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NO. 3.

HILL ARP'S LETTER.

How inspiring is the earliest breath of spring when nature like a blushing maid is putting on her pantalets and preparing to baug her silken hair. What harmonious feelings spring up in one's bosom and gush forth to all mankind. A balmy day fills all the chambers of the soul with music that is not heard and poetry that is not expressed. Spring is unlocking the flowers. I see sweet violets peeping from their leafy beds and jonquills lifting their yellow bells to catch the sunshine. What a rebuke to man is the innocence and beauty of the flowers—what a contrast to cruelty and strife and selfishness. The love of flowers is refining and draws a man nearer to woman and to heaven, and it is safe to say that whatever a woman loves, a man had better love, for try to. Flowers, music and birds are given for our happiness. They are the extras of creation designed for our special pleasure. Providence would have withheld them if He had not loved us. Or He might have given us only the howling of the winds for music and buzzards for birds and dog-fennel for flowers. The love of flowers is close akin to the love of children.

Madam deStael said that music was the only thing upon the earth that we would find in heaven, for it was common to angels and to man, but she did not know. If there are beautiful mansions and golden streets and gates of pearl and trees whose leaves are for the healing of the nations, why not flowers? Spencer in his "Fairy Queen" says: "And is there care in heaven and love in heavenly spirits for the flowers?"

The more uncultured and unrefined a man is, the less he cares for flowers and music and birds. Cowper says he would not number on his list of friends the man who would needlessly tread upon a worm. Shakespeare says the man who has no music in his soul is fit for treason, stratagems and spoils. Some years ago I was trying to sell a cottage home to a rough man who wanted to buy, and I pointed out the beautiful roses that adorned the front yard. He turned away carelessly and said: "I don't care anything about them sort of things. If I buy your house you need not add any cent for blossoms." The poet says, "The humblest flower that blooms gives thought too deep for tears." But there are folks who care no more for a beautiful flower than for an ugly weed. The poets in all ages have paid tribute to the flowers. One of the most beautiful poems ever written is the "Ode to the Flowers," by Horace Smith. It is among the classics of old England.

Shakespeare had a great heart for flowers, and he knew them like a botanist. There is not a common or familiar one that he does not bring to pleasant use in some of his plays. How pathetically he laments the death of Imogen:

"With fairest flowers I'll sweeten thy sad grave.
Thou shalt not lack the flowers that's like thy cheek.
Pale primrose—nor the azur'd harebell like thy veins—nor the leaf of eglantine that outsweteoed not thy breath."

There was a long time ago a ballad about two lovers for whom two flowers were named, Margaret and Sweet William. We have margarets among the flowers now, and sweet williams are very common. What became of the lovers is quaintly told in the old-time verses:

"Margaret was buried in the lower chance,
And William in the higher;
Out of her breast there sprang a rosebush,
And out of his a briar.

"They grew till they grew to the church top,
And then they could grow no higher;
And there they tied a true lovers' knot
Which made all people admire."

As stern and solemn as was Moses the lawyer, he was not unmindful of the beauty of flowers, for when he planned the first sanctuary that was set up in the wilderness he directed that his cunning workmen should ornament the golden candlesticks with carvings of flowers—open flowers. When Solomon designed his magnificent temple the molten brass was ornamented with representations of flowers, and so was the cedar carved with figures of open flowers. The Bible makes mention of flowers, but not by name, except the lily and the rose. "I am the rose of Sharon and the lily of the valley." "Consider the lilies how they grow. They toil not—neither do they spin; but Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

I notice in a late New York paper that the culture and sale of flowers has largely increased in that city. That forty years ago the sale amounted to only sixty thousand dollars a year, and that for the year just passed the sale of roses alone was nearly six millions, and that it was not uncommon for a millionaire to spend ten thousand dollars for flowers for a single entertainment. This is a good sign, and may be help to save Sodom—I mean Gotham—from destruction. I wish that all our public schools would encourage the pupils to study flowers. There is a little simple botany that even a child can understand, and it will tell them why the kingy house of the Plantagenets took its name from a flower—the Scotch

broom (planta genestha) with which Henry II had himself scourged for a heinous crime. And why the geranium means a crane's bill and eglantine a needle and nasturtium a nose twister, etc. The origin of the names of flowers is a funny book to me.

