

# THE GASTONIA GAZETTE.

Published Twice a Week—Tuesdays and Fridays.

W. F. MARSHALL, Editor and Proprietor.

DEVOTED TO THE PROTECTION OF HOME AND THE INTERESTS OF THE COUNTY.

One Dollar a Year in Advance.

VOL. XXIV.

GASTONIA, N. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1903.

NO. 24.

## POINTS AND PARAGRAPHS ON TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Under this head will be printed from time to time noteworthy utterances on themes of current interest. They will be taken from public addresses, books, magazines, newspapers, in fact wherever we may find them. Sometimes these selections will accord with our views and the views of our readers, sometimes the opposite will be true. But by reason of the subject matter, the style, the authorship, or the views expressed, each will have an element of timely interest to make it a conspicuous utterance.

### Up and About but not Doing Well.

Newport News Times-Herald.

While the Mississippi river is not doing so well, it is at least able to be out of its bed.

### The Prohibitionist's Advantage.

From A Journey to Nature.

I was like a Prohibitionist who was eating mince pie with brandy in it. \* \* \* To know just how good brandy is in mince pie, one must be a Prohibitionist.

### Bryan's Influence Waning.

Yorkville Requirer.

It is claimed that while at one time every Democratic member of the senate was disposed to bow to the political leadership of Mr. Wm. J. Bryan, the Nebraska man has not now a single follower in the upper house of congress. Mr. Bryan still has a few friends in the lower house; but his popularity is also on the wane in that body.

### Grover Cleveland on the Isthmian Canal.

It is very gratifying that the bill has passed the Senate and I hope there will be no further delay at the beginning of the work which I believe is going to mark an epoch in the commerce and transportation of the age and will be a glorious contribution by the American nation to the trade of the world.

### Study and Work Combined.

Raleigh Times.

The plan of some of our orphanages to require a boy to work part of the day, and spend the balance of the time in school is no bad plan for any school to follow. No better lesson can be taught a boy, than the knowledge of what constitutes an honest day's work. The man who teaches a boy how to work successfully on a farm or in the shop is no less his benefactor than the teacher who imparts to him a knowledge of books.

### What Bryan is Showing Them.

Collier's Weekly.

Mr. Bryan's advice still carries much weight among Western Democrats, but his friends would do well to point out to him that the role of watchdog of the party is popular only when played with moderation. It doesn't do to bark all the time. A majority of Democrats, like a majority of Republicans, want to win. Thus far Mr. Bryan has only shown them how he thinks they can lose.

### The Tact of Mrs. Wiggs.

Alice Hegan Rice, in *Lovely Mary*.

You can coax a' elephant with a little sugar. The wiser Mr. Wiggs used to act, the harder I'd pat him on the back. When he'd git bilin' mad, I'd say: "Now, Mr. Wiggs, why don't you go right out in the woodshed an' swear off that cuss? I hate to think of it rampant in round inside of a good lookin' man like you." He'd often take my advice, an' it always done him good an' never hurt the woodshed.

### A Mighty Small Feeling Ahead of Some Folks.

Stateville Landmark.

It is not so popular now to abuse Mr. Cleveland as it once was, but the unreconciled element will never see any good in him. He was violently denounced for issuing bonds to maintain the credit of the government and we were told that under no circumstances should bonds be issued in a time of peace. Next year the politicians will have to defend this bond issue in the campaign and some of them will feel mighty small if they should have their denunciation of Cleveland quoted against them.

### The Worst Act of the Legislature.

Biblical Recorder.

The worst act that was passed was the new divorce law. It recognizes abandonment as a ground for divorce, and provides that two years abandonment is sufficient cause for divorce; and allows remarriage of either party after five years. This is abominable. It is enough to disgrace the State. It is a step backward, not forward. It is an invasion of the home and of the Christian religion. It makes a form of bigamy legitimate; and also makes marriage a means of seduction rather than wedlock. It was enacted in the name of deserted women and children. It will increase their number by ten where it will enable one to marry again.

On this subject of divorce our State has been shamefully indifferent. Had the ministers or the press of the State done their duty, this law would never have been enacted. We trust that the religious organizations of North Carolina will see to it that it is repealed by the next General Assembly, and that the grounds for divorce are limited to the four provided in the Code.

### A Tribute to the Trained Nurse.

Richmond News-Leader.

The trained nurse as an institution is comparatively new in this country, but she has become a universal pet and heroine, and has won her high place in the country's estimation fairly and by honest work, and the highest, purest and most modest heroism. She has manifested that most sublime courage that meets danger with open eyes and deliberate purpose and because of sincere devotion to unostentatious duty and love for humanity, which not only looks death in the face, but endures life with penalties of pain and suffering, exaction and privation and heavy and soul-trying task, accepting all these things as part of the life's work.

