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THE LEDGER.

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A Newspaper in all that the Word Implies and Devoted to the Best Interests of the People of Cherokee County.

VOL. III, NO. 46.

GAFFNEY CITY, S. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1896.

OUR IRON INDUSTRY OF OLD.

A HISTORY OF HOW IT WAS CONDUCTED.

Mr. William Little, One of the First Iron Workers in This Section, Tells of Its Growth and Development.

(Correspondence of The Ledger.)

BLACKSBURG, S. C., Dec. 10, 1896.—

EDITOR OF THE LEDGER:—I seen in your paper of the 7th November an enquiry with regard to the iron manufacture in this section of the country. You make the enquiry of Dr. Black, but he says that he does not know any thing about dates, therefore I take the liberty of trying to put you right in regards to some of the dates and persons who commenced making iron in this country.

Col. Hill built and operated a blast furnace on Allison creek in York county before the Revolutionary war and made cannons for the continentals. His moulder was an Irishman name Calhoun who was caught by the British and hung to make him tell where Col. Hill was, but Calhoun was true to his employer and did not betray him. The British burned the building and left Calhoun hanging, who was cut down and restored to life by a very faithful negro of Hill's, who had witnessed the whole proceedings in his place of concealment. Calhoun was of the same stock of J. C. Calhoun.

I was well acquainted with two of Col. Hill's sons, John and Alexander Hill. Alexander lived to an old age. Their father had left them well off.

The next to begin the iron making in York county was a Maj. Bird from Pennsylvania, who came south with several slaves when they were about to be freed in this state. He had been carrying on iron works in Pennsylvania and had some expert iron workers among his slaves two of whom I was acquainted with. Bird built a forge and put a furnace for making blister steel on a little creek in York county, about eight miles east of Cherokee Ford.

The next man to go into the iron business in this state was Col. Wilson Nesbit. During the war of 1812 he built and operated the Cowpens furnace for the purpose of making cast pans and other castings. During that Mr. John Fullenwiler was realizing a fortune in the pan and casting business he then put a forge on Thickety creek and having several negro men he placed some of them with Mr. Fullenwiler and had them taught to be refiners and bloomers of iron. After operating his furnace and forge for some years he sold to Capt. Wm. Clark—early in the thirties or sooner. In 1835 or '36 he built what was known as the Ellen Furnace down the creek three or three and a half miles below Gaffney. He had accumulated a large body of land, finely timbered in virgin forest.

At the meeting of the legislature in 1836 Nesbit went to Columbia and organized the Cooperville Iron Manufacturing Co. They then sold their old furnace, lands and hands at a long price and in 1837 the company contracted with Mr. Moses Stroup to build a forge and rolling mill at Cherokee Ford on Broad River.

There is a mistake with regard to the starting of the iron business on the east side of the river. Mr. Jacob Stroup under the patronage of Mr. John Fullenwiler came down from Lincoln county. He built a forge on Kings Creek and made iron, and money, too. When he got far enough ahead he built a furnace on King's Creek a short distance below where the Rutherford and Chester road crosses the creek and then moved his forge up on Broad River to what is known as Cherokee Falls. In 1829 Stroup sold to Boyce Johnston and Black.

Capt. Jas. Black, president and manager, then improved the place and increased the capacity of the forge and built a rolling mill for rolling blooms into bare or band iron. It was known as Black's works until he was elected to congress, when a Mr. Swann was made agent.

