

The Abbeville Messenger.

VOL. 3.

ABBEVILLE, S. C., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1886.

NO. 5

Water Transit.

[Published by Request.]

TROTTER'S SHOALS,
SAVANNAH RIVER, JUNE 5, 1878.
Cyrus H. McCormick, Esq., Chicago.

DEAR SIR:—In a letter just received from Messrs. Gains & Yingling, New York, are the queries subjoined, which, since they relate so nearly to your interests, I refer to you, viz:

"Can you give us any information concerning the Dorn gold mine? Is it for sale? Is it now worked? Does it pay?"

Doubtless to the second query I might answer, no—now the Augusta and Greenwood Railroad will pass by it; that, on the contrary, you will carry out your original intention of building there to escape the horrible winters of the North. You will soon realize that the region embraced by Aiken and Anderson Court House enjoys one of the happiest climates on earth. Equally removed from the great agents of atmospheric change, the ocean and the mountains, it is exempt from destructive storms of wind, rain or hail. Blessed with sunshine and showers, throughout the year it is the surest for crops. There is just winter enough to keep insects in check, while the pomegranate and the fig do not require to be sheltered. Through the operation of an obvious cause, the summer is tempered by a constant set of the air from a higher elevation, through forests and over innumerable pellucid streams. The nights are always cool. Living immediately on the banks of a river, half a mile wide, I am never troubled by mosquitoes. No where can there be found a larger percentage of population of seventy years and upward. Mr. Lee, who sold to J. C. Calhoun his plantation on this river, a few miles below me, was one hundred and fourteen years old when I last saw him. He was then brisk, and expressed himself to be more anxious than ever to live. Mrs. Fleming numbered her ninety-eight years on this estate. My nurse, "Aunt Peggy," died here, from the effects of a fall, aged 106. Her mother went to 115. Several of my tenants, older than myself, still use the hoe. I am an octogenarian, with the fresh vitality of twenty-five. This is the country in which to grow old, comfortably.

Of course you will add to your possessions on the line, destined in the early future to be one of the grandest thoroughfares of the continent. If you enlarge hitherward you may reach the peculiar, generous "mulatto soil," admirable for wheat, and which produces the finest upland cotton that grows. The famous Abbe Correia da Serra, many years Portuguese Minister at Paris, was transferred, in my time to Washington. He said the district including Washington, Ga., and the "Calhoun settlement," Abbeville, S. C., resembles the best section of France. Gov. Chamberlain, with a magnanimity consonant to his high culture and superior intellect, said the other day, "South Carolina offers the most inviting inducements to the immigrant. Her resources are almost indescribable. Her cotton, long staple and upland, her rice and corn, her facilities for production and manufacture, are absolutely unsurpassed. * * * For she is Massachusetts, Alabama and Iowa rolled into one. She has great variety of climate and soil." He might have added that her colored people are the best laborers, the best domestics in the world.

In the spring of 1823, at the breakfast table, the Secretary of War, as if thinking aloud, said: "I'm sorry I can't spare Lieut. Talcott." "For what?" I asked. "Major Long ought to have an assistant engineer to aid him in exploring St. Peter's River." "Can I take the place?" "Yes, if you wish." The second night I was off in the stage to intercept Major Long and his party at Columbus, Ohio. We passed a few days at Fort Dearborn, a dilapidated stockade, on the site of Chicago. I was taken in a canoe up the South Fork of Chicago River to a flooded prairie, whence the water flowed in one direction to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, in the other to the Gulf of Mexico. I did not then anticipate that in so short a time I would become aware of an outlet intermediate to those two, one quasi-Arctic, the other quasi-tropical.

In 1825, while visiting my friends near Pendleton, I heard of the failure of repeated attempts to ascend the Whiteside Mountain, plainly in sight from the village. That was enough for me.

