THE COMMONWEALTH
Scotland Neck. - - - N. C.
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For Dyspepsia, Costiveness, Sick Headache, Chronic Diarrhœa, Jaundice, Impurity of the Blood, Fever and Ague, Malaria, and all Diseases caused by Derangement of Liver, Bowels and Kidneys.

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Episcopal—Rev. H. G. Hilton, Rector. Services every first, second and third Sundays at 11 o'clock, A. M. Sunday School every Sabbath morning.

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July 5th, 1882.

BETHLEHEM.

A CHRISTMAS ODE.

The evening sun, grown larger than at noon,
Lit up with gold proud Moab's purple heights.
Eastward of Bethlehem—the house of bread—
Ephrath or Ephratah called—the fruitful.—
Though once 'mong Judah's princes least of all,
Yet destined to be chief among the chiefest.
Perched on the narrow ridge of Jura hills,
High up above the level of the sea,
It now lies bathed in the rich golden light
Of a fair winter's eve.—not such an eve
As Milton paints with Fancy's facile brush—
"No season then to wanton with the sun,
A winter wild, stripped of all gaudy trim."
Oldest of all Philistia's towns, she stood
Famous for mighty deeds of mighty men.
Near by, and in full view, is seen the tomb
That Jacob reared to his beloved wife,
The Rachel won by fourteen year's hard toil.
His light of life, his first and only love.
Barley yet waves within the fields near by,
Where Ruth's simplicity and artless grace
Captured the heart of Boaz; and here too,
David, the shepherd, poet, prophet, prince
Won for his home the name, City of David.
Here too, proud Saul, Isreal's first king once lived.
And yet a greater than these shall come to bless
The spot, hallowed, as no other yet has been.
'Tis midnight; and a cloudless Syrian sky
Dispensed its milder lights of planets, stars
On sleeping Bethlehem, destined to see
No morrow's sun, till a new light had come,
Till a new star, unseen by mortal eye,
The Star of Bethlehem, its orbit left,
And by an unknown path, revealed the spot
Where David, king, had lived and David's son was born.
Princes on earth are born 'mid cannon's roar;
The clanging bells ring out their joyous chimes;
And welcome shouts announce to all the world
'A prince is born; let all the nations know.'
But now, at night, Judea's plains resound
And echoing hills repeat to listening ears
The first and last grand anthem ever heard
On earth, since the first morn when the stars
Together sang, and Sons of God shouted for joy!
Again the Heavenly Host in concert sing:—
"Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace,
Good will toward men!"
"This day to you is born
In the city of David,
A Saviour, Christ the Lord!"
The wondrous sounds, the yet more wondrous light
Pass suddenly away; in eager haste,
With hurrying feet the shepherds ran:
Wise men from eastern climes rich presents brought,
And with low reverence laid them at the feet,
Of Judah's Prince, of Israel's promised King,
Not in a palace found, in softest raiment clad,
Nor yet in Shimham's humble Inn, but wrapped
In swaddling clothes, and in a manger laid.
Hail, the Heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Son of Righteousness!

J. A. P.

LOUISVILLE LETTER.—NO. 4.

The majority of "twice told tales" make uninteresting reading matter especially in newspapers. And recognizing this fact, I shall break my promise to write you a letter on the subject of Kentucky stock farming inasmuch as Dr. Pritchard has fully covered the ground in a recent letter to the Raleigh *Biblical Recorder*. I refer all readers of THE COMMONWEALTH, who are interested in the subject to said letter, and I shall meanwhile write you an account of the greatest Southern enterprise of the day. I refer, of course, to the *Southern Exposition*, which is to be held here in Louisville, beginning August 1, and continuing through one hundred days. Louisville is preeminently *the* place for such an undertaking for many reasons. It is centrally located on the border line between "Dixie land" and Yankeedom; it has unlimited transportation facilities, both by rail and boat, and is, moreover, a most beautiful city filled with a most hospitable and energetic people. This Exposition, the object of which is to show to the world the true value of the vast wealth and resources of the South, first originated among the citizens of Louisville as rather a local affair, but it has rapidly assumed proportions which are far more gratifying than the most sanguine of its originators ever hoped for. The interest in it, which is all absorbing here, has radiated to the uttermost parts of the South, and indeed, it is now an affair of *International* importance; for the Directors have already received official notification from the representatives of foreign nations expressing an intention of taking a part in it. Cotton, of course, will be king, but tobacco and manufacturing, as well as the agricultural interests generally, of the South, will receive due attention.

The Exposition is a striking illustration of the energy and push of the people of this city, for the entire amount, $300,000, which has been subscribed for the undertaking, came voluntarily and *easily* from citizens of Louisville alone. Outsiders were not solicited—there was not even a State or municipal appropriation. Louisville deserves, and will meet with a success proportionate to the magnificent energy and enterprise of her people. Already 667,000 square feet of flooring has been put down, more than *three* times as much as at Atlanta, and *twice* as much as at either the Paris, Berlin, or Vienna Expositions; and yet, so great has been the demand for space, that already preparations are being made to enlarge the present capacity at least half as much again.

