### Charlotte Messenger.

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Short correspondence on subjects of interest to the public is solicited; but persons must not be disappointed if they fail to see their articles in our columns. We are not responsible for the views of correspondents. Anonymous communications ge to the waste basket.

#### THE OLD AND THE NEW.

We take the liberty to say a few words concerning our preachers, now that the conference is over. Rev. Mayfield Slade who has served Clinton Chapel the last year, came to us a stranger, and as far as we have been able to learn, gave satisfaction in the well performance of his duties, with perhaps a single noticeable exception. As we published at the time. when the church voted whether or not be should be sent back, there were only three votes against his return: Like all other men he was unable to please everybody. It can be said he came to us as a Christian gentleman and left us with as clean a record as any man should desire to. He raised all the sevaral funds and left the church in apparent harmony. It is true he may have, and had a right to desire to stay two years, as is usual with Methodist ministers, but the Bishop and the conference desired him to take another field. As far as we have been able to learn, there was no charge against him in the conference, but that the delegate presented the petition of the church for his return.

While the church justly feels grieved at his being taken from us, we must remember that all things work together for good, for those who love and trust in

It was the Bishop's right to send Elder Slade where he thought best, just as in all other cases. The good people of Zion will accept the situation with that Christian grace which should characterize all well regulated churches.

Elder Slade has accepted it because the Bishep and conference thought best, and now he thinks he can do the most good in the field assigned him. He has made many warm, lasting friends here and will not fail to make friends in Wadesboro. We never before heard so general expressions of regret at the removal of a minister, but such follow all good men.

Mr. Slade's successor is Rev. Geo. L. Blackwell, one of the ablest and purest young men in the conference. He is already known in this city, and the Christians in Clinton Chapel have hearts large enough to love more than one man. They need but a few days to learn to love Rev. Blackwell as dearly as they ever gristle and bones remain to be ground loved Slade, Rivers, Tyler. Lomax, Moore or any one else.

We believe the effect of Elder Slade's teaching will impell all Christians to give a hearty reception to Rev. Blackwell, if there was any disposition to do otherwise

Elder Blackwell is a young man, no family, a student at Zion Wesley College, pure, common sense and discreet Chris tian gent!eman.

Since writing the above, things have changed. More next week.

A successful attempt at co-operative farming is reported in England. A company of city workingmen, tradesmen and mechanics in London, who were out of employment, united in an association which rented a running-down farm of 184 acres near London. They paid a comparatively high rental for such land, thirty-five shillings (\$8.75) per acre, but put so much labor on it that the enterprise was a success. The land was enriched and devoted largely to market gardening and dairying, the latter increasing as the association secured capital to purchase cows. Formerly only four men were employed on the farm. Now it gives constant employment to forty, with propor-tionate increase of profit. This, the New York Mail and Express thinks, is possibly a suggestive experiment for unemployed workingmen in this country. is comparatively easy to secure land on favorable terms

Nashville has a citizen who in dress and general conduct appears to be per feetly sane, but each morning he gets up early, fills a small bag with food, ? little tobacco, and some stones, goes to the river and throws it in. Asked why he does this, he says: "Brother can't get snything to est under the water. One of his brothers was drowned.

Lovers of imported fancy cheeses will find food for thought in the statement that nearly one-half of the oleomargarine exported from this country returns again as foreign cheese.

#### An Odd Mental Power.

A Princess Anne (Md.) letter to the Baltimore American says: John Harrison, who resides at Deal's Island, in this county, about twenty years of age, is possessed of wonderful mental powers. He is a dredger, and says he only attended school about two months altogether in his life. This great power consists in his ability to spell backward any word, no matter how long or intricate, that he can spell forward, or that is spelled forward in his presence, and that, too, with the greatest celerity. The American correspondent, hearing of this wonderful power, met him on Deal's Island, and requested him to give an exhibition of his strange talent, which he readily consented to do. Such words as "incompatibility," "incongruous," "irreprehensibility," "Cincinnati," "Philadelphia," and many other long words were spelled in his presence, which he immediately spelled backward with lightning rapidity and without the least hesitation. He never fails, but always spells the words correctly backward as they are spelled to him forward, and if he ever spells the word incorrectly, no matter how long it be, it is always the fault of the question-

Any word that he is familiar with and can spell forward he can also spell backward, and words that he is not familiar with and cannot spell forward, he can spell backward when they are spelled in his presence. He does not spell the words backward by the sound, because in many instances the letters make no sound. He says that he does not even carry the word in his mind asit is spelled forward and cannot explain by what means he is enabled to do it. He says he first showed signs of this wonderful talent while he was going to school the short time that he attended by spelling backward the words propounded by the teacher, much to the amusement of the teacher and the other scholars.