Taking a servant and a pack horse, I went up Keowee River, and at the North Carolina line engaged as guide a man who had never been near the mountain. The region, then belonging to the Cherokees, was so thoroughly a wilderness that in our excursion of several days we did not see the least sign of settlement, nor did we meet a single human being. Finally, a bear path led us to the summit of the mountain. On the way back to my Naval Station I fell in with Major Long. I told him that at the Whiteside the character of the mountains changes from an unbroken range northward to isolated masses toward the South. That a canal communication with the West should be sought for among the headwaters of Tugalo River. That the Chauga comes down at a right angle as a feeder, and breaks through the ridge, and that its great fall gives choice of level. We arranged to make an early reconnaissance, for it so happened that his mind had been long occupied with the project of uniting the waters of the Mississippi with those of the Atlantic, somewhere through the Alleghanies. But as he wrote me, a certain influence with the government had procured his employment far away. I was promoted and went to sea. Mr. Poinsett, President Van Buren's Secretary of War, recommended the establishment of barracks in the South, to be co-relative with those at Carlisle, Penn. He had in view the region immediately beyond Wall-halla, for the reason that, being an apex of country, there is descent from it in directions through more than half the points of the compass. The sources of the streams running to the ocean interlock there with the heads of others turned toward the Gulf: their waters have been brought together for industrial purposes. Hon. Geo. G. Dible, M. C. from Tennessee, introduced a resolution for the improvement of the navigation of Hiwassee River, perhaps looking to this interflow. The lower portion of the Hiwassee is the most favorable, while the upper of the Little Tennessee is superior. A slight cut across the Rabun Gap would pour thirty-five miles of smooth water of this latter into Tugalo River. Four years ago water was drawn from Black Creek, an affluent of Tennessee River, across the gap to Izell's Mills, on Checkero Creek, an affluent of Savannah River. Less than the expense of a single railroad of equal length would give the Northwest a water transit more efficient than a dozen railroads. "It has been proven on the Western waters that a light tug can tow barges laden with 20,000 tons. To remove the same bulk by railroad would require 3,000 cars, 100 locomotives and 600 men." Chicago become the entrepot for Canada West, and all the great lakes would soon be without a rival among interior cities. The productions of the great Northwest arrived at the distributing point, Augusta, would be competed for by Brunswick, Darien, Savannah, Port Royal, Charleston and Wilmington. They are ports of an immense plain extending from Chesapeake Bay to the Florida line, traversed by streams, at average intervals of less than thirty miles, practicable for setamers 150 miles to the first falls of the rivers. It is the extreme verge of the true cotton region, nearest to the marts of the world. It fronts the ocean the safest and the readiest, to navigate. It is most convenient for commerce with South America, the West Indies, the Mediterranean, the East Indies, and China.

The company making the canal and slack-water improvements would derive a double benefit, from tolls and from letting water power. To illustrate the inconceivable profit from leasing water power by the square inch, Gerrit Smith's bought for \$14,000 yielded him an income equivalent to interest on \$800,000. The Passaic Falls, located in this quarter, would not be remarkable. The proprietor, hearing I was in New York, sent to invite me to visit him at Paterson. I found him in a house still unfinished, that already cost \$112,000. His income was such that he allowed his wife \$14,000 a year alimony. Yet, to bring his water in shape, he had to build the highest stone wall in the world, except one on the Languedoc canal. An equal outlay on these shoals would utilize a thousand times the water. Savannah River with its affluents would furnish power enough to manufacture all the cotton that can be grown in North America.

Southern springs, pursuing the true policy, would put themselves beyond

the competition, not only of all exterior to the cotton region, but even of those at or near our own cities. By securing a sufficient area adjacent to their factories, operatives would go home, at night, to their parents, the renting of land to whom, would, in great part, balance wages. Strikes would be obviated, and since provisions would, along this great water transit, be cheaper than anywhere else, to a manufacturing population, all for a wide space around, would devote themselves exclusively to raising cotton to sell in the seed to the factories, to be worked up by the new process, adding two items not counted heretofore, oil and oil cake, which would go far toward meeting expenses. Besides the hullings are a better fuel than peat, and the ashes afford a superior phosphate fertilizer. A Northern company has recently transferred itself to Georgia, that it may operate under this system. Georgia and South Carolina will take the lead in cotton manufacture.

Direct an answer to Dry Grove, P. O., Abbeville County South Carolina. Very respectfully yours,
JAMES EDWARD CALHOUN.

Tennessee's Taylors.

WASHINGTON, October 25.—A gentleman just from Tennessee give a new feature of the campaign in that State. Before Alf Taylor was nominated for Governor he was given the nomination for State Senator in his district, which is largely Republican. He is still a candidate for Senator, no one having been nominated in his stead, and it is not the intention to do so. As there is no law preventing his being voted for as a candidate for one or more offices, he will doubtless be elected in the Senate.

