

### THE ECLIPSE.

The total eclipse of the sun, booked for the 28th of this month, is a matter of interest to the whole world and ought to be of special interest to North Carolinians in view of the fact that Old Sol has specially favored our State in his little performance. As a fully total eclipse this will be seen only along a path fifty miles wide, which crosses Mexico, darts across the Gulf and runs straight from New Orleans to Norfolk, crosses the Atlantic and ends in northern Africa. The path in America includes Mobile and Montgomery, Ala., Macon and Milledgeville, Ga., several South Carolina towns, and in our own State, Wadesboro, Fayetteville, Raleigh, Smithfield, Nashville, Louisville, Edenton, and intervening country.

To the unaided eye the eclipse will appear total throughout the State. At Raleigh the eclipse begins at 7:37 a. m., becomes total at 8:40 and ends at 10:10 a. m. Some of the world's most noted astronomers will observe the eclipse at Wadesboro. Not within more than a century, perhaps several centuries, have conditions been so favorable for observing a total eclipse of the sun in this State. An eclipse is caused, it is unnecessary to state, by the dark body of the moon passing between the earth and the sun and thus obstructing the sun's light and throwing a shadow upon our planet. A solar eclipse can occur therefore only when the moon is new, just as an eclipse of the moon happens only when the moon is full.

The sun can never remain totally eclipsed to any part of the world longer than seven minutes and 58 seconds. In the eclipse of this year, the duration of totality is very short, being little more than a minute and a half in North Carolina.

Americans have been quite fortunate in the matter of total eclipses of the sun, this month's being, we believe, the third or fourth of the century. On the other hand, only one total solar eclipse has been visible in London, England, for more than seven hundred years and the next one does not become due for six hundred years.

Nothing so excited and terrified our ancestors of a few centuries ago as these eclipses. Nor is it surprising that they were so affected. Of all the phenomena of nature, nothing is said to be more awe-inspiring. The famous Professor Grant says:

"On no other occasion does the display of stupendous power in the economy of the physical universe exercise so subduing an influence over the mind, or produce so humiliating a conviction of the impotence of all human efforts to control the immutable laws of Nature and arrest the course of events, as when the glorious orb of day, while riding in the heavens with unclouded splendor, begins to melt away from an unseen cause, and soon totally disappears, leaving the whole visible world wrapped in the sable gloom of nocturnal darkness. The scene is rendered still more impressive by the circumstances accompanying so remarkable an occurrence. The heavens assume an unnatural aspect, which excites a feeling of horror in the spectator; a livid hue is diffused over all terrestrial objects; plants close up their leaves as on the approach of night; the fowls betake themselves to their resting-places; the warbling of the grove is hushed in profound silence; in other words, universal Nature seems to relax her energies, as if the pulse which stimulated her mighty movements had all at once stood still."

A gentleman who observed the eclipse of August 7, 1869, says of it: "No one who has not seen a total eclipse of the sun can fully appreciate the grandeur of the occasion. As the light, ray by ray, is cut off, a strange and ghastly darkness comes down upon us; not like the darkness of night, but a violet colored darkness which makes the faces of our neighbors turn ashy pale and gives to the landscape the hues which it takes in a stereoscopic picture. The moment the last ray of light disappears there bursts upon the spectator a vision so marvelously beautiful, so startling by its novelty, that his self-possession and self-control desert him."

Meantime, we hope for fair weather and an unclouded sky on the day of the eclipse. The President cannot attend the Charlotte celebration this week.

### WHAT CONGRESS IS DOING.

According to the Washington Post, the House leaders say they will be ready for the sine die adjournment June 1, but allowing for delays and accidents incident to the closing up of the session, they are not inclined to think both Houses will be ready to quit before June 10th.

Among the items in the general deficiency bill taken up in the House last week was one of \$20,000 for expenses incurred by Richmond Pearson in his contest. The Senate, after a protracted discussion, has passed the Naval Appropriation bill. By this measure, as finally agreed to the Secretary of the Navy is authorized to procure armor of the best quality at \$445 per ton; but if he is unable to obtain it at that price, he is then authorized to pay \$545 per ton for the armor for the battleships Maine, Ohio and Missouri, and proceed to erect a government armor factory at cost not to exceed \$1,000,000 one half of which amount is made immediately available.

