

SOME "FLORIDA INCIDENTS."

BY COLONEL C. T. GREEN

How An Old Timer Turned Himself Out of the Church He Built Himself.

Written Especially for the Ocala Banner.

XXI.

One of the oddest characters that ever existed was an individual named Reuben Wilson, who lived in the early days in what is now known as Dade City, a thriving place about fifty miles north of Tampa. Rube was an original character; a diamond in the rough; uneducated, yet with intelligence, and with a droll sense of humor which made him pleasant company and in great demand with those who had heard of, or knew him. The late Henry Plant on several occasions invited him and took him as a guest on his trips to Nassau, for, as one of Rube's friends once remarked, "Dull care and Rube Wilson cannot live together in the same room."

With the growth of the orange business Rube set out an orange grove, which became very valuable and with the coming of the railroad to Dade City, Rube anticipated the building up of a large commercial city and its present importance shows that he was a prophet. Rube owned two-thirds of the land adjacent to the depot. A settlement sprang up and Rube and one of his friends, one Dave Hathcock, determined upon the building of a Methodist church, and with their own hands and with lumber purchased with their own money and with very little assistance outside, erected a very neat little country church.

As the months rolled by another type of civilization appeared in the form of an individual who wanted to procure a license for a saloon. As under the provisions of the Florida law a petition had to be signed by a majority of the voters in the precinct. When they started to secure signers and applied to Reuben he said, "No, boys, I cannot sign your paper. I am a member of the Methodist church in good standing and I cannot do it, but I recognize that saloons and street cars, and theatres and billiards and pool and all such like are necessary in every big city and that if Dade City is to grow into a big city she must have these things and while

I cannot sign myself, I plum sympathize with ye, I will help ye get some names," and very shortly with Rube's influence the necessary number of names were made up and among others was his old friend, Dave Hathcock. The saloon had not been in blast more than a month when one of these traveling moderators came to Dade City and a church meeting was called to which Dave Hathcock and one other brother therein, who had signed the paper, were summoned, and as Rube tells the story, he says:

"When I he'rn of that air meeting I whistled to my dog, Tige, and says I, 'Tige, we will go down and see what's doin',' and, so, says he, 'we went into our own pew and we opened up our eyes and we listened and with our own ears we heard our Brother Hatchcock turned out of that air church, and this was too much for me, and I riz up and says I, 'Mr. Moberator and Brothers and Sisters; I've sot here and listened with my own ears and I have he'rd Brother Dave Hathcock turned out of the church which he an' I together with no help from you all, built with our own hands and while Mr. Moderator and Brothers and Sisters, I didn't sign that air liquor petition, yet I felt in my bones that it should be signed, an' I told the boys so and they signed it and I guess if Brother Hathcock should be turned out of this church, I should be also, and I move, Mr. Moderator, that I, Rube Wilson, be turned out of the church.'" (At this point of the story Reuben would wax a little wrathly an' hot.)

"An' what do you suppose that little crooked eyed cracker Bill Smith, who wouldn't give nary a red cent for the church at any time, said? 'He riz and he said, 'I second the motion of Brother Wilson.' And Rube Wilson on his own motion, seconded by the darned little cracker, was turned out of the church which he an' Dave Hathcock had built with their own hands. An' me and my dawg Tige, have never sot foot in any church since."

BELLEVIEW

Special Correspondence Ocala Banner.

The second entertainment given by the W. C. T. U. took place in the town hall Friday evening. There were five contestants for the silver medal, Miss Bessie Shedd being the successful one.

Presiding Elder White preached at Candler last Sunday morning and at this place in the evening.

"Aunt Duck" Mason has moved into her new house on the Nichol's lot.

Mr. Sparkman, of Oxford, spent Sunday with his sister, Mrs. T. H. Mitchell.

Miss D. Ilar Fosnot, of Lake Weir, spent Sunday with Miss Eliason.

The little town is fast taking on a summer appearance. Closed houses are the order of the day. Monday night saw quite an exodus of winter residents. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Doolittle and Mr. and Mrs. J. Millson going to Short Beach, Conn.; Mrs. Foster, to New Haven, Conn.; Mr. E. Holstead, of New Brunswick, Canada, spends part of the summer at Boston, and Mrs. E. Bush, of Quincy, Mass., goes to Chicago for a month. Cantaloupes are being shipped in small quantities and okra and tomatoes are shipped daily.

Melons and cantaloupes are not doing as well as usual—fine vines, but not much fruit, is the complaint. Judge Hopking is suffering from a abscess in the ear.

A number of Belleview people went to Ocala Tuesday.

If we couldn't edit a newspaper ourselves we don't believe we would continually bay and bark at the fellow who does.

The Manufacturers' Record of Baltimore, says that there are two jobs for every willing worker in the south.

FORT McKOV.

Special Correspondence Ocala Banner.

Messrs. D. B. Brinson and H. F. Smith had an experience with a 14-foot alligator a few night ago that was quite exciting. These men were hunting 'gators for their hides, and finding this one they proceeded to dispatch him in the usual way by shooting him. When the gun fired the concussion extinguished the lantern and left them in darkness. Mr. Smith, thinking to save the 'gator caught it, but in some way was knocked out of the boat, and to save himself from the jaws of the monster got up a small tree near by. Brinson, not knowing what became of his partner, proceeded to hide himself in the bottom of the boat until he could light his lantern and get his bearings. After getting a light he found Smith up the tree. They soon got themselves together again, when a harpoon was thrown into the wounded 'gator. Then the fun began in real earnest. After firing six charges of buckshot into the saurian he was captured. This is said to be the largest 'gator ever killed in the Ocklawana river. These men will have the large teeth mounted, and ship the hide, for which they will get \$3.

The young people of this place and Dexter, learning that Capt. Howard would come up the river Saturday night, chartered Capt. Thompson's truck and hitched up old Kit and Grace to it and enjoyed a straw ride to Iola to see the boat. They were very much disappointed when the boat did not come after waiting all night.

We are under obligations to the Marion Palm company for one of their handsome palms. The company is doing business at 49 Broadway and is composed of L. J. Berlock, W. P. Crooms and William Taylor.

THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA.

The Legislative Investigating Committee's Unfavorable Report

The following are extracts taken from the report of the committee. Upon inquiry Dr. Sledd, the president, stated that at the beginning of the scholastic year there was a total enrollment of 225 students. At present there are on hand in course of instruction 140 to 150 students. Since the beginning of the scholastic years there has been a loss of 75 students. Your committee then inquired of Dr. Sledd how many of the 140 students now in attendance at the University were residents of the county of Columbia. To this he replied 72.

The salaries of the instructors range from \$1000 to \$1500. The salary of the president of the University is \$2500. Your committee then visited the many buildings, going first to what is known as Chapel Hall. This building was found to be in a frightfully dilapidated condition, absolutely filthy, walls falling down, and the class rooms where the students are instructed absolutely inadequate, filthy, and hardly as good in equipment as the average country school. Many country schools are much better equipped and more decently kept.

Your committee then visited the gymnasium, the funds for the building of which were furnished by Mr. Flagler, and found, while it is a very beautiful building, with every equipment, that it is already in a dilapidated condition, showing serious defective construction.

Your committee would further state that upon investigation they find that the faculty of twenty referred to is composed in the large percentage of young men, scarcely one of whom is apparently more than thirty years of age, excepting in one or two instances. Your committee asks you to take notice that there are now twenty instructors for 140 students, or an average of one instructor for every seven students.

We find that the building erected out of the \$2500 appropriation made by the last legislature for the veterinary department of the University was so inconveniently located and so entirely unadapted to the uses intended that it has been wholly abandoned and is no longer in use.

We find that a large number of the students are studying branches properly belonging to public county high schools, and to private commercial colleges, thus depriving the young people of this state in a measure of the facilities for education which the institution was intended to provide.

The United States government funds for supporting the experimental station have been used for purposes contrary to the national law. As a result of this practice the agricultural interests of the state have suffered and the state will be deprived of a part of the \$1560 appropriation to which it will be entitled for the next fiscal year, the United States Department of Agriculture having recently ruled to this effect.

The management of the station farm is not such, as in our opinion, would commend itself to intelligent, thrifty farmers. There is an abundant evidence of inefficiency and wastefulness.

In connection with the examination of the farm management of the University, your committee took especial pains to inquire into the number of students taking an agricultural course in the University. We find that there is today but one student in attendance, and that he is a student of Columbia county. And we find many of the citizens of Lake City opposed to the way the institution has been managed in the past, believing that too much politics had been injected into the management for the good of the institution. We also believe and think that an institution of this kind should have at least one farmer on the board of trustees, as it is an agricultural and mechanical college. We are sorry to state that the farm has been in bad condition for a number of years.

We wish to say that we offer this report in the most friendly disposition, and our object is to benefit and not to damage.

We hope that the University of Florida will outlive its critics by a thousand years, and that the mistakes and blunders of the past will serve as a lamp to light us through the mist and mirage of the present to a beautiful and unclouded dawn of a glorious day when the lovely little city of lakes will be the happy location of the grandest university in the South.

A Subnatorial Possibility.