There is another feature marked out by the Taylor brothers which may place Bob in the United States Senate. In the contest for the Senatorship there are a number of candidates in view of a possible deadlock Bob will be presented as a dark horse. With Alf in the State Senate the interest of Bob as a candidate can well be served. In the event of a vacancy in the Governorship the President of the Senate, who is elected from its members, becomes Governor. As Alf will undoubtedly go to the State Senate, he will be a candidate for the Presidency, though to be in the line of election he will have to effect an alliance with the Democrats. If this can be done and Bob become United States Senator, Alf hopes to be Governor.

The Free Trade Association

Colonel John J. Dargan has written a letter to Prof. Davis resigning the Presidency of the Free Trade Association, on account of a contemplated removal to Western Texas next month. He will engage in work upon the editorial staff of a daily paper, and promises to wage a lively free trade campaign. He extends best wishes to the order in this State. Prof. Davis replied regretting the circumstances that render resignation necessary and expressing a sense of the loss entailed on the State by the departure of one so eminent for personal purity and devotion to principle.

Some time ago, in accordance with resolutions of the Executive Committee of the Association, Prof. Davis requested the State Democratic Executive Committee to provide for tariff discussion at the meetings in the State canvass. The committee declined on the ground that the tariff is a Congressional issue and that Congressmen would have been nominated before the campaign begun. This explains the silence of the Association on the subject.

The Sixth Auditor's office in Washington City was the scene of a sensational suicide last Saturday, Robert W. Alston, clerk in that branch of the governmental service, after coolly announcing to the chief of the division that he was going to put an end to this thing, walked to his desk, took a thirty-eight calibre revolver from his pocket, and in the presence of his fellow clerk, sent a ball crashing through his brain. The unfortunate man lived but forty-five minutes after the fatal shot was fired. Nervous depression is said the have led to the act. Alston, who was a native of Georgia, was about twenty-eight years of age, was unmarried and was well known in Washington, especially among Georgians and Southern men. He was a son of Col. Bob Alston, of Atlanta who was shot a few years ago by Mr. Cox.

Demise of Mrs. A. T. Stewart.

New York, Oct.—Mrs. Cornelia M. Stewart, wife of the late millionaire dry good merchant, A. T. Stewart, died suddenly this morning at her residence Thirty-fourth street and Fifth avenue.

The death occurred at 10 o'clock this morning of congestion of the lungs and heart trouble. On Friday she took dinner with Mrs. Henry Hilton and on her way home contracted a heavy cold. On Saturday she was so ill that she was compelled to go to bed and Dr. Milnor was sent for. Yesterday Mrs. Stewart grew worse and Dr. Milnor remained at the house all night. At 9:30 o'clock this morning ex-Judge Horace Russell called at the Stewart mansion and was informed that, although Mrs. Stewart had spent a restless night, she was able to sit up in bed without great effort. At a few minutes after 10 o'clock ex-Judge Russell was surprised to learn from a messenger that Mrs. Stewart was dead.

THE FUNERAL SERVICE.

The funeral will be held Thursday afternoon from her late residence, 34th street and 15th avenue. Rev. Arthur Brooks, of the Church of the Incarnation will officiate. The services at the house will be private. The remains will be taken to Garden City for interment. Public services will be held in the chapel late Thursday afternoon, Bishop Littlejohn, who is in Chicago, has been telegraphed for and is expected to arrive in time to take part in the services. The service will be of the plainest description. The casket will be covered with black velvet, silver mounted, and will be enclosed in a steel casket to prevent a possible chance of theft after the burial. Mrs. Stewart was the eldest daughter of James Church a pioneer merchant of this city. She was born in 1802 and was married to Mr. A. T. Stewart in 1823. Since the death of her husband she has led a retired life. In person she was small and of slender form.

