





MANNING, S. C., WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 1897.

VOL. XII.

DISPENSARY SCANDALS.

SOME MIGHTY INTERESTING LET TERS GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Larry Gantt Threatens to Expose Corruption, But Was Held Off by a Personal Request -- Mr. Scrogge Tells Why He Wanted what I had done, and that he seemed exonerated. It Shut Up.

There seems to be no end to the scandals in connection with the dis pensary. On Tuesday of last week the following letter was published by the Columbia Register:

SPARTANSURG, S. C., Feb. 14, 1897. Dear Clark. This will be handed you by my friend, Mr. I. O. J. Wood, and who will explain to to you just what I want. I am anxious to control the State board of dispensary commissioners, so that I can help out my friends, and also your friends, Bluthenthal and Bickart of Atlanta, Ga. Now, Clark, to be plain with you, in or-

der to accomplish this, we must down a man named Outzs, and keep our mutual friends. Seth Scruggs, in control. We can down Outzs if I can get Mr. Bickart to give mea statement of the transactions between himstatement of the transactions of the lieve is self and Outzs and can show, as I believe is the case, that Outzs agreed to push his li-by me. 'My reason for writing this was quors if he (Bickart) would pay him 25 cents per case.

I want you to see Mr. Bickart and get a statement from him of this proposition to Outzs, and how it was first received. I do not wish it for publication, but simply to bulldoze him out of the race against Scruggs Hon. D. M. Miles, elected member of the board for five years, is my personal friend and from Spartanburg county. Col. Wilie Jones, chairman of the board, is one of my warmest friends, and I will visit him next Friday and talk over matters. I want to get Outzs' condemnation by that time. Jones is a

his first conference with the board he tried to get a second audience, so as to tell the whole

Outzs succeeds he will not order a pint from B. & B., and he is opposed to Mr. Bickart, because of that interview with the board. I also want you and your father, if Mr. Bickart gives this statement, to certify to his high character. I have other things behind, but want this

certificate as an opening shot. As stated, it is not for publication, but simply to use to kill any support that Outzs might get. Mr. Wood will give you the full story of

that matter. Truly, your friend,

P.S.-Why have you cut me off from your exchange list? I have not seen a copy the Board of Control for further inforof The Constitution since Christmas. Also send me a sample copy of your evening Ouzts reported the occurrance to the daily. Of course this letter is strictly confidential

The Register says this letter has been known to be in existence for over a month, but its publication was delayed until some other things should transpire, but as it has been published other letters on the same subject has been given the public. The "Dear Clark" letter was written by Col. T "Dear Clark" letter to

The rumors referred to

personal appeal to me not to do so is what HERE'S THE EVIDENCE. leterred me. If necessary I will call on you publish the letter I wrote to you som time in February. But to show you that I was not bush ALL ABOUT THOSE BECKROGE CI-GARS AND PEACHES

whacking any man, upon learning that the Atlanta firm stated that the offer they made said official had been rejected, I came to Co-Mr. Scruggs Got Some, But Says He Was umbia, saw the accused party and stated to Only Following the Custom-Some Damhim the report I had heard, told him jus

sging Testimony Regarding Dispensary

Although all of the testimony in

the Beckroge trunk matter has not

been taken, still there is enough to

show what became of the contents.

The testimony on this point is some-

what conflicting, but it is very evident

that people in the Dispensary got the

scknowledges taking some of the ci

as it had been a custom for the offici

als to appropriate such things to their

nected with the Dispensary. But the

evidence can best speak for itself,

and the public may form its own conclusions. All of the witnesses were sworn by Judge Townsend and

CLERK SCRUGGS

sold the Beckroge trunk to Mr. Garris and

that it was to be paid for on Mr. Garris next

visit to Columbia. With the day upon which

Commissioner Gaston .- Mr. Garris and de

ty cigar boxes; that on that day in the pres

ence of Gaston and Garris depouent took a handful of these cigars. Garris took a hand-

ful and Gaston took a handful and he joking-

ly twitted Judge Gaston with the remark that

he could now account for the cigars which

ent took he carried into the State Board

Board and before they left the city, but in

the multiplicity of his duties it escaped his attention. That a few days after this he

went into the Board room, and got the key of

the contraband room which belonged to the

State Board of Control, and which was in the

custody of deponent as clerk of the Board, and

Officials The Howell letter 1 sent by Mr. I. O J

Wood, but that gentlemen, instead of delivering it as addressed, turned the letter over to said liquot firm, when one of its members broke the seal and read the contents. He stated to Mr. Wood that it was not necessary to deliver the letter, as he could give him no information about the reported corrup-

tion. Mr. Wood left the letter in the hands of said firm. How it came to be turned contents of the trunk. Mr. Scruggs ver to parties in Columbia I do not know. If you will see that letter you will find that I was simply working to unearth re-had no idea of doing anything wrong. ported corruption in the Dispensary management and to azzist Mr. Wood in securing a

position. I am not mixed up in any rebate or other business connected with the Dispen-nected with the Dispensary. But the sary, for my hands are clean and I defy anyone to prove otherwise. I remember in that letter telling Mr Howell that Col. Wilie Jones and Hon D. M.

all signed their testimony in his presence. The following is a syncpsis of that I intended that Mr. Howell could use it the testimonv: to get the desired information from that Atlanta liquor house, for could I convince them that their business would not suffer by was the first witness. He testified that he

telling all they knew they would more likely give the desired information. I also told two members of the State Board the report that had reached my ears. Come up Saturday and see me. Truly your friend, T. L. GANTE.

