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## Raleigh Christian Advocate.

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The World  
As We See It.

### THE OPENING HYMN.

Ode Composed by Edmun Clarence Stedman,  
Which Was Sung at the Opening Exercises at  
St. Louis Last Saturday.

(The following hymn, written upon invitation of the Exposition management, by Edmund Clarence Stedman, was sung by a chorus of five hundred voices. The music for the hymn was written, also upon official invitation, by Professor John K. Paine, of Harvard University):

#### HYMN OF THE WEST.

(World's Fair, St. Louis, 1904.)  
O Thou, whose glorious orbs on high  
Engird the earth with splendor round,  
From out Thy secret place draw nigh  
The courts and temples of this ground;  
Eternal Light,  
Fill with Thy might  
These domes that in Thy purpose grew,  
And lift a nation's earth anew!  
Illumine Thou each pathway here,  
To show the marvels God hath wrought  
Since first Thy people's chief and seer  
Looked up with that prophetic thought,  
Bade Time unroll  
The fateful scroll,  
And empire unto Freedom gave  
From cloudland height to tropic wave,  
Poured through the gateways of the North  
Thy mighty rivers join their tide,  
And on the wings of morn sent forth  
Their mists the far-off peaks divide.  
By Thee unsealed,  
The mountains yield  
Ores that the wealth of Ophir shame,  
And gems enwrought of seven-hued flame.  
Lo, through what years the soil hath lain  
At Thine own time to give increase—  
The greater and the lesser grain,  
The ripening boll, the myriad fleece!  
Thy creatures graze  
Appointed ways;  
League after league across the land  
The ceaseless herds obey Thy hand.  
Thou, whose high archways shine most clear  
Above the plenteous Western plain,  
Thine ancient tribes from round the sphere  
To breathe its quickening air are fain;  
And smiles the sun  
To see made one  
Their brood throughout Earth's greenest space,  
Land of the new and lordlier race!

The committee having in charge the Mormon investigation suddenly resumed its sittings last week, but almost as suddenly adjourned temporarily, having been in session three or four days. Nothing new was brought out. The story of Mormon intrigue and tyranny was only carried through another chapter. The testimony of several apostles was expected, but these high official saints made themselves invisible to the extent of hiding their whereabouts from the officers of the law. It is not now known when the investigations will be resumed.

We are not sure that Bishop Galloway, who addressed the Conference for Education in the South in Birmingham last week made such a hit with the learned and philanthropic tourists from the North as with the Southern portion of the audience. The Bishop advanced a theory which is deemed somewhat "non-progressive and narrow" by some would-be leaders of thought even in the South. He actually said that two points had been settled in the South: (1) The negro will never enjoy social equality; (2) they will be educated apart from the whites. Good doctrine and true, but we believe that it was accounted by some of the philanthropists as pure heresy.

The application by Mr. Cuyler of New York, for a Receivership for the A. & N. C. R. R., occasioned no surprise in these parts. Such a thing has been expected for several weeks. Judge Purnell of the Federal Court, has designated June 21 as the day on which the railroad shall show cause why a Receiver should not be appointed. This day was fixed with reference to the time of the completion of the Investigation Committee's report for which the State is now anxiously waiting. It is thought that the report will be in the hands of the public by May 21. It is almost the consensus of opinion that the road should have been leased long ago. When the difficulties of the A. & N. C. R. R. shall have been satisfactorily adjusted, the people of the State will breathe more freely. They are tired of this constant turmoil.

It was "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," we believe, who was made to utter that immortal saying about her placing all her troubles in a box, pushing down the lid and then "settin' on it." It was "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," we believe, who in her own true name, Mrs. Mary Bass, on last Saturday was arraigned in a Louisville court on the charge of emptying the contents of a slop jar on Mrs. Emily Smith, whose only offence, it seems, was in visiting the Cabbage Patch with the news that she had read the book, and in not "gittin'" when she was told to "fit" by the irate Mrs. Wiggs. We can hardly believe the story. Yet it is true. It is with difficulty, though, that we can see in the incensed slop-thrower that unique, witty, patient philosopher, "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch." What a difference, anyway, there is between fiction and reality. Yet after all, when we consider the circumstances, there was no great incompatibility between the fictional qualities of Mrs. Wiggs and the real qualities of Mrs. Bass. The people worried the latter very much by visiting her, and carrying away mementoes, and the Judge did right when he dismissed the case on general principles.

At 12.15 p. m. on last Saturday, President Roosevelt pressed the button which set in motion the machinery of the great St. Louis Exposition. A large crowd of people, many of them visitors, witnessed the opening ceremonies, which were opened with prayer by Rev. Frank M. Gumsaulus of Chicago. Mr. Taylor, Director of Works, presented to President Francis the keys of the Exposition. Sousa's band played the "Louisiana" march. President Francis delivered the Exposition buildings to Frederick Skiff, the Director of Exhibits. Edmund Clarence Stedman's "Hymn of the West" was sung, several addresses were made, the button in the White House in Washington was touched, and the answering rumble of thousands of wheels, the fluttering of thousands of banners, and the shouting of thousands of spectators announced that the greatest Exposition on the globe had been opened.

It is a matter of pride to North Carolinians that the North Carolina display, on the first day was a centre of interest. No North Carolinian need feel ashamed of the State exhibit.

On Sunday, the gates were closed. They will not be opened on Sunday. The Christian's Sabbath has gained a great victory.

On the heels of the report that the Vladivostock Russian fleet was not hemmed up in the harbor, but had sunk a Japanese transport, came the news that the Japanese army was crossing the Yalu river to attack the Russian defences. This movement began on Tuesday morning, April 26th. By Saturday the Japanese had crossed over from the island on which fortifications had been thrown up. The Japanese army formed a battle line four miles long. On Saturday General Kurako sent this message, "I will attack the Russian defences May 1 at dawn." This promise was carried out, and on last Sunday a great battle was fought. The Russian army 30,000 strong, was driven back, and the strategic key to the military situation in Manchuria was captured. It is reported that the Japanese lost 700 men, and the Russians, 800—a small mortality when we take into consideration the number of combatants.

This battle was a crushing blow to Russia. This gives Japan a strategic position which will be quickly used. It seems to be the purpose of the Japanese army to occupy the Liaotung peninsula. This will place the Japanese behind Port Arthur with their warships in front.

This crushing defeat for the Russian arms immediately after the proclamation that Russia would brook no mediating interference by other powers, but would proceed to punish Japan in her own way, is particularly hard.

It is conceded by the majority of military experts that Russia is already whipped. Ex-Viceroy Alexieff is responsible to a large extent for Russia's bad plight. He succeeded in making the Czar believe that Japan would not fight but was only blustering. Russia realizes now that she has on hand one of the most serious wars in which she has ever engaged. In the language of the London Daily Telegraph, "Russia at the hands of the new power in the Far East has suffered the greatest defeat that has befallen her arms upon Asiatic soil since Ermaak the Cossack, crossed the Urals."