction that their labor is for their own benefit and that of their families. By settling in neighborhoods, in contiguity to each other, they can avail themselves of the benefits of association for educational and industrial objects, and also for the purposes of protection.

APPRENTICES.

A law for binding out apprentices is greatly needed. An investigation would show that at present there are but comparatively few apprentices, either white or colored, and the great mass of our youth are growing up in habits of idleness and ignorance, which promise badly for their future

career, and which but too frequently lead to vice and degradation. An apprentice has the opportunity of acquiring some useful trade or industrial pursuit, which will be advantageous to him or her in after life, in securing employment and good wages, and, with the schooling, which should always be provided for, enable them to enter upon a career, which, if industriously pursued, will lead to respectability and wealth. This will be much better, both for themselves and the community, than to grow up in idleness and ignorance, dependent on chance for a day's work, and frequently on charity for their daily food—living a life of penury, degradation and crime, compared with which their former condition of slavery was a blessing. In framing a law, it should require that the contract must take care that the bodily comforts and condition of the apprentice should be amply provided for, as also a sufficient amount of schooling. They should be permitted to select a guardian, who would represent them in cases of difference with their employer, and, if necessary, have the case referred to the decision of the tribunal to be established for the adjudication of contracts. Youths loitering about the streets, without home or parents, should be taken care of by the proper authorities, who should bind them to responsible and respectable persons, and thus secure their present comfort and future welfare.

AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL SCIENCE.

The great necessity of the present time, and especially in the South is the want of practical men and women. Our habits of thought and practice have, unfortunately, been adverse to the production of them. The noxious influence of slavery was nowhere more apparent than in the pernicious sway it exercised upon society in dishonoring labor. Hence, the eagerness to avoid it as an unclean thing, and the avidity for what are called professions—clergymen, physicians and lawyers—not for any peculiar aptitude or fitness of the candidates for these positions, but from the conviction that to be connected with them was a passport to good society, while “gentleman” and “mechanic” were distinctively antagonistic terms. And to avoid this taint, aspiring young men, who could not attain to the coveted “profession,” were content to accept a “situation,” as clerk, as keeper of books, as messenger, or any other subordinate position that would enable them to avoid the stigma of labor. Many a fond and foolish parent, acquiescing in his son's repugnance to his father's vocation on the farm, in which he had acquired competence and respectability, has yielded to his desire for a profession; has sent him to a college or university, where, but too frequently, he acquired the vices and not the advantages of city life; and in attempting to rival the extravagances of wealthier associates, has plunged himself into debt, resulting but too frequently in dishonesty and disgrace. Others who have passed this

ordeal successfully, having received their diploma and license, have commenced the practice of their profession, and their subsequent career has been a continuous struggle between pride and poverty, to keep up appearances, which were at best but the shabby genteel, and, despite the many false pretences, were mainly sustained by the subsidies from the paternal home, where the pride felt in the favorite's position in society was but a poor equivalent for the frequent drafts on their limited resources, and their accompanying deprivations. Such is, unfortunately, but too truthful an outline of the career of many of the aspirants for professional honors, which appear so dazzling and attractive to the uninitiated.

Contrast his position with that which he might have occupied in the home which he had abandoned, and which his energies might have contributed to elevate and adorn, and his presence not only give happiness to the household, but dignity to his employment. The satisfaction of having a home of his own, with ample room for all connected with it, with its resources of useful employments and attractive amusements, wealth giving and health giving, in dispensing fertility to the soil and beauty to the dwelling, which can hardly be appreciated until realized. What folly then to place agriculture under the ban of vulgar prejudice! that art which was divinely instituted, and which is the most ancient, the most useful, the most healthful, and the most noble employment of man.

But agriculture has not been a progressive art, and will not be unless it calls science to its aid. Our farmers want suitable teaching to improve themselves in their calling, and to give it its proper standing among the learned professions. An agricultural college, with its professors, commencements and diplomas, might not only satisfy this essential want, but, perhaps, propitiate even the goddess of fashion, whose devotees are so apt to be dazzled by the tinsel and glare of empty baubles, but which, in this case, would be the "substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." And in view of all the benefits to be derived from such an institution, I earnestly and respectfully renew my former recommendations that provision be made for the establishment of a college devoted to instruction in such sciences as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts.

