

LETTER FROM BRO. BARNES.

God is Love and Nothing Else. Praise The Lord.

SANIBEL ISLAND, FLORIDA. PALM RANCH, DEC. 25, '89.

[The postmark of this letter bears date Jan. 13. Bro. Barnes must have forgotten to mail it. Ed.]

[Continued from last issue.]

The "Fauna and Flora" of Sanibel are not without their own peculiar interest. In writing them up it is appropriate that I should give precedence to the ubiquitous "gopher," seeing he can hardly be classified with either. I overtook one to-day, taking his noon airing. Forsome unknown reason, this slowly moving tortoise of our shell ridges is found most frequently outside his hole, about an hour before noon. Whether the rattlesnakes or blacksnakes, that share his domicile, hustle him out when the sun warms up everything to such an extent that "his room is better than his company," or whether he comes forth of his own sweet will, unconstrained, I cannot say, not being behind the curtain of his domestic economy. But the fact remains that the gopher takes walks about 11 o'clock and is then easily captured. A timid, innocent creature it is, appealing warmly to all that is sympathetic in me. I remember a fine specimen, given us, last winter, by our nearest neighbor, weighing about 20 pounds, which we kept in an empty barrel, till the cook decided to make "gopher gumbo." It scratched around hopelessly and helplessly for a day two, that, at last, when no one was near, I tilted it over and bid it strike out for liberty and life. Very likely it was caught by the neighbors' boys in a day or two and went into the gumbo pot; but its blood was not on my head. The one I overtook to-day, as it shambled along after the fashion of its kind, was a small one. It doubled itself into its shell, the moment I touched it, and lay quite still. The little beggar folded its forelegs, or paws, over its nose in such a deprecatory way that I wouldn't have captured it for pay. If you hold it quite still, it will gradually peep out with its little red, ferret eye from behind its folded claws, examining if the coast be clear. When it finds that it is still in the hands of the Philistines, over its nose go the folded paws and every sign of life ceases.

They have prodigious strength of limb. The rear ones are like miniature elephant legs, and a 20-pound gopher will scratch along with a heavy man standing on its shell. They are very fine in the steak or stew, and have been for years a "legal tender" in Florida. They constituted the "small change" of the ancient "cracker," who swapped them for "store truck" at a shifting valuation, according to the crop. It passed into a proverb, many years ago, that "Florida lived on gophers in the summer and sick Yankees in the winter."

I like the gopher. He is slow but sure. I always sympathized with the tortoise in the old spelling-book race, with the hare; and remember well the picture in which the "race was not to the swift; and could even detect a slink wink in the left eye of the creature as he crept slowly by the sleeping racer, with fleet limbs all relaxed in careless slumber. I have seen the race run many times over since then, on the stern course of practical life. Ah, me! the hares I have known have been distanced by gophers, in the pulpit; at the bar; behind the counter; and elsewhere! The plodders are the fellows who win the prizes, while genius dies in a ditch, wondering how it ever came there; and, to the last, unwilling to believe that the slow and despised dullard could ever distance him.

The gopher like his nameless confrere, is wingless, but "he gets there all the same." He makes fine eating, this lumbering denizen of our Sanibel shell-ridges. His front piazza is a sloping hole in the shelly soil, down which a "small boy" could easily crawl. The contents of that excavated ramification are carefully brought outside and heaped up in such a way that you can detect a gopher's whereabouts a goodly distance. Indeed, concealment of his haunts is quite impossible. His shell is just so large and it must have a hole big enough to admit it. How he brings up from the depths all that sand and shell I know not. Probably pushes it with his paws, or kicks it with his hind legs, "tumblebug" fashion. But he gets it out, all the same. The snakes run down this gaping orifice in the earth quite naturally. They furnish the simplest harbors of refuge possible; and one must be quick about dispatching any of the serpent kind, or ever the convenient gopher hole is reached. When slain for the table, a hatchet is used to cut open the shell at the side. Then the flesh, carefully washed, looks like beef, some parts of it; and other parts like chicken. There is an immensity of entrails in the creature and the fleshy parts cling tightly to the shell, from which they must be detached with a knife. The skin is mottled, black and yellow, and rather snakily suggestive. It is better entirely removed, though some leave patches of it, that turn up in the gumbo—a sharp trial to weak stomachs. We have them in great abundance on

"Cinnible," as the natives miss-call our beautiful island, in the most persistent and exasperating way. Not all gopher holes have a gopher inhabitant; but, given a fresh trail, and lately abraded entrance, and a spade or shovel will unearth them without fail in ten minutes' digging. They live in the dry shell ridges, abhorring water, and they know "high water mark" with the most exact instinct. Build your house on a gopher ridge and you may rest secure from ordinary inundation, in the "rainy season."

Good, homely, scratching, awkward old fellow! I hope advancing civilization will long spare your species. But they are getting scarce where the population grows dense; and, doubtless, railroads and telegraph herald the extinction of the festive gopher, who will ere long follow the dodo and buffalo where vanished species go. Come to Sanibel and taste "gopher gumbo" before they make their exit from the scene.