The newspapers of this immediate part of the country have called attention recently to two notable cases—one of a young woman who gave her life nursing small-pox patients in the almshouse in Richmond, the other of a nurse at Fredericksburg who volunteered to go alone into a family of twelve poor and isolated people, all down with measles, and to take charge of them all.

Probably there is not a day that some similar instance of beautiful devotion, generosity, fidelity and courage does not develop somewhere in the country. The American trained nurse is not only a model of professional excellence, but she is a very splendid example of womanhood of the best kind and an illustration of the noblest type of humanity.

## ARP ON HISTORY.

### The Boys and Girls Write Him For Historical Facts.

Atlanta Constitution.

So many young people who are thirsting for historical knowledge write to me for help that I feel encouraged and will answer their inquiries as far as I can.

These young people in the country towns have schools to go to, but they lack books—reading books, cyclopedias, biography, and if I was as rich as Carnegie I would plant a library of such books in every community. I would have a million sets of some standard cyclopedia printed for every school, even if they cost fifty million dollars. That would diffuse knowledge among the young people and do more good than all he is doing in big cities. But what we most need in the south are historical books that will be standard with us and relate the truth about the south and secession and the confederacy and slavery and the war and reconstruction. I had a cyclopedia that gave a whole column of apology for old John Brown and the pedigree of every northern race horse, and no mention of John B. Gordon or Forrest or any of our southern poets or authors or orators. I swapped it off at half price for the International by Dodd, Meade & Co. The tributes in that work to Mr. Davis and Lee and Jackson are all that could be desired and more than was expected.

I wonder what has become of that great southern publishing house that was projected in Atlanta some time ago. That is what we want and must have to perpetuate southern history and defend our fathers and grandfathers from the slanders of northern foes. It is northern novels and northern plays that have already poisoned the minds of thousands of our young people. Only yesterday I glanced at a serial story in an Atlanta paper and the first thing I saw was a verse which read:

"John Brown's body lies mouldering in the ground,  
But his soul keeps marching on."

In a Missouri paper I saw where a yankee troupe were playing "Uncle Tom's Cabin." And now a fool fellow from Wisconsin wants to get our governors to appoint delegates to a convention in Atlanta to determine the race problem, and it is said that that man Spencer is at the bottom of it to get up a presidential boom for himself. I suspected there was a nigger in the wood pile, for these northern politicians never do anything from patriotic, unselfish motives. Hanna's scheme fell through and Spooner thought he could patch it up. But the South never was more aroused and united on the negro question and will resent all interference, whether it comes from Washington or Wisconsin. Wisconsin! What impudence! A state whose foreign population is 62 per cent of the whole, and of these there are 88,000 who can't speak English and only 760 negroes in the state and three times as many Indians. What does Wisconsin know or care about our race problem?

In the last few days I have received three letters from young people wanting to know something about the confederate flags what were the designs and who designed them. I wish I could sketch them and paint them in this letter, but all I can do is to describe them and give their history. There were four in all, but only two lived to see the end at Appomattox.

No. 1, or the "Stars and Bars" was adopted by the Confederate congress at Montgomery. Its stars were on a blue field and its red and white bars made it look somewhat like the Stars and Stripes, and sometimes it was mistaken for the United States flag, and so Gen. Beauregard designed.

No. 2, "The Battle Flag," and Gen. Joe E. Johnson adopted it and it never was changed. It was a blue cross, or rather an X studded with stars and set on a red field.

No. 3. In May, 1863, the confederate congress adopted a national flag. It was a miniature battle flag set on a white field that had a white border at the side and at the bottom. But it proved to be a mistake, for it had too much white and afar off was mistaken for a flag of truce.

And so on March, 1865 congress adopted No. 4 as the national flag. This had the same battle flag on a blue field, but the white border was smaller and a red one put on the outside of that. This flag did not wave very long, only about a month but nevertheless it remains as

the national flag of the confederate states.

But the dear old battle flag No. 2 was the fighting banner of every company. Our wives and our daughters made them for the boys in gray, and many of them were smuggled back home again after the surrender and still kept as household treasures. Our boys, the Rome Light Guards, had one, and one night the young people gave a tableaux performance in the city hall to raise a little money to put some benches in the deserted churches for all the pews had been taken out and converted into horse troughs for the staff horses. One scene in the tableaux represented a battle field where women were ministering to the wounded and the dying, and one dying soldier, the ensign had this old tattered and war-stained flag grasped in his hand just as he held it when he fell. The Spanish commandant of the post was there with his wife, and when he discovered the flag, got furiously mad. He jumped up on his seat and yelled: "Take dat t'ing away, dat is treason—dat is an insult to me and de United States. I send for my soldiers and I arrest de whole party." He ran wildly down the stairs and across the street to his quarters and came back quickly with a dozen Dutchman in arms to make the arrest. He marched the young man over to his office, but paroled the young ladies until he could hear from General Thomas, whose headquarters were in Louisville. I was mayor then and we had some hot words. He said finally he would release the young men until he could hear from General Thomas. So I wrote to General Thomas by the same mail. He very graciously forgave us, but warned us not to do so any more for the display of a confederate flag was treason and the punishment of treason was death.

