

# COL. RICHARD PETERS

HE IS AT THE POINT OF DEATH TO-DAY.

VERY LITTLE HOPE OF HIS RECOVERY

A Sketch of the Life of a Man Who Has Been a Great Factor in the Building Up of Atlanta and Georgia—A Good Man.

Colonel Richard Peters is lying at the point of death in his home on Peachtree street. This announcement will be read with universal sorrow, and all Atlanta will unite in hoping that he may yet be spared to his friends.

Colonel Peters is feeble from old age, being seventy-nine years old.

At this time his death is only a matter of a few hours.

He is a native of Pennsylvania, and of Quaker descent, his ancestors having come to America with William Penn.

Colonel Peters, who had been educated as an engineer, came to the south early in the forties, and was first



COLONEL RICHARD PETERS.

an engineer on the Georgia railroad between Augusta and Athens.

About 1846 he was made superintendent of the Georgia railroad, and was interested in the stage line which was run in connection with the Georgia railroad, not then completed. In 1846 he married Miss Mary Jane Thompson, the daughter of Dr. Joseph Thompson with whom he had come south.

He then settled down in Atlanta, retaining the position of a director of the Georgia railroad.

He was the first man to introduce silk worm culture in the south, and the first person who brought the Angora goat from the Ural mountains to this country. He devoted himself a great deal to stock raising, having all kinds of stock, horses, cows, goats, sheep and fowls, raising useful rather than ornamental animals and fowls.

Some years ago he shipped an Angora goat to a Mr. Stanley in California, and from that goat has been derived the famous Angora goats of the Pacific slope.

Mr. Peters was a man of great public spirit and a fine scholar, being probably one of the best read and best informed men in the south. His knowledge of geology and of all the sciences was something wonderful. He was connected with all public enterprises, especially railroad enterprises, and was one of the original lessees of the Western and Atlantic railroad.

Possessing a kind and benevolent disposition, he was personally liberal and charitable. He contributed liberally to every enterprise for the good of his people and his city, and has always been identified with Atlanta's every interest, and ever responded to her calls for assistance.

In 1870, together with Mr. G. W. Adair Colonel Peters built the first eleven miles of Atlanta's street railroads, and has since that time been president of the Atlanta street railway company.

He has been a kind and affectionate husband, a loving father, and a faithful and consistent Christian. He is a member of the Episcopal church.

Should he die, Atlanta would lose one of her most public spirited and honored citizens.

It is a remarkable fact that Colonel Peters is the sole survivor of the original corps of contributors and editors of the old Southern Cultivator, now of this city which was started in the Chronicle office at Augusta, in March, 1843. From that day to this he has been identified with it as a correspondent, subscriber and advertiser—a record which shows that with him at least farming and livestock breeding have been no mere holiday recreations. It is safe to assert that no man in the south has spent more money, in various ways, to introduce new farm products and better breeds of live stock, and no man has made less money. Colonel Peters has never been a speculator in these operations—his chief object being to find the best and most profitable crops to grow in the south and the breeds of livestock best suited to our climate. During the past forty years he made many costly importations of seeds, plants and live stock, some of which were a total loss financially.

The south owes much to Colonel Peters for his early and persistent experiments in grass culture, and the growing of Rami and other fibre plants, and his valuable importations of Angora goats gave him more than national reputation. Of late years, however, his health has been such as to almost wholly retire him from active duties, yet his splendid farm at Calhoun on the Western and Atlantic railroad is noted for its beautiful fields of grass its thoroughbred Jerseys, fine blooded sheep, hogs, poultry, etc., and Jersey butter of the best type. As an advisory member of the young farmers' club of the southern states from its organization, Colonel Peters was always ready and willing, without charge, to give advice and kind assistance to young farmers seeking the best methods of farm work. Unselfish and generous in all his enterprises, he has for nearly half a century given his best investments, his best thoughts and his most earnest efforts to the promotion of southern agriculture, with as little personal ambition as a man could display.