

Gay Doings at Biltmore

Lordy Vanderbilt Estate to Be Thrown Open For a Post Lenten Bazaar

BILTMORE. George W. Vanderbilt's famous country home in the North Carolina hills, will be the scene of unusual gaiety immediately after Easter, when the big bazaar planned by Mrs. Vanderbilt will be held.

The bazaar, which will be most elaborate, is nominally for the benefit of All Souls' Episcopal church of the village of Biltmore. It will also be the occasion for a great gathering of fashionable at the splendid estate to celebrate the close of the penitential season.

That the bazaar will be productive of good results for All Souls' church is assured, as Asheville is crowded with visitors, and all will be welcomed to attend and contribute to the good cause. Tents will be pitched throughout the grounds, gayly decorated booths will be erected, and the Asheville brass band will furnish music to enliven the festivities. Mrs. Vanderbilt, who will personally supervise the affair, will be assisted by many society notables.

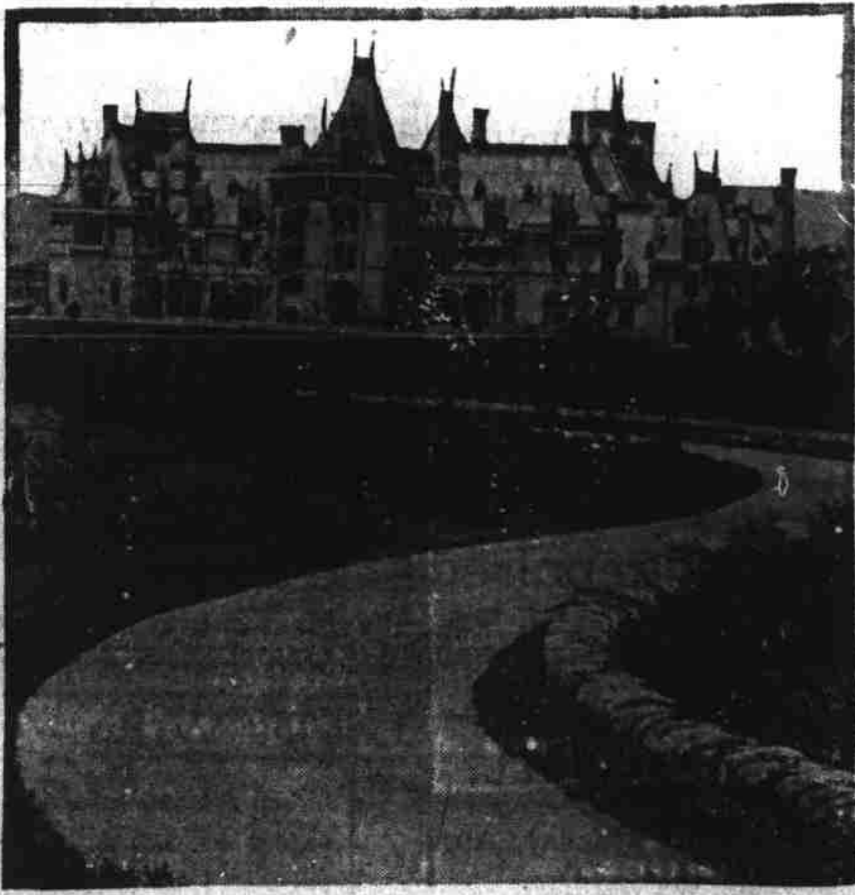
Biltmore, which has often been described as the finest private estate in the world, had its beginning a dozen or more years ago, when George W. Vanderbilt, who had been at Asheville seeking health and pleasure, was so

wide, are made of stone from quarries on the estate. The inside of the structure is of brick, the walls being never less than two and sometimes five feet thick, and the exterior is faced with carved Indiana limestone. The contractor used 11,000,000 bricks, 17,000 tons of steel and 6,000 barrels of cement.

In the center is a winter garden, octagonal in shape, 60 feet in diameter, with a dome 70 feet high. From it corridors radiate to different rooms upon the main floor, and broad doors open upon the main hall, 60 by 30 feet, and perhaps the most imposing marble stairway in America. Another notable apartment is the ballroom, 72 by 42 feet, without pillars and with a ceiling 70 feet high. At one end is a triple fireplace of titanic size and at the other a balcony for spectators and musicians.