ponent went to the contrabrand room to de liver the trunk was the first time he had any knowledge of the contents of the trunk to Mr. Scruggs said that he did go to see Mr. Gantt and pleaded with him the best of his recolection: but one thing he is positive about-that up to that time he not to publish the reports he had had never taken any part of the contents o heard about Shipping Cler & Ouz's for Bickart to embody in his statement that after the board had investigated them and the trunk, and at that time all he saw in the had exonerated Mr. Ouzis. Mr. cigars and two or three cans of peaches, but scattered on the floor were six or eight emp-

Scruggs said he did this because the truth, but was gagged and not allowed to do Dispensary had already just passed so, at the instigation of Outzs. If I can keep Scruggs in, it means that our friends will be taken care of, but if want it to have to pass through anoth want it to have to pass through anoth er. He said he simply wanted to keep down trouble, for the board had already settled the matter and the he (Gaston) and Harry had been smoking Dispensary could not stand these con for several weeks; that cigars which deponstant scandals in the newspapers, even though they were proven to be room and gave Mr. Williams and Mr. Doutwithout foundation. He said he hit some of them, and told them he had got-

didn't want to hide corruption, but ten them out of the contraband room and simply urged Gautt not to stir up this thing in the interest of pesce thing in the interest of peace. Shipping Clerk Ouzis was asked what he had to say concerning the

charges made in the "Dear Clark" leiter. He referred the reporter to mation. It was learned that Mr.

with Charles Lynch, a clerk in his office, and got four boxes of cigars partially filled, as he board and that both he and Mr. Bickremembers, and four cans of peaches, and instructed Lynch to take them into the ofart of Atlanta made statements. The board excuerated Mr. Ouzts, for they fice, and the boys in the office could eat the afterwards re elected him. Mr. Gantt peaches, and he would divide the cigars with seems, too. to have come to the conthem; that these four boxes of cigars and clusion that nothing was wrong here, cans of peaches were utterly valueless to the as he states in his letter, after having State, as the cigars were very cheap cigars, and he does not believe they could have Mr. I. O. J. Wood, who carried the

"Dear Clark" letter to Atlanta, made Larry Gantt, editor of the Piedmont the following statement: before I went

has been missed up to the time I left there. Scruggs came to deponent and said, "Char-The pair of shoes in the trunk I sold for ley, where are all those cigars?" Deponent \$1: the part of a box of cigars brought down replied, "All gone, sir." Scruggs said, "The

to the office I have paid for. I made a full report of this matter to the State Board of Control at its last meeting, ponent without any further remark. A day which is hereto appended, and in that the or two afterwards Scruggs asked deponent if he had told Gaston he had taken those cidisposition of the trouble iss tated. The report to the Board of Control referred gars. Deponent replied, "No. sir." Depo

nent says that at the time he and Scruggs follows. I have a matter I wish to call attention to. went into the contraband room and while he I have had charge of the contraband room for some months. I took the keys and after remarked, "I'll have this wine before I get

attending to the contraband business for through," and he afterwards made a similar attending to the contraband business for through, and neaterwards made a Shen, some time I found that took up a great deal of my time, so I gave the keys to Mr. Watts, who is perfectly reliable. I visited the room who is perfectly reliable. I visited the room

missed occasionally a bottle of whiskey from the cases. I complained to Mr. Watts and Deponent further says that he omitted to he assured me that he carried the keys and state above that the same day the cigars and in the Columbia correspondence of ons? Who got these, and how did peaches were carried into the office Mr. o one had been allowed in the room. About the time of your last meeting a large Mobley asked the deponent where he got trunk came in with three large jugs, several the things. Deponent replied, "In the con-bottles of wine, two cans of penches and ten traband room." He then asked him how he boxes of cigars While in there one morning got them, as he thought Judge Gaston was Mr. Garris told me that Mr. Scruggs said he in charge of the room. Deponent replied ould have the trunk. So I got the things that Mr. Scruggs had a hocus pocus key. out and let him have it. I put the things in Deponent further states that on the same another trunk. I took three eigars for myself. I was in there soon again and found of the contraband room he went down to the about half of the cigars or more taken out of Commissioner's office and Mr. Blakeley ask-every box. I put what was left in boxes, ed him if he knew anything about the miss. about the trunk." illing them up, and gave Mr. Garris some ing cigars from the contraband room. De and put the rest in a trunk. A few days af-ter I found the whole amount of cigars had come down to see you about." and then been taken except one piece of a box, which | went on and told him all about the cigars now have in my possession. I have since and peaches; that at the next meeting of the had a new and strong lock put on the door, board he reported to Mr. Williams and Mr so I now lock one door and bolt the other. I Douthit what he has said above as to the regret this very much, and am now satisfied taking of cigars and peaches from contraband it will never occur again. Some one must room and has also since that time reported have had a false or duplicate key. Nothing it to the Governor.

Mr. H. M. Mobley, a bookkeeper, and Mr. Chavles, an employee in the has been missed by me since that time. MR. BLAKELEY, ookkeeper for the State Commissioner, tesdiepensary, corroborated the testimo

ified that Mr. Lynch came to the office of ny of Mr. Lynch as given above. the Commissioner and deponent asked him Comprissioner Vance testified that he knew anything about missing cigars on the 29th day of April, 1897, Col. J. from the contraband room or had he seen any one smoking them. Mr. Lynch replied F. Gaston came to him of his own sc cord and stated that he was due the that that was what he had come down to see State Dispersary for some articles he had received and paid him \$1 for one him about. Deponent told him that Mr. Gaston had missed ten boxes of cigars. Mr. Lynch then told him Mr. Scruggs had gotten pair of shoes and 25 cents for some hem and had divided them up in the office. 123.78.