The Supreme Tribunal.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24.—[Special.]—The Supreme Court rendered its decision to-day in the case of the Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific Railroad Co., the plaintiff's in error, against the people of the State of Illinois. The specific allegation was that the railroad company charged Elder & McKinney 15 cents per 100 pounds for transporting goods from Peoria to New York City, and on the same day charged Isaac Bailey & F. O. Swannell 5 cents per 100 for the same class of goods from Gilman, Illinois, to New York, Gilman being 86 miles nearer New York than Peoria. The discrimination, it was alleged, was in violation of the law of Illinois, which prohibits any charge for the transportation of passengers or freight within the State of Illinois proportionately greater than would be charged for the transportation of like classes of freight "over a greater distance of the same road." The gist of the decision is contained in the conclusion, as follows:

THE GIST OF THE DECISION.

"When it is attempted to apply to transportation through an entire series of States a principle of this kind, and each one of the States or half a dozen shall attempt to establish its own rates of transportation its own methods to prevent discrimination in rates or to prevent it, the disastrous influence upon the freedom of commerce among the States and upon the transportation of goods through those States cannot be over-estimated. That this species of regulation is one which must be established at all, of general and national character and cannot be safely and wisely remitted to local rules and local regulations we think it clear from what has already been said, and if it be a regulation of commerce—as we think we have demonstrated it is and as the Illinois court conceived it to be—it must be of that national character and the regulation can only appropriately be made by general rules and principles which demand that it should be done by Congress under the commerce clause of the constitution."

The judgment of the Supreme Court of Illinois, which was adverse to the railroad, is reversed and the case, remanded to that court for further proceedings in conformity with the above opinion. Opinion by Justice Miller.

DISSENTING VOICES IN COURT.

Justice Bradley delivered a dissenting opinion in which the Chief Justice and Justice Gray concurred. In this opinion it is conceded that Congress might, if it saw fit, regulate the matter under consideration, but not having done so it is held that the State does not lose its power to regulate charges on its own railroad in its own territory, simply because the goods or persons transported have been brought from or are destined to a point beyond the State borders.

The Atlantic, Greenville and Western Railway.

Editors Chronicle: To accuse any party who is interested in the welfare of this road of poisoning the minds of the people seems unjust. Every stockholder has a right to express his opinion. If the Tennessee Company would only uncover their scheme and let the people understand what they are after and what they want, it would then put the stockholders in a position to think, and on the 4th of November they would be able to accept or reject the offer of the "Tennessee Company." But this Tennessee Company, composed of brains and money, supplemented by these bank presidents, and one capitalist (reputed millionaire) prefer to lock their secrets up in the breast of a few trusted friends and expect to buttonhole every man who can be persuaded, and in this way carry their point. It is too thin, the American people are a jealous people, and if any secrets are kept from us we get suspicious. We are told that these Tennessee gentlemen are rich men, capitalists; yet when we ask what guarantee they are going to give us for the faithful performance of contract, the answer is "second mortgage bonds," which about the time they are due will be worth probably the paper they are written or printed upon. We think if they are rich bankers, &c., they should give us first mortgage bonds. None other should suffice. But they say we can't do this, we want the first mortgage bonds for the New York men who furnish us the money to iron and equip the road. Here they let the cat out of the bag. Here their scheme explodes. They are no longer the rich Tennessee capitalists, but just as poor as we are. If we will vote taxes to build a road bed and give it to them they can iron and equip on first mortgage bonds—want our property to raise money on. I would just as soon go over to my neighbor and tell him if he will give me his farm I will build a fine house on it and live in it, and enjoy it, but that he must move away, but continue to pay the taxes. A.

Prohibition in Atlanta.

The Atlanta Constitution of October 26 says:

The Daily Voice of New York city yesterday afternoon contained an accurate statement of the prohibition situation in Atlanta. Early yesterday morning Hon. George Hillyer, Mayor, received a telegram from the managing editor of the Voice asking for positive information upon the subject. The telegraph read:

"NEW YORK, October 25, 1886.—Mayor of Atlanta, Georgia: Please give us five hundred words on the effect of prohibition since the last license expired. Give the number of arrests for drunkenness and deeds of violence yesterday as compared to the same day the last two years. The morning papers here are filled with reports of big jug trade in Atlanta. Important to have facts in the Voice this afternoon."

"EDITOR DAILY VOICE."

