

THE PATRON AND GLEANER.

RICH SQUARE, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1899.

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FROM CUBA.

Beautiful Natural Scenery—Dedicated to be the Garden of the World.

CAMP COLUMBIA, Co. 1, 4TH VA. REG. VOL. HAVANA, CUBA.

[The following are extracts from a private letter written by Mr. George A. Moore, formerly of this county, but now a member of Fourth Virginia regiment, to his father, Mr. John E. Moore of Jackson, which we have been permitted to copy for benefit of PATRON AND GLEANER readers.]

I got off duty at 8 this A. M. and went to a stream about one and a half miles inland to take a bath. The stream is called a river by the natives, but is a very small one. I have an idea that there has in time gone by been a mill of some kind at the place we bathe. There are many things to prove it, but it must have been quite a long time ago. It is a very beautiful place; there is a high precipice of rock, I guess it is 14 feet high over which the water leaps; then there is a solid stone floor about 100 feet square over which it runs; then there is a deep place where many good divers have failed to find bottom. The stream is about 40 yards wide and the water is as clear as crystal. On one side where there is bottom one can stand in water up to his neck and see the "dirt" under his toe nails." Both banks are studded with cocoa nut and date palm trees, which shade the stream all the time. I will mention here that cocoa nuts are not ripe now, but just in the right state for the milk to be good; it is very sweet and nice; the trees are very much like palm trunks—smooth and long, very often 60 feet before there is a limb. The nuts grow in bunches from 10 to 20 in a bunch; it is certainly a very beautiful sight to see them growing.

I only wish I had some of the "mocking bird" in me so I could give you some idea of the grandeur there is here. I fully believe that Americans will flock here and in ten years from now, the island of Cuba will be the garden spot of the world. I see no reason why it shouldn't, as nature has made it an Eden; all it lacks now is an enterprising people. The Cubans are far from this, they must be the most indolent people on earth.

As to the dreaded diseases, I believe it all came from filth; it is a very common thing to see a dozen buzzards perched on a man's house and all mixed up with hogs, children, calves and goats in the yard; they are as filthy as can be.

Well, I went to the trouble Saturday to get a pass to Havana I first had to get it approved by my Captain, then Colonel Adjutant's office, Brigade headquarters, and then by Brig. General Williamston, 2nd Div. 7 A. C., the very same channels a furlough had to go through.

I visited Weyler's palace, some handsome clubs, the Government buildings, some very pretty parks and many other very interesting places, and went to theater at night, enjoyed it very much. In fact I enjoyed the whole trip; there is a great deal to see in Havana.

It seems strange indeed, to think it is so cold where you are and here we wear as few clothes as possible and then suffer with heat. I have certainly seen two summers in one year, something I never expected to see.

Plant Tobacco. Halifax county farmers have seen the folly of planting all cotton. Last fall a good many sowed wheat and now we would urge upon them the importance of planting tobacco. Tobacco is a good crop and with the possibility of a market here our farmers would be wise if they diversify their crops, and plant about an equal acreage of cotton and tobacco and then they could determine which pays best to the acre. It is certain that at 5 cents there is no money in cotton for Halifax county farmers and they would make no mistake if they will put a portion of their lands in tobacco this year.—Weldon Roanoke News.

Some Plain Words on the Liquor Question.

"They are our best friends who tell us of our faults."

We are informed that our County Commissioners granted license to sell liquor to five applicants at their first meeting this year. What a record! What a black page with which to begin the New Year. Eternity above will reveal the sad result.

Are we to suppose that this is the best these men know? If so, and they have backbone enough to desire correct information as to the propriety of licensed "bars" let them search out carefully the history of just such a "bar" as these they have permitted set up for any five years of its existence. Let them count its profits and losses—in dollars and cents, in moral strength and in spiritual life. The evidence derived from this source is more authentic than that of any man or set of men can be. However, we believe they are better informed, hence the greater their sin.

It is argued that this is a free country and therefore our people ought to have what they want. Such an argument is no good, for even in our boasted good land there are those in whom dwells the same spirit that actuated the daughter of Herodias, who when she could have whatever she wanted chose the head of John the Baptist. No, the public safety demands such laws as shall restrain the evil desires and appetites instead of foster them.

Again, it is argued that there is as much liquor drunk where there is no saloon as where there is. Granting this to be correct the sin belongs to the individuals and not to the government.

It can neither be right nor safe to allow any public institution to exist which interferes with the harmony and sweetness of domestic life. Every licensed saloon is a public institution, run jointly by the government, i. e. the people and the licensed party.

Any body of men, I put it in general terms, that liberates a party to engage in any business which causes the hearthstones of his patrons in that business to become scenes of distrust, discord, ruin and despair, where children are born and reared amid these corrupting influences and with appetites so poisoned thro. hereditary that nothing but the grace of God can enable them to control them—I say any body of men that does this is undermining the whole structure of law and government. Why? Because the object of law is the protection of life and property, and the perpetuity and observance of good law depends upon the home. The condition of the home determines the condition of the community, of the State, of the nation.