Congress had another sensation last week. W. A. Clark, the millionaire Senator from Montana, furnished this one. It will be remembered that every member of the committee appointed to consider his case became convinced that his election was accomplished by the wholesale use of bribes and that common honesty and decency demanded his expulsion from the Senate. Finding that he was to be kicked out, Clark, on last Tuesday, rose to a question of personal privilege, announced that he had telegraphed his resignation to the Governor of Montana, and bade farewell to his colleagues.

Right here it may be stated that the Governor of Montana, Mr. Smith, is an avowed enemy of Clark, while the millionaire Senator has no firmer friend than the Lieutenant-Governor of the State, Mr. Spriggs. Well, Clark telegraphed his resignation to the Governor of Montana, but it so happened (?) that Governor Smith was absent on a business trip to another State, leaving Spiggs acting Governor. Whereupon Spriggs accepted the resignation of Clark, and within a few hours appointed the self-same W. A. Clark to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation.

This, it appeared, would make Clark safe, for while it could be shown that he was elected by fraud, the Governor had a perfect right to appoint him to fill the vacancy.

But the end is not yet. The Senate is naturally annoyed at Clark's little scheme to avoid expulsion. And on Friday, 18th, the committee resolved to press to a vote the original resolution declaring that his election is null and void on account of bribery, attempted bribes and corrupt practices by his agents and of violations of the laws of Montana defining and punishing crimes against the elective franchise.

The passage of this resolution could not, of course, affect Clark's title by appointment, but it would give him a hint as to the feeling of the Senate and the country as to his election and the methods adopted to accomplish it.

And the situation is still further complicated. Gov. Smith returned to Montana Friday, revoked acting Governor Spriggs' appointment of Clark, and appointed Martin Maginnis to fill the vacancy caused by Clark's resignation. As reasons for this action Smith asserts that Clark's re-appointment was secured "under circumstances and conditions which indicate collusion and fraud."

He asserts, we believe, that a Clark agent induced him to leave the State. Thus the matter stands as this is written. The case is undoubtedly without a parallel in American history.

In the matter of anti-trust legislation, Congress proposes a Constitutional amendment that is worse than nothing, a cowardly makeshift. The amendment would give Congress power to dissolve a North Carolina corporation, were it not objectionable to the people of this State. It is not at all probable that such an amendment could be adopted. Congress pretends to favor anti-trust legislation, yet continues to protect the worst trusts in the land by high tariffs on products controlled by monopolies. If our law-makers would prove their faith by their works, let them no longer protect from outside competition these gigantic robbers of the people.

The General M. E. Conference will vote this week on the resolution censuring President McKinley for alleged shortcomings in temperance matters. Great interest is manifested.

### STOPPING A PAPER.

Editor Johnson of Charity and Children recently scored that class of people who discontinue their subscription by "a cutting message on a postal card, 'Stop my paper,' or the abrupt information sent by a postmaster, 'refused,' without a word of explanation." Continuing, he said: "If the Editor has offended you, or if you do not wish to continue taking his paper, sit down and write the man a decent letter (not a postal card) and tell him all about it. That is the polite thing to do, and while it will cost you two cents it will be money well invested. Besides it will give the editor a chance to defend himself against possible injustice and may open your eyes to some facts you did not know before. It always pays to do the fair thing. Spend two cents and quit like a man. You will feel better for it and save the feelings of another."

While we have very little cause for complaint along this line, as the circulation of The Progressive Farmer is steadily increasing and few of the old guard dropping off we nevertheless feel like endorsing the statements quoted from Bro. Johnson. Only last week a gentleman called at the office to stop his paper because of a misunderstanding of our position on a certain matter. A moment's explanation put him straight. Had he adopted the mode criticised by Bro. Johnson he would still have a mistaken idea of our course.

There has just been issued from the Biological Division of the State Department of Agriculture a neat pamphlet under the above title. Readers of The Progressive Farmer whose names are not on the department mailing list will do themselves a benefit by sending for this pamphlet and registering their names for other publications of this department of the State government.

You will find this one full of matter pithy and pointed in its line and this for your benefit. The State Department of Agriculture is taking an advanced stand all along the line of agricultural improvement and in the division which issues the pamphlet now under review is second to no similar division in any State. You will note that not only is it in close touch with the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry, but that that Bureau is being asked to define its position and to take position on movement of stock in relation to diseases which may be regulated, but which without such regulation might result in injury to North Carolina breeders.