It is intended that the occasion shall not only be one of interest in an industrial point of view, but that it shall also be so conducted as to make the time spent in attendance by visitors as pleasant and agreeable as possible. The exhibitions will be made the subjects of a series of lectures by distinguished inventors, experts, and scientific men, which will be given free every night during the continuance of the Exposition.

The musical features of the occasion will prove also a treat of the first magnitude, for the famous 7th Regiment Band of New York, as well as Gilmore's Orchestra (also of the same city,) has been secured at a cost of $35,000. In addition to this an immense organ, the largest in this country, is in process of construction at a cost of $10,000, which is to be used in connection with a series of proposed concerts to be given by a selection of 600 voices from the several singing Societies of this city.

Fine stock is so prominent a feature in this country that though I learn no definite information on the subject, yet, from several hints which have escaped, I should say there will be some race sport for all lovers of the turf during the continuance of the Exposition. In fact everything which can possibly add to the interest and pleasure of Louisville's visitors, will be done. Already five new hotels are in process of construction and "still there's more to follow," for the people here know full well how decidedly hurtful and humiliating it would be, after having invited the world to come and see them, to find they couldn't take care of their guests. There is no such danger, however, for Major Wright, the Supt., has issued a circular which has been distributed throughout the city, asking all who will take boarders to report at headquarters, thereby sytematizing this matter, which is usually such a fruitful source of trouble and annoyance. In this, as in all other matters connected with his duties as Superintendent, Maj. Wright has shown himself to be a capable and efficient officer. It was through his instrumentality that the railroads were made to view the matter in such a light as to reduce the fare to three cents a mile each way—that is to say, people coming from North Carolina, which is about 650 miles distant by the route which will be open May 1 through the mountains, via Asheville and Knoxville, Tenn., can can come for $19.50, and this is round trip price. It seems to me that any of your readers who has an extra $20 could not find a more pleasant or beneficial way of spending it than this. The trip alone, through that vast wild of scenery, unparalleled in beauty or the grand sublimity of its magnificence such as is found nowhere outside of Western North Carolina, with the delightful sequel of a ride through the glorious Blue Grass belt of Kentucky, would alone fully repay one for the investment.

Just here, before I close, I wish to express my surprise at the non-activity of the State officials in North Carolina, who, while the officers of almost all the other States are officially recognizing this enterprise, seem to have entirely overlooked it. In fact, I see by the *News & Observer* that North Carolina is paying more attention to the Boston Exposition, a northern affair, and one in which the people of our State have comparatively few interests, in preference (to all appearances) to an undertaking which is purely Southern, and too, which is of vital importance to all the best interests of our State. Why is this?

FARRAGO.

Messrs. Legget and Mullen, the former a citizen of Scotland Neck; the latter from Hertford Co., N. C., about 20 miles from your little city, are both in Louisville attending a course of lectures at the Ky. Medical College. They are both well and seem to have fallen in love with this "city of palaces."

North Carolina has the honor of having been the first State from which there came an application for space for exhibits in the Grand Southern Exposition. We think the applicant hailed from Salisbury.

As an instance of the interest which the female population of Louisville is taking in the forthcoming Exposition, may be mentioned the fact that one of Louisville's ladies, Mrs. Bamberger, is having a dress made by Sharp & Middleton, of this city, of peacock *tail feathers*, the price of which is to be $5,000!

"N. C."

THE GOLDEN FUTURE OF THE SOUTH.

Eighteen years ago the war had been fought out to its end, and throughout the length and breadth of her vast territory the defeated South presented the saddest of sad scenes of desolation. Everywhere, on every hand, at every turn, there were ruins, great ruins and little ruins, that told the story of the four years' strife and its disastrous results more clearly and more pathetically than any formal, written history of our "war between the States" can ever tell it. No people, no country since the dawn of civilization was ever more reversed, in fortune or more depressed in spirit. There was hardly a household in all the southern land that did not fear to see the shadow of the wolf darkening the door. What a change, what a cheering change in the fortunes of the South has come since then!

Let us not be understood as meaning to imply that the southern States have already regained all that was lost to them by the war,—that surviving veterans of the Confederate cause not yet past middle life, are realizing the full effects of an industrial reaction which, in less than twenty years, has brought back to the old slave States a prosperity equal to that in which they were revelling when the war came to crush them. Eighteen years is too short a time to bring about such magnificent results after a period of such utter prostration as that in which the southern people found themselves at the close of their ill-omened struggle. But while the renascent South is as yet far from a full retrieval of her incomputable losses, it is obvious on all sides that she has achieved and is still achieving astonishing successes in the steady progress of her people toiling on bravely for recuperation. There are thousands and tens of thousands of instances, we know, in which individual fortunes have been but poorly improved, but the general advancement must soon tell favorably upon each of the aggregate all.