Ben Harris testified that he has been eponent asked him how he had gotten working in the State Dispensary for them. Mr. Lynch said he went into the room with a duplicate key and had told him about five years and has been in the not to say anything about his having that dumping room most of the time. He key. Deponent told Mr. Lynch he had done said that Scruggs took cigars from the right in telling him about this thing, and un- dumping room, having gotten the key said that Scruggs took cigars from the ler no circumstances to touch them. Lynch from Mr. Watts.

then said he was going to report the matter Messrs. H E. Watts, W. W. Harris to Mr. Williams and Mr. Douthit, two of the members of the Board. Deponent after this and C. A. Koon, all employees, at the dispensary, testified to the facts above reported the matter to Colonel Willie Jones. narrated.

but not in an official way. He said if I would put it in writing he would call the at-Mr. Garris in explaining how he came to buy the trunk says that at tention of the Board to it. Deponent said he the time he purchased said trunk he would not do this, and it was his business as he had accused him of fighting scruggs, and did not know or inquire from whom it was none of his business if he stole the it was seized, as he supposed it had whole Dispensary. Mr. Blakeley further been forfeited to the State and the testified that Commissioner Gaston had com- board could sell it; that he still has plained to him about some one stealing the the trank and has been ready at all cigars, and he asked Gaston if he had taken times to pay for it when the price was any of the cigars, and he replied he had tak-invest. Deponent further says that he an only three, and had given C. W. Garris a at no time went into the contraband handful room with Mr. Scruggs and two other

gentlemen and secured cigars while in MR. CHARLEY LYNCH. Mr. C. J. Lynch in his testimony makes there, and that Mr. Scruggs did not me damaging statements as to vr. Scruggs. Itake and give to him a handful of ci-He deposes: That he has been in the State gars out of the trunk, and that when been disposed of for any consideration; that Dispensary since it was first opened, but was he purchasid and carried a say the the purchased and carried away the trunk there was no cigars in it, and none given to him by Mr. Gaston at that they would fix the price late. and that they would make it reason. deponent also discovered several tottles of appointed bookkeeper, or assistant to Mr. domestic wine the day he took Lynch in for Scruggs in April, 1896, and is still in the in Febru That some time that line; that he knows nothing ary, 1897, Mr. Scruggs came into the office, in the presence of Mr. Mobley and Mr. about any of the contents of the said Charles and himself and said: "Charlie. do Berthroge truak, and never received any part of the cigars it was said to you know that Gaston has a trunk fall of ci-1 have contained, or of any other artigars, peaches and wine back in the contraband room?" I replied that I did not. c'es; that he has smoked cigars with Mr. Scruggs said: "Well, he has been walk- officials of the dispensary in a friending up and down the street smoking them. Ity and casual way, but that the small and I have been wondering where in the number received by him at any time h-ll he got them." I said: "No, I did not was in this way, and he did not know know he had them back there." Scruggs said where they came from as he supposed the gentleman had purchased them. will show them to you. Scruggs and I went AN IMPORTANT CASE. A Firm of Liquor Dealers After the Disfitting the key into the door he turned to me persary. The Charleston correspondent of the

GARRIS AND THE TRUNK. stock in the three hotel dispensaries. He was somewhat indiguant at the published report that he had gone to SAYS HE BOUGHT IT FROM COMMIS-Colleton to confer with Mr. Garris. SIONER GASTON. He says he not only did not see Gar ris, but has not written him or com

But Baing Busy Told Him to Go Ahead municated with him in any way since this matter has been talked of. He and the Price Would be Fixed-Ready to said Mr. Garris had bought the trunk Pay or Return It -Scruggs Makes a State. openly and above board, and that was

While, of course, there may be some doubt as to the right of officials to dis-Mr. C. W. Garris, of Colleton, who

trunk, but the burning question is, about it: Editor News and Courier: I notice where are the cigars, peaches and lemyour issue of April 29, under the cap they? Judge Townsend is busy taking the ion of "A New Dispensary Scandel, that my name appears in connection would be brought out. The evidence obtained by him is not yet available

for publication, but will be. SCRUGGS AND GASTON ARRESTED.

session of the legislature, on account topic all over South Carolina for a needed a larger trunk. I remembered arrest of ex-Clerk Seth W. Scruggs of ports was 1.16 and the normal for the that while I was a member of the leg the State board of control, and exislative examining committee we had Commissioner John T. Gaston, upon taken s ock of a kind of "plunder the common law charge of official room' that contained some old trunks misconduct. Both have given bond and valises, among other things, that for their appearance at the next term were said to have been captured full of the court of sessions in Richland of "blind tiger" liquor. I learned that county, and will be free until the court were light and local and where in

When I found that I needed a trunk, Friday every one was still talking it occurred to methat I could purchase about the scandal and the affidavits a second handed trunk at the dispen- that had been secured, and wondersary that would serve my purpose, [ing what the State authorities were and at the same time save me a part going to do about it. It was about of the extra expense of a new one. I noon when Mr. L. J. Williams, the went to the Commissioner (Colonel member of the State board designated

Heshowed metwosmall ones very bad- Magistrate Smith's office and made the g damaged. Iwas about to buy one of affidavits having the warrants issued. these, when Mr. Scruggs, or possibly some member of the board told me Scruggs charged that "on or about the that there were others upstairs. I first day of March, 1897. one Seth W. went up with Colonel Gaston, and Scruggs did commit official misconfound the trunk in question. It had duct by taking and carrying away southwesterly. There were high been handled very roughly in breaking it open and needed repairs - a new dispensary four boxes of cigars and did no injury.

ock, etc. Colonel Gaston and myself looked at the trunk, and he remarked that he would like to buy the trunk himself, whereupon I declined to take it and started away. Colonel Gaston reflected a moment, called me back and said that if the trunk suited me I could take it along. He deliverdavit hereto attached."

ed it to me and I had it brought to the board's room door. I called on the members present (and I forget now what ones were present-could find out if necessary) to fix the price. The members seeme , however, to be discussing some matter very hurriedly. I think some of them were going away on the next train, and it was about train time. Some members remarked

CONDITION OF CROPS.