Stroup built a foundry, forge, rolling mill and nail factory which was conducted by agents for about ten or eleven years and failed and passed into hands of Col. Wade Hampton and Col. Frank Elmer. They carried on the works by agents and placed men that had no practical knowledge of the business as agents and superintendents and it was but a short time until they had to sell the place and retire with a heavy debt hanging over them. The sale was in 1850 and Col. Hampton paid the debt to the last cent in 1851. The property was sold to Col. Charles Hammerscald agent for the Swedish Iron Manufacturing Co. Hammerscald was unfortunate in having one of the highest freshets

ever known in Broad River in about a month or six weeks after he got possession of the place, which done a great deal of damages to the works and dam, which cost thousands to repair, which soon exhausted the funds that the company had advanced and created dissatisfaction in the company. They removed him from being president and manager of the company and made Mr. George Cameron president and A. M. Latham manager or agent of the works. Neither of them knew anything about the business and they were as unfortunate as Col. Hammerscald after their first year. That year Cameron leased the works to practical men who enabled the company to pay the interest for that year on the debt they had assumed to the bank for the original company and had a sediment left which was the first it had been paid. The three men that operated the foundry forge and roll mill made \$1,200 clear of the works that year.

I see that you have been misinformed with regard to the building of the first furnace at Cherokee Ford. The first furnace there was built in 1840 a twin or double furnace. Previous to that they had built one on People's Creek between the ford and their Ellen furnace, something over a mile from the ford, built I think in 1838 or 39.

I will now give some information with regard to the quality of the ore and the iron made from it in 1841.

When the foundation of the Custom House in Charleston, which is light-weight piles, was put down the piles were driven by a 2,200 pound steam hammer. They had to be banded on the head with 2x3 inch iron. They got the best Swedish and Norwegian iron they could at 6 or 7 cents per pound, which would only drive 6 piles to the band and many broke.

Mr. Cameron sent to this place, Cherokee Ford, and I, or I might say we, prepared and sent them a lot of iron that drove eighteen piles to the band and would not break then, but ripped apart at the weld, that costing the contractors 4 1/2 instead of 6 or 7 cents.

In 1841 Mr. Cameron had a lot of blooms made at Cherokee Ford, and shipped them to Sheffield England and had some of them converted into steel and had cutlery of all kinds made, among others a set of surgical instruments for which he received a gold medal at the South Carolina fair in 1855. The iron made from this magnetic lead was tested at the navy yard of the United States in the thirties and stood a strain of 70 tons to the square inch over any other they could get or tested. That test was to tear a square inch asunder end ways.

I write this hoping it will do more for this country sometime in the future than your new county.

What I have written is from an intimate and practical acquaintance with the subject from the first of January 1830 until the 30th March 1871, when I rolled the last band of iron that was rolled in South Carolina on Sunday morning at 2 o'clock in the morning.

One thing I very near forgot is to tell that I was in Richmond, in March, 1863, and was in Major Thomas' office, assistant chief of ordinance for the Confederate States and on looking over some hundreds of specimens of iron and ore I picked one up that I had prepared of cast iron some months before for my employer, Col. R. R. Bridges, member of Congress for Confederate States. The Major told me that was the only metal in his office made into cannons that would throw 1,000 balls without fracturing.

I have been in a study since I stopped writing the foregoing and there is some mistakes with regard to building of the Ellen Furnace and the organizing of Cooperville Iron Manufacturing Company. Instead of 1836 it should have been 1824. I will make an alternation and place it right as it ought to be. I would like to be the means of starting some capitalists to build a steel furnace. It would be a paying business for one who understood the practical part of the blast business. It would have been going ahead now if some of those that did not know a piece of iron from a lump of granite had kept their mouths shut and let their pens be still. But they wrote and told every thing but the truth and disgusted the men that came down here to look for a place to invest their capital. Several came and were disappointed and went back and probably each one stopped three or four others from coming.

You can use what you see proper of what I have written, if any of it is worth using, if not throw it in the fire. If you should wish any further information with regard to the magnetic ore and the iron made from it drop me a card to Blacksburg, box 27.

Excuse my bad writing and composing as my right arm and hand have been partially paralyzed for the last seven or eight years and my brain may be in the same condition. I will expect to see some notice of the magnetic ore and iron as it may benefit this part of the country.

Yours,
W. L.

CONGRESS TAKES A HOLIDAY

THE BI-METALLIC UNION IN SESSION IN WASHINGTON.

Senator Allen's Resolution for the Investigation of the Use of Money in the Campaign Causes a Commotion.

