

THE GASTONIA GAZETTE.

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W. F. MARSHALL, Editor and Proprietor.

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A WHIFF FROM THE PAST.

What a Sale of Old Books in Philadelphia Revealed.

Des Moines Register and Leader.

An Iowa man who happened to witness a sale of books in Philadelphia a few weeks ago yielded to the charms of the antique and bought a bundle of pamphlets that came from the garret with the dust of several generations upon them. Later investigation showed he had possessed himself of an odd collection dating back to the 30's and 40's—the period of Webster and Clay, Emerson and Beecher, Irving and Longfellow, still lamented by many as the golden age of America. Surely the current publications of that day would carry the true heroic flavor. So thought the visitor from Iowa when he made his investment, but he has since been, as Mark Twain says, "harassed with doubts."

First among the pamphlets was a "Political Catechism" by a writer who had considerable vogue several years ago, but is now wholly forgotten. He seems to have been somewhat ahead of his time, for away back in 1833 he delivered himself thus:

"What great danger besets us pervading the whole mass of society? The excessive and restless struggle of every one to get rich and it is a matter of regret that so many have a profound reverence for nothing but money."

The old writer goes on to declare the country sinking in the year of grace 1833 into "excessive anxiety for wealth" with the inevitable accompaniments of "luxury and private and public corruption."

Another of these pamphlets shows, however, if the fare of statesmen in the Capitol was somewhat different in those brave old days they got much the same treatment when candidates before the country as now. Witness the following characterization of Henry Clay, then a candidate for the Presidential nomination:

"A Christian, who has three or four times shown his bravery by attempting to take away the life of his fellow men in a duel."

"A statesman, who is for a high protective tariff in the North, for a horizontal tariff in the Middle States and a free trade in the South."

"A Christian, who fights duels and curses worse than any other man in his State."

"A Philanthropist, who, if he cannot have black slaves, is determined to turn his fellow men into white ones."

"A Republican, whose wife and daughter are too good to work in the kitchen."

In view of all this, especially the last specification, it ought to be plain to later generations than heretofore why Clay never got to be President.

The White House Expenses.

Charleston News and Courier.

Some of the Democratic brethren, three-for-a-quarter statesmen made quite a demonstration in the House the other day against the appropriation of \$30,000 for White House expenses, instead of \$25,000 as heretofore appropriated for this purpose. There were all sorts of protests against such extravagance, the Hon. John Wesley Gaines of Tennessee, declaring among other things, that the White House had been remodelled at an expense of \$800,000 so that now "we have a building with a tunnel on one side and a coal house on the other," and that as our sovereignty expanded our entertaining also expanded.

Is not that natural and proper? We cannot be a World Power without paying the price. It is utter nonsense to speak of conducting the White House now for the amount that was necessary for this purpose fifty, or even twenty-five, years ago, and the howlers against the appropriation asked for the other day would doubtless be the first to protest against the adoption of very cheap method at the White House.

He Pays His Money and Takes His Choice.

Wilmington Star.

Secretary Root is quoted as saying that he is losing \$125,000 a year by staying in the cabinet. If that's so our advice to Secretary Root would be to get out of the cabinet, unless he enjoys staying in more than he does \$125,000 per an.

The fifth anniversary of the destruction of the battleship Maine was celebrated by four hundred Americans at Havana Sunday.

Listing of Taxes.

Raleigh Times.

The arranging for the collection of taxes, the State requires the tax-payer to list his property; and in a general way it may be said that all a man's property is to be given in and valued, and the rate of taxation applied to the amount, so that the taxes he is to pay will be ascertained. Inequalities in distributing the burden of taxation inevitably attend this process. While the tax rate is uniform, one may escape paying his fair share of the taxes either by not listing all his property, or by its not being assessed at its real value. In the present machinery act an attempt has been made to eliminate as far as practicable these possibilities. The lists containing a statement of the property of each individually are to be actually and solemnly sworn to. Formerly the oath was somewhat perfunctory; and in many instances it was not required at all.

It is somewhat remarkable how forgetful a man can be about his property when listing it for taxation; and how prone he is to underrate it on that particular occasion.

Men who will fight for their property will at assessment time forget their ownership.

And so when notes and accounts, credits, are to be listed, many are entirely forgotten. Still when the day for collecting the interest comes, the memory is amazingly refreshed.

