

WEEKLY LETTER.

SOPHER VISITS TENNESSEE CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION.

MUCH PLEASED AT WHAT HE SAW

And Proceeds To Give the Public the Benefit of His Observations. Will Go Again.

Man never gets too old to learn, and if he is a good learner he is a good teacher. Shakespeare says "knowledge is the wing with which we fly to heaven," and as heaven is where we all wish to go, it becomes us to acquire knowledge. Lord Bacon said "knowledge is power," and so it was a day well spent, for I learned much in one day at the Tennessee Centennial—so much that I am going to return very soon and take more time and acquire more knowledge. Sometimes think it a great

time a man becomes wise and out and he has to old men who have made their time and talents were less—another three score and had the vigor restored, what a world of mind they accumulate. We Solomons and write proverbs we would make; what teachers; what what scientists. Maybe cut us down to 70 years I would learn too much of life and once again eat the tree of knowledge. Summarizing about this while the earnest discourse of Billebrew, who has charge of the, Chattanooga and St. Louis Western and Atlantic exhibits at the exposition, a man who as Paul said it magnifies his office. It is to school to hear him exposit and philosophize on that ordinarily would attract special attention. If every charge of a special exhibit had enthusiasm the exposition would only be a grand success, but diffuse more knowledge among any similar display has ever

for instance, when we paused at some tobacco that was hanging from the rods he said: "That tobacco always grows on poor land." Indeed it seems providential poor land is good for something. The sandy, gravelly land of Grady county, in north Georgia, grows best tobacco in the world, and it commands the highest price. The soil is not rich enough to give it a color, and hence it is pale and dry, and has the consumption, so to speak. This tobacco grew up to 60 per cent *silica*—sandy land, white land, as you Bartow county farmers will say, have lots own there. I have seen it, and can be bought for a song, but there is more money in it than in your valleys and river bottoms. The sand that is in Florida soil will make tobacco growing a success there. I have been experimenting in tobacco growing and curing for years; and know whereof I speak. There are thousands of acres in north Georgia that are just suited to it, and all those poor white lands in Cobb county are just waiting for it. Some of that land along our railroad that will not grow corn high enough to shoot an ear or make a tassel, would grow the most aristocratic tobacco.

We paused again to look at some little pyramids of broken rock, and I learned that it was phosphate—a recent discovery in counties contiguous to the railroad. "There are millions of it and millions in it," said the colonel. "As is usual, these discoveries were accidental. Some mineral experts were prospecting for zinc, and were at a loss to account for these singular deposits. They have had them analyzed, and they are pronounced by reliable chemists to be the very finest grade of phosphate rock, running from 64 to 85 per cent, and some of the strata are twelve feet thick, and underlie thousands of acres. There are no phosphates in Florida that will compare with them, and most of it can be mined with a pick—a single hand taking out six tons a day."

After inspecting many kinds of ores and minerals such as iron, manganous, bauxite, gold, silver, ochre, corundum, etc., much of which was from our county of Bartow, we were shown the greatest variety of useful and ornamental woods that has ever been exhibited in this country. And also the variety of farm and garden products is admirable. Just think of one farmer, on a little plot of twenty-five acres exhibiting seventy-eight specimens that were grown upon his farm. Seventy-eight different products, useful for man or beast. And another man sends specimens of sixty different woods that grow upon his land. Then there are several hundred botanical pictures of the flora of Tennessee that were gathered and painted and framed by General Kirby Smith. But it would take too much space to describe or even to catalogue the hundreds of interesting things in this magnificent railroad show. It would make a good exposition of itself. Of course it has cost money—much money to get up such an extensive collection, but it indicates the far-seeing policy of Mr. Thomas, the best railroad magnate of the south. For two years past he has had in his employ Colonel Killebrew, who is without doubt the most efficient and best-educated teacher and promoter of agriculture and mineralogy in the state, a man of large and liberal

