

BILL, ARP AND HIS CHILDREN

He Has a Good Time Watching the Grandchildren Play With Their Toys.

This Christmas is like "lengthened sweetness long drawn out" at our house, for the boys have gathered from the four corners and brought their love and their rations with them.

They were twenty-four of the family present, and it took half the night to untie and unfold the surprises, for all were remembered over and over again by old Santa.

Little Mary Lou, who is Jessie's child, got so many dolls and pretty things that she looked tired and, drawing a long breath, said: "Gampa, it's too much, and I can't hardly stand it."

But the old marble clock that for nearly fifty years has stood upon the mantel ticking the moments and recording the hours as they pass did not stop on Christmas night, and at midnight the happy group retired to rest and happy dreams.

Next day came and the feast—the Christmas dinner—was laid on the long extensible table. At each end was a large well-browned, well-done turkey, and all the intermediate space crowded with luxuries for the inner man and woman.

Eighteen of the family were the welcome guests at the table, while six of the infants surrounded the smaller one nearby. I never asked a smaller one to be a more grateful heart, for friendship has been kind, and since last we met no affliction or calamity has befallen us.

Yesterday the boys with their mother and sisters visited the old homestead—the farm in the country, where our children grew up to manhood and womanhood.

ened at the top. I've been through all that before, and was not surprised. Interspersed with our daily and nightly pleasures we have music, good music, classical music of the great masters and minstrel music with choruses from all the band and even my wife, Mrs. Aip, was constrained to play the "Caliph of Bagdad" with her first-born daughter—her daughter. Music is our family's gift, for they all play on something, and all have voices or harmonious sweet sounds.

Farwell Christmas—farewell old Santa Claus—while we all rejoice, let us not forget that Christmas commemorates the birth of the Savior of men—the nativity of Kris Kringle, which means "the little Christ child."

THROWING OFF THE MASK.

The Interstate Commerce Commission and the Railroads.

In a decision rendered this week the Interstate Commerce commission has the animus which is controlling its course and action. The framers of the interstate law intended that the commission should act in an impartial manner, deciding cases before it strictly in accordance with their merits.

They are her boys, sure enough, and she knows it. There is no doubt, sometimes, about who is the father of a child, but every body knows who is its mother. Dowsters has been clothed with mistletoe and holly. Geraniums from the pit are placed all around, and some beautiful roses lift up their lovely forms from beautiful vases that old Santa Claus brought.

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OUR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The South to Raise Fifteen Million Bales of Cotton and Manufacture Five Million Yards in 1910.

Progress made by the South in cotton manufacturing during the past ten years is likely to be duplicated during the next ten years if certain conditions are met. The outlook in this direction is discussed at length in last week's issue of the manufacturers' Record by Dr. Charles W. Dabney, formerly assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

It is well known that the white people of the Piedmont section of the South form an excellent manufacturing population. They come from an intelligent and kindly race who learn rapidly to be skillful mechanics. With proper training they make as expert artisans as can be found anywhere.

One hundred years ago a man could not take a ride on a steamboat. New York in a few hours, and he had never heard of a Pullman palace car porter.

He had never seen an electric light or dreamed of an electric car. He could not make a cake of ice as big as a lump of sugar. He could not cool himself under an electric fan or warm himself at a steam radiator.

He could not send a telegram. He couldn't talk through the telephone, and he had never heard of the hello girl.

He had never seen a shirt waist or a rainy day skirt. He could not ride a bicycle. He could not call in a stenographer and dictate a letter.

He had never received a type written communication. No matter how grave a crime he committed, he never could be electrocuted for it.

THE CENTURY IN COTTON.

The Outlook for Our Chief Staple is One of Great Promise.

One of the striking developments of the South has been in the increased production and manufacture of cotton. In twenty years we are taking backward glances at the progress we have made, and to the South generally anything relative to cotton is interesting.

The increase in production is still more remarkable if we consider that in 1800 the average weight per bale was about 225 pounds. By 1820 it had increased to 260 pounds, 1840 to 365 pounds, from which period the weight has steadily increased until the present average of about 500 pounds has been reached.

While our producing power enables us to supply the world with the raw material, we view with equal interest and pride the rapid increase of our spinning industry. In 1850 the quantity of cotton consumed in this country was less than 500,000 bales, and last year the takings of the mills amounted to 3,665,000 bales.

These striking figures are very largely the result of the recent industrial enterprise of the South. The opening of the Oriental markets presents a new avenue of trade, of which our cotton-growers merchants will not be slow to take advantage.