MANUFACTURES.

In view of the importance of attracting manufacturing capital to the State, I respectfully submit for your consideration, the propriety of exempting from taxation, for five years, all capital hereafter invested in it. This policy has been adopted in the adjoining State of Georgia, and has had the effect in some cases of diverting capital to that State, which would otherwise have been invested within our own.

DRAINAGE OF SWAMPS.

The swamp lands of the State comprise more than one million of acres of almost inexhaustible fertility. In their present condition, these lands are not only worthless, but mischievous, from their pestilential exhalations, affecting the health and deteriorating the value of a large extent of adjacent territory, rendering it uninhabitable for a considerable portion of the year. This is the more inexcusable from the comparative ease and economy with which the swamps may be drained and brought under cultivation. What is mainly wanted is an accurate survey of the swamp territory, and next a plan for accomplishing its reclamation. To be effective this must be generally conformed to. How or by whom the expenses of the improvement should be defrayed—whether wholly by those directly interested in making them, or jointly with those more remotely affected by them. A means of ascertaining the amount of benefit derived by the respective parties from the improvement, can only be found by taking the recent State assessment as the present value of the lands, and compare it with an assessment of their value after the improvement is completed, and the lands to be taxed accordingly.

The importance and value of such an improvement can hardly be estimated. It would change the features and character of the most valuable and productive section of the State, and add many millions to the annual value of its products. The execution of it would make available large quantities of most valuable timber land, besides unveiling the extent and richness of that immense sedimentary deposit of phosphates which underlies the Low Country from the Santee to the Savannah. And it would also make healthy and habitable a region of country, which for its balmy atmosphere, the richness of its soil, its delicious fruits, and its abundance of fish, oysters, and game, is not surpassed on the face of the globe. To transform such a country from a wilderness to an elysium would be a work of beneficence as well as sound policy; and would redound to the credit of all who participated in its accomplishment.

AGRICULTURE.

The agriculture of the State is the fundamental basis of its prosperity, and yet not one-fourth of its soil has been brought under cultivation, and so little of labor and skill have been devoted to it, that were it not among the most favored regions of the earth, the heedless and careless system of tillage to which it has been subjected, would long since have exhausted it. And yet in no department of human industry can skilled labor be made more available, or a larger or more varied circle of scientific acquirements be more thoroughly and profitably utilized, than in agriculture; and in no locality is there a more extensive or a

more inviting field for their exercise than in South Carolina. The loss resulting annually to the State from the practice of an unskilled and careless system of husbandry, instead of one that is intelligent and energetic, is hardly to be estimated. Of the nineteen or twenty millions of acres comprised within our limits, about one-fourth are devoted to cultivation, the rest is in woods of valuable timber, and in unreclaimed swamp, easily drained, and of inexhaustible fertility.

In 1867 there were devoted to farm products 716,041 acres of corn, 245,654 acres to wheat, 70,900 acres to oats, 77,000 acres to hay, 9,835 to rye, 1,166 to barley, 1,890 to Irish potatoes, and 200 to tobacco. Of the balance, the greater portion was devoted to the great commercial staples of cotton and rice. The average yield per acre was officially reported as nine and six-tenths bushels of corn; wheat, six bushels and four-tenths; oats, eleven bushels and one-tenth; rye, five bushels and seven-tenths; barley, eleven bushels and one-tenth; Irish potatoes, eighty bushels and four-tenths; tobacco, five hundred pounds; and of hay, one ton.