I saw also to-day a genuine red-headed "sap-sucker" of the larger variety, holding onto a cabbage palm and investigating its ridgy bark with an inquisitive look; listening with ear intent to the indications of worms beneath. There seemed to be none just there and he soon flew off to more productive localities; but this bird, of the blood-red skull-cap, gave me "quite a start," alighting so near. It was the first I had seen and I did not know they "used" on "Cinnible." The list of home birds scores one, since this red-headed apparition came in view. We now have first, the ubiquitous bazzard, soaring stately in the blue; then, the gentle, genial field, or meadow lark, with its quivering, interval flight, next the red-winged black bird, melodious of throat and going in flocks; then the pretty wren; and now the sprightly fellow of the rustic top-knot. I know no others that are like our home birds among the many varieties that flit over prairie and beach, if I except the hawks, large and small; and the horrid screech owls that make the chills run up and down one's spine, as they utter their diabolic night song and chuckle from roof-top or adjacent cabbage palm. These birds of darkness are my especial abomination. They can rasp for me more nerves at once than anything in nature.

I began this Christmas day, but the multiplied duties of daily life have sorely pressed me, and I have had to write in snatches, till this 9th day of January has crept up upon the finishing lines.

It really is of infinitesimal consequence but to keep poor Emerson, who cannot now speak for himself, from talking nonsense, I will only say for him that his opinion of this day and generation was that it was an "unjust age," not an "inheritance," as your types made it, and as my scrawling chirography, I have no doubt, was in part or entire blame for causing you to make them make it. As for myself, I did not "enjoy" Sam Jones' ability to "rake in" \$150 per diem, but only ignobly "envied" that popular evangelist, when I was trying to make a little money last summer.

Ever in Jesus, GEO. O. BARNES.

DEATHS DOINGS.

—Mr. Daniel O'Sullivan, father of Dan E. O'Sullivan, editor of the Louisville Sunday Critic, is dead, after a long and honorable life.

—The funeral of Thomas M. Carson, of Crab Orchard, whose death is noted by our correspondent at that place, occurred at the Presbyterian church here Wednesday and the interment at Buffalo Spring Cemetery.

—Mrs. Elizabeth T. Smith, wife of Monroe Smith, died Tuesday evening after a long illness in her 70th year. She had been troubled for years with consumption and that dread disease, which with her advanced age, caused her death. She was a good woman and a devout member of Mt. Moriah church, where her remains were laid to rest Wednesday afternoon.

(To the Editor of the Interior Journal.)
CLIFTON, TEXAS, JAN. 18.—Please announce through the JOURNAL the death of Mr. Fielding Helm, which occurred at his home near this place on the 13th inst. He was buried with Masonic honors on the 14th. Mr. Helm was for many years a resident of Lincoln county, Ky., but for the last 18 years has been a highly respected citizen of Bosque county, Texas. He still has many relatives and friends in Kentucky, who will be sadly grieved to learn of his death. Had he lived till the 18th inst. he would have been 71 years old. A good man has gone. Sweet peace may be his rest.
M. G. CASIE.

A Good Cough Syrup.

There is nothing parents should be so careful about as selecting a cough syrup. Bege's Cherry Cough Syrup costs no more than the cheap and inferior nostrums thrown on the market. The best none too good, be sure and get BEGGS' CHERRY COUGH SYRUP. We keep it on hand at all times. A. R. FERRY, Druggist.

DRUNKENNESS—THE LIQUOR HABIT—In all the World there is but one cure, Dr. Haines' Golden Specific.

It can be given in a cup of tea or coffee without the knowledge of the person taking it, effecting a speedy and permanent cure, whether the patient is a moderate drinker or an alcoholic wreck. Thousands of drunkards have been cured who have taken the Golden Specific in their coffee without their knowledge, and to-day believe they quit drinking of their own free will. No harmful effect results from its administration. Cures guaranteed. Send for circular and full particulars. Address in confidence GOLDEN SPECIFIC CO., 125 Race Street, Cincinnati, O.

HUSTONVILLE.

—La Grippe is all the style.
—The public has been misinformed as to the place Mr. D. S. Carpenter is now running his hotel. He does not occupy the Weatherford House, but he will be found in his own property directly opposite the Weatherford Hotel. He is now fully equipped to attend to the wants and comforts of the public and will endeavor to give them entire satisfaction. Give him a call.

—The Wide-Awake Society of the Christian church will give one of the prettiest entertainments as well as cantata, and splendid supper on Friday night, the 31st. The entertainment will be given at the church. Supper at the Weatherford Hotel. Send us a crowd from your place and see how well we will treat them. As this is for a noble cause we trust it will be a success.

