

BILL ARP ON SPRING

Pleasant Days Seem to Arouse the Philosopher.

AND HE GOES INTO POETRY

The Sage of Bartow Finds Pleasant Thoughts When the Sun Shines Again.

How inspiring is the earliest breath of spring when nature like a blushing maid is putting on her pantalets and preparing to hang her silken hair. What harmonious feelings spring up in one's bosom and gush forth to all mankind. A balmy day fills all the chambers of the soul with music that is not heard and poetry that is not expressed. Spring is unlocking the flowers. I see sweet violets peeping from their leafy beds and jonquils lifting their yellow bells to catch the sunshine. What a rebuke to man is the innocence and beauty of the flowers—what a contrast to cruelty and strife and selfishness. The love of flowers is refining and draws a man nearer to woman and to heaven, and it is safe to say whatever a woman loves, a man had better love, or try to. Flowers, music and birds are given for our happiness. They are the extras of creation designed for our special pleasure. Providence would have withheld them if He had not loved us. Or He might have given us only the sowing of the winds for music and buzzards for birds and dogfennel for flowers. The love of flowers is close akin to the love of children.

Madam DeStael said that music was the only thing upon the earth that would find in heaven, for it was common to angels and to man, but she did not know. If there are beautiful dimensions and golden streets and gates of pearl and trees whose leaves are for the healing of men's aches, why not flowers? Spencer in his "Fairy Queen" says: "And is there care in heaven and love in heavenly spirits for the flowers?"

Wadsworth says: "It is my faith that every flower that blooms Enjoys the air it breathes."

The more uncultured and unrefined a man is the less he cares for flowers and music and birds. Cowper says he would not number on his list of friends the man who would uselessly tread upon a worm. Shakespeare says the man who has no music in his soul is fit for treason, stratagems and spoils. Some years ago I was trying to sell a cottage home to a rough man who wanted to buy, and I pointed out the beautiful roses that adorned the front yard. He turned away carelessly and said: "I don't care anything about them sort of things. If I buy your house you needn't add any cent for blossoms." The poet says, "The humblest flower that blooms gives thought too deep for tears." But there are folks who care no more for a beautiful flower than for an ugly weed.

"A Primrose by the river's brim A yellow primrose was to him. And it was nothing more."

The poets in all ages have paid tribute to the flowers. One of the most beautiful poems ever written is the "Ode to the Flowers," by Horace Smith. It is among the classics of old England.

"Your voiceless lips are living preachers. Each cup a pulpit and each leaf a book."

"Floral apostles that in dewy splendor Weep without woe and blush without a crime."

Mrs. Hemans says: "The flowers whisper the all fostering love That clothed them into beauty."

Longfellow says: "They teach us by persuasive reasons How akin they are to human things."

"Emblems of our coming resurrection. Emblems of the bright and better land."

But Mrs. Hemans sings the most fascinating songs to flowers—when she sings of other objects she takes on flowers:

"Bring flowers—fresh flowers for the bride to wear."

"They were born to blush in her shining hair."

"Bring flowers—pale flowers o'er the bier to shed. A crown for the brow of the early dead."

"Bring flowers to the shrine here we kneel in prayer. They are nature's offering—their place is there."

"Bring flowers to the captive's lonely cell. They have tales of the joyous woods to tell."

Shakespeare had a great heart for flowers, and he knew them like a botanist. There is not a common or

familiar one that he does not bring to pleasant use in some of his plays. How pathetically he laments the death of Imogen:

"With fairest flowers I'll sweeten thy sad grave. Thou shalt not lack the flowers that's like thy face. Pale primrose—nor the azur'd harebell like thy veins—nor the leaf of oglantine that outsweeteneth not thy breath."

There was a long time ago a ballad about two lovers for whom two flowers were named, Margaret and Sweet William. We have margarets among the flowers now, and sweet Williams are very common. What became of the lovers is quaintly told in the old-time verses:

"Margaret was buried in the lower chancel. And William in the higher. Out of her breast there sprang a rose bush. And out of his a brier."

They grew till they grew to the church top. And then they could grow no higher. And there they tied a true lovers' knot Which made all people admire."

As stern and solemn as was Moses the lawgiver, he was not unmindful of the beauty of flowers, for when he planned the first sanctuary that was set up in the wilderness he directed that his cunning workmen should ornament the golden candlesticks with carvings of flowers—open flowers. When Solomon designed his magnificent temple the molten brass was ornamented with representations of flowers, and so was the cedar carved with figures of open flowers. The Bible makes mention of flowers, but not by name, except the lily and the rose. "I am the rose of Sharon and the lily of the valley." "Consider the lilies how they grow. They toil not—neither do they spin; but Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

I notice in a late New York paper that the culture and sale of flowers has largely increased in that city; that forty years ago the sale amounted to only sixty thousand dollars a year, and that for the year just passed the sale of roses alone was nearly six millions, and that it was not uncommon for a millionaire to spend ten thousand dollars for flowers for a single entertainment. This is a good sign, and may be help to save Gotham from destruction. I wish that all our public schools would encourage the pupils to study flowers. There is a little simple botany that even a child can understand, and it will tell them why the kindly house of the Plantagenets took its name from a flower—the Scotch rose (planta genesta) with which Henry II had himself scourged for a heinous crime. And why the geranium means a cranebill and celandine a needle and nasturtium a nose twister, etc. The origin of the names of flowers is a funny book to me.

These school boys and girls keep me pretty busy answering their questions and doing their perplexing sums, and most of them enclose stamps in their letters. I will conclude this letter by giving them a sum:

A man sold a sow and pigs for eighteen dollars. He received as much for nine-tenths of a pig as he did for one-tenth of the sow. How many pigs did she have?—Bill Aarp in Atlanta Constitution.

Danish West Indies. London, by Cable.—"The United States government has addressed a note to the Danish government, almost threatening in tone," says the Copenhagen correspondent of the Daily Mail, "to the effect that it will not permit any transfer of the Danish West Indies to any foreign power and that in the event of Denmark refusing to sell the United States will require that inland and marine neutrality shall be properly guaranteed and the United States' sphere of influence be respected."

Will Not Go to Cuba. Washington, D. C., Special.—The naval trial board has been ordered to conduct the final trial of the Alabama from Pensacola on March 9, instead of at Havana. The order is due to the agitation caused at Havana by the announced intention of the Department to conduct the Alabama's trial from that point, which of course involved the attendance of the whole North Atlantic squadron.

British Steamer Lost. Bilbao, Spain, by Cable.—The British steamer Avolana, Capt. Lennox, has been wrecked at the Bilbao breakwater. All onboard were lost. She was of 1,140 tons net register 284 feet deep. She was built at Dundee, in 1880, and was owned by the Alvaona Steamship Company, of Ayre.

The Prohibition State Convention at Kalamazoo, Mich., refused to endorse the saloon-smashing crusade of Carrie Nation.

The question of lighting railway coaches is now under consideration in Europe. The choice lies between Pintsch gas and electricity. In view of the fact that an explosion of a gas tank under a passenger car has been reported from Germany, with the loss of many passengers, the call would seem to be in favor of electricity.

THE ANDERSON SENSATION.

Report of Jury in the Famous "Slavery" Cases.

Much interest has centered recently in the so-called Anderson slavery cases. It will be remembered that Judge Benet ordered an investigation by the grand jury, which was duly made, and the report of that body was read on Thursday.

The court room was packed. The main floor was occupied by white people, and the little gallery was crowded with negroes. Interest was most intense, for not a word of the paper's contents had been divulged. The foreman, Mr. R. A. Sullivan, handed up the paper, which was read.

When the reading was completed, it was time for dinner recess. On reconvening, Judge Benet addressed the grand jury:

JUDGE BENET SAID. "Mr. Foreman and Gentlemen of the Jury: Your presentment affords me profound satisfaction. You have done your duty, not only ably and fearlessly, but fairly. I am struck with the statement that you have refrained from reading the newspapers, some of which have published sensational stories, and that you have refrained from seeing or hearing any comments that would prejudice you in your investigation. It will surprise you, therefore, to know how much excitement there has been all over the State and the country."

SENSATIONAL NEWSPAPERS. At the north have forgotten that the investigation was ordered and was being conducted. They conveyed the idea that the newspapers had discovered the scandal through their own efforts.

"Your work and the work of the court is not referred to in these articles. It does say that 'happily some local efforts are being made,' but the reader would infer that these efforts are due to the newspapers. Little is found in these accounts beyond what was taken from the records of the court, and that little is false. These newspapers would rather be sensational than just."

"In ordering this investigation this court was only doing its plain duty, quietly, unostentatiously, but earnestly. It is peculiarly the work of this court, but the court will do its duty, and does not propose to be interfered with by political busybodies in or out of congress. When the charge was made three weeks ago the court had no idea of doing more than showing you grand jurors your duty, and it had no thought nor expectation that the charge of the court would be heard beyond the four walls of this court room."