When it is recollected that it has been demonstrated by actual experiment and measurement, in the vicinity of the city of Columbia, that with high culture, and under favorable circumstances, it is practicable to produce two hundred bushels and twelve quarts of corn from a single acre of land; and that with ordinary intelligence and industry, twenty bushels of wheat, rye, or oats; thirty-five of barley, and one hundred bushels of Irish potatoes, are readily produced to the acre, the contrast between what is, and what ought to be, the agricultural products of this State, is alike surprising and mortifying, and demonstrates emphatically the necessity of a radical change; and to this we are still further impelled by the inexorable logic of events,—in the changed condition of circumstances by which we are surrounded; in the thorough and sweeping revolution in our system of labor, enforcing the Divine edict, as beneficent as it is just, that man shall eat bread by the sweat of his own face, and not by that of his fellow-man, and by the resistless tide of intellectual activity and effort every where surrounding us, to take our place in the march of material progress, and by calling science to the aid of labor, blending brain and muscle in harmonious co-operation, build up the fallen fortunes of our beloved State, make her waste places to bloom and blossom as the rose, and facilitate and hasten her attainment of a prosperity and happiness more exalted, more general, and more permanent, than has ever been witnessed within her borders. That the Legislature will cheerfully cooperate in all legitimate efforts to bring about this desirable result—the improvement of our agriculture—I cannot permit myself to doubt. The formation of societies of practical farmers, meeting together periodically,

to communicate and contrast the results of their experience and experiments, adds the additional stimulus of emulation to efforts of improvement and excellence. I would suggest that an appropriation be made, to be apportioned among the different Counties which may raise an equivalent sum, to be distributed as premiums to those who may excel in the different branches of their profession, but particularly in the deep and thorough breaking up and pulverization of the soil, which is of primary importance, and to the neglect of which much of our waste of labor and of land may be attributed. The substitution of thorough tillage for the superficial scraping and scratching of the soil now so generally practiced, is the first step to improvement and success, and this truth cannot be too forcibly impressed upon the minds of the farmers, and especially of those who have but recently become proprietors or occupants of land on their own account. This will make many an acre now thrown out as "old fields" productive and valuable, and enable the thrifty and industrious farmer to procure homes at a comparatively small expense, the products of which will contribute materially to the support of their families. Some legislation seems to be necessary for the prevention of the burning of the woods, a practice not only dangerous in itself, and injurious to timber, fencing and the soil, but largely responsible for noticeable changes in our climate, for the increased lateness and severity of our seasons, and for the long and exhausting droughts, which are yearly becoming more disastrous. History, both ancient and modern, contains many examples of the pernicious results of denuding a country of its timber; and by men of intelligence it has been deemed that the too general felling of the woods is the most destructive among the many causes of the physical deterioration of the earth. Its mischievous effects in our own section are already observable, not only in our protracted droughts and late spring frosts, and in the washing out of the soluble portion of our soil, but in the drying up of springs and rivulets, and the destruction of our upland pastures, many of which during the summer months afford neither water nor herbage for cattle. In the State of Iowa the planting of trees is encouraged by a law by which the farmer is released from taxation for ten years on one hundred dollars valuation for every acre of forest trees planted; and for each acre of fruit trees planted from a taxation of fifty dollars valuation for five years; and a similar provision for fruit trees and hedges along the highways.

Sheep husbandry is an important source of wealth to the farmer, for which we have many facilities and advantages. The principal obstacle to its successful pursuit is the multitude of dogs by which many neighbor-

hoods are infested. It may be well to inquire whether the numbers of these pestilent curs may not be advantageously diminished by holding their owners to a strict accountability for the offences and depredations committed by them; and, as there is seldom necessity for more than one about a dwelling, a salutary influence may be exercised by imposing a discriminating tax on all above that number, increasing the ratio of taxation with each additional animal; thus, for a second dog in a family, two dollars; for a third, three dollars; and so proportionately. This would have a tendency to reduce the number of dogs, and to economize the amount of food now wasted on them, while it would enable the breeders of sheep to increase the numbers of that valuable animal, and thus to substitute producers of food and clothing for consumers and destroyers of both.

THE RIVER FISHERIES.

