

ATTRACTIONS OF ASHEVILLE

RED LETTER DAY IN MR. RICHMOND'S TRIP.

Graphic Description of Mr. Vanderbilt's Magnificent Chateau—A Valuable Mountain Tract Transformed Into an Ideal Dwelling Place—The Palatial Mansion, Spacious Lawns, and Blooming Gardens—The Multi-Millionaire as a Farmer.

Another red-letter day of our trip was the drive to and around the magnificent grounds of the "Vanderbilt Chateau," the finest of the attractions in the vicinity of Asheville. Visitors here ask to have the mansion pointed out to them, even before leaving the train at the station. The young multi-millionaire is not at all exclusive or selfish with his belongings. His politeness invites to drive through his grounds and inspect his palace under reasonable conditions. A detailed account of what we see here, the gorgeousness of this castle and surrounding grounds, would tax the descriptive powers of an architect and pass too far the limits of this letter, but the imagination of the reader may run riot and he will not be far out of the way. Let him as a basis, take into consideration the ideal location, then the vast wealth of the owner and his unquestioned taste and ability. It is given to but few men to have unbounded wealth and build vast mansions on vast estates, like Biltmore, although within the last decade more rural estates have been made by men of wealth than the whole country contained before. This idea borrowed from the English until some-called gentlemen farmers will be as numerous in this country as they are in Great Britain. "The Hour," the country seat of W. K. Vanderbilt, on Long Island, very nearly approaches the British idea, where the life and surroundings of the English nobility are closely copied. There is a fine mansion with park and garden, the latter, the forests stocked with game and all guarded by a gamekeeper and assistant foresters. But more famous, and better known, and more American is Biltmore on the Asheville plateau by the Swannanoa river, the vast property of George W. Vanderbilt, containing 160,000 acres, comprising vast moun-

tain ranges, picturesque valleys, water falls, forests and meadows and the most remarkable and costly country home in the United States. Originally a tract of almost useless mountain land, it has been by the touch of gold, transformed into an ideal spot.

MAGNIFICENT CHATEAU.

Those who have stood spellbound upon the esplanade of this magnificent chateau, and looked upon the wild tumult of mountains, which stretch away in every direction until lost behind the curtain of the horizon, can well understand why Mr. Vanderbilt selected this particular spot of all others in America for the erection of a home, which is as supreme among the houses of men as this spot is among the creations of Nature, and that the inspiration should come to him to say, "Here will I erect a mansion, which shall emphasize the work of man as this spot has the work of God." The chateau is situated on a plateau 2,000 feet above sea level, upon an esplanade 700 by 200 feet, artificially made by cutting down the summit of the hill upon which the castle rests and filling surrounding depressions to a perfect level. Huge walls of solid masonry, sixteen feet in thickness at the base and at some points forty feet high, crowned with a coping of finely dressed stone, surround the esplanade. The palace—for it is that, and nothing else—is intended to be a monument to last for ages, a silent, but significant, tribute to the perseverance and ability for accumulating wealth, with which this remarkable family is endowed. The building is 375 feet long and 192 feet wide. It is built of Indiana limestone, and in its construction 6,000 barrels of cement and 11,000,000 bricks were used, in addition to the stone. Everything about it is stone, brick, iron and steel; not a piece of wood is used except in scaffolding and falsework. I heard an eminent architect say that it would be as solid five centuries hence as it is today. The grand entrance opens upon a winter garden, octagon in shape and sixty feet in diameter. From this garden, or court, radiate the principal apartments. Let the reader imagine a banquet hall seventy-two feet wide and twenty feet high, with one span and a domed ceiling; a magnificent library 40x60 feet, as large as an ordinary church; a music room and tapestry gallery, the latter 75 feet long and containing numerous specimens of historical and valuable tapestry; a reception hall, into which a city house could easily be put; stone stairways, so broad and massive that a regiment could march down them, and loggias, with their score of richly carved pillars and graceful arches, while on the upper floor there are a hundred rooms. The family and guest chambers number twenty, and each possesses a bath.

A SPACIOUS LAWN.