#### Biscuits for Dogs.

making dog biscuit was represented by a small shop in Holborn, nearly opposite so thrown out of the main ditches is laid couple of tons. Now there is a vast fac- course of time the latter would become tory near London Bridge and another in New York, between which is a daily out put and sale of from thirty to forty tons. This dog food is made of wheaten flour (chiefly that known as middlings), oat meal, dates, beetroot and prairie meat Dates were the first article of a vege table or fruity nature introduced, and have had the anti-scerbutic effect so de sirable in the feeding of dogs. For many years they only were employed, and a' that time it was advised that fresh vege tables should be given twice a week, additional to the biscuits. Searching for something that would obviate the for this addition, it was discovered that the only vegetable which did not lose its distinguishing properties under the great heat to which the cakes are subjected in baking is beetroot, and, as it has all the desirable elements for some years all the able bridges have to be employed in biscuits sent out have contained beetroot The last ingredient is prairie meat, which chinery, in consequence, is not always is not, as many suppose, tallow greaver convenient. Beside, the soil, contrary or butchers' refuse. It is meat from Central and South America. From it all fahas been removed, but the most valuable up, and is not only of the highest qual ity from a feeding point of view, but per fectly sweet and good. Analysis ha shown that it is much more nutritiou than the beef usually sold in our butch ers' shops, for it contains only five cent of water .- London Neros.

Living Expenses in Berlin.

Living is not expensive in Berlin, cisco Chronicle. Beer, the chief article light, porous soil, it is not productive on table wine, at from twelve cents to thirty cents or more the half-bottle. At salts are used to advantage; on some of the best hotels you pay seventy-five cents the older fields nitrogenous fertilizers for the dinner, the wine being charged satisfactory results as in other crops. extra. The cuisine is French, with native peculiarities, but it has never the delicacy of taste one finds in Paris. The May. March sown rice will mature in waiters are willing and attentive, but about five months and fifteen days, not too handy in the performance of their Later plantings sometimes mature in adduties. In the matter of eating, though | vance of the earlier. the French cuisine came in with Fredas one of the same size would cost him good a meal in the city of the Golden available spring tides. Gate as for seventy-five cents in Berlin, or in one of the so-called restaurants of the second-class in the Unter den Linden, birds come in the spring. The former without a tablecloth, but the Moselle tion in September, and the latter is not wine is better. The German appetite is more easily satisfied. It is perhaps as fully ripened until after they have taken weil. When the German taste becomes their flight further southward. luxurious they will want war even less than they want it now, and the chances either of these conditions, the rice-bird are they will not fight their battles so to the unprotected crop is as disastrous

found in South Africa. It exists in con fully make his calculations so as to be siderable quantities, and is suitable for able to utilize another for flowing .-

### A RICE FIELD.

THE EQUIPMENT OF A PLANTA-

The Hands that Are Required-Work on a Rice Field-Sowing the Paddy-A Succulent Pest.

near a city or town, a rice mill is now a doing toll work as well for his neighbors. tion to the common laborers who are emoverseer, a trunk minder, who is always a carpenter, and a foreman or "leader" for the negroes, beside a few regular hands to care for the stock, all of whom | ists. are engaged by the month or year.

As many mules are necessary as on a cotton plantation of the same size; for although at times they have nothing to do and enjoy altogether an easy life, neve: theless, when they are wanted they are wanted badly and in considerable numbers, as is the case during "rolling hurry through a certain process by a

but is commonly burned on the land. The ditches are cleaned out annually, as Twenty years ago the business of they foul quite rapidly from abrasion, silt, and water vegetation; and the stuff Chancery lane, and a weekly sale of s on the banks. One would think that in considerably enlarged by the accumulation of vegetable matter and ditch mud thus piled on them year after year; but in many instances, so light and porous is the original soil of which they are composed, and so spongy and liable to rapid annually shrinking and growing smaller under a process of gradual consolidation, so much so, indeed, that in the case that two or more squares tempoparily join their waters by portions of the bank giving way.

in breaking up, but successful attempts have been made to introduce sulky and gang plows and screw pulverizers. The fields, however, are so cut up by the quarter drains that commonly light portcrossing the ditches, and heavy mato the necessity in sugar planting, does not require deep breaking.

although it will not be long before the contrary will become the common prac-Many plantations that have been under constant culture since colonial times still yield good harvests; but the land is gradually, though fortunately very slowly, losing its native power. Usually the older fields produce rice of superior quality though less in quantity than the fresher lands.