The present Board of Agriculture is a progressive set of men and have installed active efficient officers in this department. The consequence is a real awakening along new lines and the effusion of more life into the department, perhaps, than ever before—certainly more than since the days of Col. Polk, when this was a new untried part of the State government.

The stock law and quarantine map is well worth a postal card to secure the bulletin. It is included in the bulletin. This shows all free range and stock law territory as defined by present State laws. The U. S. Quarantine line is also shown. This line marks the boundary by which the value of all cattle on the South and East are condemned to pass to the shambles for immediate slaughter if shipped to any Northern port. This is an effectual barrier against the free shipment of even the very best of breeding stock. The bulletin says: "The Federal quarantine of the cattle traffic of 81 counties of this State, while the traffic of 16 others is not interdicted, leads to a consideration of the means by which they too may obtain free traffic. The conditions of the stock law area are such that on the part of cattle owners but little effort is necessary to free its entire traffic."

If this last statement is true—and we know it to be true—then the cattle owners of all the stock law region have the power to remove the discrimination of the U. S. quarantine law against the movement and therefore the value of their cattle by a "little effort." That this effort will be accompanied by saving much value in cattle now sometimes lost by disease and raising the value of stock in the territory thus freed from restraint is without question and will be so recognized as fast as these cattle owners begin to investigate it for themselves. Crush out disease, gentlemen, and take your legitimate places in the live stock traffic of the nation. F. E. E.

### HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE.

No one has more severely condemned the present election law than The Progressive Farmer. We believe, however, that it should have credit for each and every fair provision it contains. It is being charged that it gives to the Democrats all the judges of the election. The charge is untrue. The law says that the county board of elections shall appoint two persons "who shall act as judges of the election at each place of holding elections in their respective districts, each of whom shall be men of good character and able to read and write, and they shall be of different political parties."

In the article by Prof. Henry printed last week he says: "So far as known to the writer the only insect pest attacking rape is a plant louse which severely injures it in hot weather." There is another insect, also a bug, which does great harm to rape in North Carolina. This is the terrapin bug, or calico bug, (murgantia histrionica). Rape should be sown very early for spring use or in later mid-summer for fall grazing for two reasons. First, that it does better at those times and corn, cow pea, or sorghum does much better in the early summer; while, second, the bug enemy will thus be avoided except during seasons which there is much dry hot weather in the fall. F. E. E.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 8, 1900. DEAR MR. EMERY:—I have been quite sick with "grippe" for ten days, which explains delay in answering yours of 2nd. I note Mr. Dulin's letter and have had a number of the same tenor. I feel much interest in the fight against the oleo fraud, and hope we are going to down it. After a determined fight today the House passed the Tauney resolution by a good majority, calling on the department for the statements of composition of the stuff, filed by the makers. They fought it vigorously. I feel confident of the passage of the Grout bill if we can get a square vote on it. Sincerely yours, THEO. F. KLUTZ.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 17, 1900. DEAR MR. EMERY:—Your favor of 14th inst. to hand. I wrote you hurriedly and with no thought of print, but I have no objection of being quoted on the oleomargarine question. I am in favor of pure foods, and especially of genuine butter. The vote on the Tauney resolution, which I heartily supported, shows what the House would do if it could get a chance to vote on the Grout bill. That vote, on a privileged question, was a triumph over the Ways and Means Committee, and was really a test vote on the question. I favored it, because I thought the House and the public entitled to know the real composition of the oleo stuff, and this knowledge, I believe will do much to open the eyes of the country to the deleterious nature of this substitute for butter. The Grout bill does not propose to interfere with the manufacture or sale of oleomargarine as such, but it does seek to restrict its manufacture and sale to its own merits, and to prevent its fraudulent sale as and for genuine butter. The additional tax of ten cents per pound is imposed only when it is colored in imitation of butter, and I can see no honest objection to this, but instead, a protection not only to the dairy interests, but to the butter-buying and butter-eating public as well. If the stuff is wholesome, as the manufacturers allege, let it be sold in its natural state, on its merits, and not as a colored counterfeit of pure butter. If not so colored and sold, then the additional tax is not levied upon it. The revelations of the iniquitous frauds in Pennsylvania show how necessary such legislation is. Very truly yours, THEO. F. KLUTZ.