—Mr. Harrison, of the firm of Harbison & Caruthers, Lexington, bought of Wm. Doda a bay gelding. He purchased of D. S. Carpenter a roan gelding for \$185. J. J. Allen sold to Mr. Owens a car-load of hogs at 3.30; to Mr. J. Farris a bunch of yearling cattle at 3 1/2 cents. Combust & Allen bought 10 head work mules at \$130 a head; 17 head yearlings \$75. This firm also sold to Dave Allen a pair of 3-year-old broke mules for \$220.
—Miss Claple Drye, of Bradfordville, is visiting Miss Lizzie Drye. Our College now enrolls about 120 pupils and new scholars are daily coming in. We have one of the best schools in the State. Miss Sadie Lillard, niece of Mr. Jas. T. Craig, of Stanford, is now a pupil of the Christian College. Miss Fannie Harper, who is attending Daughters College, was home for a short stay. Mrs. J. D. Carpenter is visiting in Frankfort.

McKINNEY.

—La Grippe is very fashionable in this vicinity now.

—George McKinney reports 156 lambs saved out of 172.

—Prof. Niles opened his spring school here Monday with 16 scholars.

—J. C. Collinsworth, of Middleburg, was here this week and reports a wreck on the Green River R. R. Not much damage and no one seriously injured, but several considerably bruised.

—G. M. Givens sold to John Allen a car-load of hay delivered at Middlesboro at 80 cents per hundred. Wm. Cloyd shipped from here to Atlanta, Ga., Sunday two car loads of extra fine cotton nines.

—Aunt Jennie Goode, who will be 90 years old in April next, suffered a stroke of paralysis a few days ago. We are glad to learn at this writing that she is some better and there is yet hope that she will recover.

—Miss Lydia Lewis, who taught an excellent school here last year, has accepted a position and will go to Florida this week to take charge of a school. We regret very much to lose such an excellent teacher and accomplished lady, but what is our loss is Florida's gain.

—Misses Kate Cox and Mayne Conner, two beautiful young ladies from near Bardstown, who have been visiting the family of Wm. McKinney the past week, have returned home. Miss Louanna Bibb, who has been quite sick for several days is slowly recovering. Anderson Nunnally has been confined to his bed for several days with La Grippe. Our clever and accommodating agent, Bowman Smith, is confined to his bed. Rowman is a good fellow and we hope he will soon be out again.

CHURCH AFFAIRS.

—Rev. George W. Dunlap is writing some interesting letters to the Covington Commonwealth from Sanibel Island.

—Rev. J. R. Sturgis, pastor of a church at Richmond, Va., was suspended for writing an improper letter to a married lady of that city.

—Marshal Field, the great Chicago merchant, has given 10 acres of land, valued at \$100,000, as a site for the Baptist university, which J. D. Rockefeller has endowed with \$600,000.
—Our readers will bear in mind the lecture of Dr. J. E. Gilbert at the Christian church, Saturday night, 25th, the Sunday-school mass meeting at the Baptist church Sunday afternoon at 3 and the union services at the Presbyterian church at night.

—The Conference of the Kentucky Union of Christian Endeavor Societies will be held in Louisville Feb. 7-9. Rev. Dr. Clark, of Boston, founder of the movement, will preside over the meeting. Visiting delegates will be entertained and are requested to send their names at once to Hal T. Jefferson, 101 West Main street, Louisville.

—Revs. Evans & Hopper, Synodical Evangelists, closed a meeting of considerable interest Sunday night last at Elizaville, Fleming county. There were 16 additions to the church, a young men's meeting organized and over \$40 raised for the evangelistic work. These brethren have an appointment to assist Rev. W. W. Bruce at Hustonville, beginning next Saturday night, the 25th inst.

CRAB ORCHARD.

—A number of our redundant youths went to Middlesboro this week to help on the works of that booming city.

—Dominoes is the popular game here now. Old and young, male and female, play it and there is talk of organizing a regular club.

—Rumor of a fashionable wedding is afloat on the current of society gossip. One of our handsomest young ladies is to be the bride.

—We are in receipt of a copy of the Middlesboro News, edited by our old friend, Geo. H. Davins, of Barbourville, and T. H. Arnold. It is a daisy and fairly bristles with the achievements and possibilities of that progressive city.

—There are more on the sick list here this week than ever known before at one time. Col. John Buchanan, Dr. W. M. Doores, Dr. Pettus and wife, J. A. Newland, Capt. F. W. Dillion and several others are suffering with pneumonia, la grippe, &c.

—The small boy is evidently in hard luck this year, the C. O. small boy especially. He can't jump on and off trains; no base ball for him on the streets; no circus in sight and the legislature forbids anybody to sell or give him cigarettes. How will he let us know he is almost a man?

—Prof. James Rice, who was principal of the high school here several years ago has since his residence abroad become a Baptist minister. Sunday he preached here to a house crowded with friends and acquaintances, delivering a most excellent sermon. Possessed of a talent for theology and gifted with more than an ordinary share of natural oratory, we prophesied long ago that he would one day ornament the pulpit and we have not been mistaken. He wears his "Rev." most gracefully.

—Mrs. Joe Rhinehart has joined her husband, who is engaged in clerking at Pineville. D. S. Young, of Highland, is "plugging" at the depot. