

The Commonwealth.

E. E. HILLIARD, - - - Editor. Published Every Thursday. Entered at the Post-Office at Scotland Neck, N. C., as Second Class Matter. THURSDAY, AUG. 31, 1899.

WHY NOT HAVE THE MILL?

Yesterday we took a little outing with "the folks at home," and drove to White's mill a few miles away. While wandering about the mill, listening to the waters dash through the gates and observing what seemed to be a great waste of power, because the mill was not running, we asked the miller why the mill does not grind wheat. He replied he did not know; that they were not "fixed for it now," but that there was a promise made to the farmers of the community if they would plant wheat last fall they should have a convenience there for grinding their wheat into flour. In consequence of this promise the farmers planted much more wheat than usual; but they are now not able to get it ground. A farmer came all the way from Concho recently, the miller said, to learn whether or not he could get wheat ground there.

Now, this is a great disappointment to the farmers. If they go to the trouble to change their plans of farming and plant wheat where they have heretofore planted cotton and peanuts, they really are entitled to the convenience to have it ground here.

THE COMMONWEALTH has for a number of years advocated the planting of wheat by the farmers and has argued that the presence of wheat would bring the mills. It is a fine opportunity for some one to engage in a profitable enterprise and at the same time do a great good to the community.

We do not know who owns the White mill property, and the miller could not tell us when we inquired of him yesterday; but we do know that it is a property for good water power to go to waste right at the doors of the farmers who would be glad to furnish grain with which to utilize it, and for which they have already raised quite a quantity of wheat this year.

It is to be hoped that some one will turn attention to this matter at once and give undoubted assurance to the farmers that they shall not longer be disappointed in getting their grain ground. There is no reason, as we see it, why wheat should not be raised in this region successfully; and with the convenience for having it ground we feel confident that large quantities would be raised.

It would be a great saving to the farmers and one of the chief steps toward their home independence. We urge the matter and hope some one will take it up at once, so that the present wheat crop may be ground here, and the farmers be assured that they will not be disappointed when they enlarge the wheat crop this fall.

A CLEAR CONSCIENCE IS GOOD PAY.

"The country newspaper man who stands up for the right has to look to the hereafter for the most of his reward. In one or two respects, however, he comes out ahead in this world of sorrow. In the first place he has the commendation of his own conscience—if he has any. In the second place, he learns that nearly all the people who are so ready to pat him on the back and encourage him in his work will promptly desert him when there are signs of trouble. 'Twas ever thus and always will be. 'Blessed is he that expecteth nothing, for verily he shall not be disappointed.'"—Roanoke News.

And yet there is duty for the "country newspaper man," just as positive and well-defined as for the city newspaper man. The truth is, if the matter were sized up closely enough, it might be demonstrated that the country newspaper has a more clearly defined mission for right than the city paper. All city prosperity depends more or less upon country prosperity.

The roads that lead from the country to the cities (railroads and public highways) are the very life-arteries of the cities; and if the country is in a prosperous condition, financially and otherwise, the city is all the better for it. The country press ought not to be regarded the censor of the people's actions in all things; but it ought to keep an eye on the doings of both country and city people, and stand up for the right in the name of its high mission for good.

CASITORIA. The Kidney and Bladder. Many golden opportunities have been lost by those who suffer from rheumatism. By taking Casitoria now they will be permanently and positively cured.

ADMIRERS NORTH CAROLINA.

Capt. W. R. Bond's book "Pickett or Pettigrew?" is still in demand. A Brooklyn gentleman of intelligence in writing for some copies of the book recently, paid high tribute to North Carolinians. Among other things he says: "Now, Capt. Bond, there are several of us Yankees in Brooklyn and New York who had considerable fighting with North Carolina troops, and have reason to think we know them as soldiers of resolution and desperate bravery. We have a warm spot in our hearts for them, and when we hear sneers, jibes, and derisions flung at North Carolinians as soldiers or individuals, we resent it."

This is high praise from one who fought in the "blue" against those who wore the "gray" a third of a century after the conflict which was then so bitter; and to those of us who were too young to be engaged in the conflict, it is gratifying to be assured through historical record as well as through personal expressions, such as we have quoted above, that North Carolinians were true to conviction on the battle field, as they are now at home in the walks of civil life.

The gentleman who wrote for a copy of the book, wrote from Raleigh. He was passing through the State and stopping in Raleigh expected to find a copy in the State library, but was disappointed. He wrote of the librarian that "the patriotic genius in charge had never heard of the work"; which does not speak very well for the management of the State's library.

PENITENTIARY INVESTIGATION.

The investigating committee have been looking into penitentiary matters at the farms. The investigation has revealed a tale of cruelty to convicts that has shocked the entire State. The News-Observer and Morning Post have given full reports of the committee's work, and it is awful to contemplate. One convict died in the field after being beaten three times the same day. Others' fingers were frozen off, and other things of cruel nature are told that would fill a page.

WELL SAID.

In retiring from the Gastonia Gazette, whose editor he had been for eight years, Mr. W. F. Marshall wrote a beautiful good-bye to his patrons, the State press and the faithful printers whom he had employed. A most striking and beautiful sentence in his farewell article was the following: "If I have written helpful lines I pray their influence may increase; if I have printed a hurtful word I pray it may speedily fade and its harm be reversed into good."

BRYAN'S REMEDY FOR TRUSTS.

James Creelman, writing to the New York Journal, gives Mr. W. J. Bryan's remedy for trusts as the latter outlined it before the Nebraska State Democratic Convention. Mr. Creelman writes:

"He declared that the overgrown trusts could be controlled, and, if necessary, absolutely annihilated, by a national law forbidding any corporation organized in one State from carrying on business in any other State without a special license from the National Government. This license would be issued under such restrictions and limitations as to make any further extension of trusts impossible."

WHY THE DIFFERENCE?

Wilmington Messenger. Every well informed North Carolinian knows how prosperous a county Edgecombe was from 1850 to 1880. It ranked as first or with the three or four best. The lands are fertile, the farmers flourished when prices were good. The late Turner Battle averaged on his excellent Tar river plantation over a bale of cotton to the acre. Others did as well. On Friday a native of Edgecombe and a friend of ours, was in to see us. Incidentally he told us that his farm, in the fine cotton producing section in the past, used to be valued by tax assessors at \$17.50 an acre. It is now assessed at \$5.20, or less than one-third. What has caused this great deterioration in value? We gave the other day a hint as to conditions in Granville and Warren, the two other counties that in productiveness would have been compared with Edgecombe. It has not been more than twelve or fifteen years since fine tobacco lands in Granville rented for \$100 an acre. You can buy the very best now for less than that—very much less, we dare to say. It ought to be no crime in North Carolina to state facts and give opinions.

Many golden opportunities have been lost by those who suffer from rheumatism. By taking Casitoria now they will be permanently and positively cured.

NATIONAL CAPITAL PARAGRAPHS.

Chairman Jones, now in Europe recuperating, has ordered the removal of the Press Bureau of the National Committee to Washington and has authorized Gov. Stone, of Missouri, to engage a new editor. Mr. Devlin, who placed the Bureau in opposition to Mayor Harrison, of Chicago, will be out as soon as his successor is selected. Reports from abroad show that Senator Jones will not relinquish the chairmanship.

Daniel J. Campau, Michigan member of the Democratic National Committee, says he has heard nothing of the reported movement for calling the National convention in February instead of June. He does not expect the National committee to meet before January.

When it was finally announced that Thos. B. Reed had filed his resignation to take effect Sept. 4, a great big sigh of relief went up from the administration. But Amos Allen, his probable successor, will continue the fight against expansion.

Nebraska Democrats, Populists and silver Republicans met in separate conventions at Omaha and nominated ex-Gov. Holcomb for supreme court judge. Bryan was a delegate in the Democratic convention. Ex-senator Allen could have had the nomination, but withdrew in the interest of harmony. The Democratic platform declares uncompromisingly for free silver at the ratio of 16 to 1.

Gov. Bradley, of Kentucky, was conspicuous by his absence at the opening of the Republican state campaign, although the strongest pressure was brought to bear to induce him to speak for the ticket. The Republicans have troubles of their own in that state.