The truth is that the awful baptism of blood and fire to which the South was subjected has proved to have been an ordeal through which she had to pass before entering upon a career entirely new to her, and for which, in virtue of her inestimable resources, she was preeminently fitted as soon as she was relieved from that incubus of slavery which had so long smothered the enterprise of her people now showing itself so staunchly in the industries which the long-latent strength of her mineral and manufacturing advantages are developing. The spirit of the southern people needed to be let loose from the thraldom imposed upon it through the influences of an institution under which the masters of slaves were themselves held down to an equal participation in the progress of the world's practical affairs. The immense mineral wealth, the unsurpassed water-power for manufacturing, the soft, salubrious climate, the generous soil, the big rivers and capacious harbors, the vast forests of valuable timber, all peculiarly characterizing the South as a land blessed by nature with every agency and every element of prosperity, have by our own, as well as by other people, been appreciated and applied before. And as a result of it these southern States of ours are rising from the desolation into which they were precipitated eighteen years ago, with a confidence and courage, with an energy, an intelligence and a boldness of enterprise that cannot fail to be attended with achievements in all the fields of fortunes as brilliant, as extensive, and as enduring as any ever known in the annals of man's mastery of the opportunities and advantage proffered to him by his maker.

The day for despondency among the southern people has gone by. After the long, weary, dreary night of desolation the day has dawned, the sun is rising, and the dark clouds in the southern skies are breaking up and rolling away forever. This is not a day-dream; it is not the picturing of an ideal drawn from wishes too warm and hopes too high for the basis on which they rest. It is simply the glad statement of a fact that no man can gainsay in the face of the overwhelming proofs of southern progress as those proofs are every week collated in the columns of this paper.

The golden future for the South is unfolding every day. Intelligent and sagacious men in the North see it; observing capitalists in Europe see it; and all of our own people, whose eyes are not still closed in hopeless moaning and groaning over the irrevocable past, must also see it.—*New South.*

HOME MANNERS.

Good home manners are the foundation and the superstructure of good manners ever, where else. The idea that it is of little moment how we behave at home, provided we are courteous and polite in company, is a radically wrong one. Persons often allow themselves to be ill bred at home, thinking that they can put on good manners when they choose, and appear as well abroad as others; but, unconsciously they are continually betraying themselves. Few things are so habitual as those ever occuring little proprieties, graces, and amenities of social life which go to make up the well-bred man or woman. The expression, look, carriage, manner, and language of years, cannot be changed in a day for some special occasion. The requisites of good manners are so multifarious, it is impossible to give them all, each, like the snow flakes which form the avalanche, though important is so minute in itself that it is difficult to select any as most essential. Good manners at home and elsewhere are but the outward manifestation of love and that spirit "which suffereth long and is kind; which enviethnot; vaunteth not itself; is not puffed up; doth not behave itself unseemly; seeketh not its own; is not easily provoked; thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity; beareth all things; believeth all things."

The well-bred man and woman express by their manner that they regard the judgment, feelings, tastes, wished, convenience and pleasures of others as highly as their own. They strive to avoid all habits which offend the taste; all expressions which shock the sensibilities or wound the feelings of those about them, and all needless violations of the customs and conventionalities of society.

The following particulars will fall under and illustrate the above general principle:

1st, Avoid all expressions which tend to irritate, embarrass, mortify, or pain any member of the family. 2d Never allude to any fault or failing, unless with the purpose to benefit, and then in private. 3d. Avoid sarcasm, bitter words, "sore" subjects and references to any personal deformity. 4th. Do not ridicule, nor hold the opinion of others in contempt 5th Give attention when addressed, and do not interrupt nor speak when another is talking. 6th. Never contradict. 7th. Never scold. 8th keep your temper. 9th. Never speak in loud or querulous tones, nor order in arbitrary or arrogant manner child or servant. 10th. Use no slang phrases nor rude, disrespectful, profane, or inaccurate language. 11th. Never omit the "please" and "thank you," "good night," and "good morning," nor fail to gratefully acknowledge by some word or look every act of kindness and attention. These little words oil the harsh machinery of life wonderfully. 12th. Do not enter even your nearest relation's private room without knocking. 13th. Never slam the door, sit in the windows, hum, whistle, or sing in the halls or passage; nor scream to persons out of the windows and up stairways 14th. Teach children to offer precedence, to each other and to their superiors, to avoid awkward positions and movements, and not to indulge in disagreeable or filthy personal habits, such as yawning, scratching the head, picking the nose hawking spitting on the floor, cleaning the nails in company, etc., etc. 15th. Hold the person and personal possessions of another sacred. He who observes this rule will not tickle, nor pinch, nor poke his friend or brother, will not, unless he has special permission, open his letter, rummage his drawers, mark his books, finger his clothes, nor use his private property.—*Zion's Watchman.*

SOME SOUND ADVICE.