These school boys and girls keep me pretty busy answering their questions and doing their perplexing sums, and most of them inclose stamps in their letters. I will conclude this letter by giving them a sum:

A man sold a sow and pigs for eighteen dollars. He received as much for ninetenths of a pig as he did for one-tenth of the sow. How many pigs did she have?

BILL ARP.

Chicken Eating Hog.

Progressive Farmer.

I see in your paper of February 5th A. J. B. wants information as to hogs eating chickens, etc., and wants to know what will make them fatten. Nothing will make them fatten as long as they eat chickens, is my experience; but if you will, when the hog is eating the chicken, take it from the hog and pour a spoonful of Japanese oil in the chicken and gave it to the hog, he will never eat another. I will assure you that he will leave the road when he meets a chicken the next time. He will have the chicken half eat up by the time the Japanese oil begins to have its effect. It will treat a hog just like a chicken ought to be treated. A little blue stone put in the swill will be very good, but be sure to try the Japanese oil first.

Y. C. MORROW.

Richmond County, N. C.

Smallpox Near Charlotte.

Charlotte, N. C., March 14.—Biddle University, the negro school, just outside the corporation limits of the city, is alive with smallpox. Ten cases have already been reported. The school and settlement surrounding the college are now under the strictest quarantine. A temporary pest house has been established, and all the cases and those exposed are confined in the pest house. The health officers do not anticipate that the disease will spread to the city.

Fall River Curtailment.

FALL RIVER, Mass., March 14.—Rapid progress has been made toward curtailment of production by the cotton mills, and to-day it was considered as most certain that it would take place as desired by the selling committee. "From all that can be seen now," a member of the committee said to-day, "the curtailment will go into effect in a few days. It will effect 1,500,000 spindles for 24 working days."

Carnegie's Gift to Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., March 14.—Andrew Carnegie today gave twenty thousand dollars for the establishment of a public library in Charlotte. The gift was made conditionally, that Charlotte provide a site and subscribe \$2,200 annually for its maintenance. The proposition will be accepted.

Alleged Defaulter.

RALEIGH, N. C., March 14.—Maj. W. H. Martin, institutional clerk in the State Treasurer's office, is an alleged defaulter to the amount of four thousand dollars. He was arrested on a warrant at half past three this afternoon.

In Liverpool, the belief that cotton would be firmly held in America had encouraged buyers to be heavily long on the near-by deliveries and to take the reverse of this attitude towards the later months. They have been persuaded to change about of late, and these alterations, precipitated by heavy offerings from the South, brought about a sharp decline. Our market, irregular for weeks, followed or rather took the lead in the scramble for a lower level. This is only a round-about way of saying that there is more raw cotton on hand than people thought.

The British Government, as was expected, rejected the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty, which affects the proposed isthmian canal, because of the amendments insisted upon by the Senate. Lord Lansdowne's instruction is courteous, though firm, and is understood to open the way for a renewal of negotiations, if the United States Government so desires, but upon grounds entirely different from those inserted by the Senate.

Several weeks ago a little child was reported to death in Charlotte. The poor mother was compelled to go out to labor to obtain food for her children and in her absence the distressing accident occurred. The incident and the circumstances attendant thereon touched the heart of the community, and Dr. Barron, a Baptist minister, started an agitation for the establishment of a day nursery to take care of the children of the poor whose parents are compelled to leave them during the day to work for a support. The good women of the town took the matter in hand and two day nurseries have been established in Charlotte.

A full purse is the best pocket companion.

SOME OF JOHN ALLEN'S FUNNIEST STORIES.

New York Press.