The house grounds comprise 9,000 acres of lawn, farm and forest, thirty miles of magnificent roadways, rustic bridges, artificial lakes, and thousands of trees, shrubs and plants brought from every quarter of the globe, while one million have been transplanted in the vast park of 100,000 acres. His private nurseries are the largest in the world. The "hunting preserve," which comprises 87,000 acres, is on one side of Mt. Pisgah, a portion of which Mr. Vanderbilt owns, which is stocked with bear and deer and is truly a sportsman's paradise. The "hunting lodge" is some thirty miles from his mansion, is built of rough oak logs and cost upwards of \$30,000, and here Mr. Vanderbilt entertains his guests in regal style. All the year round this place is kept in order, ready for a chance call from its owner. The great hall is a huge square room, with an enormous fireplace at one end, besides it kept a heap of logs ten to twelve feet in length, the fireplace being so large size as to accommodate a full of this mammoth size. Hanging to the chimney piece are rows of iron spears, designed to hold the carcass of a deer or bear or such other animal as may be cooked over the mighty fire. Here on New Year's Day Mr. Vanderbilt gave a truly regal feast. Among his guests being Joseph Choate, ambassador to England, and Prince Delgraves-Talleyrand Perigord. In this mighty hall decorated with hundreds of skins of wild cats, deer, bears and smaller game, the distinguished guests were regaled on the products of the chase, cooked and served by the corps of keepers.

It is said "our modern millionaires easily outstrip the old English lords and barons in the magnificence and extent of their country seats and in the rich lavish of entertainment." A visitor to Asheville says: When Mr. Vanderbilt and his hunting guests start on the thirty mile drive that intervenes between his Biltmore estate and the hunting lodge, one might easily imagine that the traveller was some European potentate and his attendants sworn vassals, so imposing is the turnout and so decorated the servants. Thus, like barons of old, are the new lords of wealth. Visitors come all the way from Europe to inspect the great American kingdom and the castle which has no equal on the Rhine.

This mansion is a French renaissance chateau, highly elaborated and exceedingly rich in every detail. It has cost over \$5,000,000. The architect was Prof. Lax-Olmead, of New York. Some 600 men for the last decade have been employed at the palace or on the grounds, making a payroll of over \$600,000 yearly. \$12,000 was distributed by him in the way of salaries and other expenses, which found its way among the citizens of Asheville every week. Through the courtesy of Baron d'Aimer, Mr. Vanderbilt's farm superintendent, we secured memoranda of interest to us, which we give in part to our readers.

When Mr. Vanderbilt began prospecting around Asheville less than a dozen years ago, farming was the thing he least thought of. His ambition was to build a palace and home commensurate with his wealth to stand for centuries as a family memorial. But as time went on and his mansion progressed, he added more and more to his vast possessions, and it became evident that nature had strong attractions for him, and the cultivation of the soil has as much fascination as the buying and selling of stock and bonds and the planning of railway combinations.

MULTI-MILLIONAIRE'S CHARACTERISTICS.

Mr. Vanderbilt has many pleasing characteristics, that make him very popular with the people here, especially his workmen. During the building of his mansion he would come alone with his English valet from New York, in his favorite Wagner palace car, he named "Swannanoa," to personally examine the work in progress—and for a time having it side-tracked near his estate, lived alone in it with no other attendant than his valet. As his farm interests grew, and in order to be on the spot, he secured a suite of rooms in an ordinary looking farm house, three miles from his chateau, where from the windows of his bed-

room he could see the fields of grain and the ploughed hillsides, ready to be sowed. Every morning his secretary and his superintendent of agriculture, Baron d'Allings, would visit him and an hour was spent in listening to the reports of this or that yield of corn, grain, etc., and many tons of hay secured and comparative yield of the gardens, the milk of the Jersey and Holstein cows, in all their detail and then jump into a light two-wheeled cart and drive over to this or that farm with the baron, and examine some new fodder plant, or new insect which may be damaging the grain. Often he would walk into the field and talk with the hands at work on some detail of planting or reaping. It is said that anyone going toward the mansion at Biltmore, at early morning or during the cool of evening, may chance to meet two men in a road-cart or a buggy. One is smoking cigarettes, or enjoying a game of cards. He draws, it is said, the modest sum of \$7,500 per year. He is well read and well bred and a great student of agriculture.

Mr. Vanderbilt is a firm believer in good roads and has a good laboratory on the estate, where an expert is employed in finding the best soil, as well as the best rock on the place for road formation. The result of these experiments, as well as those of agriculture, are freely furnished to all inquirers, and put to practical use at Biltmore. The result is, that around the mansion and Biltmore forest, are some fifty or more miles of fine driveways as can be found in the country.

GROWING FODDER PLANTS.

Superintendent Allings says special attention is being given to the growing of fodder on 1,200 acres, where ensilage plants are being successfully used to take the place of timothy and other kinds of hay, which are often a failure in this, as well as many other parts of the South. The alfalfa and teosinta and certain European productions have been raised successfully and used in ensilage, of which some thousands of tons are annually made on the farm. Corn, rye, wheat and oats are the principal cereal crops, with yields of fifty-five bushels of corn, twenty-five bushels of rye, wheat thirty-five bushels and oats forty bushels to the acre. The most modern methods of agriculture are employed and the best utensils also used. On a twenty-acre garden patch are grown asparagus, peas, beets, lettuce, onions, berries, and every other variety of fresh vegetables, which find a ready sale in the Asheville market, when not consumed at home—so I might enumerate.