The tapestry gallery, 75 by 35 feet, is hung with rare specimens, many of which have historic as well as artistic value. The library is 60 by 40 feet, with a groined ceiling, finished in Flemish oak. In the basement are a swimming pool, bowling alleys and shooting galleries.

These are the showrooms. Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt's living rooms in the



A CHARMING VIEW OF BILTMORE HOUSE.

pleased with the country that he purchased nine acres of land. These nine acres, on which the mansion stands, are between the French Broad and Swannanoa rivers, overlooking the former. To them was added farm after farm and tract after tract, until they aggregated 147,000 acres, lying in Buncombe, Transylvania and Haywood counties. It is a single tract of field and forest and cost over \$3,000,000. It includes Mount Pisgah, 5,757 feet high.

The mansion, the cost of which is said to be \$7,000,000, was called by Mr. Vanderbilt Biltmore House, a combination of his mother's maiden name, More, and the last syllable of his own.

The boundary fence of Biltmore is more than 300 miles long. The farm consists of 9,000 acres of cleared land. The remainder of the estate is forest, including a range of mountains, a fish preserve and some of the most picturesque scenery east of the Rocky mountains. Twenty-four hundred acres of the farm are under cultivation. The rest is park, pasture or land lying fallow, resting until its turn comes to be turned up by the plow. No field on the estate is planted for crops two years in succession.

In the park are thirty-eight miles of macadamized pleasure drives. There are seventy-five miles of artificial wagon road on the estate and 265 miles of trails in the forest, along the trout streams and over the mountains. These trails are fifteen feet wide and clear of underbrush. There are also many miles of "shooting paths," cut at angles right and left from the roads and trails. The forest abounds in deer, grouse and wild turkey, and the streams are alive with bass and trout.

Mr. Vanderbilt, however, takes more interest in his arboretum than in his game preserves. It is said to be the largest and most expensive in the world, having more than 300,000 trees and shrubs imported from foreign countries, and a total of about 11,000,000 specimens, which are under a high state of cultivation and are being rapidly increased each season. Dr. Schneck is head forester. He is at present engaged in building a new arboretum, which will be an avenue 100 feet wide and 12 miles long, lined on either side with the choicest trees of every zone.

The mansion, with its furnishings, library, tapestries, pictures, statuary, etc., is perhaps the most costly in the United States. In style it is French renaissance, and it was designed by Richard M. Hunt after the famous chateau of Francis I. at Blois, with Gothic towers and windows.

The house covers an area of 175 by 100 feet, and the highest tower rises 100 feet.

southeast corner of the chateau are a suit of about twenty, including breakfast, dining, music, smoking, billiard rooms, nursery, etc., while in the upper stories are about 100 rooms, including forty sleeping chambers, each with a bath and dressing room.

The general public is not allowed to enter the chateau or even approach it. This was made necessary by vandalism. For similar reasons it is necessary to issue permits to persons who wish to see the grounds. Forestry students, botanists and other scientific men who come with introductions are not only cordially welcomed, but have every facility for investigation and study, and the propagating houses on the estate are contributing about 2,000,000 plants a year to enrich the grounds and the conservatories of the people of this country.

During the festivities which will accompany the holding of the bazaar the immense mansion will be filled with guests, and the merry-making will continue for several days. The general public who attend the bazaar will be limited to the home park, on which the tents and booths will be erected.

Scattered over this home park in picturesque situations are cottage homes for the superintendents of the various departments. At other points are the Jersey herd dairies, the Berkshire pigpens, the sheepfolds and poultry yards, all of these stocked with the finest breeds of their kinds.

Biltmore village, which contains All Souls' church, in whose interest the bazaar is to be held, is on the Swannanoa river, at the junction of the Asheville and Spartanburg railroad with the Southern's main line. It is two miles from Asheville, with which it is connected by electric street cars. It has been said that Mr. Vanderbilt's purpose was to make this the model village of the land.

At Biltmore village is the main entrance to the estate, the gates being arranged in an archway through the center of the gatekeeper's lodge. Here, twice a week, Wednesday and Saturday, if possessed of proper permits issued from the office building, the public is allowed to pass in and over the estate.

Mr. Vanderbilt and his wife spend most of their time at Biltmore and every winter entertain large parties for weeks at a time. The genial climate of this part of North Carolina, almost in the center of the temperate zone, with a hot sun and a cool, dry atmosphere, makes an outing in this beauty spot a joy to be remembered. The coming bazaar will probably bring a larger number of guests than Biltmore has yet seen.

THE PLANTING OF A TRUTH

(Original.)

Milton Clifford was born and lived rich. The only thing that had ever troubled him was that his wife, whom he devotedly loved, was in delicate health, and he feared that he might lose her. If he did not sympathize with the poor, it was that he considered them of a different genus, such as the brute creation. He had an excellent conception of his rights and did not propose that any one should deprive him of anything he possessed. Indeed he had sent several persons who had stolen from him to the penitentiary and felt that he had conferred a favor on the state.

Clifford was very fond of flowers, partly because his wife was fond of them. Every morning in winter he would go to the conservatory and gather a handful to place before her at the breakfast table, while in summer he would bring them from the garden. One June morning when his Jacqueminot and American Beauty roses, of which he was very proud, were in bloom he went out to gather the usual supply for the breakfast table. What was his horror at seeing that several of the younger bushes had been torn up by the roots and taken away.

"Ah, these rascals who live about here," he exclaimed, "there are not enough prisons to contain them! I will watch tonight myself with a gun. No; the earth appears to have been but recently disturbed. The plants must have been stolen early this morning, doubtless for the flower market."

As he spoke he saw a little girl far across his broad acres climbing over the fence. It was difficult for her to do so, for in each hand she held a rosebush.

"The brat!" exclaimed Clifford. "She'll be in a reformatory before tomorrow night, or I'll resign my citizenship."

He ran to the fence and climbed it. The little girl had disappeared down the road, but he ran till he caught sight of her; then to discover where she disposed of his wares he shadowed her. A mile from his place was a cemetery. Into this the child turned and walked toward a portion used by the poorer classes. Clifford was surprised and followed her cautiously to see what she would do. She stopped at a freshly made grave and, scooping a hole in the rounded earth with her fingers, began to plant one of the rosebushes. Hearing Clifford's step behind her, she turned, then cowed like the guilty one she was.

"You little thief! I've got you, and I'll teach you not to steal. There are children's prisons where they will get the badness out of you."

The cringing child cast a frightened glance up at him.

"You're very young to be in such business. How old are you?"

"Six."

"And who pays you for stealing rosebushes and planting them on graves?"

"No one."

"No one? Do you mean to tell me that you are doing it for fun?"

"It's for mamma. She was laid there yesterday. She was sick a long time. She was so fond of flowers. Every day I used to beg a few from a flower store near by. The flower man was so good to me. He used to give me some of those that were nearly faded. But I didn't think he could spare rosebushes. He's not rich enough. I saw yams from the road and thought how mamma would like to have them bloom over her."

The child burst into a flood of tears.

For the first time in Milton Clifford's life it was brought home to him that the human heart beats alike in the rich and the poor. Was not the mother of his own children delicate, and might he not lose her? Suppose that she were a poor woman and there were none but stolen rosebushes for his little Edith, the same age as this child, to plant on her grave. In a twinkling the old Clifford passed away, and in the bosom of the new this child in stealing his bushes to plant on her mother's grave had imbedded a live truth. A cemetery attendant came sauntering up the path, a short pipe between his lips, a spade on his shoulder.

"Come here," called Clifford.

The man recognized the rich owner of the beautiful place down the road and hurried toward him, touching his hat.

"Plant these rosebushes for the little girl," he said, "then go to my garden, get more and plant them also." He slipped a coin into the man's hand, then turned to the little girl.

"My child, have you eaten your breakfast?"

"No, sir. I haven't any breakfast to eat."

"Come with me."

Taking her dirty little hand in his, he led her to his home and, placing her at a table, ordered food set before her and watched her satisfy a hunger that had not been appeased since her mother's death. Then, directing his housekeeper to clothe her in some of Edith's garments, he went upstairs to his wife's room.

"Amy," he said, "rosebushes were taken from the garden this morning, and I caught the thief."

"I'm sorry for that. You'll send him to prison. What did you do with him?"

"It was not a he, but a she, a child just Edith's age. I brought her home and gave her a good breakfast."

"Why, Milton," exclaimed the wife, with a pleased surprise, "how did you come to do that?"

"She stole them to place on her mother's grave. I thought, suppose—suppose we should lose you and there were no roses for Edith to place?" His voice grew thick. "There's breakfast," he blurted suddenly, dashed away from what he had been saying. "Let's go down."