The retirement from the house of representatives at the close of the present congress of John M. Allen, of Mississippi, will terminate all hope of Washingtonians to hear fall from his lips more of those humorous phrases of this wag's invention which, like the sallies of poor Yorick, were wont to set the table on a roar. One of his good stories is this:

"Before my election I came home one night, and found that while I had been off on my campaign the leaders of our party had organized a Cleveland, Hendricks and Allen club, and they were to have a meeting that night. I went, and when through speaking they called on me. I expressed my convictions, and said what I wanted them to do for me when the election took place, in about two weeks. There were a good many negroes present, and I wanted to get them interested; so I got the boys to call on Jim Cummings, an old, slim negro. Old Jim got up and said: 'Well, gentlemen, youse heard Mr. Taylor and Mr. Anderson on the politics of the day. They'se told you what sort of a man Cleveland is, and what sort of a man Blaine is, and it don't look to me like no honest man ought to have any trouble in picking out between them two. You have also heard Mr. Allen orate about himself; and he has recommended himself so much higher than the balance of us can recommend him that it ain't wuth while for me to say any thing much about him.'"

Mr. Allen takes special pride in this poker story, "because," says he, "the oratory employed in it is thoroughly illustrative of southern pluck, of which I claim to be the highest type. There was a lot of drummers in the smoking car of a southern train, and they were talking about the games of poker they had played. An old fellow was sitting near them. He wore an ancient high hat and was smoking a pipe. One of the drummers said: 'I played a remarkable game the other night. We were playing jack-pots, draw limit. A man across the table opened the jack-pot. He raised me; I raised him about 67 times; then I called him. He had a jack high straight flush.' Hereupon the old fellow addressed the speaker; he seemed disappointed at the story. 'And you called him?' he asked. Yes. 'Ah,' exclaimed the old fellow, with a sigh, 'times ain't like they used to be. Why, gentlemen, I am betting on a hand that was played in 1847. I will explain how it was. You see I am from Tennessee. In 1857 my father and old Colonel Dobbins started into a game at Murfreesboro, and they got to betting. It appeared like they were both pretty well satisfied with their hands, and neither of them was willing to call. They kept on betting as long as they had any money; then they got to betting niggers. They kept that up as long as they had any niggers and then they got to betting land. They kept betting as long as they had any land, and then they agreed just to seal up their hands and put them in the safe, and, as they got money along, to put it upon them. That went on till the war broke out; my father went into the Confederate army and he was killed. Old Colonel Dobbins died. But after the war was over the old colonel's son, Jim, and me, we took it up, and we put up on them hands; and, strangers, I do hope to get them hands before I die.'"

"A colored orator can rise to very eloquent height. I once heard a pithy funeral sermon delivered by a negro preacher over a defunct dandy. The dead man had been fond of attending gay parties, where he whistled and danced, and these practices the preacher did not approve, so he said: 'My brethren and sisters, we are here to pay our last sad respects to our departed brother. Some says he was a good man and some says he was a bad man. Where he has gone to we can't tell, but in our grief we has one consolation, and that is—that he is dead!'"

Franklin's Toast.

Long after Washington's victories over the French and English had made his name familiar to all Europe, Dr. Franklin chanced to dine with the English and French ambassadors, when, as nearly as the words can be recollected, the following toasts were drank: By the British ambassador, "England—the sun whose bright beams enlighten and fructify the remotest corners of the earth." The French ambassador, glowing with national pride, but too polite to dispute the previous toast, drank, "France—the moon whose mild, steady and cheering rays are the delight of all nations; consoling them in darkness and making their dreariness beautiful." Dr. Franklin then arose, and, with his usual dignified simplicity, said, "George Washington—the Joshua who commanded the sun and moon to stand still; and they obeyed him."

Two Irishmen, on a sultry night, took refuge under the bedclothes from a party of mosquitoes. At last one of them, gasping from heat, ventured to peep beyond the bulwarks, and espied a fire-fly which had strayed into the room. Arousing his companion with a punch, he said: "Fergus! Fergus! it's no use; you might as well come out; here's one of the crathurs searching for us wid a lantern."