enterprise, a cultured scholar who can talk science with the scientist and practical farming with the humblest farmer. He had charge of both these departments in the first Atlanta exposition. He has traveled mule-back over Mexico, inspecting the silver mines for their owners. He has more recently invaded the homes of the settlers in Colorado and Kansas and other northwestern states and commuted with them about our climate and lands and laws, and they listened to him gladly, and the result has been the location of 1,500 families along the line of this railroad from Nashville to Atlanta. Fifteen hundred families within the past two years, and the cry is, "Still they come." He is the most ardent and the most successful colonizer in all the south. He is the best talker I ever listened to, the most earnest, convincing and entertaining; and yet he has no land for sale nor any interest in the sales. His work is for the railroad and for humanity. The condition of thousands of those western settlers is most pitiful. Think of 100 horses selling at auction for \$87, less than \$1 a head. Think of 1,000 selling for less than \$3,000. And so these people are closing out and coming to Tennessee and Georgia and buying small tracts of land within easy reach of the railroad, and in five years time these 1,500 families will probably ship their products of grain and hay and meat and mules to an amount that will give for each family an average of \$100 in freight to the road. This alone will make \$150,000 per annum to be added to the freight business of the road. This is Mr. Thomas's far-seeing policy. Within five years' time it is expected that 10,000 families will be located—transferred from the cyclones and droughts and blizzards of the west to the climate of the south.

We see that the Seaboard line is now pursuing the same policy. The Georgia Southern and Florida railroad began it years ago, and improved Cycloneetta as an object lesson to emigrants to show them what could be done. It was a successful experiment, and Mr. Sparks showed his wisdom and sagacity, but the road's creditors forced it into the courts and crippled its resources, and even made war upon Mr. Sparks for his so-called extravagance.

But I had only a day to spare at the centennial, and all of that was spent in one building, for I could not get away from it. It is a thing of beauty, as well as of interest and instruction, for the ornamental work that graces the arches and pillars and cornices is most lovely and elaborate—a master's hand has planned and executed. There, too, is the plaster bust of Mr. Thomas and his handsome portrait on the wall, that were presented to him by his employees as a graceful tribute and an evidence of their devotion to him. What a blessed thing it is in these days of strikes, and wrecks, and twisters and of war to the knife the man—a master and laborer, to find a band of men, doing it so perfectly and considerately, and at all times sharing their respect and their devotion.

I shall return again next week and take in the exposition. I wish to spend one day in that Parthenon, the most exquisitely beautiful gem of architecture I ever saw, and its walls are adorned with paintings—great works of art by the modern masters, and that many of them that cost thousands of dollars, have been loaned by their owners to encourage the exposition and implant a love of art among our people. Let everyone who can go visit this admirable exhibition. Let every family man take his wife, or his son, or his daughter, for it will pay in the long run. Sidney Smith said that the companionship of a beautiful and virtuous woman was a classic education. Just so it is an education to visit the exposition and study these object lessons and listen to the sweet and soothing music and rest under the shade of the trees.—Bill Ayer in Atlanta Constitution.

TURPENTINE DRIPPINGS.

Concord has raised \$2,000 to establish a high school for boys.

The governor appoints the following members of the State Board of Health: Dr. R. Lewis, of Raleigh; Dr. Charles J. O'Hagan, of Greenville; A. W. Shaffer, of Raleigh; J. L. Nicholson, of Richlands; J. D. Spicer, of Goldsboro.

A son and two daughters of Junkers Woodliffe, at Oxford, while fishing, chewed twigs of yellow jessamine, thinking it to be angelica. The oldest of the party, a girl 19 years of age, died on the creek bank. The others are very ill but may recover.

Governor Russell will make an attempt to obtain from the war department the original letter books of Governor Vance, 1863-5. These were taken from the capitol in April, 1865. Copies of them were made some years ago, but the copies are now missing.

In Rowan and Burke counties the gold craze prevails. At the Scott's Hill mine, near Morganton, a vein has been struck that is said to pay out ore worth \$100 a ton. Near Pool, Rowan county, several nuggets have been found recently and farmers have discovered they were the possessors of gold mines.

Auditor Ayer has had a letter from a Tennessean, asking the cost of the last constitutional convention held in this State. Upon looking up the records it was found that the last one held was in 1875, which began September 5th, and ended October 11th, and cost \$26,860. The convention in 1865 cost \$30,000. The question of holding a constitutional convention in Tennessee is being talked of. There is one needed for nothing else than to change the law and let the people at the polls elect a Lieutenant Governor. Now the Senate elects a President, and he acts as Lieutenant Governor.—Raleigh correspondent Charlotte Observer.

GOVERNMENT CROP REPORT.

The Past Week Has Been Generally Unfavorable.

COTTON CROP NEEDING RAIN.

Tobacco Planting Has Made Favorable Progress—Cutting Wheat in Virginia.

The United States Weather Bureau, in its report of crop conditions for the week ending May 31, says: The past week has been generally unfavorable for crop growth, being much too cool in all districts east of the Rocky Mountains, and too dry in the Southern States, while excessive rains in New England have retarded farm work in that section. On the Pacific coast the conditions have been unfavorable to corn throughout the principal corn producing States, being much too cool for germination and growth, while complaints of poor stand are quite general. In the Central and Western Gulf States the conditions have been more favorable, the outlook in Texas and Oklahoma being flattering, while improvement in the conditions of the crop is reported from Louisiana and Mississippi. Planting is nearing completion in the more northerly States.

The eastern portion of the cotton region is suffering to some extent for rain, but the crop is clean and is generally doing well, although backward. The most unfavorable reports are from New York and Tennessee and in the last named State a considerable area will be ploughed up and planted in corn. In Central and Northern Texas the crop is reported as from two to three weeks late, very irregular and suffering from cool nights. Over Southern Texas the crop is not so late and, although being damaged in localities by insects, it is fruiting nicely and is generally well cultivated.

Except in Kentucky, where the outlook is less promising than it was a few weeks ago, the conditions of the past week have been favorable to winter wheat. The crop is now heading as far North as Nebraska and Illinois, and harvesting will begin in Missouri by about June 10. Some wheat has been cut in Virginia and harvesting continues, with good yield in Texas. Spring wheat has been injured by frost in the Dakotas, some being killed in North Dakota. In Minnesota the early sown is doing well, but the late sown has made slow growth. Over the Southern portion of the winter wheat region the conditions have been more favorable.

Tobacco planting has made favorable progress in States of the Ohio valley and the crop has been planted in Virginia. In South Carolina and Florida it is much in need of rain.

TUCKER & CO. FAIL.

Debt Preferred to the Amount of \$31,316—The Assets Will be Large in Excess.

At Raleigh, N. C., the W. H. & R. S. Tucker goods house in the largest hands of trustees for settlement. The partnership heretofore existing between Messrs. James Boylan, Theo. W. Dobbin and William Boylan, under the above firm name of W. H. & R. S. Tucker, has been dissolved by mutual consent, and on account of the magnitude of the business, it was deemed best to turn everything over to disinterested parties with power to wind up the business by selling the stock and paying the debts, and distributing the surplus among the partners. With this object in view, the firm has filed in the court house, a deed of trust to Ernest Haywood, Wm. B. Snow and William R. Tucker, with power to wind up the business. Neither member has any homestead or exemption of the firm's assets. The debts preferred amount to \$31,310. At present it is impossible to ascertain the exact amount of the assets and liabilities, but the indications are that the inventory, which is now being taken, will show assets largely in excess of the liabilities.

THAT DISPENSARY DECISION.

Senator Tillman Gives Judge Simonton Another Raking.

Concerning the finding of the South Carolina dispensary law void, Senator Tillman says: "Judge Simonton has rendered an infamous decision. If Congress were really in session we would get a law through that would reverse Simonton so quick it would make his head swim."

He says the Attorney General of South Carolina would probably apply for justice to the United States Supreme Court on a writ of error to stay the effect of Judge Simonton's decision, pending an appeal to the full court. He has little doubt that this will be granted. "The dispensary law is as constitutional as the constitution itself and a good thing for the State," said the States Senator.

THE UNITED STATES TO Blame.

Madrid, June 1.—(By Cable).—General Boinar, who has just returned to this city from the island of Cuba, had an interview with the Minister of War, General Arurraga, in the course of which the minister was informed that the prolonging of the rebellion in Cuba was only due to the assistance which the insurgents received from the United States.

A Higher Tariff on Kaolin.

Senator Pritchard, of North Carolina, has persuaded the United States Senate Republicans to agree to a duty of \$3 per ton on kaolin. There was a strong opposition to increasing the rate, but Senator Pritchard stood out for \$3 per ton and won.

A Gallant soldier Dead.

Col. Kirkwood Otey, city auditor and a prominent citizen of Lynchburg, Va., is dead. Aged 68. He was a gallant Confederate soldier, commanding the Eleventh Virginia Regiment in Long street's corps, during the war.

LAND OF THE SKY.

Charms of Asheville and Biltmore—Tennessee Centennial Exposition.

There are no more beautiful or delectable resorts in America, at all times of year, than Asheville and Biltmore, situated upon the lofty crests of the Blue Ridge Mountains, in western North Carolina, in the fabled "Land of the Sky."

Ever since the charms of this wonderful and most fascinating region became known to the traveling public, it has been the Mecca of all who love to dil in the choice abodes of nature. A nature has indeed been exceedingly generous in the bestowal of her gifts to the "Land of the Sky." She was a country blessed with a mild, salubrious or equable climate; she was a country invested with such loy, romantic and chaste scenery, as the marvellous region of the Southland. Swapping with the eyes the vast expanse of nature on every hand, the grandeur of the creation—the growth and embellishment of cosmic life, risque and unfolds before the enraptured vision with imperial splendor, displaying scenes of the rarest virtue and enchantment.

Through the mountain ranges of the "Land of the Sky," the devous course of the beautiful French Broad River makes a succession of glorious vistas of cosmic life. The high-walled canons, or the deep, narrow gorges standing sentinel on either hand form a wonderful setting to the sparkling river as it flows onward to the sea.

The three famous resorts of the "Land of the Sky" are Asheville, Biltmore and Hot Springs. These may be considered separately:

Asheville is an enterprising city nestling amid the imperial ranges that make the "Land of the Sky," and has all to indicate of a live and progressive municipality. It is distinctly a resort city, and is graced with numerous palatial villas, tasteful cottages and grand hotels. Its streets are romantic, tree-shaded drives winding about in the most picturesque fashion, and in the pretty park adjacent to the handsome homes of the favored inhabitants. The climate is singularly pure, dry and bracing, and possesses to a remarkable degree the qualities which tend to promote health and pleasure. The number of clear days is very high for the average year. In winter the climate is very mild, yet extremely bracing. In summer the charm of outdoor life is inexplicable.

The air is warm and genial, yet not oppressive, on account of dryness, and the nights are delightfully cool and conducive to restfulness and sweet repose. The great resort hotel at Asheville is the Battery Park—a magnificent home which exemplifies the highest degree of luxury and good taste. No words of commendation are needed for this famous house, standing proudly upon noble eminence, of its sumptuous furnishing, or of its peerless cuisine or service. The fame of the house is world-wide.

Biltmore. This place is some two miles from Asheville, and partakes of the same general character, in respect to scenery, climate and general attractions. But the place takes its name from the imperial chateau of Mr. George W. Vanderbilt, the most magnificent palace in America—a veritable rival of the "Alhambra" and the "Great Tower." Biltmore is a palatial abode, keeping with the place, known as the Kenilworth Inn, an ideal place of abode, and the resort of the best people of the land. The equipment, cuisine and service of this now famous house are equal to the best high-class city hotels, and no effort is spared to maintain the standard of excellence in every respect.

Hot Springs. Situated in a charming plain in the midst of a vast wilderness—not far from Asheville—and surrounded by the most beautiful peaks, is the little city of Hot Springs. There is the Mountain Park Hotel, a charming home for the health or pleasure seeker, and a most excellent sanitarium where the waters of the wonderful thermal springs are administered with the most excellent results.