Some tax-payers never have any money on hand, nor any balance in bank. Some claim that all their money is in United States notes, which are not liable to State taxation; and others have the habit of investing just before June all their cash in bonds of a non-taxable character.

By such means the amount of property which should be listed is somewhat reduced.

The law seeks to prevent such evasions, and it requires a full disclosure of all the property a tax-payer owns. And this is done in a spirit of fairness to the other tax-payers on whose shoulders an additional burden would be thrown if any property is unlawfully withheld from the lists.

A still greater evil arises from the practice that is almost universal of not valuing property for taxation at its real value. If a farm could under favorable circumstances be sold for two thousand dollars, it is quite likely that it would be assessed for taxation at something like one thousand dollars. In towns houses and lots have a more certain market value, and they are apt to be assessed at what they would sell for at an ordinary sale. Here then is an inequality between town and country property. Besides, in the agricultural districts themselves, the variations in assessments are notable. And this is done in regard to live stock no less than with respect to land.

It is perhaps, the general rule to undervalue more residences that yield no income to the owner, while stores and premises yielding an income have the taxes piled up on them.

The law seeks to reduce to a minimum these inequalities which in practice cannot be entirely eradicated and the absolute market value, a value at a fair sale, is called for, under oath.

If these provisions of the machinery act could be perfectly carried into effect, not only would there be considerably more property listed, but the aggregate of the assessed valuation would be largely increased; and a lower rate of taxation would raise more revenue than the present rate does. But the machinery will not work perfectly. There will ever be trouble in putting the system into practical operation. Whenever the stringent provisions of the present law were sought to be enforced with reasonable strictness, opposition was apparent. It is hard to overcome the habit of a generation. Our habit has been to have our property assessed at less than its value, and objection is made to the change. Still the effort should not be relinquished. Year after year, by systematic endeavors, we may approach still nearer to a perfect inventory of the property in the State and to a more correct assessment of its value. When that is finally accomplished, the burden of maintaining the government will be more equitably adjusted than now when so many, by one way or another, escape paying a part of their just share of the necessary taxation.

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DEATH OF DRED SCOTT'S OWNER.

Mrs. Chaffee Who Set the Famous Slave Free Dies in Springfield Massachusetts.

New York Sun.

Springfield, Mass., February 12.—A former owner of the famous slave, Dred Scott, died here yesterday. She was Mrs. Irene Sanborn Chaffee, widow of Dr. C. C. Chaffee. She was 88 years old and of a leading Virginia family.

Her first husband, Dr. John Emerson, surgeon of the regular army, bought Dred Scott at the negro's earnest solicitation, because his former master had whipped him for gambling. Dr. Emerson owned no other slaves, but used to employ Scott about his office in St. Louis. When Dr. Emerson died Mrs. Chaffee, who was about to move to this city, told Scott that he was practically free. Scott worked about St. Louis at odd jobs and found employment among other places with a young lawyer who thought he saw the opportunity of making some money out of the man.

The suit for Scott's freedom was brought in 1848 on the ground that he had become free when he went to free territory north of the Missouri line. The lawyer hoped to secure the wages of Scott for fourteen years, during which time he said he had really been free. These would amount to some \$1,700 and Scott had between \$200 and \$300 saved.

The case went against the estate in the local Court at St. Louis, previous decisions in the Missouri Courts having been that a slave was freed upon being taken into a free State. It was then taken to the Supreme Court, where in 1852, the decision of the lower court was reversed. The importance of the point in dispute was then understood and it was fought through the United States Circuit Court and in the Supreme Court at Washington, in both of which the decision of the State Supreme Court was upheld.

The decision of the United States Supreme Court given just before the inauguration of President Buchanan, in 1857, startled the North by asserting that a negro, free or slave, had no rights before the law, and by practically annulling the Missouri Compromise by the assertion that a slave owner could take his slaves into any part of the United States he pleased. Dr. Chaffee was at that time standing against slavery in Congress, and the fact that his wife owned Scott caused no end of bitter comment on his position.

Mrs. Chaffee, however, though not an abolitionist, was always in sympathy with the cause of the negro. Her ownership of Scott was a pure accident, and immediately after the decision in the lower Courts had been announced she freed the man.

John P. A. Sanford, Mrs. Chaffee's brother was executor of the estate and acted in this capacity as defendant in Scott's suit.

Beauvoir as a Confederate Home.