STORYETTES.

During a funny turn on the stage at the Walnut Street theater, Cincinnati, the other night, a man in the balcony leaned over the railing convulsed with laughter. During an extraordinary burst of hilarity his false teeth flew from his mouth and fell in the lap of Miss Ida Brockway, who was sitting in the parquet. Those near looked up and saw the toothless man waving frantically to the lady to pick up his teeth. This caused a general laugh at his expense. The teeth were returned by an usher.

During a confirmation tour in the diocese of Peterborough, the late Bishop of London put up one evening at an old manor house, and slept in a room supposed to be haunted. Next morning at breakfast the Bishop was asked whether he had seen the ghost. "Yes," he replied, with great solemnity, "but I have laid the spirit; it will never trouble you again." Being further questioned upon the subject, the Bishop said: "The ghost instantly vanished when I asked for a subscription toward the restoration of Peterborough cathedral."

One night when the attendance in a small town in the French provinces was especially bad, Sarah Barnhardt, bored by the small size of the audience and its stupidity, resolved to make the most of it. The play was "Camille," but, instead of speaking the lines as Dumas wrote them, Sarah made up the play as she went along, interpolating such opinions as, from minute to minute, she had of the audience. She called them unutterable things, and in a highly dramatic way. The innocents applauded these sentiments vigorously, upon which she called them something worse.

Not long ago an American professor attended a reception in the royal palace, given by the Kaiser to an association of scientists, at which William appeared in the gorgeous robes of royalty, preceded by liveried chamberlains bearing the crown and insignia. It was a most impressive display, and when the professor came away he said to a friend: "I am a Republican to the backbone, but I believe that it monarchs are necessary they should be monarchs to the last bit of gold lace, just as William is Kaiser." The next day this friend had an audience with the Kaiser, and in the course of the conversation told him what the American professor had said. The Kaiser laughed heartily. "That is exactly what I believe," he said; "Dom Pedro of Brazil illustrated the folly of trying to be a Republican on a throne."

Awful Atrocities Committed by the Sultan's Troops.

VIENNA, March 15.—Awful atrocities are charged against the Turkish troops, who have been "restoring order" in Macedonia. Fugitives from the disturbed regions who have arrived at Salonica state that the Turkish soldiers massacred the inhabitants of Balaici and several other villages in Macedonia and put the people to death by fire and sword.

A priest named Maryoff says that over six hundred perished by being burned alive or cut to pieces by Turkish soldiers, who deliberately set fire to houses, consuming the inmates—men, women and children—in the flames.

This statement of the priest is corroborated by others, who give most harrowing descriptions of Turkish cruelty and outrage. The Turks formed a cordon around the area of massacre and devastation, and prevent all outside efforts to ascertain the facts in regard to their horrible cruelty and oppression. The Christians are fleeing from the regions which the Turks have occupied.

Methodist Church Claim to Again Get Attention.

The claim of \$300,000 which was paid by act of congress to the Methodist church, south, a few years ago is likely to be brought up in congress again. Of this amount it is alleged that \$100,000 was paid for attorney's fees, the understanding of several senators being that the entire amount was to go to the church. Senator Hoar, of Massachusetts, has informed Senator Bate, of Tennessee, that he will reopen this matter in the senate and that he believes the money should be refunded to the government. He has, however, agreed to hold the matter in abeyance until the general conference meets next May, one year, to see what action will be taken. He deems it courteous to take this course. It is not known exactly what procedure could be adopted to recover the money but Senator Hoar doubtless has a plan mapped out.

Opinion is pretty widespread that there will be no revision of the Westminster confession by Presbyterians. This opinion is based on the fact that little real interest is manifested in the subject. The committee appointed by the last General Assembly to find out what the denomination wants, has held its final meeting, and will present majority and perhaps minority reports at Philadelphia. The May General assembly will act upon the matter, submitting it to presbyteries or rejecting it, and then the whole denomination, through its presbyteries, must vote. So little interest is shown that the predictions are many that nothing will come of it all.

THE LEGISLATURE.

RALEIGH, March 9.—The bill passed the Senate to put the A. and M. College under the control of agricultural department.

The bill passed the House for the consolidation and government of negro normal schools. It puts them entirely under the control of the Board of Education.

A bill to provide for the permanent registration of all entitled to vote under the "grandfather clause" of the constitutional amendment caused a sharp partisan debate but passed by a large majority.

The Senate refused to concur in the House amendments to Alexander's road bill.

Mr. Wright, for the committee on Judiciary, reported unfavorably the bill to regulate the employment of laborers in the textile factories. He submitted the agreement entered into by the mill owners to carry out the spirit of the bills proposed to be enacted into law and recommend that the agreement be spread upon the journal of the House and the names of the signers to same attacked. Report adopted without dissent.

The 60 days term of the legislature expired with to-day but the Senate must sit on the impeachment trial next week and 70 representatives have pledged themselves to remain in session till the end of the trial.

The Legislature has made important and valuable amendments to the health law. They consist essentially: In increasing the term of members of the State board of health from two years all expiring at the same time, to six years, so arranged as to expire at different times thereby assuring a continuing board; in the creation of a county sanitary committee, composed of the board of county commissioners and two physicians are endowed with definite responsibilities and powers and in restoring the term of office of county superintendent of health from one to two years. The medical profession is recognized as far as practicable, which it is hoped will revive their interest in sanitary matters. It is true that the control remains in the hands of the board of county commissioners, as they will always be in a majority but in all matters pertaining to the public health, including the election of a county superintendent of health, two physicians will have a voice.

The legislature had to this date chartered twenty-six railways. This breaks the record. The house will at the end of the week probably take a recess until about April 1st, by which time it is estimated the impeachment trial will be ended.

It is said Judge Clark, of the supreme court, will be the star witness for the impeachment managers.

RALEIGH, March 11.—The high court of impeachment met at noon and issues joined, Senators sworn and court adjourned till Thursday. A large crowd was present.

Bills passed the House as follows: To provide for removal and re-erection of the State arsenal; restoring old county line between Ashe and Wilkes counties; allow Commissioners in May court to summon additional jurors; to provide for insurance of all State property.

Machinery act special order. Graham wanted amended by assessing property April next instead of 1903. Lost. The bill passed final reading without amendments.

Bill passed providing that where the people have given ten dollars the State give ten dollars to establish school libraries.

The Senate adopted section eight of revenue bill and passed over ten sections. Adopted 35, 39 (Theatres), 37, 38, taxing circuses out of existence was hotly opposed. The committee rose and reported progress. The bill passed to encourage poultry breeding and raise its dignity and importance.

Bill passed House to amend charter of Charlotte and establish a recorder's court for the city.

RALEIGH, March 12.—A bill passed the House to prevent kidnapping. The appropriation bill carrying \$160,000 increases for State institutions will come up as special order to-night.

Dr. Jas. McKee, of Raleigh, was today elected superintendent of the Central Hospital for Insane.

The Governor sent a special message to the Legislature today, recommending that the amount in cash and bonds be appropriated to Public School fund.

Senate adopted the sections of the revenue bill taxing lightning rod agents, hotels, cotton compresses, pool tables, and gift enterprises. Amendment adopted prohibiting slot machines in the State, and savings bank tax reduced from \$2.50 on \$1,000 capital to \$1.

Senate adopted the bill providing for a legal primary when asked for, in Mecklenburg, Columbus, Cabarrus, Wake, Guilford, Washington, Hyde, Pamlico, Granville, Richmond, Durham, Henderson, Orange, Beaufort, Martin, Haywood, Tyrrell and Dare counties.

The omnibus bill appointing magistrates in many counties passed Senate.