Pass the Grout bill and the consumers of millions of pounds of oleo will buy butter instead, the price of butter will be substantially increased, and new life will be put into the dairy business. Watch how your Congressman votes on this measure. Republican State Chairman Holtom rejects Mr. Simmons' offer of joint discussion, charging that bad temper of Democracy, red shirts, etc., make this course best for the peace of the State.

From report of Internal Revenue Bureau to Congress, May 14th, 1900:

Natural Lard	34.27
Oleo Oil	26.82
Cottonseed Oil	4.77
Sosame	.53
Coloring Matter	.16
Sugar	.12
Glycerine	.01
Stearine	.07
Milk	15.55
Salt	7.42
Butter Oil	4.75
Butter	1.72
Cream	3.86
	100.06

The above was taken from Raleigh Morning Post May 15th, 1900. This shows manufacturer's formula as we understand it for the year ending June 1899. What factory, or combination of factories used this formula is not stated. Some of the figures are not exact, since it should foot down to 100. There is less stearine than we had been led to suppose. If this is the general formula for oleomargarine to date the water in it could come from the milk used in the manufacture. There would be some water from the cream. But the finished product contains much less salt than given in the formula, so the per centage of each other ingredient would be somewhat higher than given in the above formula.

But New York chemists have found from 9 to 11 per cent. of paraffine in several lots they analyzed. "Paraffine is an absolutely indigestible petroleum product." "The editor of the Chicago Dairy produce has ascertained that a large quantity of stearine is used in the cheaper goods where a great deal of cotton seed oil is used in order to give the mixture the body that is necessary." Thus it would seem that even the revenue officials have been duped as to the composition of this stuff and that there is no end to the cheap stuff that is used when it can be found cheaper than something else and that consistency can be reduced or increased at will of operator by using "any old thing" at hand without regard to statements filed in Washington or to consumers' stomachs. The more this fraud is aired the more reasons come to light why this nefarious trade should be taxed into "innocuous desuetude."

TUBERCLE BACILLI FOUND IN OLEOMARGARINE. Hoard's Dairyman for May 4th quotes the London Lancet as authority for the statement that Margerboth of the Hygienic Institute of Berlin has found virulent tubercle bacilli in 9 samples out of twenty examined. This is 45%. Our contempt remarks: "We readily see the necessity for rigid legislation to restrain this great fraud of the present century."

GROUT BILL. Representative Wadsworth, Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, has given his word that this bill will be brought up May 23rd. The friends of this measure—pure food and dairymen, with all food consumers—are confident it will pass safely. This means much for dairymen and pure food. F. E. E.

### Published Weekly at Raleigh, N. C.

MRS. L. L. POLK, - Proprietor.  
CLARENCE H. POE, - Editor.  
BENJAMIN IRBY, } Corresponding  
FRANK E. EMERY, } Editors.  
J. W. DENMARK, Business Manager.

SUBSCRIPTION—  
Single Subscription One Year...\$1.00  
" " Six Months... .50  
" " Three Months... .25

"THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY," is the motto of The Progressive Farmer, and upon this platform it shall rise or fall. Serving no master, ruled by no faction, circumscribed by no selfish or narrow policy, its aim will be to foster and promote the best interests of the whole people of the State. It will be true to the instincts, traditions and history of the Anglo-Saxon race. On all matters relating specially to the great interests it represents, it will speak with no uncertain voice, but will fearlessly the right defend and impartially the wrong condemn."

RENUEALS—The date opposite your name on your paper, or wrapper, shows to what time your subscription is paid. Thus Jan. '00, shows that payment has been received up to Jan. 1, 1900; Jan. '01, to Jan. 1, 1901, and so on. Two weeks are required after money is received before date, which answers for a receipt, can be changed. If not properly changed within two weeks after money is sent notify us.

DISCONTINUA NCES—Responsible subscribers will continue to receive this journal until the publishers are notified by letter to discontinue, when all arrears must be paid. If you do not wish the journal continued for another year after your subscription has expired, you should then notify us to discontinue it.

Address all business correspondence to and make money orders payable to "THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, RALEIGH, N. C." and not to any individual connected with the paper.

Be sure to give both old and new addresses in ordering change of postage.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is the Official Organ of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance.