NO. 42.

THE WEEKLY BULLETIN ISSUED BY THE OBSERVER.

State of the Weather-Glance About the

Broad Acres Davoted to the Farming

Interests in This State.

The following is the weekly bulletin of the condition of the weather and crops in this State issued last week by State Observer Bauer: TEMPERATURE.

Average of 57 weekly means 69 degrees; approximate normal for the same period 68 degrees. Highest reported 95 on the 28th at Gillisonville; lowest 44 on the 28th at Cheraw. The temperature for the week was nearly evidence, and he said that all that normal over the entire State. There was a decided fall on Saturday,

Both of Them Waived an Examination and Gave Bond.

all there was to it.

The Beckroge trunk dispensary scandal, which has been the all absorbing week past, culminated Friday in the

hese articles were disposed of by sale. meets in the summer.

Gaston) and asked about the matter. to swear out the warrants, west to The warrant in the case of Mr. from the contraband room in the State

four cans of peaches and other articles the property of the State, while en-gaged in the discharge of his duties as clerk and bookkeeper of the State board of control in said State dispensary, with intent to defraud the State of South Carolina, as fully set forth in the affi-

AGAINST COL. GASTON.

Larry Gantt Got Some.

Clearing Mr. Garris,

The State Board of Control of the

Dispensary held a metting in Colum-

bia on just Thursday and after the

The warrant against Col Gaston aleges that "on or about the 1st day of March, 1897, one John T. Gaston did commit official misconduct by taking and carrying away from the contraband room in the State dispensary one pair of shoes, part box of cigars and other articles the property of the State while acting as State commis-

May 1. RAINFALL Scattered showers fell on the 26th

over the eastern counties, and on April 30 and May 1 rain was general over the entire State. Twenty-three correspondents reported measurements of less than one inch; 22 from one to two inches, and 7 more than two inches. Heaviest weekly rainfall was 3.35 at Elloree and the least 0.12 at Halsellville. The average of all resame period is approximately 0.78. The rainfall was generally well distributed and sufficient for the present needs of crop, except in portions of Lexington, Newberry, Richland, Fairfield and Chester, where the showers places more rain would prove benefi-

cial. In Sumter, Kershaw, Spartanburg and Anderson lands were, in places, badly washed and some bottom lands flooded. Hail fell over the extreme western

counties on the 30th, but no damage is reported.

SUNSHINE AND WINDS

There was about the average duration of bright sunshine, ranging from 43 at Boiling Springs and Winnsboro to 90 at Beaulah and Hillsville.

Over the greater portion of the State the winds were generally south and winds on the 30th which, however

The warmer weather and rain had a very beneficial effect on growing crops. For the greater portion of the week. however, it was too dry to finish pre-paring some lands for planting, nevertheless farm work progressed rapid ly, and is generally as much advanced as usual at this season, although in some localities the season is considered late Farmers are generally well up

with their work. Upland corn planting is nearing completion over the greater portion of the State, but in the northern counties there is much yet to be planted, the dry condition of the soil having prevented the preparation of lands. Stands of early planted corn are gensioner in charge of said room and erally satisfactory, with exceptions in while in the discharge of the duties of said office, with intent to defraud the Beaufort, Dorchester, Hampton, Colleton, Williamsburg, Berkeley and Florence; and lack of moisture elsewhere, however, the needed moisture has since been supplied. Chinch bugs continue destructive in Chester. Over the eastern counties corn has received its first working generally, and some its second. It is somewhat "off color" in a few localities, owing to dry weather and cool nights during the previous week. A great improvement is expected during the present week both in stands and color. The percentage of cotton yet to be planted ranges from 5 to 25, the latter in Chester and York and to the westward. Stands are greatly improved and are generally satisfactory. The late rains will bring up the recently planted to good stands. In the eas tern portions of the State cotton has received its first cultivation and some fields have been chopped to stands. It is estimated that cotton planting will be finished in about 10 days. Transplanting of tobacco sets made much progress during the week, following the rains, and this work is well advanced. The planis continue plentiful and of good size. River rice is about all planted, but upland rice is late and planting has been delayed. In Kershaw rice has not done well. Considerable yet to sow in the Georgetown district. The cool nights of the previous week were injurious to young plants as also were

with the "Beckroge trunk affair." "Truth seeker." after propounding the same question to certain dispensary officials, turns to me and says

We would be glad to have Mr. C. W. Garris, a member of the legisla

I will cheerfully state my connec tion with the matter, and it is as fcl-lows: I found at the close of the last of some purchases I had made, that I

in that letter are the subject of a com munication from him to Mr. Scruggs last February. Following is a copy of that letter:

SPARTANBURG, S. C., Feb. 10 1897. Dear Scruggs: 1 hear that an Atlanta ters, one addressed to Clark Howell, Atlanliquor man has offered a bribe to a certain ta, which they gave to me sealed. I did not Dispensary official, and to pay him 25 cents know what were the contents. One other on each box of this man's liquor that said letter written with pencil by Scruggs, which official shipped out. But afterwards the was copied by Gantt on the typewriter. I liquor man stated that he had made a mistake and could only give 10 cents, and be- They knew I was going to Atlanta on the cause he fell in his price this official then following Tuesday. I had also in my pos-stated that the firm had tried to bribe him. session an envelope which was written on It has, also come to my ears that a certain the back with pencil by S. W Scruggs, liquor man had a member of the board as his certain questions for me to ask Bluguest at the hotel; that they slept together in menthal and Bickart of Atlanta. They dethe same room, and that this liquor man al- sired Blumenthal and Bickart to acknowl ways got the best of the orders from the edge that Outzs had made a proposition to board. There are other rumors of a serious them to the effect that he would ship out nature. I tell you, Scruggs, as your true their liquors provided that they. Blumenfriend, that this condition of affairs will dis- thal and Bickart would pay him so much rupt the Reform movement. The people are already restless and suspicious, and. groan- honest a man to do such a thing, and I can't ing as they are, under increased taxation, they are prepared to believe any scandal a proposition. I am the man who made they may hear. the proposition.'

1 am making further investigations into matter. Truly, your friend, T. L. GANTT. these rumors and shall expose the whole Clark" confidential letter reaching South Dress.

Mr: Scruges heard of this letter, and, believing that his name was conto injure him. nected with the alleged crookedness, he wrote and asked Mr. Gantt about it, receiving the following reply:

SPARTANBURG, S. C., April 9, 1897. Dear Scruggs: Your letter of the 7th, in which you state that you hear that there is business, informed The Herald reporta letter in circulation in Columbia, purporting to have been written by myself, and in which your name is connected, &c., has been received. You ask me to let you know the substance of this letter. You remember that some time in February I wrote you that the Enorse river a mile above the fac-I had heard a report in circulation that a tory, is a dangerous sandbar in the certain official in the State Dispensary had river, which fishermen and bathers been offered a bribe of 25 cents a box for religiously avoid. It happened that every box of a certain brand of whiskey he Smith and a crowd of negroes were in shipped out; that this bribe had been offered the water bathing, when Smith swam by an Atlanta firm, but afterwards that the up the stream and into the sandbar. firm stated to said official that they could leaving his companions far behind. only pay 10 cents a box, and after he fell in Thinking himself perfectly secure. his price then the official reported the rep- and completely foiled by the surface

I also stated in said letter other reports connected with the Dispensary management and the purchase of liquors that smacked struggled to extricate himself, but to strongly of corruption. I stated to you that no avail; he only sank further down. I intended to publish these reports, that the He never realized his awful position people might know them and demand an until his body was almost completely investigation of the whole business. A few days after the receipt of this letter you came to Spartanburg and asked me to suppress ter. Then he should frantically and the publication. You know at the time that I warned you against the suppression of ions, who were far away down under anything crooked in the Dispensary that the sleepers of the trestle. The men came to your knowledge, and told you that were afraid to venture up and rescue you could not help to cover up the rotten- him, and one of them said it hapened ness of anyone connected with the Dispen- so suddenly that they were all paralyzsary because of your friendship for him. ed with a strange fascination to the You replied that you did not wish to hide spot and could not move. So this any corruption, and the official in question man went down unaided, as none you believed to be your enemy and was dared risk life in such a place, it would working in conjunction with others to secure have been useless. Soon after he disyour defeat. I stated to you that I heard appeared a search party was organized the representative of this firm would tell and a crowd got in a bateau and padmuch more, but that he was coerced or bull- died up to find the body, and the dozed, and was not afraid of publicity, fearsearch continued all the afternoon. ing that it might destroy his chances for fu-But up to yesterday morning the ture business with the dispensary. I told you further that I was not satisfied, and body had not been found, and it is that I believed if they were assured that by probable that it never will be. telling the truth and all they knew would not injure their prospects for business, that they would make a full statement of all the

facts. to Mr. Howell, who was a friend to said firm, this liquor man, and thereby securing all the facts. I don't remember what 1 did independent American citizen, and can stand by anything that I do or say. I wear no man's collar and my hands are not solied

S. W. Scruggs and T. Larry Gantt drove up in front of Triumier's bookstore in Spartanburg and asked for me. I went out and went up at takes it,' their invitation to the Piedmont Headlight of-

mark, as it was not seriously made, and he fice, and while in the office they wrote two letdid not take the wine, and Commissioner Gaston told him he had taken charge of the wine; that he seldom entered the contraband room, and never unless upon urgent business. As Colonel Jones and the Attorney General's office will bear him, out there was a great don't know who this one was addressed to. deal of trouble with contraband seizures made by the constables, as many threatening letters were received from parties about matters as promptly as Chairman Jones thought he should and Colonel Jones told General, would have to look after the return of contraband liquors, and the only occasions on which he went into the contraband per case. Mr. Bickart said that "I am too room was to refer to the records supposed to be contained in the receiving contraband do it." Mr. Ouzts never made me any such book: that on several occassions, with the cons nt of Chairman Jones, he purchased demijohns of corn whiskey which had been seized and forfeited to the State, and paid

I am in no way responsible for the "Dear Carolina, nor for it being in the hands of the whilst the price the State Board paid for some goods was from \$1.30 to \$1.35 per gal-I make this statement in justice to Mr. Ouzts since I have been used in an attempt I. O. J. WOOD.

