

here. Great consternation and confusion reigned everywhere. Refugees with negroes and mules were passing. Small squads of Wheeler's men were galloping to and fro with their sabres and spurs jingling and searching every barn for rested horses.

Rumors were at the gate constantly advising the brave women (who were really the only ones who really stood their ground) how and what stuff to hide. All sorts of rumors were afloat. One of which was that the yaukees were carrying off all male children. Hide out the little boys was the cry of every one. There were three of us—ages eleven, nine and six—mother fixed us up some rations and old quilts and told us to go to the swamps and to trust in God for safety—and I assure you we trusted too—for I have never been as scared but once since, and that was the night of the earthquake. The bodies of our two older brothers were already in Virginia soil and we thought if the yankees would kill them they would kill us also. We stayed out three days but would slip up to the house at night to hear the news and get something to eat. In the mean time Pap had gotten home and was hiding down in the old cow pasture. After conflicting rumors it was decided for us to come in, which we did in time to meet the advance guard of the plunderers. As they dismounted at the gate every man drew his pistol and ran in the house with it in hand. I prayed then as never before for when I saw those pistols I thought that the time of my departure was at hand. But no Johnny Rebs' were to be found around there so they put their pistols up, and began ransacking the house. They told mother that they were the Illinois boys. The next day they were as thick as gnats everywhere, and the burning of gins, mills and vacant residences caused great fires in every direction.

One instance to show the loyalty of the old slaves to master at this critical hour, when women, children and property were at their mercy two old men, George Smith and Thomas McKenistry were coming in an old weathered house in order to keep out of sight of the yankees. They were located by a straggler who reported his find at camp that night. A detachment was ordered to investigate and bring in the old men. At daybreak the house

was surrounded but the birds had flown. Old Mack who belonged to Mr. Smith was at the camp and heard the spy's report and the arrangements made for the capture of these two men. As soon as the old negro could slip away from camp he made for the well known weather house five miles away to warn his master with a fitness not excelled on previous occasions when pursued by patrolmen.

Of the many crimes that have been committed by the negroes since freedom I doubt if 10% of them have been committed by ex-slaves.

The most humble and upright negroes of today are those who, if not taught, have been influenced by contact with the white man. Therefore, I do not see the wisdom of the Fortner bill.

Mossey Dale.

### A Fitting Memorial.

(Special to The News & Herald)

Washington, Feb. 20.—As a fitting memorial to the late President Finley and in recognition of his interest in agricultural education in the South, President Fairfax Harrison, of the Southern Railway, has addressed a letter to the heads of each of the nine state agricultural colleges in the South suggesting that the agricultural scholarships which President Finley inaugurated in the early part of 1912 be designated: "Southern Railway Scholarship: William Wilson Finley Foundation."

These Scholarships, which offer complete courses in agriculture to farmer boys who live in counties traversed by Southern Railway and affiliated lines and who would be unable to receive the advantages of such an education without this aid, are maintained in the following institutions: Kentucky State University, Lexington, Ky., State College of Agriculture and Mechanics Art, Raleigh, N. C., University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn., University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla., Georgia State College of Agricultural and Mechanical Arts, Athens, Ga., Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College, Agricultural College, Mississippi, Alabama College of Agriculture, Auburn, Ala., Clemson Agricultural College, Clemson College, S. C., and Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Va.

In inaugurating these scholarships

### Newsy Letter from Mossy Dale.

Editor News and Herald:

Please allow me a little of your valuable space for a few observations, recollections and ruminations.

I have a good fire of oak tonight, and the patter of the rain can be heard on the window panes. The madam is over in her corner looking over the Ladies' Home Journal and probably will be quiet for several minutes which will be a great relief to me. The prattle and the crying of a baby is heard no more in this home. The only sound that can be heard to break the monotony of the crickets chirp is the occasional blasting at Parr Shoals which reminds me of the bombardment of Columbia by General Sherman.

Pap enlisted under the call from "sixteen to sixty" and went with the old militia to meet Sherman. They got far as the tin bridge & spent one night on the Lexington side but returned to the city next day and in a few days were disbanded on the Sandy Level road a few miles from Columbia. In the mean time Sherman was whacking away on the State House from beyond the river. Lark could be easily heard up

the hill. The old men. At daybreak the house