New Orleans Times-Democrat.

"Beauvoir," once the home of him who was for four years President of the Confederacy, became yesterday the property of the Sons of Confederate Veterans of the State of Mississippi, to be dedicated by them as home for disabled, indigent or infirm ex-Confederate soldiers. The \$10,000 requisite to purchase "Beauvoir" has at length been raised, and the work so long carried forward by patriotic men and patriotic women in Mississippi and neighboring States has at last been finished. The people of Mississippi have made no mistake in purchasing this historic building and in devoting it to the use of men who wore the gray. It is right that Mississippi, as well as every other Southern State should provide for the Confederate soldier who may require assistance, and it is especially fitting that the old heroes should be permitted to spend their last days in what was once the home of the President of the Confederacy.

We rejoice that a consummation so devoutly wished has rewarded the labors of the good people of Mississippi who in the face of difficulty and discouragement, have given their hands and their hearts to this noble work. The people of Louisiana congratulate the Mississippi Sons of Veterans and the Mississippi Daughters of the Confederacy upon the high success that has crowned their efforts. It is gratifying also to know that the people of Mississippi have at length made ample provision for their heroes in gray.

The Town Trust.

St. Louis Republic.

The announcement that the chief public utilities of Springfield, Ill., are to be consolidated and operated by a syndicate of Eastern capitalists is full of suggestion for the small town.

The syndicate will own Springfield's gas plant, electric railways, Electric Light, Heat and Power Company, and Hot Water Heating Company; practically all the important utilities except waterworks. Capital is just now awaking to the fact that public utilities in small towns are excellent purchases, especially when they may be consolidated and run under one management.

Experience has demonstrated that lighting plants, waterworks and electric railways in small towns may be operated more profitably with a single central power station, by one management, than with several stations under separate control. The same generating engines are required for lighting and railway power and the same steam power will supply the pumping necessary to waterworks.

Consolidation results in economy of power, and especially in saving of fuel. In many places freight or drayage upon fuel is saved, the hauling being done by the electric railways between the freight station and power plant. These companies have sometimes found it profitable to build and operate ice plants in connection with the central power station.

That Eastern capital is seeking investment in these consolidated utilities should be a powerful argument in favor of local ownership, preferably municipal ownership, in the small town.

Nothing could better illustrate the evils of control by foreign capital than the conditions which might ensue in a town whose public utilities were owned and operated by a remote syndicate having for its sole object the earning of large dividends.

These utilities adapt themselves readily to consolidation. The towns themselves should perceive the advantage and the necessity of consolidation where the conditions permit, and thus guard against foreign capital and, perhaps inferior service. What is good for an Eastern trust is good for the town or for its own citizens.

Illicit Distilling.

New York Press.

The poor mountaineers of the South (and the illicit distiller of Brooklyn and the Bronx) learned the trade from the bonny Highlander. Scotch whiskey of the best quality and flavor has been distilled for ages by men with their apparatus at the side of a burn, changing weekly from fear of discovery, maiting on the open heath far up the hills, and hurrying on the whole process to avoid detection; yet with all these disadvantages they receive the highest price for their product. Several of these men have been employed by way of experiment in a licensed distillery, with directions to proceed in their own way, only to be regulated by the laws under control of an officer, yet with the advantage of the best utensils, the purest water, and the best fuel they produced a whiskey far inferior in quality and flavor to that which they made under the shelter of a rock, or in a den, and it sustained neither the same price nor character in the market.

Tobacco Farming in Carolina.

Winston Tobacco Journal.

And now they have discovered a district comprising several thousand acres in South Carolina that will produce a good article of cigar tobacco. The soil has been analyzed, and we presume all other conditions thoroughly investigated, and the only thing now to do is for the planters to go to work and raise the fragrant weed. If it is true that the soil and conditions in the district above referred to are favorable the same conditions will apply to certain sections in eastern North Carolina. It looks now as if Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina were going to be the great tobacco producing states in the union, in quality and variety.

Homer's One Good Point, at Least.

Chicago Record-Herald.

"I see that Andrew Carnegie thinks Homer didn't amount to much after all."

"That's queer. Surely Homer must have had one good point in Andy's estimation. He didn't die rich."

PRESIDENT STANDS BY CRUM.

Declines to Withdraw the Nomination Upon the Advice of Senators.

Washington Post, 17th.