A Fearful Death.

of cigars and cans of peaches he was only A reliable gentleman from Enorce. following out a custom which has been in who was in Spartanburg last week on vogue ever since his connection with the State Dispensary; that on divers occasions such articles as brandy peaches, brandy er of the tragic death of a negro man cherries, cigars and other articles other than named John Smith in the Enorce rivwines and whiskies have been placed in the er on Sunday morning. Right above the C. & W. C. trestle which spans custody of the Commissioner and he has often given him some of such articles and also given them to others; and to show that deponent did not suppose he was committing an act which would make him liable to censure, he gave to two members of the Board some of these very cigars and told them where he had gotten them: that he did say to Mr. Lynch to say nothing to Mr. Blakeley, because Blakeley was his mortal enemy, for some reason he knows not why, and he did not wish any distortion of the facts, and this resentative of this firm as trying to bribe shallowness of the river here he thought was the reason he told him to say nothing to Blakeley about cigars or peaches; that h he would stop andrest and then swim had no objection to Mr. Blakeley knowing back. No sooner did his feet strike the sand than he began sinking. He

he had taken the cigars and peaches to the clerks in his office, provided a friendly and legitimate construction upon what he did was placed thereon; that when F. M. Mixson was Commissioner in 1895, Mr. Blakeley checked up all contraband, and he as well as submerged by the quicksand and waleponent on divers occasions has been the ecipient of these little courtesies through he good offices of Commissioner Mixson.

COLONEL GASTON. Colonel Gaston, in his deposition, says:

That sometime in November last he was appointed pro tem. Commissioner, and contin ied to act as such until his retirement recent ly. While acting I remember that a large frummer's trunk came to the Dispensary from Charleston and was placed in the conraband room. It contained four jugs, one of which came broken, with whiskey, several ottles of wine, some cans of peaches, ten o. es of cigars, a few decayed oranges and one pair of shoes. Since the trunk came the whiskey was dumped and bottled, and the wine is still in the Dispensary. Some time after the trunk came I went to the room and with. About one-half to two-thirds of the

Fire at Epworth Orphange. The Columbia Register says early

transaction of routine business Mr. Thursday morning the barn of the boxes and placed them with the bottles of Cooper introduced the following resoto explain something about cigars. With this view I wrote a private letter to Epworth Orphanage was totally de wine in another trunk. Soon after this I them, and you don't wart them." Mr. Mob attempts during his imprisonment to ment left for the State to continue in a peaches, shoes, etc. The individual that intimates that I know anytaing lution, which was unanimously adoptley then said: "If that is the case, I don't my friend, Hon. Clark Howell, editor of the stroyed by fire, entailing a loss went into the room and looked in the trunk kill guards and convicts. business in which e ery one may en Atlanta Constitution (not the liquer firm), an assuring letter, which was personal and pri-vate, and sealed up. This letter was written discovered there was only a small the empty boxes again, I found a few in a want to have anything to do with them, gage without so much as asking leave Resolved, That it is the sense of this British Steamship Wrecked. and handed them back to deponent, and I about either is a lying scoundrel. My or license. board that the Hon. C. W. Garris took the box and locked it up with the other connection with it was the purchase, The British ship Traveller, from came into the possession of the Beckblaze, but as there are no facilities for box which I took down to my office. I then two I had. Deponent took the two remain Agrees Wich McLaurin and beyond that I know absolutely Lonabaya for Deleware Breakwater is oge trunk in an honorable and legiticalled Watts, who had a key to the room, and A special dispatch from Washington nothing. ing cans of peaches and hid them in the ofwrecked off Island Rodriguez. Three with the hope of stiffening the backbone of highting fire out there the building mate way and that the price for said fice, as Mr. Scruggs had said: "Don't eat Ben Harris, and told them there must be was quickly enveloped by the flames to the Columbia State says Senator hundred tons of the cargo was soaked, It will be noted that there is a conall the peaches, as 1 want some of them truck be fixed at \$5. something wrong and some one must have Fillman will make a speech on the Capt. Christi and the first officer and Everything was destroyed, including Mr. Cooper prefaced his resolution These two cans of peaches are now in the write, but I can tell you that I am a free and two fine Jersey cows. A mule was had a key. They both declared that no one tariff bill when the cotton schedule is flict in the testimony of Mr. Garris fourtean of the crew died of fever. had a key, and no one had been allowed to go office. A few days afterward deponent took reached. Speaking of the matter, he and that of Colonel Gaston. The lat said: "I will see McLaurin, and go ter said that Mr. Seruggs had given by a few remarks. He had seen the saved, although the animal was badly in the room. 1 immediately notified Blake the three boxes of cigars and carried them An Earthquake Shock. trunk, he said, after Mr. Garris got it. burned before it was rescued. It is ley about what had been done in the room home for sale keeping and has them there A very distinct earthquake shock him the trunk, while Mr Garris says and knew the condition it was with any corruption, and what I wrote was thought that the fire was the work of him two or three better. I shall urge now. Several times he had missed things and asked him to look out and aid me in The other members of the board | was felt at Blackville at 8.45 Thursday a bounty on cotton and wheat exports. the transaction of the sale and pur ia. with a view to discovering corruption that I an incendiary, as there is no other out of his drawer. A few days after this finding who was going into the room and in-Scruggs was in the office and said, "Mose, 1 m-y be turned down, and probably chase was between him and Colonel left it to Mr. Cooper to say what the evening, accompanied by a very loud might expose it through the Headlight, and way to explain it. No arrests have Baston. Mr. Scruggs returned yesterday from one to see it. He placed the price at der. The shock was felt at Elko, mont of wink at rascality. The mistake 1 been made, but the Governor will of-made was in not publishing at the time the rumors I heard, but you know your strong ing the fiend. erfering with contraband stuff. I then or-Gaston. Williston and Wagener. Charleston, where he had been taking the above amount.