When sending your renewal, be sure to give exactly the name on label and postoffice to which the copy of paper you receive is sent.

### Editorial.

#### ALLIANCE MATTERS.

Visiting Hillsboro last week, we found Secretary Parker quite optimistic as to the future of the Alliance. The Order is steadily gaining ground in spite of political excitement, and unless all signs fail, with good management and brotherly feeling on the part of the present members—"in things essential, unity; in all things, charity"—thorough re-organization after the August election will be easy.

From Columbus, Wayne, Guilford, Brunswick and nearly all other counties comes news of steadily increasing numbers and renewed enthusiasm. A new Sub. has recently been organized in Alexander and a general revival in the Piedmont and mountain counties is expected.

Bro. Parker has nearly \$2,000 worth of Alliance shoes on hand and wishes it known that he is still ready to fill orders. The shoes have given almost universal satisfaction. The State Alliance adjourned last year to meet again August 14th, 1900. This is only a few days after the August election and most Alliance men with whom we have talked believe that it would be better to postpone the State meeting for two or three weeks. Political feeling will then have subsided and the brethren will have had time to consider plans and measures for the promotion of the Alliance cause. Going only a few days after the culmination of a heated campaign, it is feared that the delegates would not be prepared by previous study, planning, and consultation with brother Alliance men, for the really great work before them. If a majority of the counties at their July meetings instruct their delegates not to go to Hillsboro August 14th, ask the President to call a meeting within a stated period after that time, the delegates to attend the called meeting, the State Alliance meeting can be postponed; otherwise, it cannot be done. Several counties have already declared in favor of the change and so far only one has opposed it.

President Charles D. McIver, of the State Normal and Industrial College, who has been often mentioned as the man best fitted to succeed Dr. Alderman as President of the State University, announces positively that he is not a candidate for the position and could not accept if elected. In this we believe Dr. McIver has acted wisely. While he would be a worthy successor to Dr. Alderman, he has had long experience in the education of young women, has given this subject careful enthusiastic study, and is exceptionally well qualified for the position he now fills. We are glad that he will remain with the Normal.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 8, 1900. DEAR MR. EMERY:—I have been quite sick with "grippe" for ten days, which explains delay in answering yours of 2nd. I note Mr. Dulin's letter and have had a number of the same tenor. I feel much interest in the fight against the oleo fraud, and hope we are going to down it. After a determined fight today the House passed the Tauney resolution by a good majority, calling on the department for the statements of composition of the stuff, filed by the makers. They fought it vigorously. I feel confident of the passage of the Grout bill if we can get a square vote on it. Sincerely yours, THEO. F. KLUTZ.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 17, 1900. DEAR MR. EMERY:—Your favor of 14th inst. to hand. I wrote you hurriedly and with no thought of print, but I have no objection of being quoted on the oleomargarine question. I am in favor of pure foods, and especially of genuine butter. The vote on the Tauney resolution, which I heartily supported, shows what the House would do if it could get a chance to vote on the Grout bill. That vote, on a privileged question, was a triumph over the Ways and Means Committee, and was really a test vote on the question. I favored it, because I thought the House and the public entitled to know the real composition of the oleo stuff, and this knowledge, I believe will do much to open the eyes of the country to the deleterious nature of this substitute for butter. The Grout bill does not propose to interfere with the manufacture or sale of oleomargarine as such, but it does seek to restrict its manufacture and sale to its own merits, and to prevent its fraudulent sale as and for genuine butter. The additional tax of ten cents per pound is imposed only when it is colored in imitation of butter, and I can see no honest objection to this, but instead, a protection not only to the dairy interests, but to the butter-buying and butter-eating public as well. If the stuff is wholesome, as the manufacturers allege, let it be sold in its natural state, on its merits, and not as a colored counterfeit of pure butter. If not so colored and sold, then the additional tax is not levied upon it. The revelations of the iniquitous frauds in Pennsylvania show how necessary such legislation is. Very truly yours, THEO. F. KLUTZ.

Pass the Grout bill and the consumers of millions of pounds of oleo will buy butter instead, the price of butter will be substantially increased, and new life will be put into the dairy business. Watch how your Congressman votes on this measure. Republican State Chairman Holtom rejects Mr. Simmons' offer of joint discussion, charging that bad temper of Democracy, red shirts, etc., make this course best for the peace of the State.