(Correspondence of The Ledger.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 18, 1896.

—Whether it is because Congress has got Christmas in its bones, or that the individuals who have been offering the warlike resolutions and making the we-are-ready-to-fight Cuban speeches in both House and Senate do not represent the existing sentiment in that body as a whole, you can guess for yourself, but it is very certain that none of the excitement reported by telegram from various sections of the country as resulting in numerous volunteers to fight for Cuba has been exhibited in Congress.

Senator Morgan made a regular war speech on his very peaceable resolution, which was adopted by the Senate, calling on the President for all the Cuban information in his possession, that in his judgment may properly be given, but it was made to empty seats and aroused nothing even approaching enthusiasm. Instead of preparing for war, the average Senator and Representative is preparing to enjoy his Christmas.

Whatever may be done when Congress reassembles, everybody can go ahead with their Christmas preparations with the certainty that their enjoyment will not be broken in upon by the harsh tocsin of war; but no such guarantee can be given against indigestion.

The executive committee of the Bimetallic Union is in session in Washington; discussing ways and means of continuing the fight for silver. Sometime ago it was stated that when this committee met, there was a general conference of the silver leaders, including Mr. Bryan, but up to this time, no such general conference has been held and none seems to be contemplated. Gen. Warner, president of the union, says work will be kept up by that organization in a quiet way. He is too old a politician to suppose that general public interest can be kept centered upon any question after a campaign has closed.

Senator Allen's resolution for the investigation of the use of money in the late Presidential campaign has caused more commotion than appears on the surface. There are a great many people who would dislike very much to see such an investigation made, for one or another reason, but it is needless to say that they are not among the supporters of the recent Presidential aspirations of Mr. Bryan. Mr. Allen says he intends to push his resolution and nearly all of the silver democratic Senators and all of the populists have indicated their intention to support it. Senator Allen says of the resolution: "I framed the resolution so as to include all parties, and I do not see how the Senate can refuse to pass it. The matter is attracting attention all over the country, and certainly if there is a blot on the election it should be exposed and wiped out, or at least, a wholesome warning given that the offense is not to be repeated."

Sensors will not admit that any attempt is being made to defeat the nomination of Secretary Francis, but the fact that the Senate Finance committee, which is now in charge of the nomination, at the suggestion of Senator Vest decided not to take the matter up until after the Christmas recess, is causing much talk. It is said that Senator Vest merely wants to hang the nomination up until the Missouri legislature has re-elected him to the Senate.

Prominent republicans, including Chairman Dingley, promptly denied the rumor that they were preparing to attempt to rush the tariff bill, upon which the majority of the House Ways and Means committee are now working, through this Congress during the closing days of the session, so as to avoid an extra session of Congress. That there are prominent republicans who would gladly avoid an extra session is certain, but that they are not likely to do so as this rumor indicated is also certain. Neither will they try to pass the Dingley bill at this session.

In providing for its holiday recess Congress took the limit, two weeks from Dec. 22nd to Jan. 5th. Some members may have voted for this long holiday just from a grown-up boyish feeling that holidays can never be too long, but there is more than a suspicion that others did so because it would reduce the probability of anything being done at this session except to pass the appropri-

THE SAGE OF BETTA JANE

SENDS US THE NEWS FROM LOWER CHEROKEE, WITH A DISGUSTING SIGHT IS A YOUNG MAN WITH A PISTOL OR A BOTTLE IN HIS HIP POCKET—PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS, ETC.

(Correspondence of The Ledger.)

ETTA JANE, S. C., Dec. 21.—Through the urbanity of Prof. A. E. McKisick, of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, of Auburn, Ala., I am in possession of a number of Confederate ballads, printed in excellent style. A daughter of the Confederacy is now working a banner for Camp Giles U. C. V., which will be presented to the camp at its meeting at Union Jan. 4th, 1897. Let there be a full turn out of the veterans to greet it with an old time "Rebel yell."