Stock-raising is a great feature at Biltmore. In the stock yard here are found several hundred horses, principally draft animals, twenty grades of Jersey cows, 200 southdown sheep and 200 of Berkshire pigs, etc.; also large stocks of Toulouse geese, Pekin ducks, bronze turkeys, and Brahma chickens. A hen house, costing several thousand dollars, with artificial hatchery, nests and other special features. Raising road and trotting horses are fast becoming popular here.

HARFORD.

Special to the Scranton Tribune. Harford, February 19.—Miss Gertrude Stearns is assisting Mrs. F. P. Tingley with her household.

The C. E. society conducted the services in the Congregational church Sunday.

E. E. Jones has returned from Charleston, S. C.

Mrs. Payne has rented her hotel to John Lewis.

Mr. and Mrs. Kniffin and Mrs. Paul Sherwood have returned to their home in Wilkes-Barre.

Two sleighloads of Kingsley people attended the aid at Rev. G. D. Fisher's on Wednesday.

There will be no preaching service in the Congregational church next Sunday. Sunday school at the usual hour.

Several of our young people enjoyed a sleighride to South Gibson last Thursday evening, where they attended a party at Homer Ressegule's in honor of Prof. McNamara.

SUSQUEHANNA.

Special to the Scranton Tribune. Susquehanna, Feb. 19.—Owing to a combination of circumstances, including execrable weather and spring-time apathy, there was a light vote throughout Susquehanna county on Tuesday.

Being unable to secure a newspaper in Susquehanna county to publish their libelous matter against Colonel Charles C. Pratt, the little gang of political tricksters, now having headquarters at Halletts, have secured a Scranton newspaper, to disseminate their sewerage. At the coming conventions and at the polls, the Republicans of Susquehanna county will pass their opinion upon the guerrillas in a manner that no man, no matter how dense, can misunderstand. They believe in fair play and decency, even in politics.

Township supervisors are busily engaged in opening crossroads to navigation. The funeral of Winifred, the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Mc-

Carthy, of Washington street, took place this afternoon, with interment in Laurel Hill cemetery. At the election on Tuesday, Susquehanna went three-fourths Democratic. It might have been a little worse. William Bryant has purchased the Back property on Jackson street. Quite a number of Susquehanna relatives were at Great Bend today, attending the funeral of the late Mrs. Johanna Kato. E. H. W. Sparks, esq., of Scranton, came to Susquehanna to vote on Tuesday. Defeated candidates are now explaining how it happened. Sixty-five persons have thus far professed conversion in the revival meetings in the Oakland Congregational church. Pay your election bets and acknowledge that you know more than you did. Mrs. Marie L. Mumford, of Mauch Chunk, department president, and Mrs. Abbie Lynch, of Allegheny City, department secretary. Women's Relief corps of Pennsylvania, last evening paid Moody corps, No. 12, an official visit. Rev. Dr. Henry I. Jones, of Wilkes-Barre, and Rev. Charles W. Boot, of Christ Episcopal church in Susquehanna, will exchange pulpits on Sunday next.

It is Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound that is curing women.



Mrs. Watson tells all suffering women how she was cured and advises them to follow her example. Here is her first letter to Mrs. Pinkham:

(PUBLISHED BY PERMISSION.)
"March 15, 1899.
"TO MRS. PINKHAM, LYNN, MASS.:
"DEAR MADAM:—I am suffering from inflammation of the ovaries and womb, and have been for eighteen months. I have a continual pain and soreness in my back and side. I am only free from pain when lying down or sitting in an easy chair. When I stand I suffer with severe pain in my side and back. I believe my troubles were caused by over-work and lifting some years ago.
"Life is a drag to me, and I sometimes feel like giving up ever being a well woman; I have become careless and unconcerned about everything. I am in bed now. I have had several doctors, but they did me but little good.
"Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has been recommended to me by a friend, and I have made up my mind to give it fair trial.
"I write this letter with the hope of hearing from you in regard to my case"—MRS. S. J. WATSON, Hampton, Va.