rs and peaches and humorously remarked same We will get that wine, too, before some one but as a matter of fact, did not move to take it at the time of making the rehe had and said: "Come back with me and I liquors shipped to them for personal use; out of the office to the contraband room door that Colonel Gaston did not attend to these matters as promptly as Chairman Jones stooped down to unlock the door, and while him he and deponent would have to take and said: "Don't tell anybody I have got this matter in hand, and with the Attorney this key." He then unlocked the door and we went in. Scruggs walked over to some empty cigar boxes scattered about the room, picked them up and threw them down and said: "I will be d-d if he has not smoked the last one." I was near the door and asked him if he had not told me that they said: "There is the trunk under the table." therefor at the rate of \$1.50 per gallon, which the records in his office will show,

lon; that further than herein stated, he has never taken a single article from the contramorning," and handed them to deponent and 'aw upon its peculiar institution, said: "Take the boxes to the office," De-known as the Dispensary system. The band room; that in taking these four boxes ponent then asked him: "How about the in the trunk." Deponent then pointed to cans of peaches on the desk and said: "There they are, over there." Scruggs then the door and looked and said: "There is no one there: go ahead." Deponent then went the office Scruggs said: "Let me see if there is any one in there," He said: "Go ahead, there is no one in the office; take them in and hide them." Scruggs then started back out of the door and as he was leaving, deponent facing Mr. Mobley, remarked, "Mind, 1 did not take these things." Deponent then placed them on his desk and Scruggs came back in the office and said: "Charlie hide those things before Mr. Blakeley comes in; don't want him to see them. Deponent then took them off the desk and put them in a box at his feet. ...Scruggs came over and aid: "Give Mose one of the boxes (meaning Mr. Mobley.) Deponent reached down and got one of the boxes and deponent hanled it over and he took it and put it in the drawer of his desk. He then went into the next room and deponent opened one of the

cans of peaches and called him and asked him if he did not want some. He replied he did not believe he did just then, as he was going up street. Deponent, Mr. Charles and Mr. Mobley ate the peaches. Deponent then opened a second can and took it into the next room where Mr. Scruggs was, and, using a paper cutter, took one of the peache out on it and handed it to Mr. Scruggs, tell ing him to try it. He ate that and deponent handed him another, which he ate. Depo nent then went back into the office and Mr while eating the peaches. Deponent then eigars had been taken out of the boxes with the exception of one, which was full. I then emptied all the broken boxes into four He replied, "Yes, I do said: "There is going to be h-ll raised about

Columbia Register says the bill filed less than full value, and, of course, in the United States Circuit Courtin that cit. Tu-sday by W. A. Vander cook & Co., of California, against Commissioner Vance, the State con land had been there to witness the were in a trunk, and he said, "Yes." I then stables and whomsoever else it may concern, paying damages for past in- but did not think of the public prints He then went to the truuk, lifted the lid and terferences with the firms business in in connection with the matter. On moved aside some wine and pulled out three this State, and for perpetual injuac- the contrary, I do say that had I boxes containing cigars and handed them to tion against all future occurrences, if dreamed that the truak was or would deponent. He then reached on top of pigeon this character, may be styled the afterwards become a matter of legal holes over the trunk and took down another Pharsalas where the State will be call or other contention, I would not have box containing eigars and said. "Here is ed upon to make its lest stand against one I had up here when I was here this the inroads of the interstat- commerce of that kind.

ponent then asked him: "How about the plaintiffs through their attorney, Mr. peaches?" He replied. "They are not here J. P. K. Bryan, virtually set up the claim, under the algis of the Federal Constitution and of the interstate went over and got them and gave them to laws enacted thercunder, to send their him and said: "Go on to the office with the agents into the State to solicit things," but again said. "Wait uptil I see business and obtain orders, to estabif there is any one in the hall." He opened lish warehouses or other depositories for the liquors, and to appoint still other agents to receive and disburse to the telephone room, and as he started into these liquors, in the original unbroken packages, to whomsoever they may see fit: thus establishing, without let or hindrance, to all intents and purposes, an opposition business to the State Dispensary. If Vandercook & Co. and adjudicated to be justified in their claims, as thus made, then any body who professes to be an agent o suy foreign corcern in the business can set up and engage in the traffic on the same conditions, and the State's nonopoly of it is virtually at an end Curiosily enough, this denounce

ment will have been led up to in and through a court which was the first ribunal, unexceptedly enough, to de clare that the Dispensary law was con stitutional, in so far as it purported to regulate the domestic traffic in liquor. Since that first favorable decision Judge Simonton has filed numerous others on the interstate commerce fea cure, declaring the law to be uncon stitutional in so far as it conflicted with the privileges and immunities of domestic and foreign citizens under the Federal instrument, with the eftect to sadly cripple and circumscribe the operations of the Dispensary law. Seruggs went up street. While eating the Whether he will go to the extent of rest of the peaches deponent showed Mobley countenancing Vandercook & Co's. and Charles the peculiar manner in which claim of the right to establish domesfound that the eigars had been tampered Mr. Scruggs brushed aside his moustache Lie agencies within the State to virtu ally carry on a wholesale and retail went to Mr. Mobley and said: "Give me liquor business remains to be seen, back that box of cigars: you don't want it." C. rtainly, if the justice of such a con-O rtainly, if the justice of such a con-Deponent then tention shall be established there would seem to be little encourage-

for repairs. The day before I left Co State of South Carolina, as fully set lumbia I called to settle the matter. orth in the affidavit hereto attached. Mr Scruggs stated that the price had } The affidavit is also made by Mr. Wilnot get been fixed, but said he would liams before Magistrate Smith. send me the bill as soon as it was. BOTH GIVE BOND.