This is enough about flags. There is no treason in displaying one now. Time is a good doctor and Time keeps rolling on. My wife and I had another wedding last Saturday—and good friends were calling all the afternoon to say good words and congratulate us on our long and happy married life. Early in the morning, while my wife and the family were at breakfast, I came in late and slipping up behind her planted a venerable kiss upon her classic brow.

"She half enclosed me in her arms,  
She clasped me to a sweet embrace,  
(No she didn't either.)  
And bending back her head looked up  
And gazed into my face."

Yes, she did that, for it took her by surprise. I hadn't kissed her since the first day of last June—which was her birthday. Twice a year satisfies her now.

### Cannon's Fly Story.

Philadelphia Post.

Congressman Cannon, who is a power in argument and quick at repartee, enjoys displays of similar resourcefulness in others. During the hot summer campaign in Illinois he sought temporary rest in a hammock stretched under the trees in the yard of a country hotel. From his window the shade looked inviting, but on the spot he found the lawn strewn with tomato cans and other debris. On many of these more or less unsanitary mounds were myriads of flies.

"I had no sooner stretched myself in the hammock," said Mr. Cannon, "than these flies attacked me, seemingly by the million. It was intolerable, and in no pleasant frame of mind I looked up the proprietor.

"What do you mean," I demanded "by stretching your hammock in that fly-haunted field of torture you call a lawn?"

"I know the flies are bad out there now," he answered, "but Mr. Cannon you ought to use the hammock during hammock hours and you'd have no trouble from the flies."

"What are hammock hours?" I inquired.

"From 12 to 2 p. m. daily," he replied. "During these hours flies will not attack you in the hammock."

"I was much interested in the man's Socratic skill in evading the issue and wishing to draw him out, I asked:

"Why are there no flies around the hammock between 12 and 2?"

"Oh," he rejoined, "at that hour they're all in the dining room."

## DECREASE in SIZE of FAMILIES.

### The Average Family Has Decreased More Than One Person in Fifty Years—Some of the Causes.

Baltimore Sun.

The size of the average family in the United States has decreased a little more than one person in the last 50 years. In 1850 the population of the country was 18,967,000, made up of 3,598,000 families of 5.6 persons each. In 1900 the entire population was 76,303,000, made up of 16,239,000 families of 4.7 persons each. In 1889 the size of the family had decreased to five persons. At the present time the largest families are in the Southern States, where the average is five persons as against an average of 4.6 in New England and 4.4 in New York.

As wealth increases the family is sure to decrease. The young man as a rule is not content to get married until he can support his wife in the style to which she has become accustomed. That is, he wants to start where his parents and the parents of the woman leave off. The girl's parents were, perhaps, poor when they married and worked hard and lived in simple style. But they have reared their daughter differently and she is not content to start poor. This causes a delay in marriage. And then, among the well-to-do people, a much longer period is devoted to education. Fifty years ago a great proportion of the women married between the ages of 17 and 20, and if one reached the age of 25 unmarried she was likely to be considered an old maid. Now a girl who attends a boarding school or high school graduates at the age of from 18 to 20, and if she goes to college four more years are required to complete her education.

Fifty years ago a boy graduated from the leading colleges at 18 or 19 years of age and by the time he was 21 could have his profession. Now the boy is about three years older when he graduates at a university, and it takes him four years instead of two to qualify for the practice of a profession.

But it is only a small percentage of the young men and women of this country who go to college. Those, however, who are wealthy enough to obtain the higher education form the class, according to recent statements by gentlemen who have had opportunities to gather information, in which families are decreasing.

Perhaps the principal reason for the decrease of the average family is the more rapid increase of the urban population—the crowding of people in the cities. Among the farming people, where food is cheap and abundant and there is ample room, people marry young and it costs next to nothing to rear children. In a few years they become helpers to their parents. This is the reason, perhaps, why the family in the South, where a greater proportion of the population is rural, is larger than the family in the North. In the city a larger proportion of the people cannot afford to get married or to provide for children if they are married. Besides this, the mortality of children in the city is greater, and that reduces the size of the family.

The decrease in the size of the family since 1850 is the more marked when we consider that in that time medical science has advanced and the child born now has a much better chance of living than one had who was born half a century ago.

The Postmaster General has demanded the resignation of Postmaster Cheek at Hillsboro. Cheek was found short in his accounts. He made good the shortage but the department thinks he ought to go.

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First Leaf Lard  
Granulated Sugar  
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