

Newnan To Have an Episcopal Female College

BY MRS. F. J. MERRIAM.

Newnan! How many warm hearts, scattered far and near, beat quicker at the mere mention of its dearly beloved name! And charming, indeed, does this gem of little cities lie sparkling on the verdant bosom of fertile Coweta. Those individuals who have forgotten the charming hospitality of the old southern homes, the refined exclusiveness surrounding those sacred hearths, the tender gallantry of those world-famous gentlemen and the gentle refinement of those old-time southern ladies, those devoted mothers, famous housekeepers, carefully reared daughters, and close family ties, to these I would say go pay a visit to Newnan. Not one iota of that old-time charm has departed from this modest gem of a town. Go there and you will declare with me that you have awakened in an enchanted spot, a spot wonderfully favored by heaven, a spot sheltered from the blackening track of war, a place that from all appearances escaped the later metamorphosis. Blessed indeed has been this little city! Nothing else could have preserved it from change as has its conservatism. Still, with all their conservatism, the people of Newnan are prosperous beyond the usual. Surrounded by a splendid farming country, whose farmers not only "live at home," but have comfortable transactions with the bank, the town has a solid foundation for prosperity.

Still, it is not to these wealthy plantations alone that Newnan owes its wealth (for wealth it certainly has, ranking among the wealthiest, according to the latest census, in the whole south). She has in her business men the rare combination of old-fashioned refinement and modern progressiveness. Any individual who has had the pleasure of meeting Mayor A. R. Burdett, of Newnan, needs not to be told that wide-awake business methods pervade everything.

But the first thing which will impress a newcomer is that the same devoted faith and local pride which distinguishes an Atlantan the world over is remarkably reflected in the Newnan citizen's attitude. He declares emphatically, and with much reason, that there is nothing to compare with Newnan in the whole country, and truly her individuality is remarkable. She is simply Newnan! That is all that it is necessary to say of her to one who knows. To the uninitiated it may mean little. He will have to go and behold for himself before he can understand and appreciate.

Progressive? Who can doubt the progressiveness of a city which with \$,000 inhabitants owns its own electric system, unexcelled waterworks, a fine brick public school building, and a splendid sewer system. And, by the way, I must tell you right here the history of that sewer system as told me by the mayor himself.

"Yes, our sewerage is all that could be desired. You understand when we decided it was time to put one in, one of our local capitalists, Mr. W. B. Berry, told us to go to work and get the bonds properly signed and bring them to him. This we did, and he took the whole \$20,000 worth at 4 per cent interest. So this removed all difficulties, and we had nothing further to do but go to work erecting our sewers."

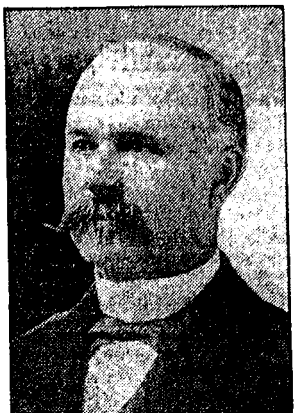
In reply to my questions with regard to the town's water supply, a question extremely interesting to the city of Atlanta just at present, he replied:

"Our water supply would be amply sufficient for all the needs of a city of fifty thousand inhabitants. As you see, it is as clear as crystal," holding up his glass of water between himself and the light, "and as cool all summer as one would desire. And yet it is never filtered. Its source is very remarkable, inasmuch as it comes directly from a number of splendid springs, is pumped into the reservoirs, and directly from there into the city."

Clear? Nothing more transparently clear could be desired. And I must tell my female readers of another discovery I made. Did you ever notice what remarkably fine complexions the Newnanites possess? Well, it is due to some wonderful properties in that water. I discovered from personal experiments that this was true.

There are also flourishing cotton mills, a canning factory, a crate and basket factory, foundry and many other sources of wealth. And, although the town has many handsome churches, they have but recently completed a beautiful \$35,000 Baptist church of gray stone, with stained glass windows, which would be a credit to even Atlanta.

But, best of all, every cent of the capital invested in Newnan factories, industries and properties is owned right there. Not one dollar of interest goes away to either north, east or west, to fill distant capitalists' pockets. Does she have to issue bonds for any improvement or enterprise? Very well. When they are ready for the purchaser, not to Atlanta, Boston, New York or Chicago do they go, but every one is taken up right there at home. This is but one secret of her prosperity. Another is that when Newnan is ready for anything, every man in the county feels personally pleased to see that the



A. R. BURDETT,
Mayor of Newnan.

And the whole of Coweta county acts as one man in the matter. It is needless to remark that the result is always gratifying in the extreme.

There is also a live Young Men's Business Men's league, with Mr. T. M. Goodrum as president. It is through these wide-awake business men's efforts that a creamery is shortly to form one of Newnan's flourishing industries.

I must also call attention to the fine county roads around Newnan. Captain J. R. McCullum, chairman of the board of county commissioners, deserves great credit for the manner in which he has solved the question of how to have splendid county roads. On driving over them I could not suppress a wish that I had only brought my wheel. No doubt the blacksmiths rebelled against such roads, as it must seriously interfere with their incomes.

Mr. H. C. Fisher, a prominent citizen of Newnan, has just launched into the chicken raising industry, and that will doubtless soon become a place from which eggs and fancy poultry are shipped.

But before I finish this brief sketch of Newnan's attractions I must mention her picturesque, ante bellum courthouse, with its immense pillars and tiny portico. The citizens are speaking of erecting a more modern and capacious courthouse, but nothing modern could be one-half so attractive as the present one, from an artistic point of view. There is also a stately monument gracing the courthouse square, erected to the memory of her Confederate dead. Some of her best blood was spilled for the lost cause, and Newnan is deeply patriotic, never neglecting to do honor to her deserving sons.

But with all her prosperity, Newnan has pledged herself not to rest one moment until the recently projected Southern Episcopal Female college becomes one of her solid realities. She stands ready with an offer of \$10,000 and the finest building sites in the state to select from. It appears to be only a matter of a brief interval of time ere a splendid college, patronized and supported by Episcopallians all over the south, shall dignify the lovely town of Newnan. There is from \$10,000 to \$15,000 sent out of the town each year to pay for the education of its daughters, and a college is not only badly needed, but would be heartily supported by the citizens of all denominations.

Really, no lovelier, healthier or more refined community could be selected in which to locate such a denominational college. The society is unusually refined and gentle. This, I am sure, I need not say, for Newnan has not only given Atlanta many of her most distinguished citizens, but they are scattered all over the south, doing her honor. Any mother might feel safe in leaving her daughter in such safe surroundings. Nor could the most romantic maiden ask for a lovelier spot in which to encourage her intellectual development; for beautiful flowers trail, wreath, entwine and grow in the gayest profusion and beauty; the splendid trees form romantic arches and shades to promenade under; the air is balmy and the birds are singing the livelong day. Too, the old ante bellum southern mansions in all their native background and surroundings, make this town an enchanting spot. The only drawback I can discover is the girls would never want to return to their homes, because Newnan would have to be left behind. But I will whisper to you my suspicions: I seriously suspect one great reason for the enthusiastic ardor with which Newnan is preparing for this institution is, she has too many wealthy and handsome bachelors. Not only is the present mayor one of this number, but many of the wealthiest and most prominent men in the town are still