STATE PRESS COMMENDED. "Through the journalistic enterprise of your local paper, the Daily Mail, actuated by the purest and most praiseworthy motives, the charge was published. It was done not after the manner of what is called, in newspaper slang, 'yellow journalism,' but simply that the good people of Anderson county might see that the iniquitous system would be thoroughly looked into and put an end to; for the encouragement of the law-abiding and a terror to evil doers; that it might be seen and known of all people of this county, white and black, that the strong arm of the law would be stretched out to protect the humblest negro against oppression and wrong."

"Other newspapers throughout the State acted in the same way, not as sensation-mongers, but as good citizens and champions of a righteous cause. There were no flaming headlines, no startling scareheads. But the publication was accompanied with strong words of condemnation of the inhuman treatment of the negro, and with equally strong words of commendation of the charge of the court."

"It was to be expected that newspapers in other States would take notice of a matter of so much public interest—nor had we any desire to hide this ugly thing from the eyes of our sister States. Newspapers were only doing their duty in giving it the utmost publicity and in condemning it in scathing terms."

"It gives me pleasure to say that, with few exceptions, the great journals in all parts of the country did their duty in this regard; but some newspapers, and notably one, went far beyond the proper limits of journalistic criticism. I refer especially to The North American, a Philadelphia newspaper."

"It seems that that paper sent a staff reporter to this county, and while we have no desire to discourage the sending of special correspondents from Philadelphia to Anderson county for the purpose of finding out the exact truth, let them tell the truth; let them treat a serious subject like this with all fairness and candor."

FACTS WHEN DISTORTED are more mischievous than falsehoods. I do not say that the special correspondents of The North American deliberately wrote what was not true, but I do say that his account was greatly exaggerated, far too highly colored, essentially misleading and grossly unjust.

NOT A RACE ISSUE. "It is foolish to talk of the necessity of interfering by congress and the federal courts. They ignore the fact that the court and the grand jury have brought the matter into public attention and were busy investigating it. We are able to deal with this matter without any outside help. We do not wish to wash our dirty linen in the federal laundry. There is no politics in this matter, no party issue, not ev-

en a race issue, not even indirectly. It is purely and simply the righting of a grievous wrong. We protest against the very idea of outside interference. It is untrue, as this paper states, that the testimony of negroes is not believed in our courts."

The judge here cited several cases before him recently, in which **THE EVIDENCE OF NEGROES**

had been accepted by juries in preference to that of white men. Judge Benet also mentioned that this matter had been called to the attention of the governor, who had forwarded to the solicitor a letter received by him. The judge said that he had not heard of the matter until the trial of the Newell case, and was astonished beyond measure by the disclosures therein.

Turning to the audience he said that he wanted to advise the negroes not to believe rumors which were going about as to the invalidity of all labor contracts. He said the court will enforce all lawful contracts, and that negroes should not make the mistake of believing the investigation meant that all contracts were void.

Taking up the presentment, Judge Benet read the names mentioned and said that some of them at least had been prosecuted for false imprisonment, while others were liable in damages civilly as well as for criminal prosecution. The solicitor, he said, will do his duty, and it will be left to the petit jurors to do theirs. Good work had already been done, and the evil is almost stamped out; public sentiment is practically solid against the system, in which only a few men have participated.

Judge Benet declared that the presentment brought pitiful details. "It told of illegal arrests and imprisonment, of cruel whipping, of prolonged imprisonment without even the face of a trial, of kidnapping negroes from other counties, and even from Georgia, of fear to give testimony, refusal to testify, and most pitiful of all, of poor negroes professing to be satisfied and contented."

His honor warned the jurors that they must not divulge any of the testimony, which he turned over to the clerk of court and ordered him not to make it public. The presentment he turned over to the solicitor for his help and guidance in preparing the cases.

He then referred to the jury's remarks as to the convict leasing system, and said he was glad the jurors concurred with him. The legislature had already taken steps to stop this system. "There is no likelihood that this stockade slavery, with its shackles, whippings and armed guards will ever be seen again in this or any other county."

In closing, Judge Benet said: "I thank you, gentlemen, most sincerely for the excellent work you have done. South Carolina thanks you, Anderson county especially will thank you for having relieved her of this shameful burden and freed her good name from the stigma that a few of her misguided citizens placed on it. Your county has cause to be proud of her grand jury. You certainly have amply justified the confidence I reposed in you when I ordered you to make this investigation."

By Wire and Cable. St. Petersburg police arrested 200 University students who vigorously insisted on entering Kasan cathedral; where a service was being held in celebration of the anniversary of the emancipation of the serfs.

George Gardner, middleweight champion of Great Britain yesterday issued a challenge to Tommy Ryan, for a fight to settle the middleweight championship of the world.