Raleigh, N. C., March 13.—The Senate passed bills providing for more efficient system of supervision of public schools; new election law; regarding injunctions on timber lands; revenue

bill adopted, \$25 tax on emigrant agents changed to \$50 in each county; \$25 license in each county for traveling opticians; \$50 tax for trading stamp companies amended placing \$10 on all firms who use them.

Schedule C. 95, taxing corporation's capital stock is made to apply to foreign corporations doing business in the State.

RALEIGH, N. C., March 14.—The members of the legislature are so anxious to get home that the sergeant-at-arms has been ordered to arrest all members who attempt to leave the city.

Twenty-five were stopped last night and this morning. One member, Oliver, pleaded this morning for leave of absence but it was refused. The House passed bills most of the morning with only 25 members present, but the point of no quorum was not raised.

A quorum is still left in the city. The regular time of the legislature expired Saturday and members are receiving no pay. But three Republicans and Populists remain.

Duls to-day strongly opposed Connor's bill, authorizing sale of bonds, if necessary, to pay appropriations for public schools. He said it was the worst kind of financial and political blundering.

These bonds are now held by the State Board of Education, in trust for the children of the State. Many other legislators attacked the bill, which is in accordance with the Governor's special message. They say the legislature has appropriated large sums for various state institutions, especially asylums, and now want to make up the deficit out of the children's school fund. The bill will be defeated.

The Senate passed bills appointing county boards of education to prevent indebtedness of State institution without authority, and to create office of chief of fire department.

The court of impeachment met at noon. Judge Allen delivered the opening speech, outlining the charges and the evidence against the judges. He made a strong speech of an hour and a half.

RALEIGH, N. C., March 15.—The House was in considerable confusion this morning. A large number of bills were ratified, and a few minor bills passed.

In the House Mr. Jenkins, of Granville, the aged father of the house, made an eloquent speech on the work of the legislature. He declared that he had fulfilled his pledge; had provided for better schools, had given nurture and support to the institutions for the unfortunate and had made provision to save the ballot to illiterate whites men.

All members of the House crowded around him to congratulate him and bid him goodbye.

The House sang "Auld Lang Syne" and "Home, Sweet Home."

The last act was to adopt a resolution on the death of ex-President Harrison. Speaker Moore returned thanks and said he thought this the greatest house that had ever graced the halls.

Maj. Martin, the Republican defaulting cashier of the State Treasury, acknowledged to the defalcation, and says he is willing to accept the full penalty of the law.

He is still in jail. The legislature appointed as an investigating committee Arrington, Shannonhouse and Winston.

Charlotte is the only place in the State exempt from the Aycock law regarding the adoption of text books.

Both houses passed amendment to charter of Charlotte allowing city to appropriate \$2,500 a year for Library. Representative Shannonhouse explained that this was made necessary by conditions of Andrew Carnegie's proposed gift to the city.

A bill passed third reading in the Senate last Saturday to prevent chickens, turkeys, geese, etc., from running at large. The law applies to Cabarrus, Mecklenburg and Iredell among other counties. One man offered the following amendment to the bill: "Provided this act shall not prevent the free passage of humming birds through the air."

Senator McLaurin, of South Carolina, is no longer a Democrat. His name has been stricken from the Democratic caucus roll, and this has been done with the endorsement of the gentleman himself. He has in fact, virtually read himself out of the party which elected him to the position he now holds.

A bill passed the Senate last week to tax male dogs 25 cents and female dogs \$1.00. It applies to Mecklenburg and Cabarrus. The vote on the bill was 28 to 10.

The changes in the senatoria districts put Stanly, Davidson, Union Anson in one district with two senators. Randolph and Montgomery compose one district with one senator.

The commissioners of Union county have purchased a pair of blood-hounds to be used in capturing criminals.

In order to prevent the establishment of a dispensary, the Goldsboro saloons agree to open their places of business at 5 a. m. and close at 9:30 p. m.