The President will not withdraw the nomination of Dr. Crum, the colored man he selected for collector of customs at Charleston, S. C., notwithstanding the adverse report of the Senate Committee on Finance. A number of Senators called on the President yesterday and advised the withdrawal of the nomination, on the ground that it would hurt the prestige of the administration to have the Senate vote for rejection.

The President responded that he had made the nomination because he believed it right, and as no one had yet shown him any reason to change that opinion he should stand by it. The Senators warned him that if he declined to withdraw the nomination, the Senate might refuse to vote on it, and leave it "hung up" at the close of the session. The President's answer was that he had a right to expect the Senate to vote on the nomination, and thus share his responsibility and that if it led the session die without voting either confirmation or rejection, his present purpose was to make Dr. Crum a recess appointee.

Always Stirring Up.

Baltimore American.

President Elliot, of Harvard, has again stirred up the country. A while ago he aroused a heated discussion on the subject of union and non-union labor; then came his charge that the public school system was a failure, and now he declares that college or university education is a foe to marriage. Yet President Elliot is a mild-mannered man, and no one can accuse him of being on a hunt for sensations. Nor can he be seeking to advertise Harvard, for that university has all the students it can accommodate. He has certainly gone into new fields, and seems to enjoy the opportunities for sport he has there discovered.

A Senator With Delirium Tremens.

Greenville Reflector, 15th.

The legislature should not want any stronger argument for enacting a law against whiskey than the condition of one of its members the past week. A senator from a western district—a man of splendid appearance, and of brilliant intellect when his mind is not dulled by the demon of drink—moving about in the hotel lobby as if he was dodging from snakes or some hobgoblin. In other words he had a well developed case of the "monkeys." Of course there were those who could look on and laugh at the antics of the man in the grasp of drunken delirium, but to others it was a spectacle to almost make the heart sick.

Daily Newspaper Published on Ship Crossing Atlantic.

St. Louis Republic.

New York, Feb. 10.—The possibility of maintaining by wireless telegraphy a daily paper at sea has been proved. The Atlantic Transport Company's steamer Minneapolis, which left here a week ago last Saturday and arrived at London today, reports being in wireless communication either with Cornwall in England or Glasgow in America all the way across. The officers of the ship published a newspaper every day containing the news of the world as sent by wireless telegraphy.

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We have just received another car load of well broken HORSES AND MULES.

We now have a lot of Mules and Horses that any one may select from, and get suited. In all we have about seventy-five head in our stables. Now is the time to come and buy a nice Mule. We guarantee satisfaction when you buy from us. Our terms and prices are also made to suit you. Now is the time to come and buy a brand new Vehicle. We now have the nicest lot that we have had in our repository for a long while.

CRAIG & WILSON.

GAME BOARDS

GOING FOR 30 DAYS AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.

While the holiday season is over, still we have waiting us many long winter evenings in which some sort of amusement must be found in the shape of indoor games. Nothing in the way of indoor games and amusements has yet been placed on the market that is superior to the different styles of game boards which we handle.

STAR ARCHARENA BOARD NO. 1.

This board is 24 inches square, has elegant moulded hardwood rim finished in imitation mahogany. Panel is of 3-ply maple veneer, light and strong and finished in colors. Contains, Chess, Flips of Nations, and other games, 50 in all, can be played on this board. It is the best cheap combination board ever made. The regular price is \$2.50, but for thirty days we offer this handsome game board with complete outfit for only **\$2.00**

STAR ARCHARENA BOARD NO. 2.

Fifty-five Splendid Games.

This board is 29 inches square—has round corners, and strong hardwood frame—much larger and handsomer than the No. 1. It has beautiful marquetry transfers and is all rub finish. An absolutely high-grade game board. Complete with outfit for 55 games. Regular price is \$3.50. Our price for 30 days is only **\$2.75**

NO. 1 CROWN COMBINATION BOARD.

Sixty-five Grand Games.

This board is superb in material, workmanship, and general attractiveness. It is popular because of the number and quality of the games played on it, its fine finish, and its general excellence. It is 29 inches square and of the same high quality of material and workmanship as the Archarena No. 2 described above. The regular price of this handsome Crown Combination board is \$3.75. Our price until Mar. 20 is only **\$3.00**

Complete outfit and instruction book with every board. Extra set of 29 Carrom rings, 35c.

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