writes Albert Sutliffe, in the San Fran- in," and is consequently composed of of diet, can be had at from two cents to account of the absence of mineral matter. five cents a glass. Rhine and Mosello On such a field phosphate and potash

for the midday breakfast and a dollar are occasionally applied, but not with as

week in March to the middle or end of

The principal motive of the planter, erick the Great, Voltaire and the Wat- aside from important cultural objects in teau landscapes, the standard of excel- selecting the period of sowing, is to lence has not been well maintained. The avoid harm upon the visitation of that American would prefer more beef and vicious pest, yet succulent dainty, the less veal. He can have a beefsteak if he rice-bird. He comes in swarms twice a desires, for which he pays twice as much | year - in the late spring and early tall -and the rice must be planted at such inin San Francisco, and it is not so good. tervals as to be protected from his rav-For twenty-five cents one can have as ages. And here another factor comes in.

Both the early sowed rice and that

Should a mistake be made in regard to and annihilating as the torch or a tornado. Therefore, if the planter misses A new species of boxwood has been one spring tide, he must wait and care-Bivouac.

#### POPULAR SCIENCE.

areful measurements of seventy human skeletons have shown the lower limbs to be equal in only seven. It appears that a person's legs may differ in length from an eighth of an inch to an inch and five eights, without any deformity being recognizable.

A Frenchman, Mons. Rohart, has discovered that waste grease, like that of sheep's woo!, very readily absorbs sulphuretted hydrogen and other sulphurcompounds, and that it will then form a cheap and excellent soap with alkaline carbonates. The operation is very rapid, requiring less than an hour; and further economy results from the fact that the alkalies do not have to be used in a caustic state.

Imitation amber is being largely used in Germany for the mouthpieces of pipes, owing to the dearness and scarcity of the big steam mills in the nearest city. real article. From time immemorial amber has been chiefly found on the Konigsberg coast of Prussia, partly by dragging and partly by mining. The Palmnicken Mines yield about 3,000 cwt. annually, and large pieces of amber produce \$30 per kilogram (two pounds) when taken from the mines. Most of this goes to Vienna, where the largest manufactory of amber mouthpieces ex-

Much interest has been excited among engineers by the construction, under the direction of the Russian Government, of some locomotive cars of a special type for the Transcaspian Failway, and built so as to mest two difficulties, viz., the waterless character of a large section of the line, and the insignificant ordinary time" in sugar planting, in order to traffic. To meet the former the locomotive car is provided with tanks containing sufficient water to last seventy miles; The planter's busy season commences and, as the waterless stretch from Miwith the new year. The squares are chaelovsk to Kazantchik is about fifty cleared of stubble, plowed and harrowed. miles in length, this supply is amply suf-The stubble is in some cases plowed in, ficient under any contingencies that may occur. With regard to the second difficulty, the locomotive is constructed with a car connected to it and capable of conveying eighty passengers. The locomotive car is warmed by the exhaust steam from the engine, by which arrangement an important economy in the consumption of fuel results.

A recent number of the Japan Weekly Mail contains a short account of a night ascent of the active volcano Asamayams. The party left Karnisawa in the afternoon, and commenced the ascent from decay is the added trash, that the banks | the eastern side about sunse'. The sky was perfectly clear, and the summit was reached an hour before midnight. The wind, blowing from the south, carried even a well kept plantation it is frequently the sulphurous vapor away to the north-the case that two or more squares tempouncomfortable. The party saw quite to the bottom of the crater, which presented the appearance of a furnace filled with glowing coals. The sound of the oaring, hissing, and bubbling is de scribed as loud and awful. The walls o the crater are of a light brown color, and are composed of successive lavers marked out with striking regularity like the seats in an amphitheatre. Allowing ten of these layers to each interval of twenty feet, the depth from the surface to the incandescent matter would appear to be The periphery of the crater is about half a mile, although the Japanese calculate it at two miles and a half.

> General Miles, of the regular army, says the average Indian will make as much success at farming as a United States Senator would at following a deer's trail over the plains. He agrees with all the other Indian fighters that no redskin will stay civilized: To expect hem to is to go

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TION IN THE SOUTH.

The equipment of a rice plantation varies with its size and location. From three hundred to five hundred acres is about the average size. It scarcely pays to cultivate less than one hundred acres. On a place of average size, sufficiently rare adjunct. Previous to the war nearly every large planter milled his own rice, Now it is found more convenient to carry the rough rice or paddy by boat to the thresher, however, is necessary on every plantation of any size. In addiployed by the day, and engaged and discharged as convenience requires, a wellappointed plantation generally has an

Single horse plows are generally used

As a rule the land is not fertilized,

Where a field has recently been "taken

The paddy is sown from the second

whether he takes it at a pretentious hotel planted later are protected by the "sprout" and "stretch" waters when the where they serve you on a rude table is harvested and safe from their visita-

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