As a valuable adjunct to agriculture in the production of food, I deem it my duty to call your attention to the importance of adopting measures for the restoration of our river fisheries. It is within the recollection of many when the Savannah, the Santee and the Pee Dee, and their numerous tributaries, yielded annually a generous tribute of savory and nutritious food from the swarming fisheries along their shores, and when shad were sold in the Columbia market at twenty for a dollar. Now they are seldom seen unless brought from a distance, and are sold at ten times the former prices, placing them beyond the means of the poor, to whom they were an every day article of cheap and wholesome food, and limiting them, as a luxury, to the rich. From the greater number of our rivers they are completely banished. Of the truth of this statement, and of the cause of it, I quote the following testimony of a highly intelligent and influential gentleman, who has creditably served the country both in our State and National Councils. In reply to a circular which I had caused to be issued, he remarks:

“I cannot say when the shad were stopped from coming up the Saluda, but I think it may be dated when the factory dam was built across the river, near its mouth. Previous to that time, and as far back as my memory goes, shad were caught in great numbers in that river. I remember well when I was a lad, my father, who lived in Laurens district, some ten miles distant from Island Ford, was yearly in the habit of sending a wagon to that place for shad, and always returned with a full supply to last the family until even the children no longer considered them a rarity. Many other families did the same from both sides of the river; and this was only one of many such shad fisheries on that river. Now, for thirty-one years back, which I can particularly remember, not a single shad has been caught from the Saluda; they have been totally shut out by that selfish dam.”

Many similar communications have been received from other sources, demonstrating, conclusively, that the banishment of the shad and other migratory fishes from the upper waters of the State, and the consequent deprivation of the people of a large amount of nutritious and palatable food, is altogether attributable to the numerous dams that have been constructed in the rivers and streams, by which they are completely barricaded against the passage of fish, and this in violation of law, which requires that all dams shall be furnished with fish ways at least sixty feet wide to enable fish to pass up to their spawning grounds. Below the dams, an unceasing warfare is waged against them by the owners of weirs, traps, nets and seines, during the breeding season, as if their extirpation had been a matter of solicitude, and was determined on. The cause suggests the remedy, which can be secured by the appointment of Commissioners, with ample powers to enforce existing laws in relation to the dams in rivers and streams, and other illegal obstructions to the passage of fish; and the regulation of seines, nets and fish traps, by which their destructive operations will be restrained and limited; and to recommend such other measures as they may deem necessary for the accomplishment of the object of their appointment.

From the well established fact that shad and other migratory fishes always return to their breeding places, and that they have been excluded for so many years from the upper portions of our rivers, it may be necessary to restock them by artificial means. This can be effected with great facility and at a comparatively trifling expense. The process of restocking the rivers of New England, New York and Pennsylvania is now in the full tide of successful operation, and millions of eggs of the salmon, white-fish, trout and shad are being hatched and set loose every season, gradually to find their way to the ocean, whence, after many days, with unerring instinct, they will return to their breeding places for purposes of reproduction. Between thirty and forty millions of shad have been hatched and set loose in Connecticut River; and during the past breeding season, they were hatched at the rate of one million per day in the upper waters of the Hudson River. The roe of a full grown shad contains one hundred thousand eggs, and these being readily fecundated by the milt of the male fish, are placed in properly prepared boxes, and deposited in running water, to be hatched in from three to four days; and so successful have experts become in the process, that ninety-eight thousand live fish have been produced from one hundred thousand eggs. The young fish are then set loose, and immediately seek the middle of the stream, to avoid their numerous enemies who infest its margin, and gradually float with the current to the ocean. The boxes are then ready for another batch. The cost of the boxes is about two dollars each. Two hundred boxes will hatch seven million of shad daily, or up

twenty-five days about fifteen millions, and would require the attention of about twenty-five men for less than one month. Thus it will be seen that in a comparatively short period our rivers may be restocked not only with shad, but with other valuable species that may be deemed desirable, and our people in a few years will gather full harvests of rich subsistence from our rivers, and "suck an abundance from the waters of the sea." By those who have attentively studied the subject, it is estimated that an acre of water will produce, with more certainty and less labor, as much food as an acre of land, and when diligently and intelligently attended to, in well conducted fish-ponds, it has been ascertained that it will realize five times as much. If this be so, the absurdity of our past policy in permitting the fish to be excluded from our rivers, may be illustrated by supposing that our lands now raising corn, and cotton, should be allowed to be neglected so as to fail in giving their yearly supply of food and comfort. But is this more absurd than in having permitted for so many years our rivers and smaller streams, that once teemed with an annual supply of grateful and generous sustenance to the community, to become barren and unproductive?