In a word the legalizing of drunkard making is a disgrace to the nation, a terror to the home and a manacle upon the right hand of the church.

No man claiming the name Christian—would think of being engaged in such a business. He went about doing good to the bodies and souls of men. "If any man have not the spirit of Christ he is none of his."

It is true that liquor drinking is but one of the many evils that are existing amongst us; but there is no hope of a reformation in any man or set of men till they sobered. Then take the temptations away from them. Their appetites are strong and their wills are weak. The proofs are overwhelming that there will be less of it drunk.

If Northampton is to have other commissioners added let us have men who know the right and who will stand by it. Every county needs some of her very best patriots to control her purse—men who because of their love for her will expend her money only for her good.

It is a deplorable fact that drunkard making and drunkardness are on the increase. We note with sadness the liquor bluish, bloated and decay written in the faces of many men of whom we were persuaded other things. How we pity those! They are our brothers, souls for whom the

dear Redeemer died and with whom He still pleads. O, if these would only commit themselves to God and do His bidding they would realize that He can and does break every yoke and let the oppressed go free. It is to be hoped that a large school teachers both public and private are using every legitimate means within reach to implant right notions of these things in the minds of the children. It is no waste of time to refer with great care it must be done that no one be hurt) to such examples as the children can see. Teach them with great tenderness how some have been dragged down to ruin while others have been kept in safety. Character making is of more importance than technical instruction. Next to the parents the teachers is responsible.

JULIANA PEELE, Rich Square, N. C.

Baking Powders.

The third of the series of bulletins by the N. C. Agricultural Experiment Station on Food Adulterations relates to Baking Powders, and is the result of the work of Director W. A. Withers and assistant chemist J. A. Bizzell.

Twenty-five samples were purchased in the open market in Raleigh, Statesville, Durham, Henderson and Wilmington, and the results may be taken as fairly representative of the powders in use throughout the State.

A table shows the brand, manufacturer, per cent, of carbonic acid and class of each powder examined.

Fifty-one per cent were found to be straight alum powders, and twenty-five per cent more contained alum to a greater or less extent. The remaining were equally divided between the tartrate and phosphate powders.

While it may not be stated beyond a doubt that alum in a baking powder is harmful to the digestion, yet its use is questionable and consumer should know as to its presence.

Baking powders lose their strength, more or less, rapidly and the purchaser should endeavor to secure them as fresh as possible.

The bulletin contains also a brief discussion of the aeration of bread, the action of baking powder, etc. It may be obtained without charge upon application to the Director of the Experiment Station, Raleigh, N. C.

Labor-Saving Devices in China.

In reply to an export association in New York, Consul-General Goodnow, of Shanghai, writes as follows under date of November 3, 1899:

I can not give you any encouragement in regard to the shipment of wheelbarrows, scrapers, dump cars, and the like to China. The wheelbarrow used here has one large wheel in the middle and a seat on either side, were passengers or loads are carried. Once in a great while, dirt is carried in baskets on such a barrow, but ordinarily it is carried by a coolie in two baskets hung on the end of a bamboo rod balanced on his shoulders. These baskets are about the size and shape of a grain scoop. Labor-saving devices are not in demand in China. The cheapest thing here is a man. There is more labor than can find employment. A coolie carrying dirt will receive from 7 to 10 cents gold per day. He must work from sunrise to sunset—not very steadily or very intensely, but putting in a great many hours and accomplishing a large amount of work for the amount of wages paid. There are more coolies willing to work for this pittance than there is work for them to do.—U. S. Consular Reports.

About Catarrh.

It is caused by a cold or succession of colds, combined with impure blood. Its symptoms are pain in the head, discharge from the nose, ringing noises in the ear. It is cured by Hood's Sarsaparilla which purifies and enriches the blood, soothes and rebuilds the tissues and relieves all the disagreeable sensations.

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AWFULNESS OF PRISON LIFE

The Realization That the Brand of "Convict" Never Can Be Removed.

"The first aspect of prison life that strikes one who enters within the doors is its cutoffness from the world outside," writes Mrs. Balington Booth in the February Ladies' Home Journal. "The man who has friends who still care for him may receive a stated number of visits a year, when for a few minutes he talks with wife or mother or friend in the Guard-room, and he is allowed to write one letter a month and to receive letters twice a week. To him there is, therefore, still this little bridge between his cell and the world from which he has been banished. To many, however, there does not exist this link—no friends have they to call on them, and the deliverer of letters passes their cells every week for years without stopping to hand a message through the bars to them. Stern discipline, loneliness, long hours of work, a narrow little cell with just room enough for a stool and a bed, with a thick barred door through which the light falls flanked with shadows as a constant reminder of confinement—these, in part, make up prison life. The felon of wealth and the poor prisoner from the slums may march next each other in the lockstep and occupy adjacent cells on the gallery, for to all intents and purposes they are alike now. The striped dress, close-cropped hair, the utter stripping off of all comforts have a leveling influence.