O. P. H. Belmont, of New York, now that Croker has punctured Van Wyck's boom, is being actively pushed for the second place with Bryan. He is very wealthy, believes the silver question is one for Congressional rather than Executive action, strongly favors an income tax, and is against expansion.

The Mississippi Democratic state convention endorsed the Chicago platform and Wm. J. Bryan as the "greatest exponent of those principles." Three states have spoken for Bryan during this month.

Congressman B. A. Caldwell has started a movement to organize the Democrats of Illinois outside of Chicago for Wm. J. Bryan in 1900. The friends of Bryan are not going to allow the Gold Democrats to control the next National Convention.

The Massachusetts Democratic State Convention will be held in Boston, Sept. 21. George Fred Williams will be chairman of the resolutions committee. An effort may be made by the silver men to elect delegates to the National Convention at that time.

Gov. Stone, of Missouri, denies that he is backing the movement to call the Democratic National Convention for February. There should be no independent scramble by the Democrats to see who will nominate Bryan first. Everything should be done regularly and in order.

It is a queer state of affairs when this Administration has to acknowledge to a foreign power (China) that its subordinates is allowed to keep it in the dark regarding his action in such an important matter as the exclusion of Chinese from the Philippines.

Gen. Otis may find that by keeping the administration in the dark regarding his proceedings, he has stirred up trouble for himself. As long as it was only the people who were flouted and hoodwinked the Administration did not care.

The Associated Press correspondent at Manila says: "The censor writes stereotyped official phrases and adjectives into the dispatches, tending to magnify the American operations and to minimize the opposition." This explains why the reports appear so one-sided, and yet the war does not end.

BAD BLOOD—CURE FREE!

Bad Blood causes Blood and Skin Diseases, Eruptions, Pimples, Scrofula, Eating Sores, Ulcers, Cancer, Eczema, Skin Scabs, Eruptions and Sores on Children, Rheumatism, Catarrh, Itching Humors, etc. For these troubles a positive specific cure is found in B. B. B. (Botanic Blood Balm), the most wonderful blood purifier of the age. It has been thoroughly tested for the past thirty years and has always cured even the most deep-seated, persistent cases, after doctors and patent medicines had failed. B. B. B. cures by driving out of the blood the poisons and humors which cause all these troubles, and a cure is thus made that is permanent. Contagious Blood Poison, producing Eruptions, Swollen Glands, Ulcerated Throat and Mouth, etc., cured by B. B. B., the only remedy that can actually cure this trouble. At druggists, \$1 per large bottle; six bottles (\$1 per treatment) \$5. B. B. B. is an honest remedy that makes real cures. Send 25 stamps to pay postage on Free Trial Bottle. Medical advice FREE. Address, BLOOD BALM CO., Atlanta, Ga.

THE ROUNDLAP BALE PRESS.

Benefits to Farmers and Ginners Demonstrated in Operation.

Mr. T. W. Pratt, of Huntsville, Ala., is president of the West Huntsville Cotton Mill, and operates at the same place one of the largest ginning plants in the country. He has been using the roundlap bale for two years, and expects to put up 8,000 to 10,000 bales of 500 pounds each during the coming season. Mr. Pratt has also organized companies for building two very large roundlap bale plants at Tuscaloosa and Demopolis, Ala., and estimates that he will handle at these two points this year 30,000 to 40,000 bales 250 pounds each, or the equal of 15,000 to 20,000 square bales. In a letter to the Manufacturers' Record, giving his experience with his Huntsville plant, he says:

"We are ginners and cotton manufacturers, and operate ten 70-saw gins and four presses. For two years we have operated roundlap bale presses of the American Cotton Co. The first year we handled 2,200 500 pound bales and the second year 5,100 500 pound bales. This year with a good crop in this vicinity, we expect to put up 8,000 or 10,000 bales. Our experience has been most satisfactory, both from a ginner's and a manufacturer's standpoint, and the fact that we have so largely increased our business is ample evidence that the planters are well satisfied. The universal opinion expressed by all customers is that they are more than satisfied. And why should they be otherwise? We gin and compress for \$1 and pay the planters one-eighth cent premium on their crop, or if we buy in the seed, as is now the rule here, we pay them on this basis, and they sell their seed and get spot cash for it, thus saving much labor formerly necessary. Under the old process they paid \$3 for ginning, made a trip to the gin with their load, generally had to leave it and wait several days for ginning, and they made a second trip for the cotton and seed and another trip to market. In the spring we furnish them seed at the same price we paid when ginning was done, and they are then sure of getting good seed for planting, and only what they want. Hence there is no waste. Any planter who has dealt with us will certify to the fact that he can better afford to haul cotton twenty to thirty miles to our gins rather than his gin near home, with the extravagant old-fashioned method. He can not only save time, but make money by so doing, and gets paid for all the cotton he brings, whether he sells at once or holds his crop. He also appreciates the saving in hauling the bale sampled once instead of many times, and he further understands that he gets a better grade than he does on the old country gins, owing to the superior machinery used for cleaning, etc. So much for the planter.

"Now let us see how the ginner stands. First, he can gin, cover and compress 500 pounds of lint in eight minutes, using a good outfit of 70 saw gins to the press, and can do better with a larger battery. This can be done at a cost not exceeding forty cents all told, while the old process costs him not less than \$1.25, including bagging and ties. In case the ginner wants to buy and sell cotton on his own account, most of the railroads of the South will allow him compress fees of eight and one-half cents per hundredweight, or forty-two and one-half cents per bale. If he wants to sell his cotton to the American Cotton Co., it allows him a premium of \$2.25 per bale over the value of the same cotton in square bales at his locality, thus giving him \$1.25 net after paying royalty of twenty cents per hundred weight for the use of the press, maintenance of the same and regular inspections. The gin plant can be run with less labor and less cost of insurance than the old system, and if cotton is stored, four times as much can be placed in the same room.

"There is no chance of mixing bales or samples, owing to the perfect system in use, and no chance of losing cotton by country damage, as water will not permeate the bale, owing to all air being excluded in baling. The street buyer, sampler and cotton thief, owing to the complete covering, have no chance to get their 'auger in,' to use a common expression, as there is no necessity for cutting the covering under the American Cotton Co.'s sampling system.

"From a manufacturer's standpoint, the advantages of the system are too numerous to mention, but the best evidence of the advantages derived by the mills is that cotton finds a ready sale at a good premium over the square bale, and new mills are now being erected which will do away with bale breakers, opening lappers, etc. There is no necessity for middlemen, as the mills can buy direct from ginners or from the American Cotton Co., and be sure of getting what is ordered.

"The warehouseman who has handled the roundlap bale is loud in its praises. He has no 'turtle back' to handle, no lost ties to replace, no damaged bales to pick and inspect, and he knows that the weights stamped plainly on the burlap covering is the actual weight of the bale, and will not vary. He can handle to the mills, load in

cars and wagons with half the help formerly required, and his warehouse is not littered up with cotton and dirt, as under the old system. The howl of middlemen, 'town-crow' handlers, compress stockholders and operators is but natural and expected, as they are hurt, and badly hurt. But who can blame them for trying to get up combines, compress trusts, regulation sized press boxes, laws to prevent the operation of the round bale system, and the telling all kinds of stories about hard cores (which do not exist), etc? If they did not see the handwriting on the wall they would not be so vigorous in their efforts. But to the producers, ginners, carriers and consumers, the only four parties who are interested, the situation is entirely different, and especially to the producer, who, by reason of the low price of cotton, is compelled to adopt new and cheaper methods or give up the fight. The new system has come at a time when the planter most needed it, and those who have taken advantage of the system are free to state that but for this improved method and its economizing advantages it would be impossible for the cotton planters to continue on the farm."

CHILD STOLEN IN WILSON.

A Wilson correspondent wrote the Wilmington Messenger under date of August 26th:

At Lucama yesterday an attempt to kidnap the young son of Mr. Andrew Lamm was made by a negro tramp. A party of children were gathered in Mr. Lamm's front yard playing, when the negro picked up the child and made off towards the woods. An alarm was at once given by the little folks and a party of citizens went in pursuit.