Recently I was talking to a member It was about 2:30 o'clock when Mr. of the board, and he mentioned the Gaston walked into the office of the matter to me and again I asked for a magistrate and surrendered himself. price, and he promised he would atne having been informed by the magtend to the matter at the next board istrate's constable that he was wanted. meeting and send me the bill. This He waived a preliminary, and gave is al. 1 know of the trunk b nd for his appearance at the sessions

I wish to state that I know nothing court in the sum of \$400. His bondsand care nothing about where the oen were G-n. John Gary Watts and trunk came from. I did not know or Maj B. B Evans. care whether it had been at the dis-About 4 o'clock the same proceeding ornsarv a dav or a year. I was a sim-

was gone through with as to Mr. ple purchaser. with no desire to give Scruzgs. He came up in response to similar notice from the constable, uone to give more I would have Mr. Hartin. His bond was fixed in bought the trunk under similar cir the same amount His bondsmen cumstances if every reporter in the w-re James G. Payne and W. J. Seruggs. sale. I not only did not eare for that Autorney General Barber savs that the punishment for the offense charged upon conviction is imprisonment and fine in the discretion of the judge. the imprisonment not to exceed seven years. It is not of necessity in the State penitentiary. Mr. Gaston said that he had nothing taken it under any circumstances, just

because of my aversion for difficulties to fear; he had done nothing wrong so far as he knew; and intimated that

I have gone into detail in the explahe did not even think he would emnation of this matter because it was ploy counsel to defend him. made public, and believe the public. There has been considerable talk as if it cares anything about it, would to what offense these men should be prefer a full statement. I make it. prosecuted for. Breach of trust, grand too, in justice to myself and the offi larceny, housebreaking in the case of cers of the dispensary mentioned in Scruggs and numerous other offenses the article referred to. I wish to state were looked into, but the attorneys further that I am in no way connect could not find where any of them ed with the dispensary, either as legis would lie upon the evidence presentlative examiner or otherwise. I was ed. Attorney General Barber yester-day said: "You can just say for me last year, but my active duties ended long before I bought the trunk. Still to the public, that if there is any I may have been a member, I do not other offense for which these parties know whether Speaker Gary had can be indicted, then this office stands made the new appointments at that ready to prosecute therefor."-State. time or not.

In conclusion, 1 will say that I have tried to preserve the proper spirit in my answer to the inquiry of "Truth Seeker." His insinuation that the Larry Gantt says: trunk was given away is not "truth. And I fear his whole article was not so much an inquiry for truth as it was should be sold with the other liquors an attempt to slander.

treasury. But it has long been the Now, if "Truth Seeker" knows any custom, I believe, to divide those samning that is going on wrong at the State Dispensary or anywhere else in ples among dispensary attaches and his State government, for the sake of if a search warrant was taken out I justice let him come out and name the doubt not but that sample bottles will wrong and the wrong doer in an hon | be found in every State officer's house orable way and sign his name to his in Columbia, from the governor's production, for the world is growing mansion to the penitentiary. I have to hate the coward that "throws a had some seven or eight sample boilles brick and hides his hand." The money given me-and they did not all come given me-and they did not all come or the truck is subject to the order of from Mr. Scruggs, either. Most of the board, and has been since it was this liquor I brought home to use in bought and will be until settled. case of sickness, as I supposed it was

If the trunk was illegally taken from | better than that sold in the dispensary ; Mr. Beckroge, I do not blame him for and the greater part of it is now in his contention. I do not blame any my house, having never been opened, man who wants his own; to blame and if there is any question about it 1 would be to condemn my own dispo- | can return it to the dispensary. Respectfully, C. W. Garris sition.

Smoak's S. C., April 30, 1897. P. S -I see by the News and Couer of today that I, along with the flicers of the dispensary, am expected

the brisk winds of the past week. Wheat reported as heading short but the rains are expected to make a marked improvement in this respect. Its condition continues promising.

The reports on oats vary considera bly but its general condition is still good. The rain will prove of great benefit to oats in all portions of the State. Oats are heading low in places. Sorghum cane coming up slowly. More than the usual area is being planted in the central counties.

"A great improvement is reported from the truck districts since the rains. In a letter to the Columbia State in Large shipments continue from the reference to the dispensary scandal Charleston district. "I think your

Sweet potato draws becoming plenposition is right about those samples. tiful and transplanting has begun in They are the property of the State, and the southern counties. Irish potatoes growing well and are large enough and the proceeds turned into the State for use in the eastern counties.

Gardens are everywhere reported doing well. The rains of the week were timely.

Peaches are dropping freely in Hampton, but in other sections a fair crop is indicated. Apples plentiful on trees.

Correspondents report the entire crop conditions as eminently satisfactory and encouraging to farmers over the entire State.

A Good Man to Hang.

Henry Jones, colored, was hanged in Michigan City, Ind., on Friday, for the murder of a fellow prisoner named Thomas, who testified against him in his trial, which resulted in his last sentence to prison. Jones confessed to having committed murders at Jacksonville, Fla., Savannah, Ga., Indianapolis, and the one for which he was hanged. He was a des perate character, naving made three