Immediately upon receipt of the telegraph Mayor Hillyer caused the city docket at police headquarters for Saturday and Sunday just passed to be carefully examined, and comparing them with the same days of 1885 and 1884 sent the following telegram:

"MAYOR'S OFFICE, ATLANTA, GA., October 25, 1886.—Editor Daily Voice New York: I shall publish your dispatch in the Atlanta daily papers with the following reply: In the barroom days, drunkenness was common, and not always noticed; the police less attentive, and many escaped arrest. Now, if a man gets drunk, or even partly drunk, it attracts attention; police are active and vigilant, and arrest early certain. The figures in the police office show the arrests for disorder and drunkenness on Saturday and Sunday, October 23 and 24, 1886, to be 22; corresponding days in 1885, 31, and 1884, 25. Many cases at present are chargeable to domestic wine, which is not prohibited, and which it is said is often doctored. Figures in the express office show hardly one jug or demijohn shipped into the city per 1,000 inhabitants. All exaggerated reports are to be condemned. The good effects of prohibition here are apparent. Trade in all branches, except the whiskey traffic, is prospering. There is marked improvement in the habits, morals and happiness of the people. Prosperity is admitted and rejoiced in, both as to private and public affairs. It is greatly

to be deprecated that when scores and hundreds of facts, such as peaceful streets and happy homes, and sober husbands, sons and brothers, with plenty to eat and to wear, where before was broken hearts and fear, and sometimes actual want, the great daily press abroad say nothing about it. But if a hand truck load of jugs is seen, which is no great matter to sixty thousand people, this must be magnified into "a jug train," and the whole press of the United States made to ring with it! There is not one-tenth as much intoxicants drank in Atlanta now as there was a year ago, possibly much less than that. Formerly the advocates of barrooms were numerous and powerful. Now nobody advocates restoring the barrooms. Formerly the issue was high license against barrooms; now the very most that the opponents of total prohibition would contend for is high license. The barroom nuisance has gone out from Atlanta forever, and we would like all the world to know it. We are determined to give total prohibition a fair trial under the law, and are greatly strengthened and encouraged with it so far. But our people are already practically united in the belief that the barroom will never come back. I only wish the people at a distance could see the truth as it has been demonstrated here, and thus escape the danger of being misled by the many exaggerated, prejudiced rumors that are published in other States on the subject.

"GEORGE HILLYER, Mayor."

[NOTE.—It must be recollected that the Mayor, the Chief of Police, and the policemen are ardent prohibitionists, and as such are anxious to make as good a showing as possible in favor of the enforcement of the prohibitory law. With this end in view it is not policy for them to make any more arrests than they are forced to.]

The Southwestern Storm.

The storm which has been working such havoc among the coast towns of Texas was first heard of by the signal office on the 10th instant, as being southwest of Cuba, and apparently the island and thence shoreward. All during that day and next it was traced upward toward the coast of Florida and Alabama, and promised to expend its energies somewhere over northern Alabama and Tennessee, or making its way across Florida northwardly, ultimately develop into high winds along the Atlantic coast, but in this purpose, if for convenience the elements may be supposed to have a purpose, it was defeated; since before it reached the coast it encountered an extensive field of high barometer and dry air covering the Atlantic coast which it was unable to penetrate or surmount. By this it was deflected along the Gulf westwardly, manifesting itself in "dangerous winds and high tides" at Pensacola on the 11th, its outskirts touching New Orleans on the 12th, and its full energy striking the coast between New Orleans and Galveston on the afternoon of the 12th. It was not a remarkable storm, as the Gulf storms go, and its only apparently exceptional feature was the route it traveled, piling up waters and pouring them upon the low coast of Texas. The posts on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico were given about forty hours' notice of the coming this storm.

A Disappointment.

President Duncan of the State Agricultural Society has for some time been quietly moving the proper influences to secure a visit from President Cleveland to our city during the approaching fair. The prospects of bringing the Chief Magistrate of our great country face to face with so large a number of our citizens as would be in attendance on the fair was quite encouraging for a time, but yesterday Colonel Duncan received a letter from ex-Governor Thompson, dated at Washington on the 20th, in which he states with much regret that, having presented the matter to Mr. Cleveland with much urgency, the President assured him that it would be impossible for him to give the time necessary for the trip.

To those who knew of the effort to secure the presence of the President at the fair, and who had hoped it would prove successful, this is a great disappointment, as it will be a regret to the public generally to find that the effort has failed.—Columbia Register.

Subscribe to THE MESSENGER.