

Republican Progress

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D. R. Locke, the "Petroleum V. Hussey" of fame, is dead. To record this event is a sad duty, although the period of his peculiar usefulness ended some years ago. His humorous letters from the "Confederate Cross-roads" served powerfully to direct public thought right during the troublous times of the war and the reconstruction. They were worth more than sermons or gags. They attracted by their quiet humor and bad-spelling the attention of hundreds of thousands of readers, and the bad logic rarely failed to have the desired effect. In this particular, the literature that he wrote probably surpassed any that was written during that period. Mr. Locke at once won favor and fortune for himself and did a great work for the Union. The Union mourns him; his State mourns him, and the press mourns him. The Union he helped to sustain; the State he honored; the Press he revealed in all its wonderful power to lead public sentiment.

Of some swindlers who are going through the country an exchange says that they ask to "see swindling machines. If the machine is a singer they take out the shuttle and put it in their pocket, and refuse to give it up unless their price is paid for it. They claim that it is an infringement on their patent. Of course they are swindlers. If they ask to see your singer, make their heads sing.

—Every one complains of hard times. Business is a little dull just now, "tis true; but couldn't it be pushed a little? There is not a merchant in the city who could not increase his trade 50 per cent, even now by judicious advertising—that is, moderately and constantly. Try it.

A San Francisco paper says that there are not less than 30,000 men out of employment in that city at present, with the prospect that the number will be considerably increased before spring. The demand for female help is greater than the supply, but every branch of male labor is filled to overflowing.

EVOLUTION.

"Evolution, to-day, is accepted as a fact by the whole scientific world without a shadow of a doubt. Next comes the question, 'to whom does it make it a question of every investigation?'" [Prof. Kingsley is 1. U. Butler.]

Nevertheless Louis Agassiz, not long before his death, expressed his great surprise that scientists so rapidly adopted the theory of evolution. He did not accept it. A reason for its general adoption will be given at the close of another article.

Of those who advocate it, Mr. Huxley is the most eminent in clear and vigorous thought, and in opposing evolution, I will review his arguments for it.

1. Spontaneous generation. Many experiments have been made to show that spontaneous generation exists, that is from physical materials, aided by heat, moisture, and combination, animal life will be a product. But the late, most extensive, and most careful experiments, especially those by Mr. Pasteur, demonstrated the fact that spontaneous generation does not exist, but that life must have a parent.

2. Reproduction. In of two kinds in animal-life: first by budding and division. These methods exist only in the lowest orders of animals, and need not be further noticed. Second, the egg and essential to it, is the sexual relation. The two parents have differences, that is, by both structural and physiological. The law is that "like begets like," and hence the offspring may resemble most one parent or the other, or it may exhibit a combination of both. Hence species.

3. Variation. The tendency to variation all admit. In his lecture before Alexander Wallace directed our attention to blackbirds. Some had longer tails, or wings, or feet than others. So in physiological difference. The gray-headed parrot is very by sight, and therefore, follows it singly. But the common or fox-headed parrot follows it by scent of the trail, and a fox leaps from side to side, the hound follows it successfully only in pack. Each hound goes as it scents the trail, so that all know they are following it. When all are silent, they know the trail is lost, and proceed to hunt it.

Assuming that evolution is the cause of these differences, and that they have their origin in Variation, it is said that there are methods of selection by which the parents, having like variations, are brought together. Hence

4. Artificial or man's selection, and natural selection. The usual illustration to show man's power to perpetuate a variation, is the difference in our domestic pigeons. Four kinds are referred to—the carrier, the fowl, the pouter, and the tumbler. They differ strikingly—that is in the bones, skin, and physiologically—in the habit of tumbling, when flying, in walking, in fighting, in getting up with air currents. Yet these striking differences

are, they have all descended from the rock pigeon.

Is there such a thing as natural selection?

The answer given to this question shows the difficulty in upholding the doctrine of evolution. Mr. Huxley says:

"Does this selective breeding occur in nature? Because if there is no proof of it, all that I have been telling you goes for nothing in accounting for the origin of species." He admits "he does not know that it is possible by direct evidence to prove the origin of a variety in nature." But he asserts that the races of men have sprung from a single pair, and then points to the differences in the races, as those of a Chinaman from an Englishman; and of a Negro from a Caucasian, or a Mongrel. Then to the differences between tigers of different countries; and of plants, admitting the influence of climate, locality, and food. Then he writes a boast of the plants that bear a profusion of seeds; that these seeds to grow must, "struggle for existence, and in this struggle, the fittest will survive." What is this "fittest"? A seed that has been carried so far from the rest that it finds more room to grow, or a weaker place. Admit all he says, and what force has it? The most any one can claim for it is that natural selection can produce variety. But unless it can produce species it is of no avail, for to sustain evolution, it must extend to species. The question which follows is:

5. What is the difference between varieties and species?

There has been much confusion on this subject, but Mr. Huxley has stated correctly the answer. It is this: If the four kinds of pigeons are left to nature or themselves, they will intermix, and the offspring will present a return to their ancestors. If this offspring is in the same manner allowed to choose their mates, their eggs will be fertile.

This continued fertility shows them to be varieties.

Now take two species—the Ass and the Mare. They will have offspring—the mule. But these mules are infertile,—incapable of reproduction—barren. This fact shows them to be species. If the Creator had not raised up this barrier, all species would soon have been confounded. It stands squarely in the way of evolution.

In his lecture here, Alexander Wallace did not attempt to show that the long-tailed blackbirds mated with each other. The fact that there is no such variety as long tails, or long wings, but that blackbirds which we have ever known are ever the same, is proof that individual variations in them cannot be perpetuated into varieties for want of a natural selection. And the barrenness of the offspring of two species ends all controversy about any variety, under any conditions, ever becoming a species.

