The Southern Situation.

Economically it dominated and predominated. It has a perennial charm and peril. Since the foundation of the government it has been the principal industry of our people to discuss it. It has on two occasions put the life of the nation in jeopardy. In the Confederate War at the battle of the Wilderness in May 1863 the Bollock House was the goal of Stonewall Jackson. If he had reached the Bollock House Hooker's retreat would have been impossible. The government would have been compelled to concede the independence of the Confederacy. He was within half a mile of the Bollock House when he was wounded and gave up the command. That was a close call.

In the autumn of 1876 there was a disputed succession, the Presidency being claimed by both Hayes and Tilden. Southern leaders promised to agree that Hayes should be ratified with the understanding that he would withdraw the national forces from the southern states. That was another close call.

The abolition of slavery did not settle the race problem. The abolition of slavery only served to render the race problem more intense and perilous. The question was not as to what should be the new relation between the races. That was a delicate question. The Africans were made the wards of the nation and the Anglo-Saxons were disfranchised. The bottom rail was laid upon the top of the fence. There was the roughest and most pernicious blunder that appeared in the politics of any civilized nation throughout the nineteenth century.
estimated that the Southern States contributed 600,000 troops to
the Confederate Armies and 404,000 to the Union Armies. If these
figures are correct it is clear that the Southern people were not
united on the Confederate War, but the South was only solid in
the moment the government declared her policy of reconstruction.

The War of Reconstruction was begun immediately upon the close
of the Confederate War and lasted for twelve years. It was a
core determined and various struggle than the Confederate War has
been. Two questions were understood to be at issue, the first being
the preservation of the Anglo-Saxon race, and the second the preser-
vation of Anglo-Saxon civilization. The Southern states were requi-
ted to reject poverty and almost to desolation but they stood their
ground and won the day.

Thus was closed the most honorable and glorious chapter in American
design, during the 19th century. This struggle of the Southern Anglo-
Saxons against a victorious and powerful government seems every way
worthy to stand by the side of the struggle of the

Dutch Republic against the King of Spain.

During 27 years have elapsed since the War of Reconstruction was
closed, but the changes which peace has brought have been almost mi-
riculous. The South is rapidly becoming one of the most prosperous
and powerful and enlightened sections of the country.

The government appeared to be disposed to renew the War
of Reconstruction when a Force Bill was brought forward in 1891,
but it was not pressed, and it is not likely that the issue will
tremendous

Upon this tide of rising life the prospect of a canal in the Isthmus of Panama, that shall unite the Atlantic with the Pacific Ocean, has now fairly dawned. It has been estimated that the work will be opened for the service of commerce as early as the year 1914, and it may be in order to inquire what shall be the effect of it upon the fortunes of our section.

1. The Trans-Continental Railroads have long resisted the project and striven to defeat it. They seemed to hope that they would be able to maintain the ascendancy of land-transportation above water-transportation; but with the passage of the Panama Canal Bill their schemes were crushed and the Mississippi River now marches up to the head of the column. It will henceforth drain the twelve States of the Middle west and all the Southern States, leaving the Railroads only the swifter and the lighter traffic. It is fair to claim that the dominion of the world has been promised to the Mississippi, as it was once enjoyed by the Tiber and the Thames. As it now the Canal at New York enjoys, and soon or late another Canal will come to unite the Mississippi with Lake Michigan and make it the outlet of our Northern seas.

2. The Canal will become the gateway of the Pacific, and in a certain sense the Centre of the World. The South lies nearest to the Canal and to the Caribbean Sea, and she will be expected to defend both with all her resources and energies. Her interests would be more nearly concerned, and her prospects would be more directly injured by foreign incursions there than those of any other section of the country. Our Southern home has by this means become one of
the most desirable regions on the continent of North America. Many nations would be delighted to find a footing on the thousand miles of our coast, stretching from the Potomac to the Rio Grande. The care and safety of the Southern seas; the care and safety of our own coveted coast; these are both important and dangerous propositions. We shall not travel far without stormy and stressful weather.

Our children shall pour out their lives on many a sea and shore. We shall figure in some of the greatest and bloodiest conflicts that the race of man has known. Perhaps no nation has occupied a more perilous seat or fulfilled a calling of higher consequence to the world.

3. While we survey these unexampled issues and perilis we shall not surrender our courage and confidence. We have not invited this mighty work. It has come to us by the act of God and by our geographical situation and settlement in the world. We shall reverently submit to the will of God, and walk in the path of destiny. We have striven for no preferment, but we shall refuse none that God and nature shall bestow upon us. We belong to a strong and patient race that for millennia has been in the custom of rising to great prowess and cunning.

Perhaps ours is purer Anglo-Saxon blood than that of other large communities of Anglo-Saxon peoples. We have declined to mix with inferior races and so lose our place and standing among men. We ought to rival in the future, as we have rivaled in the past, the best achievements of any Anglo-Saxons in history.
4. Moreover we have been trained by the will of God, for the task to which his hand has appointed us. We have been chastened by a great defeat, and heartened by a great victory. In long years of poverty and hard toil we have not sold in our tents, but we have collected our powers for noble deeds and trials. We seem to be less corrupted and undermined by luxury than any other large body of Anglo-Saxon men. If any people are prepared for great and stern watchfulness we certainly ought to be. We have received much martial training, we are born to martial tastes and skill, we possess martial docility and courage and patience. Best of all we love our country and are grateful for the task that has fallen to our lot; a task of worldwide significance and value. In all our history no finer distinction has come to the South. There shall doubtless be some dark and cloudy days; but we shall always justify the confidence and hopes of our country. She shall never lean on Southern men in vain.

The Southern country has never witnessed the rising of a larger tide. This day is worth all the sorrows and despite that have afflicted us hitherto. The poet Ovid said when Envy came to Athens, and looked upon her citadel resplendent with genius and wealth and festal peace, she lifted up her voice and wept because there was nothing found there to weep over. When Envy shall go to New Orleans in the years to come, and behold her citadel resplendent with genius and wealth and festal peace, she will lift up her voice and weep because nothing is found there to weep over.