Captain W. J. Hillman, of Live Oak, a prominent member of the Consolidated Naval Stores Company, and one of the largest turpentine operators in the state, has been spending a few days at the capital. Capt. Hillman is frequently and prominently mentioned as a promising gubernatorial possibility. The genial gentleman, however, denies the imputation of having aspirations along that line.—Tallahassee Capitol.

BORORO INDIANS.

How the Boys of This Brazilian Tribe Get Their Names.

In an interesting article on the aborigines of Brazil in the current Southern Workman the method of naming boys is thus described: The ceremony of initiation into the rights and privileges of citizenship in the Bororo tribe is interesting. The little bronze body of the baby boy is more or less daubed with gum or pitch and plated with white feathers; then early in the morning before the rising of the sun the family and friends and the priest or conjurer betake themselves to an eminence near the village. And as the sun, the supreme power, sweeps majestically upward from behind the eastern wilderness the conjurer bores the lower lip of the embryo warrior with an instrument made especially for the occasion and beautifully decorated with brilliant feathers and at the same time whispers "Piadudu" (humming bird) or the name of some other animal or object that the child is to bear. "Piadudu," softly repeat the family and friends in turn, and thus Piadudu, a favorite name, becomes the name of the little one. They are very jealous of their names and will not make them known to aliens. In order to become a citizen of the tribe a person of alien birth would have to reside with it for some time and be initiated much as the child is.

TEA A WEEK OLD.

The "Real Good Old Post and Rails" of Australia.

The tea drinkers of Australia rival those of China and Japan, not, however, in the quality, but in the quantity, consumed. The men especially drink the beverage in large quantities and all day long and at a strength which would make the cue of a tea drinking Chinaman curl. On Sunday morning the tea drinker starts with a clean pot and a clean record. The pot is hung over the fire, with a sufficiency of water in it for the day's brew, and when this is boiled he pours into it enough of the fragrant herb to produce a deep coffee colored liquid.

On Monday, without removing yesterday's tea leaves, he repeats the process. On Tuesday the same, likewise on Wednesday, and so on through the week. Toward the close of the seven days the pot is filled with an acrid mash of tea leaves, out of which the tea is squeezed by the pressure of a tin cup. By this time the tea is the color of rusty iron, incredibly bitter and disagreeable to the uneducated palate. The natives call it "real good old post and rails," the simile being obviously drawn from a stiff and dangerous jump, and regard it as having been brought to perfection.

THE ROMAN ARENAS.

They Were Not Mere Rings, as Those of the Modern Circus

The arenas of ancient Rome were not, as some people suppose, mere rings or ovals, such as may be seen in the modern circus. They were broken up and varied in character according to the nature of the fighting to be done or to the caprices of those in authority. On one occasion an arena might resemble the Numidian desert, on another the garden of Hesperides, thick set with groves of trees and rising mounds, while again it pictured the great rocks and caves of Thrace.

With these surroundings the combatants advanced, retreated, encircled their adversaries or kept wild beasts at bay as occasion offered or as their courage or fear suggested. Men combated not only with the more common brutes, but with such monsters as elephants, rhinoceroses, hippopotamuses and crocodiles. On other occasions flocks of game, such as deer and war ostriches, were abandoned to the multitude, and in some cases the arenas could be turned into lakes, filled with monsters of the deep, and upon the surface of which naval engagements took place.

The Word "Jirikisha."

The word jirikisha comes from three Japanese roots, jiu-riki-sha, meaning respectively man, power, carriage, but it is not of Japanese origin. So recently as 1870 the inconvenience of the slow, lumbering two wheeled cars turned the thoughts of English residents to the ease with which the hardy natives could propel a lightly constructed vehicle, and one was invented, some say by a missionary, others by a newspaper proprietor's son. Ever since then the heavy carts have been entirely dispensed with.

The Japanese Idea of Bravery.

There is a time when death is much easier for a man than to fulfill his duty, and if he dies just for the sake of death he cannot execute the duty that is assigned him. True bravery is not in throwing away one's life or courting death but in doing one's duty at the hazard of one's life. You must not forget that.—From "A Daughter of Japan," by Marul Gensal.

Homelike.

"Mamma," said the little girl who was having her first experience of riding in a sleeper. "Hush, dear," whispered mamma, "you will wake the others." "But, mamma, I only want to ask one question." "Well, what is it?" "Who has the flat above us?"—Life.

Didn't Need Money.

Dixon—How is your artist friend getting along in New York? Tomson—Oh, splendidly! Dixon—Have you heard from him? Tomson—No; that's the reason I know he's prospering.—Detroit Free Press.

Progress is the activity of today and the assurance of tomorrow.—Emerson.

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