Briefly, the outlook for the cotton trade in this country is one of great promise. W. L. HOLLOWAY, Superintendent New York Cotton Exchange.

The industrial progress of the South is recognized by the superintendent of the New York Cotton Exchange in his communication, and in the same way it is impressing itself upon the attention of the whole country.

In the new century southward the star of progress will lead its course, and the great field of development is here. The building of the Nicaragua canal will be another great factor in the development of this section. It is true that the people of the North, East and Northwest have the fortunes, but in searching about for profitable investment they will find cotton the most inviting field.

FREE SEED DISTRIBUTION.

The Agricultural Department is Sending Out Large Bales of Garden Seeds.

The largest annual seed distribution ever made by the government began last week with the shipment of garden seed to farmers of the Southern States, and will continue until every part of the country has been reached.

The demand for government seeds by the farmers is constantly increasing. In the past Representatives have found it necessary to purchase seeds to supply the demands of their constituents, and as a consequence the appropriation was increased at the last session of Congress from \$130,000 to \$170,000.

This will allow an increase in each Representative's quota of seed over 3,000 packages, each package containing five or six varieties of seeds.

While the Agricultural Department is charged with the enormous yearly task of getting the seeds ready for shipment through the mails under the frank of the members of Congress, it has been the custom to let the contract for furnishing and packing the seeds to private individuals or firms.

Last year a California planter secured the contract, but the distribution just to be made and the one for next year will be executed for the government by the New York Market Garden Association. This firm has leased the large building No. 1210 D street, Washington, and is establishing a plant of machinery with which to do most of the work of packing.

A newly patented machine for filling with seed and sealing the little envelopes is to be used. Eight of these machines are being installed. Each one has the capacity to fill and seal seventy envelopes a minute, and the eight machines are expected to do the

STATE NEWS AND NOTES.

Gathered From Our Exchanges and Other Sources.

The aggregate losses by fire in the city of Columbia for the past year were \$122,872. The new century was ushered in in Charleston by the peeling of the chimneys of old St. Michael's.

Prof. John L. Pressly has been lately elected to fill the chair of Greek and German at Erskine College.

Gaffney and Laurens are preparing to have the residence, business houses and vacant lots numbered. Lieutenant Governor Scarborough has ordered an election for a successor to Senator Mauldin, of Hampton.

A reward of \$200 has been offered by Governor McSweney for the arrest of the Kingstree dispensary robbers. Governor McSweney has ordered an election for a successor to Sheriff Kennedy, of Abbeville, who was killed last week.

The liquor sales in Laurens for two days during the Christmas holidays went over \$2,000, while that at Abbeville was about \$2,000.

Conway recently had the largest fire in her history. Two stores, a residence and several smaller buildings were burned. The cause of the fire is yet unknown.

From the time the privilege tax on fertilizers was inaugurated this tax has yielded the State \$760,696.18. The largest amount received was during the past year, \$73,593.24.

THE KINGSTREE DISPENSARY.

Charged With Malfeasance and Incompetency.

The Kingstree dispensary case reached a climax Saturday afternoon when Frank M. Player, the dispenser, was placed behind the bars of the Kingstree jail to answer at the next term of court to the charge of malfeasance in office.

A few days ago Gov. McSweney received a telegram from Kingstree announcing that Dispenser Player had been held up at the back door of the dispensary by four masked men and robbed of \$1,800. Player stated that he was unable to identify any of the men and readily gave up and allowed them to help themselves to the contents of his safe.

Gov. McSweney detailed W. H. Holloway, a special constable, to accompany Mr. Stanley, the inspector, to Kingstree, to look into the matter, and, if possible, to arrest the guilty party or parties. They have been at work continuously ever since and were reinforced by Constables J. F. Bateman, George S. McCravy and member of the State board, A. F. H. Dukes.

An examination of the books and stock on hand show a shortage of at least \$2,500. Such is the condition of the books that it is next to impossible to get at the exact amount.

The statement of these gentlemen is that Player was incompetent to fill the position and had no conception of the duties required of him. Evidently he was badly imposed on by his friends and loaned out the State's money as well as credited out liquor, which is contrary to the dispensary law.

Player's bond expired December 10th and the board knew this fact, yet he was not required to renew it, and it is stated that Player, while under the influence of liquor, boasted on the streets of his course, and that he had \$2,000 in his pocket, and when reproached with his friends that he should not take such a risk, but should deposit it with the county treasurer, he coolly replied that if it was stolen it could not hurt him, as his bond had expired.

THE STATE PENITENTIARY.

Result of the Year's Operations—The Permanent Improvements.

