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which to play. Asheville is advancing in the line of social organization, and there are clubs and societies sufficient to suit most tastes, if one chooses to search them out. What is chiefly needed is a place of recreation and social gathering that would be open free to the public much in the line of the often-broached but never realized "auditorium" or casino, to be open afternoons and evenings and which would afford, under proper restrictions, entertainment of a sufficiently varied character to prove generally attractive to the city's visitors. There are "farmers' warehouses" in Asheville galore, where the tobacco growers and produce dealers from the country can come and spend the night in social pleasure in their own rough way, with their mules and covered wagons about them. The tinkling of the banjo and the sound of striding and laughter floats out from the dimly lighted halls into the silent street, and many a person passing regrets that the town does not afford some place of equal enjoyment for the social class to which he belongs. In a quiet way it may be that steps have been taken that will lead to this result in the conversion of the large warehouse at the Swannanoa hotel into an amusement hall. This room, which is 150 by 50 feet in size, and capable of seating 1,500 people, and with four large ante rooms, has been decorated, given new windows and otherwise rendered attractive and suitable for its new purposes. An orchestra is to be employed by the hotel people for evening entertainments and social gatherings.

UNWORTHY STREET BEGGARS. Editor of the Gazette. The workers in charitable organizations here know that God could make a more generous people than those in Asheville, but they are convinced that he has not. There is no call for help which is not quickly and liberally answered; but this ready response is sometimes abused, and our street beggars trade upon it daily. Once again, therefore, the Flower Mission warns the public against giving to any one, man, woman or child, on the streets, or at the door, no matter how plausible or pathetic the story may be. Only recently a warm hearted woman took her own little girl's best shoes and stockings, and with her own hands put them on a barefooted beggar, who came to her door. The next particularly cold day she looked out of her window to see the same child, barefoot as before, soliciting alms from passers by, and pointing to her mangled feet, to enforce her appeal. As an officer of the Flower Mission, I venture the assertion that there is not in this town today, a case of real need and misery, which some member of the Flower Mission does not know of. Neither is there a professional beggar with whom the society is unacquainted. The best way then of making sure that no worthy case will be unattended and no dishonest one encouraged, is for any person, who would give food, clothing or money, to take the name (and address, if possible), of the applicant, and report immediately to the president of the Flower Mission, Mrs. W. C. Carmichael, South Main street, sending her at the same time the money, though it be but a nickel, or a dime, which would have been given to the beggar. Food and clothing can be sent to the central office to the Flower Mission and money to Mr. W. C. Carmichael or to Mrs. W. W. Barnard.

The giving of alms is indeed an imperative Christian duty, but the exercise of judicious care in giving is no less imperative. Both of these duties can be fulfilled by sending the alms to the Flower Mission, which is always in need of them. RESPECTFULLY, SECY OF FLOWER MISSION, SOUV. GRAPES. The Hendersonville Times seizes with avidity the statement given out by an irresponsible, uninformed New York newspaper man to the effect that Mr. Vanderbilt meant to give up Bltmore. Despite the fact that authoritative denial of this has been issued from Bltmore, the Times says: A well defined rumor is in circulation that Mr. George W. Vanderbilt is about to give up his magnificent estate at Bltmore; and it is at least hinted that the state may receive the manorial portion for some philanthropic purpose. While this may be only rumor, it is a fact that Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt have gone to France, Mrs. Vanderbilt being generally reported as having taken a dislike to her new home. Improvements about the place have come to a sudden stop, and other things point in the direction indicated. Should the rumor prove true, Asheville will sustain a very bad bruise of the other; and incidentally, more general and needed attention may hereby be directed to the superior attractions of Hendersonville, which have been unduly

CONFLICT CRUSHED. Commissioners Settle Difficulty Between Companies F and G. It is not generally known that a state of war exists between the two Asheville companies of the State Guards. There is naturally a strong rivalry between the two organizations and for the past month Company F has had considerable difficulty in holding the armory against the besieging officers of Company G. A few days ago a consultation was held by the officers, Company G, though they were entitled to hold their meetings in the armory, but Company F was in absolute possession, and denied their right to use the armory. The consultation failed to relieve the strained situation and Company G appealed to the powers, the board of county commissioners. Lieutenant Archibald Nichols presented a petition to the commissioners, who handed down the appended ruling: "Ordered that the third floor of the court house be allowed for the use of the two military companies of Asheville, known as the A. L. I. and the Blue Ridge Rifles; each company having equal rights with the other; the companies adjusting their times of meeting. The privilege is reserved to the county to use the room at any time. This order is subject to the revocation of the board at any time."

Traffic has been stopped in many parts of Switzerland by the heavy fall of snow within the last few days. The St. James' Gazette says that the firm of Kynochs, of Birmingham, has begun making cartridges under an American contract to supply 10,000,000 at the rate of 1,000,000 a week. The Paris correspondent of the Exchange telegraph company telegraphs that the Duke of Orleans, on January 1, received 1,000,000 francs from a French manufacturer as a contribution to the royalist political fund. Ladies' \$3 shoes, no tip, sizes 2 1-2, 3 1-2, 4 1-2, to close at \$1.50 and \$1.75; some hand turns. G. A. Mears & Sons shoe store. All Ladies' Wool Shoes, 10 per cent. off cost. G. A. Mears and Sons.

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