The route is via the Southern Railway, with splendidly arranged and magnificently appointed through car service. Pullman Drawing room sleeping cars between New York, Washington and Nashville—where the Tennessee Centennial Exposition is now in progress—through the "Land of the Sky"—Knoxville and Chattanooga—Lookout Mountain, the scene of the "Battle Above the Clouds." The Norfolk and Chattanooga Limited, daily, between Norfolk, Raleigh, Durham, Greensboro, Salisbury (with connection from New York, Washington and Virginia) and Nashville, through Asheville, Hot Springs, Knoxville and Chattanooga. This train carries Pullman's finest Drawing-room Buffet and sleeping cars between Norfolk and Nashville, and elegant vestibuled day coaches between Norfolk and Chattanooga. Pullman drawing-room sleeping cars are also operated between Jacksonville, Columbia, Spartanburg, Asheville, Knoxville and Harriman Junction.

Visitors to the Tennessee Centennial Exposition at Nashville will find a visit to Asheville or vicinity most delightful and valuable. The Southern Railway now has in press its annual "Summer Home and Resorts" folder, containing a full list of the many delightful resorts, hotels and summer homes on its line, which will be mailed by the General Passenger Agent or representatives of Passenger Department to any address upon receipt of postage—two cents.

"The Romans," said the teacher, "were good at bridge building." "I should say they were," murmured the bad boy on the back seat. "Look at her nose!"—Washington Times.

To Corner Whiskey.

A pool is being formed in Louisville, Ky., to corner two-thirds of all the whiskey in the United States. Sam'l. M. Rice, president of the American Spirits Manufacturing Company, originated the plan. The proposition is to buy up 80,000,000 gallons now in bond in Kentucky.

A "Dry Town."

The board of aldermen of Asheville, N. C., recently voted to make it a "dry town." The action was taken when an application for a renewal of the licenses to thirteen saloons was made from July 1st. The whole batch was refused by a vote of 4 to 2.

DECISION TO BE TESTED.

Gov. Ellerbe, of South Carolina, Outlines His Procedure.

CONSTABLES TO BE RETAINED.

Will Watch Original Packages—Plaint Bottles Cannot Be Sold as Such. Much to Be Done.

Last Thursday, Gov. Ellerbe, of South Carolina, defined the course he will pursue in enforcing the dispensary law. He said he had decided to keep the constables on duty, as by his construction of the "original package" rating there was much for them to do.

"We are not going," he said, "to seize anything shipped into the State for personal use or anything sold by persons of other States in original packages. I understand by 'original package' that a man cannot, for instance, get a dozen pint packages in one case and sell those pints separately. The constables will have to watch those receiving boxes of bottled liquor or liquor put up in other shape, and if anything less than the whole will be confiscated.

"As I understand it, the citizens of this State will not be permitted to sell in original packages or in any other way. I think, however, citizens of this State can properly act of agents for non-residents.

"Of course, the friends of the dispensary will not be satisfied with anything less than an appeal to the court of last resort."

There will speedily be a test of the correctness of the construction placed on the Simonton decision by Governor Ellerbe.

Dozens of men are preparing to sell liquor in packages as well as half pints, importing them in cases and barrels, and also to sell beer by the bottler. According to the position taken by the Governor, they can only deal in wholesale quantities. This would be no advantage to purchasers, as they can themselves order such packages for "personal use," have them shipped direct and save profits of the middleman.

Court of Inquiry to be Called.

The faculty of the South Carolina College have investigated the facts connected with the disturbance on the college ball field, in Columbia, and as a result has reported the conduct of Adjutant-General Watts to the Governor, as commander-in-chief, for his action. Governor Ellerbe, upon receipt of the full report, acting under the State law, has declared that he would order a court of inquiry to investigate the affairs. Judge Advocate General Mayfield will be the chairman of the court.

Tillman's New Bill.

Senator Tillman, from the committee on inter-State commerce, has introduced a bill giving States the same control of liquor imported into a State which dispenses law, provided that the State has a dispensary law.

Last Tuesday Mr. Tillman, of South Carolina, secured the adoption of the following resolutions in the United States Senate:

"Whereas, the Supreme Court of the United States declared in the case of Leisy vs. Hardin, that no State had the right to prohibit the sale of liquors within its own borders in original packages, upon the ground that it was an interference with inter-State commerce, and,

"Whereas, Under the authority therein granted, the State of South Carolina, in December, 1892, passed the dispensary law, under which provision is made for the sale of liquors by State officers under strict restrictions; and,

"Whereas, Under this system the experience has shown that the cause of temperance has