F. A. MITCHELL

A Weak Stomach

Indigestion is often caused by over-eating. An eminent authority says the harm done thus exceeds that from the excessive use of alcohol. Eat all the good food you want but don't overload the stomach. A weak stomach may refuse to digest what you eat. Then you need a good digestant like Kodol, which digests your food without the stomach's aid. This rest and the wholesome tonic Kodol contains soon restore health. Dieting unnecessary. Kodol quickly relieves the feeling of fullness and bloating from which some people suffer after meals. Absolutely cures indigestion.

Kodol Nature's Tonic.
Prepared only by E. C. DeWitt & Co., Chicago.
Each bottle contains 24 times the dose.

CASITORIA.
The Kind You Have Always Bought
Bears the Signature of
Chas. H. Fletcher

Dissolution Notice.

Z. Edwards, H. C. V. Peebles and C. H. Pool, proprietors of the Kingston Sash and Blind Co., have this day dissolved partnership. Z. Edwards assuming full control of the business, also assuming all liabilities and assets of the Kingston Sash and Blind Co.
Z. EDWARDS, [SEAL]
H. C. V. PEEBLES, [SEAL]
C. H. POOL, [SEAL]
March 27, 1903.

Valuable Real Estate.

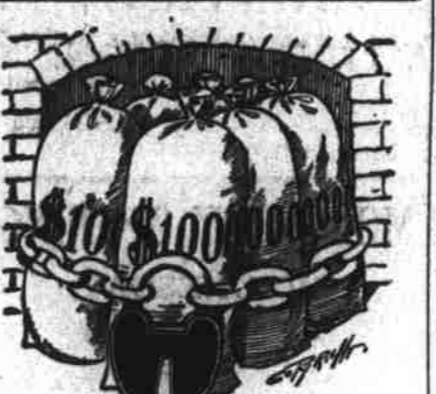
Two two-story houses with four rooms, and one store lot in Dover, N. C., located in best part of town. Good bargain for cash or part and good security for balance. Three fine building lots in town of Kingston at a special reduction for twenty days. Also several good farms. For full particulars and prices, call at office.

Land & Cowper,
103 KING STREET.

Hams and Shoulders

A nice lot of
COUNTRY BACON
just received at

O. M. HOOKER & CO.
Successors to MOORE & HOOKER.
Phone No. 27.



YOUR MONEY IS SECURE

When put into our keeping. Our vaults are of modern construction—fire and burglar proof; also insured against burglary.

Careful attention is given to the accounts of all depositors. Business is conducted on a safe basis and all investments are thoroughly investigated before being recommended by the management. All financial matters which concern the welfare of our clients are promptly and skillfully handled.

THE BANK OF KINGSTON
Invites deposits from individual firms and institutions.

PAINTS.



I have just added to my stock of General Hardware a full line of Mixed Paints, Leads and Oils, Varnishes, Colors and Brushes, of the celebrated Heath & Milligan Brands.

We ask those who intend using paints to call on us, as we can please them in both quality and price.

H. E. MOSELEY,
General Hardware,
KINGSTON, N. C.

Established 1851
MARBLE AND GRANITE MONUMENTS
AND AGENTS FOR IRON FENCING.
Main Office and Electric Power Plant: Macon, Ga.
Branch Office: Slaughter, N. C.
Slaughter Brothers, Selling Agents for Kingston.

To those desiring a Cotton Seed Meal Fertilizer, we offer

PROLIFIC COTTON GROWER

unsurpassed for Tobacco, Cotton and other Crops.
To those desiring a High Grade Tobacco Grower, we offer

COREE TOBACCO GUANO,

guaranteed analysis, 4-8-4 600 lbs. to the acre will produce as good results as 800 lbs. of any other goods sold on the market, and besides the saving in hauling and distributing, the cost will be less per acre for guano.

Those who have once used it always buy it.

—SOLD BY—
L. HARVEY & SON,
KINSTON, N. C.

If you want the best heater buy

The "Sellmore"

A Sellmore possesses the Good Features of a Down Draft, Hot Blast, Base Heating

Air Tight Heater.

This means an increase in heating power and a decrease in consumption of fuel.

It is a perfect floor warmer, distributing heat through all parts of the room, with one-half the fuel required by any other stove.

A "Sellmore" Is Perfect Economy.

We put them up with a guarantee that if not satisfactory we replace them. Try one.

Truly,
DIXON & HOOKER.

ADVERTISING

IN

THE

FREE

PRESS

PAYS

JOB WORK A SPECIALTY.