The most disgusting sight to be seen now-a-days is a young man with a pistol or whiskey flask, one or both, in his pocket. The girls of this country owe it to themselves, if they value their reputation, to shun such a young lad as they would deadly poison. When a young lady accepts such a her escort or protector she's trifling with her reputation.

We had two new cooks at our house last Saturday while Mrs. J. L. S. was out visiting.

Dave Littlejohn, col., had a fine turkey gobble stolen one night last week. This has interfered very much with his Christmas dinner. Dave, we feel for you, but can't relieve you.

The Salem congregation speak of repairing, painting and otherwise beautifying their church building.

I had the pleasure of visiting Lockhart Mills last week. It is an up-to-date manufacturing town with all the appliances and other paraphernalia for doing first class work. Mr. Cary, the general manager, is a thorough business man and has everything in tip top trim about him. These mills have had a wonderful effect in advancing the property in that part of our county, and it is reasonable to suppose it will still advance in price.

The York county people are having all the socials that they want. A delegate from this side of the river has attended for three consecutive nights and is not near broken down yet. "Let'er roll."

At a party the other night while playing steal partners, or some of the tip-toe plays, two young ladies "batted" their heads together with a "vim," equal to that of two miniature locomotives in full headway. Each asked the other's pardon and went on her way rejoicing. No doubt they were considered hard-headed.

Miss Grace Whisonant is at home spending her vacation.

Mr. Lem Askew, of Mount Tabor, is very unwell. He has a stomach trouble, and has been in bed for seven weeks.

All the children and young people who can, ought to be in school now. There is a wonderful amount of illiteracy among our white people both old and young.

One of our colored neighbors who has an afflicted wife went to a fortune teller for his opinion of her case. He was told that with good care she would live to be 93 years old.

My thanks are due my young friends for a kind invitation to join them in a pound party at the hospital home of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Mitchell.

We had a lively debate at the school house last Saturday night. The query was, "Resolved that girls should not be educated equal to the boys." It was decided in favor of the affirmative.

In talking with one of our good people on education lately, I was forcibly reminded of a dear preacher I once heard of who preached a sermon in which he declared that he never studied, that the Holy Ghost spoke for him all the time. He said, "I never went to school, and don't need to go school, and am thankful to God that I never went to college." An old minister sitting behind him pulled his coat-tail and said: "My brother, are you grateful to God for your ignorance?" The speaker paused a minute, and lost his breath, while the old minister continued, "If you are you have a great deal to be grateful for."

Our colored friends E. D. Dawkins and E. Littlejohn have shown a commendable spirit in proposing to help build the court house at Gaffney and we hope their offer will be appreciated by others.

With this letter my work for THE LEDGER closes for this year (1896). Of my failures or successes as a pencil pusher I leave a generous, unprejudiced and intelligent public to judge. I hope, however, the intent will be taken for the act. To those of our readers (many of whom I have never seen) who have so courteously treated me in their criticisms, I am truly grateful, and I assure them that my

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Unclaimed Letters.

List of letters remaining in office unclaimed for to date:

W. C. Bonner.

Win. L. A. Crawford.

Miss Cleo Cullingham.

Miss Kate Garrett.

Miss Harriet Henderson.

Mrs. E. M. Harmon.

Rev. J. H. Johnson.

Miss Isabelle Janette.

Miss Laura Lowe.

Miss Bell Land.

Mrs. Ada Moore.

Mr. S. G. Rinly.

Mr. George Sloan.

Mr. John W. Smith.

Mrs. Lizzie Stevens.

L. L. Service.

Miss Anna Withler.

N. B.—Persons calling for these letters will please say advertised in THE LEDGER.

T. H. LITTLEJOHN,

Oct. 29, 1896. P. M.

Bismark and Wales.

Last summer George W. Smalley, the famous correspondent and man of letters, went abroad in the interests of The Ladies' Home Journal. His commission was to write two articles: one on "The Personal Side of Bismark," and the other on "The Personal Side of the Prince of Wales."