6. Since there is no spontaneous generation, the first animal must have come from an egg. Who created that egg? To this question Mr. Huxley replies, that there is a limit to human investigation. This is an evasion; not an answer. If God's creative power must be conceded for the first egg in the first species, why not grant its necessity for the first egg in every species?

But the subject must be continued.

LEWIS BOLLMAN.

The Timber Question Again. In answer to the "Practical Suggestions" by Monroe Co. Farmer, if my friend before he wrote his article on forestry had studied the effects of timber on the soil, he certainly would not have got scared as he evidently did. The facts are we have in round numbers 400,000,000 of acres of timber land in the United States. This timber ought to increase in growth 400 feet per acre annually. This is a very reasonable estimate, which will make an annual growth of 195,000,000,000, equal to 3,280 feet of lumber to every man, woman and baby in this land, and then some.

Now my "Practical Farmer" doesn't need to worry any further. Keep the bushes out of your fence rows.

I want to suggest a plan by which Monroe Co. at least can keep up her timber supply. Stop cutting your fine oak for spokestaves, etc., to be hauled to Bloomington to be called until there is not a cent in it to you, for the timber wasted, to my nothing of your labor in making and hauling the same over muddy roads. Practical Farmer further says that if we continue to destroy our timber for twenty years longer we won't have enough timber left to make a respectable pig pen. Here he gives the census a black eye again.

It is estimated that the saw mills cut an average of 50 feet per acre, annually, so that a yearly growth of 400 feet board measure, for each acre of our forests, as said before, would give each inhabitant 3,280 feet every year perpetually, or 17,600 for each family yearly. Our Practical Farmer's family, though small, would draw 17,600 feet yearly, which would make a respectable pig pen, if such a pen can be made respectable.

Does the present price of lumber indicate a shortage? Let me see: Lumber sold in 1866 and 1867 at an average price of \$18.70 per M. ft., and for the next 12 years it sold at an average of \$18.46 per M. It is worth to-day \$16.30 average. Does this look like a shortage of timber? Yet this is the difference of timber?

If there is any more excitement on this question, more figures will be forthcoming.

CLEAR CREEK.
SOLDIERS' MEETING AT HARRODBURG.

There was a meeting of ex-soldiers of two late war held at Harroldburg, this county on the 13th inst, for the purpose of considering the merits or demerits of the rated service pension bill, introduced in the present session of Congress by Mr. Cameron, of Pennsylvania, namely, the granting of a graded pension to all union soldiers according to length of service, at the rate of one cent a day for each day served, that is, the man who served 90 days to have 90 cents per month, those who served one year \$3.65 and three year men \$10.95 per month and so on in proportion for all time served in suppressing the rebellion.

The meeting being called to order John C. Clay was elected President, and John Brogan Secretary, pro tem. On motion an organization was formed to be called the Service Pension Association of Clear Creek township, the nomination of president and secretary was declared permanent. A committee of three was appointed to draft resolutions and to respectfully ask the aid of the county press to bring the matter fairly before our fellow citizens and wake up the ex-soldiers to a proper knowledge of the bill, so as to do away with all misconception which it seems most pension legislation is teeming with.

A committee of two having been appointed at a previous meeting to canvas the township for signatures to petition to our Senators and Representative in Congress, and to confine their efforts to ex-soldiers alone, reported the petition signed by forty-one in this township. Every man who were the bare uniform, at present residents of this township, put his name to it enthusiastically.

The committee on resolutions reported the following reasons in line of resolutions why this bill should pass and have the support of all who love their country.

1st. That the principle of equity and justice on which this bill is framed is right to all concerned.

2nd. That the sentiment of the people irrespective to party are in favor of a general pension and the republi is too great and prosperous to refuse to its preservers enough to prevent the patriotism of their early manhood, being the cause of the poverty and want of their old age.

3rd. That calling up the fire and energy that with all bayonet and bayonet from '61 to '65, solidified a loose jointed confederacy of states, an iron bound everlasting union, remebering the thousand battlefields where our comrades gave their lives and our blood was wasted like water, calling back the terrible marches, with sinews strained, with muscles rigid, and swollen veins, when physical exertion was the pain of a thousand deaths, fierce heat and bitter cold, dire hunger for weeks at times, when many had to rob the brutes to sustain life, by the memories of those days and scenes, it is unworthy of the men who carried the load, the advancement and the progress of the whole human race a century forward to beg or whine for aid, we demand justice, and this bill gives it, all others are merely demagogues.

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5. What is the difference between varieties and species?

There has been much confusion on this subject, but Mr. Huxley has stated correctly the answer. It is this: If the four kinds of pigeons are left to nature or themselves, they will intermix, and the offspring will present a return to their ancestors. If this offspring is in the same manner allowed to choose their mates, their eggs will be fertile.

This continued fertility shows them to be varieties.

Now take two species—the Ass and the Mare. They will have offspring—the mule. But these mules are infertile,—incapable of reproduction—barren. This fact shows them to be species. If the Creator had not raised up this barrier, all species would soon have been confounded. It stands squarely in the way of evolution.

In his lecture here, Alexander Wallace did not attempt to show that the long-tailed blackbirds mated with each other. The fact that there is no such variety as long tails, or long wings, but that blackbirds which we have ever known are ever the same, is proof that individual variations in them cannot be perpetuated into varieties for want of a natural selection. And the barrenness of the offspring of two species ends all controversy about any variety, under any conditions, ever becoming a species.

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