About Boys Who Drink and the Girls They Marry.

A mother who resides in a small city at the North writes to know if the editor of this paper can't say something that will induce her daughter to quit keeping company with a young man who gets drunk every time he takes the girl to a party. If a mother can not say anything that will induce the daughter to give up an escort who insults her, a poor, weak newspaper can not do any good. The girl has got the fever too bad, if she will not break off an engagement with such a young man. The girl should look about her and make inquiries and see if she can find a case in the experience of her friends where such a young man ever made a decent husband. She will not find such a case. The mere fact of a young man taking a girl to a party or a sleigh ride, and getting drunk and humiliating her, and causing her to depend upon others for her escort home, is one evidence that he has no respect for her, and she should break off her engagement and cut him entirely. If she puts up with such insults now before she is married, when she is his wife he will be liable to leave her to look out for herself, and he will get drunk from habit. Twenty years ago there were hundreds of young fellows in this State who thought it was smart to take respectable girls to dances and get drunk, and let the girls ride home with somebody who kept sober. The girls would be vexed at the time, but as the boys were rich, and went in good society, the girls got to looking upon the sprees as good jokes, and they would laugh about it. We know some of those girls today who are earning a living for several little children by hard work, while the smart fellows that got drunk have filled drunkard's graves, or have left their wives and are wanderers on the face of the earth. If a young man loves a girl as he should love her to marry her, a look of disapprobation from her of any act of his will be enough to break him of any habit that she does not like: If the words: "Please don't drink, Charley," from the lips of Charley's girl, are not enough to spoil his appetite for benzine, "Farewell Charle forever," should be the next and last remark she should ever make to him. Marrying a man to reform him has never been a successful enterprise on the part of women. Girls are worth too much unmarried to sacrifice their lives to beat sense into the head of any man on God's foot stool. Too many girls take the chances of marrying a young man who has an uncontrollable appetite for liquor, thinking that the surroundings of a home will wean him. Such a man does not wean as easy as a calf. He will go home only to sober up, and then not till the other places are closed. Five years of such a married life will make a middle aged woman out of the handsomest, sweetest dispositioned girl that a mother was ever proud of. A girl will marry such a man hoping that next year he will be better, but next year he will be worse. The nose will get red, the eyes bleared, the clothes carelessly worn, and the wife who would have been such a proud and happy mother, with a husband that had sense, becomes ashamed to look at herself in the glass, and had almost rather have a fit of sickness than be visited by any of her friends, for fear her husband will give them all away. Whiskey may be right in its place, and we hope it is, but the place for it is not in the stomach of a young man who contemplates matrimony, and the girl who takes such a man for life, for fear the young man will all be gone, makes a foolishness of herself, and will regret it as long as she lives. There are sure to be sober boys enough for all the girls, and there is no need of marrying a drunkard, and the girl who does so, against the advise of her mother, will deserve all the unhappiness she marries.—*Peck's Sun.*

GREAT ICE BRIDGE.

Those who visited Niagara Falls a few days ago, witnessed a scene never before known in the winter history of the great cataract. One of the best ice bridges ever known formed in the gorge immediately below the falls a week ago, and the high wind recently drove the water down the lake into the river. The water began rising; the deep and increasing rumbling indicated that the pressure would disrupt the great glacier. Soon the middle portion broke away and moved majestically down the stream for about 500 yards, until the mass in the narrow part of the gorge below brought it to a sudden stop with a crash, which resounded from side to side of the chasm. As far as the eye could reach, the vast masses of ice were being crunched to atoms, while here and there miniature volcanoes of water and ice spouted high into the air. By dark the ice gorge extended from the foot of the falls to just below the railway suspension bridge, some two miles, and it seemed to be solid from the bottom of the river to a height of more than fifty feet above high-water mark.

During the night huge masses of ice went crashing over the cataract, and were thrown high on either shore and at about midnight some two hundred feet of the famous inclined railroad at Prospect park were carried away, while the stone observatory and dressing rooms at the "Shadow of the Rock," between the foot of the railway and the American fall, were chrushed to pieces. The house of John McCloy, ferryman, on the Canada side, about 75 feet above the usual ice level, was partly overturned and the occupants had a narrow escape. The little ferry boats were crushed in their houses and several of the piers of the new suspension bridge were torn from their foundations. The damage will be several thousand dollars, but the Prospect park company are hard at work repairing the damage to the railway, so that tourists can go below. All the ice bridges at the falls during the past ten years were piled on top of each other, it is said that they would hardly equal the height and length of the one which now spans the chasm.

VERY POOR PRINT