

THE LEDGER

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The Dispensary A Thorn—A
Wolf in Sheep's Clothing—
The People Will Repudiate
the Fraud Perpetrated Upon
Them.

Editor of The Ledger:—On next Tuesday, October 3rd, the voters of Lancaster county will be called upon to settle by their ballots the question of greatest moment to them that will likely engage their attention for a long time. A question involving the welfare of many lives and the peace and happiness of many homes. A question which calls for the assertion of the best element of manhood in us all for the reason that it is a contest between a right and wrong principle.

I shall turn aside long enough to commend your course in relation to this question and to say that only the deepest solicitude for the welfare of the people of old Lancaster, and an earnest desire to see them peaceful, happy and prosperous in a larger degree, could impel me to trespass upon your columns and upon the patience of your readers.

My identity can make no difference and I will not, therefore, disclose it. I am a voter with the best interests of my county and its people at heart, and what I shall have to say will prove to them that I am their friend and seek only their good.

We are called upon to determine whether or not whiskey shall continue to be sold legally in our county; or be put under the ban of the law as all other evils and crimes against the public welfare are prohibited by law. The law at present provides for its sale in only one way, through the dispensary, and the question before us then is, shall we have the dispensary or prohibition?

Now what is the dispensary? We were told at its establishment that it was an agency that would both minimize the sale and consumption of liquors and ultimately pay the taxes of the State. A paradoxical statement neither side of which has been fulfilled. Instead of a decrease in consumption the traffic has grown in twelve years from \$300,000 to nearly \$4,000,000 and instead of our taxes being paid by it, the tax levy is raised for State purposes this year one-half mill higher and at the beginning of the year the State was about one-half million dollars in debt. This, notwithstanding the enormous increase in taxable values in the meantime. In the county our levy is no less, the county is in debt and yet we get into our county treasury one-half of the net profits of the two dispensaries besides the increase in taxes from the increase in taxable property. While the school, which the law requires shall receive their share of dispensary profits each quarter have not received a penny this year. Yet the profit feature is the distinguishable and almost absolutely the sole argument of the beneficiaries and friends of the dispensary. Well may we inquire, who is getting all the revenue?

Let us give our version of what the dispensary is, by contrasting it with the old barroom, or old time method of selling whiskey. The old barroom was the plain wolf in his natural clothing, which

everybody condemned and which everybody but the whiskey seller and some of the drinkers dreaded. Its evils could be seen plainly in all their hideousness. The dispensary is sugar coated, and is a sham. It is the same old wolf but travelling in sheep's clothing. It dispenses the same kind of whiskey to anybody who wants it, and in any quantity they want. It is attended with the same kinds of drunks, and the same kinds of evils flow out of it. It makes as many widows and orphans; just as much crime, poverty, idleness, viciousness, unhappiness and wretchedness. It is a more dangerous foe to mankind because it is insidiously seducing some of the very best citizenship into its support. Men who, under the old barroom system, would have died before allowing themselves to be in any way connected with its sale because of the shame, ignominy and disgrace attending it, have, under the air of respectability imparted by State control, had their consciences warped and allowed themselves to be drawn into its delusive and deadly meshes and are being carried to corruption and ruin thereby. Some prominent church members, as well as the more private members, are trying to adjust their consciences to a fine scale that will enable them to give support to the dispensary without impairing their standing as members of the church, and it is positively sad and painful to their friends in the church and amusing to those outside the church to see how strenuously they labor to prove the attitude of their church wrong, rather than undertake the impossible task of trying to establish by competent authority that trafficking in whiskey is right. Only one individual of considerable prominence in the State, the only one from anywhere of our knowl-

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WE WILL GIVE AWAY**ONE HANDSOME \$50.00 SUIT OF FURNITURE!**

Will be given away by us to the person who guesses the correct, or nearest correct, price of cotton on

THE 20th DAY OF DECEMBER, 1905.

For every 25 cents CASH purchase you will receive a ticket from us. When your tickets amount to \$5.00, bring them to us and register your name, number and guess. All guesses must be in by December 5th, when this contest closes, and all records deposited in the Bank of Lancaster.

To determine exact price for our middling cotton here we will deduct one-half cent from New York's closing quotations for future deliveries on December 20th as quoted in all daily newspapers. If more than one should guess correctly we will divide \$50.00 in HARD CASH. Come and examine this handsome suit of furniture on exhibition at our store, for your Xmas present.

- FALL GOODS -

Come and see what the new season has brought out. We claim to have the largest, newest and best selected stock of Dry Goods, Shoes, Ladies' ready-to-wear Hats, Furniture, etc., in Lancaster county, and we are determined to sell you if low prices and fair dealing will be considered.

Lancaster,
South Carolina

Williams-Hughes Company

THE UNDERSELLING STORE.**Big Arrivals of New FALL GOODS!**

We have just opened up the SWEETEST line of NEW FALL DRESS GOODS ever before shown in these parts. They were bought with an eye to beauty as well as to value and cannot be surpassed for up-to-the-minuteness. COME NOW while they are NEW and FRESH and get first pick.

NOTION DEPARTMENT.

In this department we have everything NEW that could be desired in the way of Hosiery, Neckwear for Ladies, Silk Embroideries and Battenburg Collars, Handkerchiefs, Back Combs, Buttons, etc. Also a full line of the famous R & G and W-B Corsets.

Ask to see the little Linen Center pieces, 5 and 10 cts each.

CLOTHING, SHOES AND GENTS' FURNISHINGS.

Did You Ever Have a Fit? Listen---

We carry the famous line of STROUSE BROS' clothing, noted for good fitting. No other line will compare with it in value and up-to-dateness. Let us figure with you on that new fall suit.

MEN'S SHOES.

Branded on every pair you will find "Stetson" or "W. L. Douglass", which is enough said to those who have ever worn a pair of either of these noted brands.

LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S SHOES.

The world renowned Drew-Selby and the guaranteed solid leather Godman shoes are our standards. The ladies tell us we have the prettiest line of shoes in town. Come see for yourself and be convinced of this fact.

MILLINERY DEPARTMENT.

Our new Milliner MISS DERAGON has arrived and will be pleased to talk with you about the newest styles in Hats and the leading shades for this season which are Prune and London Smoke.

HEATH-JONES COMPANY.

Department Store.