General Aaron S. Daggett, recently appointed brigadier general of the army, has been retired on his own application.

Life imprisonment was given Solomon Reigard, a civil war veteran, of Toledo, O., for the murder of his young wife.

The eleventh annual convention of the Independent Order of Ahawas Israel was held in New York, 500 delegates attending.

In accordance with the provisions of the Naval Appropriation bill, as it passed the Senate the six years' course at the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., will be continued.

A leak in the German steamer Pioneer, from Boston for Norfolk, was reported as the vessel was leaving the former port.

Judge Elbridge Haney, of the Circuit Court of Cook County, was nominated for Mayor of Chicago by the Republican City Convention.

Ferdinand W. Peck, Commissioner General to the Paris Exposition has delivered his final report to the President.

Time sets his chisel a little deeper whenever there is a frown upon the face

Negro Tortured in Illinois.

Duquoin, Ill., Special.—Ferdinand French, a negro, was strung up by the neck, four times and beaten with clubs and fists Friday night in an attempt of five masked men to get from him a confession of crime. French was suspected of knowing something of the robbery of Henry Crossman's jewelry store, which was entered Wednesday and plundered of articles worth \$750. The men who tortured him are supposed to be residents of the town.

THE GAVEL FALLS

And the Extra Session of the Senate Closes.

NOMINATIONS ARE ALL RATIFIED

No Business Other Than That of an Executive Nature Was Transacted—Adjournment.

Washington, D. C., Special.—After proceedings lasting only six days, the extraordinary session of the Senate was declared adjourned, sine die, at 1:55 p. m., Saturday. During the session practically no business except that of an executive character was transacted. The session was called by the President in order that the Senate might have an opportunity to confirm appointments made at the beginning of the new administration. That business accomplished, there was nothing further for the Senate to do. At the opening of the day's session, the President pro tem, Senator Frye, of Maine, was induced into office, the oath being administered by Vice President Roosevelt. Hon. John H. Mitchell, the recently elected Senator from Oregon, was presented by his colleague, Senator Simon, and took the oath of office. He was given a cordial reception by his colleagues on the floor, many of whom had served in the Senate with him, and by his friends in the galleries who greeted his appearance with hearty applause.

Through the committee of the Senate, consisting of Mr. Hoar, of Massachusetts, and Mr. Cockrell, of Missouri, the President informed the Senate that he had no further communications to make. He conveyed to the Senators his cordial wishes for their welfare and his hopes that they might have a happy return to their homes. Without ceremony the session was then declared at an end.

For a considerable time after final adjournment, many Senators remained on the floor of the chamber exchanging cordial farewells, some of them making engagements for outings during the long recess. It was an interesting scene that was eagerly watched by the hundreds of persons who had poured into the galleries at the conclusion of the executive session.

A Trades College.

Austin, Texas, Special.—A legislative committee appointed to investigate the most practical way of building up North American trade with South America through Texas, recommended that a donation be made by Texas of 1,000 acres of land and \$1,000,000 in America through Texas, recommended that a donation be made by Texas of 1,000 acres of land and \$1,000,000 in money to erect an international trades college at some point along the gulf, to instruct the youths of both North and South America in the mercantile and manufacturing industries and needs of both sections. Federal assistance and co-operation will be asked for the movement.

The President as Peace-Maker.

Washington, D. C., Special.—There are signs that the friction which has been engendered between Secretary Root and Senator Platt over the announced determination of the former to appoint Colonel Sanger as assistant Secretary of War, regardless of Mr. Platt's objection, will soon be removed. Mr. Platt, who is now in New York, has made an appointment for a talk with the President on the subject as soon as the former returns to Washington, and meanwhile, it is understood that Mr. Root will withhold his action in the premises, the intimation being thrown out that this misunderstanding can be speedily adjusted upon a free exchange of views.

The Germanic Behind Time.

New York, Special.—The steamship Germanic had not been reported as sighted from Fire Island up to 9 o'clock Sunday afternoon. She was expected to arrive on Thursday evening. Incoming vessels report extraordinary heavy weather on the Atlantic, and it is probable that the Germanic ran into a storm and was obliged to slow down.

Seized For Illegal Trading.

Manila, by Cable.—It is reported that the small steamers Oriente and Carman, plying on the Pasig river and Laguna de Bay, have been seized, it being alleged that they were trading with the insurgents. Contraband articles were found aboard the steamers. The Oriente had been seized previously but had been released, the evidence against her not being sufficient to justify her being held. This time, however, the evidence of illegal trading is stronger. The authorities are determined to stop smuggling on Laguna de Bay, and other arrests may follow.