"The awfulness of prison life lies in the memories of the past; the dismal contrast between home and prison cell; the longing for loved ones whose hearts are aching away out of reach; the knowledge that the wretched companionship of misery must be theirs in the weary round of prison toil from morning till night, for the long years ahead, which seem interminable. Above and beyond all this, prisoners have the bitter realization of the brand that has fallen upon them never to be removed—convicts—that they are degraded before the public, and will be looked upon forever as accursed."

Sweetness of Disposition.

It does not make any difference how much you are misunderstood, unappreciated, abused, or robbed, there is one result you can not afford to let these unhappy experiences work in you; you can not afford to let them make you cynical, sour in disposition, and uncharitable in your judgments. When the milk of human kindness in you curdles you are alienated from God and man; your capacity of doing good and of making your life a blessing is fatally discounted. There are few possessions so precious as sweetness of disposition. But sweetness of disposition does not imply that you let others impose on you, and run over you. On the contrary, this trait never appears to better advantage than when you are called upon to call a halt to some injustice or to take your stand against some unrighteousness. A sour-hearted reformer is intolerable. In the great picture of Michael Slaying the Dragon, there is a serene light in the angel's face. He has passed through a fearful struggle, but it has not embittered him. His sweetness of disposition will not let him stoop to slay the dragon or take his foot from the dragon's neck, but he will do his duty with our ceasing to be an angel of light.—The Watchman.

Mind What You Promise.

A promise may bind you for a lifetime. It may be made in a moment, but may fetter and cloud and shadow one's whole existence. Be careful what you promise. Do not be coaxed or urged or frightened into making promises. Go along, think, pray, ask counsel of God and man, and never promise in haste something which on mature consideration you would rather not perform. Do you consider first before the promise is made. Says a sensible writer: "We may notice that faculty in making promises is usually accompanied by a carelessness in keeping them. Many otherwise good men fall into the habit of agreeing to do whatever is asked of them without first considering whether it will be within their power to fulfill their engagements. They do not intend to be untruthful, but they soon acquire a reputation for lacking perfect veracity. We beg our readers to be on their guard here. It is of vast importance to learn how to be deliberate and thoughtful in the matter of consenting to do this, or that, or the other thing. A perfectly upright man will not pledge himself to assume any work, great or small, without first being reasonably sure of his ability to do it, and then he will strive to keep his pledge at all hazards."—The Christian.

Misjudged.

Speaking of how we often misjudge people's motives, and how, sometimes, because we see at the moment but a part of what they are about, we reach harsh conclusions, The Quiver cites the following: "Among the lots put up at auction was one, 'A pretty pair of crutches.' In the crowd was a poor crippled boy, and the crutches were just the thing for him. He was the first to bid for them. An elderly, well dressed man bid against him. There were cries of 'Shame! Shame!' in the crowd. The boy bid again, and so did the old gentleman, outbidding him once more, and the poor little lad turned away pith tears in his eyes. The crutches were knocked down to the elderly man, who, to the great surprise of all, took them to the poor little cripple, and made him a present of them. The crowd was now as enthusiastic in their praise as they had been in their abuse, but the old gentleman heard nothing of it; he had disappeared even before the little boy could thank him. To judge by a part is often to misjudge the whole"—Everybody's Magazine.

Flour Mill to Start.

The new flour mill is about ready to start up and we are informed by the manager that he expects to begin making flour in a few days. The mill already has its bins full of wheat and when it starts up our people may expect the best quality of flour. The mill will not sell to consumers, of course, but our merchants will handle the flour, and will supply their customers with it.

All the wheat raised on the Roanoke river State farms will be ground and made into flour by the Weldon mill. The mill will also buy all the wheat raised in this section. Farmers who sow wheat next fall will find a home market for their grain.—Weldon Roanoke News.

The Philadelphia Record tells of a railway engineer named William Blue, who was master of locomotive No. 2. One of the flies in the boiler of his jet engine blew out, and he was stalled, blocking the main line. His report to the division superintendent was unwittingly as follows: "Engine two blew out a fly; what'll I do? Bill Blue." In twenty minutes Bill got this answer: "Bill Blue: You plug that fly in engine two and pull her through, in time to get out of the way of twenty two."

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that application will be made to the General Assembly to amend the charter of the town of Seaboard.

1-25-41

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION.

The partnership heretofore existing under the firm name of W. J. Lassiter & Co., is this day dissolved by mutual consent. Any claims against said firm must be presented on or before either of us for settlement.

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that application will be made to the General Assembly to incorporate the Roanoke Game Preserve Association.

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