The books of the State penitentiary have been closed for the year of 1900 and the accounts have been balanced. The report to now in course of preparation. The figures indicate that the penitentiary under the capable management of Capt. D. J. Griffith will make perhaps the best showing of any of the State institutions.

It will be interesting to know that the pension roll of the State shows that there are 7,707 pensioners on the rolls. Of this number 4,575 are old soldiers and 3,132 are the widows of veterans.

The News and Courier has published the death list of the whites in Charleston for the year 1900. There was 346 white persons above the age of 21 who have died during the past year, most of them at an advanced age.

The Norris cotton mills, of which Col. D. K. Norris is president, has advised the Secretary of State that it has increased its capital stock from \$150,000 to \$200,000. This increase has been put in the Norris mills.

The fearful number of new patients that go to the State Hospital for the insane may be appreciated when it is known that the annual report of Dr. Babcock will show that there have been four hundred and forty-eight admissions to the State Hospital for the insane during the past year. This is by decided odds the largest number of admissions for any one year.

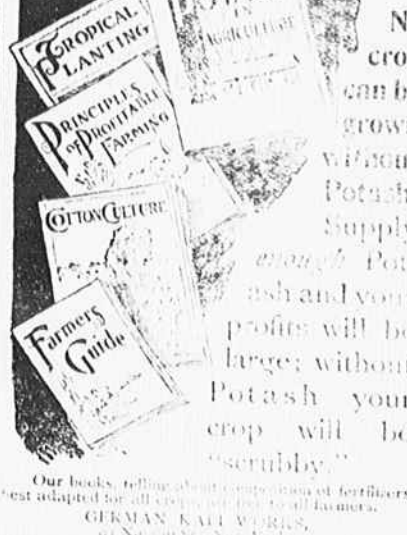
Col. Louis Du Bois, an old and distinguished citizen of Charleston died on the 31st ult. Colonel Du Bois, who was 86 years old, had been in failing health for some time. He was born and educated in France, but in 1860 came to this country. He was a close friend of Gen. B. E. Lee and held an important position connected with the Confederate government.

Dr. H. Baer, of Charleston, died on the 2nd inst. He was sixty-seven years old and one of the leading men in the Methodist church in this State. He was a Hebrew by birth and a highly educated man. He was possessed of great force and strength of character, and was a power in the church and in secular affairs. He was a wholesale and retail druggist and met with marked success in business.

A ROMANTIC MARRIAGE.—China Grove, N. C., was the scene, on Dec. 26th, of a very romantic marriage in which Newberry County had part, as the parents of the bride live near P. Maria. A few weeks ago Miss Cora Beatrice Hentz, went from the latter place to visit her aunt, the wife of the Rev. Jos. Q. Wertz, but as a matter of fact she had been visiting her relatives, to meet for the first time the gentleman who is now her husband. The facts of this interesting episode are as follows: Four years ago Miss Hentz and several other young ladies who were at Mount Airy, N. C., made semi-annual friendship with a classmate, Miss Belle Penland, of White Pine, Tenn. Miss Penland was married soon after to Mr. Wm. Taylor Hale, of Morristown, Tenn. Her death occurring within a short while, Mr. Hale naturally formed these friends of the death of his wife and a correspondence grew out of the circumstance between each of the young ladies and himself. This correspondence, begun out of mutual sympathy and affection for the wife and friend, soon developed into a more personal regard on the part of the two leading characters in this little romance of real life, resulting in their marriage on the above date at the Lutheran parsonage at China Grove by the Rev. Jas. Q. Wertz, the ceremony taking place at 5 o'clock, after which an elegant supper was served by the hostess and at half-past seven the couple so romantically united left for the home of the groom near Morristown, Tenn.

It may be stated as an indisputable truth that no man ever succeeded at farming who was unacquainted with the Southern Farm Magazine. A man whose farm is so poor or whose tillage is so bad that his crops are worthless had better abandon his calling and get at something else. If his land is poor he should enrich it. If he neglects to work his crops well he is a failure already. There is an intense pleasure to the intelligent farmer to so direct the operations on his farm as to produce crops of which he will be proud. He then rejoices in his vocation. His mind is ever on the alert for new improvements either for fertilizing his soil or for cultivating his crops.

Considerable excitement was created on the streets of Camden a few nights ago by a shooting between W. D. Goodale and Allen Deas in the store room of M. Baum & Co. Mr. Deas had some previous difficulty with Goodale and walked into the store where he was working, and after some hot words they pulled pistols and fired several shots each. Goodale was not hit. Deas, however, was shot in the mouth.



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