Mr. Smalley personally knows both men, and he had no difficulty in getting into close touch with them, while other men would have found insurmountable barriers. The first of these articles will be printed in the January issue of the Journal. Unpublished portraits will illustrate the papers.

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TO REACH CONSUMERS

IN THIS SECTION ADVERTISE IN THE LEDGER.

(Correspondence of The Ledger.)

UPPER COALING GROUNDS, Dec. 22.—

I did think that I wouldn't put an obituary notice in this week, but something funny happened last night and I'm going to tell it if it busts me wide open.

You see, I found out, yesterday evening that I was going to have company last night and sit to tell the truth, I lacked a bedstead to treat them as I wanted to, so I split off and got one and had it sent down. I wouldn't have had the company to have known that I had to buy a bedstead in order to entertain them just right for nothing, but we hadn't been in the house five minutes when granny Pickers ups and asks, "how much did you give for that four-poster home this evening?" Through a multitude of winks and frowns I managed to tell her without naming the article. I thought the subject had come to its final end and made myself easy again, but after supper Mrs. Pickers and granny went into the room and began bunning and banging and rattling the bedstead over the floor, and above all my conversation with the company I knew in reason that they heard and knew what was going on in the adjoining room, but to spoil the whole game here came granny Pickers into the room where we were sitting and said, "Flaw, didn't you get no rollers with that bedstead you sent down this evening?" Well, sir, I knew that winks availed nothing then for the cat was out, so to speak, and me hacked. But withal I was glad to entertain them as best I could and told them that anytime in the future that they thought they could live a night or two on what I lived all the time just to come back and make themselves friendly. They came in at a good time though. I put both of them to work after supper helping me to put a banjo head on my old banjo.

I will bring this mess to a close, by wishing you all as happy a Christmas as I expect to have if I live.

FLAW PICKERS.

Cherokee County.

Cherokee County has carried the day. Spartanburg loses some valuable territory, but she has enough left to keep her still in the front rank of the enterprising and progressive counties of the State. Gaffney, the county seat of the new Cherokee, is one of the most active, progressive and businesslike towns in South Carolina. Her business men have long been wanting the new county, and they are of course delighted. The success of the new county movement promises well for the people who, in this instance, warmly favored it; and as Spartanburg, Union and York, from which the new county is to be made up, have a good territory left, everybody ought to be satisfied. —Hampton Guardian.

We failed to get our notice and congratulations in last week's paper, as the editor was called away on the day of publication. Let every one accept the result in good faith. Put the new county on a business basis, and make it desirable for new settlers, pull together for the general welfare of all, keep down all factional and sectional feeling. It is useless and detrimental to any county seat. Gaffney has made a splendid fight, and she deserves to be the county seat, and as a county seat we predict that she will maintain that spirit of progress, generosity and hospitality in the future that she so deservedly bore in the past. —Union Times.

Marrriages Two.

On the 18th at the residence of the groom, in the presence of friends, Mr. Peter Morgan was united in wedlock to Miss Hardina Randolph, Wm. T. Thompson Esq., performed the ceremony. We hope they, like love and friendship, may ever go hand in hand in the way of peace and happiness.

Wm. T. Thompson at his residence on the 20th, united Mr. Luther Sar-ratt to Miss Mary Roundtree. Their many friends wish them a merry Christmas and a happy new year and a pleasant voyage through life.

A Slight Fire.

Fire in the picker room of the mill of the Gaffney Manufacturing Company last Thursday caused quite a little commotion. There was a slight damage by smoke and water. The excellent water works system of the mill did good work and the flames were extinguished without serious loss. All damage fully covered by insurance. Supt. Cutting received a drenching and had a suit of clothes ruined by water.

To the aged, with their poor appetite, feeble circulation, and impoverished blood, Ayer's Sarsaparilla is a boon beyond price. Its effect is to check the ravages of time, by invigorating every organ, nerve, and tissue of the body. See Ayer's Almanac for the new year.