After searching the woods the child was found in the undergrowth where he had been thrown by the negro, but no trace of the brute could be found.

The people are very much wrought up over the occurrence and a thorough search will be made for the kidnapper.

RED HOT FROM THE GUN.

Was the ball that hit G. B. Steadman of Newark, Mich., in the Civil War. It caused horrible ulcers that no treatment helped for 29 years. Then Bucklen's Arnica Salve cured him. Cures Cuts, Bruises, Burns, Bolls, Felons, Corns, Skin Eruptions. Best 75c cure on earth. 35c a box. Cure guaranteed. Sold by E. T. Whitehead & Co., Druggist.

DON'T USE OIL FOR KINDLING.

The following sad story from Durham told in the News and Observer ought to be a warning to all not to use oil for kindling fires:

"Mrs. John Hayes died at her home some five or six miles from this city on the old Fish Dam road, late Thursday afternoon, from burns received on Tuesday evening. In attempting to kindle a fire in the kitchen stove with kerosene oil, the can of oil caught on fire and burst, burning Mrs. Hayes from her feet up. She suffered great agony before death came to her relief. The deceased leaves a husband and one child. The interment took place to-day."

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A FARMER DEFIES TRUSTS.

The Smithfield Herald tells how farmer Giles Bowers, of Johnson county, defies trusts by refusing to buy tobacco flues because there is a trust on the iron from which they are made.

He made his flues of hollow gum trees, but could not get the temperature for his tobacco above 90 degrees. All of the same he is clear of the trust.

AGENTS WANTED—FOR "THE LIFE AND Achievements of Admiral Dewey," the world's greatest naval hero, by Murat Halstead, the life-long friend and admirer of the nation's idol. Biggest and best book; over 500 pages, 8x10 inches; nearly 100 pages halftone illustrations. Only \$1.50. Enormous demand. Big commissions. Outfit free. Chance of a lifetime. Write quick. The Dominion Company, 3rd Floor Caxton Bldg., Chicago.

ASSASSINATION AT WILSON.

Monday evening Mr. Calvin Barnes was assassinated near Wilson, his assailant shooting him in the back. His tenant, Joe Jefferson, a white man, who quarreled with Mr. Barnes in the morning, has been arrested, and evidence is clear against him.

Don't Stop taking Scott's Emulsion because it's warm weather. Keep taking it until you are cured. It will heal your lungs and give you rich blood in summer as in winter. It's cod liver oil made easy. 50c and \$1. All druggists.

Our store will be closed Tuesday, September 5th. Will open at 6 o'clock p. m. M. HOFFMAN & BRO.

TERRIBLE ACCIDENT.

Wilmington Star, Aug. 25th. One of the most horrible accidents which has occurred in this section in many a day, and one which has cast a gloom over the entire city, was that about 6 o'clock yesterday evening, when Mrs. Susan L. McPherson, one of Wilmington's most highly esteemed ladies, was run over and killed by an engine of the Wilmington Seacoast railroad.

The accident occurred on Wrightsville Beach, between the Seashore Hotel and the Hall cottage next door south from the hotel. The body was fearfully mangled, one truck of the locomotive having passed over her, severing the right limb and leaving the left limb attached to the body by the merest shred.

HOW THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED.

Mrs. McPherson has been spending several days with her daughter, Mrs. W. H. Northrop, Jr., at her cottage on Wrightsville Sound, and on yesterday morning took Mrs. Northrop's two small children (her grandchildren) over to Wrightsville Beach to spend the day. It was her purpose to return with the children to Wrightsville on the 6 o'clock train. With this object in view, as the train came down the beach taking up passengers for the 6 o'clock trip, Mrs. McPherson, accompanied by her two little grandchildren, the nurse and her son-in-law, Mr. W. H. Northrop, Jr., came out of Mr. Samuel Northrop's cottage, two doors above the hotel, and were walking down the plank walk-way to the hotel station to get on the train.

According to eye-witnesses, when the train had gotten within possibly ten or twelve feet of Mrs. McPherson and her party, she in some unaccountable way stepped or fell from the board walk and fell across the track under the wheels of the engine, which was moving at about six miles an hour.

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