Mrs. Pinkham's advice was promptly received by Mrs. Watson and a few months later she writes as follows:

(PUBLISHED BY PERMISSION.)
"November 27, 1899.
"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—I feel it my duty to acknowledge to you the benefit that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has done for me.
"I had been suffering with female troubles for some time, could walk but a short distance, had terrible bearing-down pains in lower part of my bowels, backache, and pain in ovary. I used your medicine for four months and was so much better that I could walk three times the distance that I could before.
"I am to-day in better health than I have been for more than two years, and I know it is all due to Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.
"I recommend your advice and medicine to all women who suffer."—MRS. S. J. WATSON, Hampton, Va.

Mrs. Watson's letters prove that Mrs. Pinkham's free advice is always forthcoming on request and that it is a sure guide to health. These letters are but a drop in the ocean of evidence proving that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound CURES the ills of women.

No other medicine in the world has received such widespread and unqualified endorsement. No other medicine has such a record of cures of female troubles or such hosts of grateful friends.

Do not be persuaded that any other medicine is just as good. Any dealer who suggests something else has no interest in your case. He is seeking a larger profit.

Follow the record of this medicine and remember that these thousands of cures of women whose letters are constantly printed in this paper were not brought about by "something else," but by

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

\$5000 REWARD

Owing to the fact that some skeptical people have from time to time questioned the genuineness of the testimonial letters we are constantly publishing, we have deposited with the National City Bank, Lynn, Mass., \$5,000, which will be paid to any person who will show that the above testimonials are not genuine, or were published before obtaining the writer's special permission. LYDIA E. PINKHAM MEDICINE CO., Lynn, Mass.



HOME LIFE.

The happiness of home life depends largely on the health of the wife and mother. When her strength is unequal to the daily cares and duties of home, the evening hour finds her utterly worn out, too tired even to turn to bed. At first even she is glad to have her husband go out for the evening. She wants rest and quiet at any price. And so the foundation for marital misery is often laid in the household.

But when the housewife is healthy and strong she finds in her day's duties only a sufficient outlet for her energy. She looks forward all day to the evening hour spent with her husband over a book, or passed in quiet conversation. And every evening so spent draws the wife nearer to the husband and knits together the twin who are "one flesh" in the higher unity of one mind.

Every woman should know that the general health depends on the local womanly health. Irregularity, weakening drains, inflammation, ulceration and female weakness are disorders which sap the woman's strength and destroy her happiness with her health.

In ninety-eight cases in every hundred use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription will effect a complete cure of womanly diseases. It is a reliable regulator. It dries the draining, unfeeling women. It heals inflammation and ulceration and cures female weakness. It makes weak women strong and sick women well.

Sick and ailing women are invited to consult Dr. Pierce, by letter or in person. Correspondence is held as sacredly confidential and womanly confidences are guarded by strict professional privacy. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y. In a little over thirty years, assisted by his medical staff of nearly a score of physicians, Dr. Pierce, chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute of Buffalo, N. Y., has treated and cured more than half a million women.

There is no similar offer of free consultation by letter which has found it a physician of Dr. Pierce's eminence and success, or an institution of world-wide fame such as the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute of Buffalo, N. Y.

Write to Dr. Pierce and obtain a specialist's opinion absolutely without charge or fee.

WAS NEARLY CRAZY.

"I was pleased that Dr. Pierce answered my letter," writes Mrs. Young, of South Regent Street (Park), Wilkes-Barre, Penna. "I am perfectly willing for you to use my name and address, as I think it my duty to let the people know what a wonderful medicine you have. When I had those mishaps I began to think I would never be right. My husband always said that if I would take your medicine I would soon be all right. I had used to almost break and I would get sick at my stomach and have such headaches I did not know what to do; they used to set me nearly crazy, and I used to dread to get up. I felt no bad; then I began taking your medicine. When baby was expected I took it all the time I was that way. I felt fine all the time and I never get those dizzy spells now. I hardly have a nervous headache any more. I have a perfect record of a boy; he is the light of our home. I am now twenty years old and my baby is almost eight months old. I now feel well, and weigh 120 pounds, and the baby 25 pounds. We feel very grateful for the good your medicine did for us. We are both healthy, thanks to Dr. Pierce's medicine."

ALMOST A SKELETON.

"You know," says Mrs. Susan West, of Lawrence, Cleveland Co., N. C., "that I feel it my duty to write to you and tell you I think it saved my life. I had been under the treatment of two doctors—had two seventy pounds. A friend of mine recommended Doctor Pierce's Favorite Prescription, and when I commenced to take it my health began to improve greatly. In ten months I was a happy mother. I had only taken six bottles and have never taken any medicine since, of any kind, and now weigh 120 pounds. I am now awaiting the coming of another child in the best of health. I cannot say too much in praise of your 'Favorite Prescription.'"

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets are at once the most agreeable and most effective laxative for women's use.