COAST FISHERIES.

In connection with this subject your attention may be appropriately directed to the importance of utilizing our coast fisheries. The entire sea-front of our State, from Cape Fear to the Savannah River, with its numerous marshes, estuaries and indentations, for a width of ten miles on an average, may be asserted to be almost literally paved with oysters. These beds are most favorably located, being generally just above or below the low water line, and can be gathered as readily as potatoes. The heats of summer do not destroy them, and only twice within half a century have they been affected by frost, and they can be increased so as to supply every possible demand, either for home consumption, or exportation. It is estimated that oysters each produce annually from one to two millions of young, but so minute in size that the spawn floats about in the water like a cloud, until it is destroyed by the numerous animals that prey upon it, or smothered in the mud. The remedy for this immense waste is to place solid bodies in the way of these wandering animalculæ, to which they readily attach themselves, and are rapidly developed; and on being transferred to suitable beds, in about three years are edible, and ready for the market. Any arrangement that will intercept the floating spawn of the oyster, such as the placing of hurdles or pine faggots near their beds, and their subsequent removal to convenient and suitable localities until they are matured and ready for market, will furnish all the requirements of successful oyster culture.

But, in addition to their permanent inhabitants, the oyster beds of our coast are frequented by immense numbers of scale and shell fish throughout the season, that greatly increase their value. The sea crab and shrimp, not excelled in flavor and delicacy by any of their species, visit them in untold numbers, and can be taken in any quantity with the net or seine. The Drum, a fine fish for the table, weighing upon an average 35 pounds, the roe of which is celebrated for its delicacy, is abundant in the month of April; the bass, weighing about 30 pounds, visits us in large numbers in September and October; while at all seasons, the sheephead, the whiting, the black bass, and numerous other varieties, are found in great profusion. The lands occupied by the oyster beds and fisheries belong to the State, and by judicious allotments of portions of them to industrious and responsible persons, they may be made the seat of an extensive and profitable industry to individuals, and of revenue to the State. From the Chesapeake Bay millions of dollars' worth of oysters are annually distributed throughout the Union, and there is no reason why our Southern coast, with its superior advantages of climate, may not soon equal, and even excel it in the quantity and value of its exports. Establishments may be located in eligible positions for the preservation and canning of oysters, crabs, and shrimps, where the catch of the fishermen will find a ready market, whence they can be distributed throughout the Union, and, from their superior flavor and cheapness, to foreign countries; while the numerous fish would form an important contribution to the profits of the enterprise, and the sustenance of the community. The number of persons to which this new business would give employment, not only to those engaged in the catching and preservation of its products, but in the manufacture of cans and boxes for their transportation, would make many localities, which are now waste and profitless, scenes of animated and profitable industry, and add greatly to the enjoyments and resources of our people.

CONCLUSION.

It is related of the Emperor Severus, (once a colored freedman in the Roman army, but whose energy, talents and valor, had placed him at its head,) that during an invasion of Britain, he was arrested in his march by an attack of illness, which it was soon known would terminate fatally. In his dying moments, surrounded by his Generals, who were passionately attached to him, he was approached by a Centurion of his army, who applied to him for the password of the day. The dying monarch, in that supreme moment, on the verge of eternity, gave utterance to a sentiment, which had probably been the inspiration of his life and the cynosure of his fame. Rallying his dying energies, in response to

the application of the Centurion for the password, he exclaimed: "LABOREMUS!"—let us work—and falling backwards, expired. Gentlemen of the General Assembly, in view of our duties, and responsibilities to those who have entrusted their interests to our charge, and in the name and by the help of the Almighty Ruler of the Universe, in whose hands are the destinies of Nations, "LET US WORK!"

ROBERT K. SCOTT, Governor.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Nov. 24, 1869.

