

The city is probably the wealthiest and best kept place of its size in the south. Situated as it is in the midst of the mountains in Western North Carolina on the rugged banks of the French Broad (Tahkessotee) river, it requires great labor and perseverance to beautify it, and were it not for nature's lavish gifts of healthfulness, comfort and grandeur, Asheville never would have become the cosmopolitan place of the south. Tourists and health-seekers come from the north in winter to avoid the inclemency of the northern climes, and from the south to bask in the temperate and refreshing air of mid-summer.

The majority of the houses are built to accommodate tourists, but probably the greater number of these find accommodations at one or the other of the beautiful and spaciouly built hotels, of which Battery Park, occupying an imminence in the heart of the city and overlooking the entire valleys, is the largest, having a capacity for several hundred guests.

As we ascend to the top of this building we turn our eyes to the east and they rest upon the densely timbered "Beaumont" which closes the entire scenery towards the rising sun. On the north the country is very broken for miles, and gradually the vision is lost in the mountains toward "Old Virginia." On the west the valley extends for miles along the French Broad river, gradually becoming more mountainous, until the unequalled landscape ends in the high mountain tops which blend with the azure sky. In looking toward the south the most conspicuous object that attracts the eye of the visitor is the Vanderbilt mansion, situated directly across the valley about four miles from the city. Beyond it the mountains gradually raise until crowned by Mt. Pisgah. Other hotels that lend excellent accommodations to the tourist are Kenilworth Inn, Oakland Heights, Glen Rock, Oaks, Swannanoa, Asheville and one or two others, each accommodating hundreds of guests. The city is dotted with smaller hotels and boarding houses.

In going to the mansion from the city we pass Biltmore, the nearest railroad station to the world renowned residence. Here is the beautiful office building of Mr. Vanderbilt, in which all business relative to him in this section is transacted. We obtained our permit and passed through the large portal along the excellent driveways, of which there are many miles, and all are as well kept as the streets in the heart of a business metropolis. Along the roads costly plants, grass, flowers, shrubs and small trees have been planted for hundreds of yards on each side, giving the whole one of the most beautiful and pleasing aspects the human eye could wish to lay upon.

As we approached the main building from the east we viewed the Esplanade three hundred feet wide and one hundred feet long, with a magnificent fountain marking its centre, extending up the main entrance. On the right is the stable and livery court in which some forty horses are in constant readiness for Mr. Vanderbilt and his honored guests. On the left is an extensive bowling green. The main building, three hundred feet long, built of gray sandstone shipped from Indiana, and destined to stand for ages, represents an expenditure of over \$3,000,000, while on the grounds, exclusive of the driveways, over \$1,000,000 has been expended.

In viewing the whole, standing in awe and admiration, one may well exclaim "What may not be done with money!" In conversation with one of the decorators we learned that some of the window curtains have cost \$25,000 each, not for their real, but for their historic value; some of them being several hundred years old.

Among our friends in the city of Asheville, we take pleasure in naming Reverend H. F. Chreityberg, pastor of the Central M. E. Church; Mr. Steele, for five years proprietor of Battery Park, and now owner of one of the most beautiful and well kept places in the city; Mr. Junesk Norton, editor of the Daily Gazette, and a great many others whom time and space will not permit us to mention. Mr. K. A. Maschker and family, with whom we are staying, are unsurpassed in kindness and generosity, and our prayers are that God will ever pour out His blessings upon them in all of their righteous desires. Such friends will long be remembered by every true man who comes in contact with them. Our prayers will ever ascend to God in behalf of the people who have been so kind and generous, have shown us such friendship, have met us in a broad-minded manner, and have been willing to take the advice of Paul, "Prove all things, and hold fast to that which is good." Ever praying for the welfare of Zion and her people and all who are asking for the truth and endeavoring to live Godly in Christ Jesus, we remain your brethren in the cause of truth.

ERNEST R. NEEDHAM.
ERASTUS K. FILBRUP.

THE EUROPEAN MISSION.

[Millennial Star, June 25.]

Arrivals — The following named Elders arrived in Liverpool, June 24, 1896, per American line steamer Belgeland: For the British mission—Malcolm McKinnon, Rauldolph; Frederick J. A. Jaques, Salt Lake City. For the Scandinavian mission—Albert F. Young, Ephraim Bjorklund, Salt Lake City; Christian Knudsen, Lehi. For the Swiss and German mission—Jacob Schultze, Salt Lake City.

Release and Appointments—Elder Ben. R. Eldredge has been honorably released from presiding over the London conference to return home July 4, 1896.

Elder F. W. Nicholls has been appointed to preside over the London conference.

Elder Malcolm McKinnon has been appointed to labor in the Scottish conference.

Elder Frederick J. A. Jaques has been appointed to labor as traveling Elder in the Nottingham conference.

IDAHO WEATHER REPORT.

The following bulletin was issued from the weather bureau station at Idaho Falls, Idaho, July 7:

Very warm and dry weather prevailed during the week ending Monday, July 6th; the nights were delightfully cool, and on two dates faint traces of frost were observed in the more elevated portions of the central and eastern sections. Thunderstorms were of frequent occurrence in many places, but the rainfall was exceedingly light and of very little

benefit to crops needing moisture. The warm weather has caused a rapid growth of all irrigated crops, but on land not accessible to irrigation vegetation is showing the effects of drouth; no special damage has resulted so far, but a long continuation of present conditions will probably result in much injury. All grains are in excellent condition and generally growing well, though there is some complaint of parching on dry lands; potatoes and garden truck are in healthy condition; small fruits are plentiful, and the larger varieties doing well; the first cutting of alfalfa is still in progress, and prospects for a second crop are very encouraging.

D. P. McCALLUM,
Section Director.

NEWS NOTES.

Washington expects this year's wheat crop to be 16,000,000 bushels—the biggest in the history of the state.

The lumber cargo shipments from Oregon and California to San Francisco in May aggregated 19,276,611 feet.

Mrs. Dennis, 75 years old, living at 375 Jessie street, San Francisco, dislocated her jaw Saturday morning by yawning.

Indians at the Protrero reservation near Banning, Cal., have just received \$1,800 for work on that village's irrigation ditch.

Lester Pratt, aged 2, fell into a child's bathtub in which there was about two inches of water, near St. Helena. As a result the child died two days later.

Millions of young grasshoppers have made their appearance on Tygh ridge, Oregon, and farmers in that section fear they will do considerable damage to growing crops.

Miss Hattie Regan of San Diego, Cal., the Pacific coast whistler, is to be married to Alfred Thurston of Thurston, Davies county, Kentucky, a prominent horse-breeder.

One of the big chicken raisers of Petaluma, Cal., is buying aged horses and killing them for food for his fowls. Horses are very cheap and their flesh is probably less expensive than wheat.

The San Francisco Chronicle of July 13 says: President Henry S. Tanner of the California Mormon Mission addressed a large audience in Pythian Castle last night upon "The Rise and Destiny of Christianity."

Hayward, Cal., has had a most remarkable case of theft. A few days ago Miss Christensen left her phaeton standing in front of the home of Mrs. Fisher, on Castro street, and in her absence some one stole the harness from the horse.

William E. Miller, the Oakland, Cal., banker, died Saturday morning at his home at Pacific Grove. He passed away very quietly in a chair. Mr. Miller was at one time associated with W. D. Heston in mining in Utah.

Willie Brown, 14 years old, residing near Selma, Cal., fell from a load of hay on a pitchfork Saturday afternoon. One tine of the fork entered his right breast, near the lower rib, passed up through his liver, one lung, out at his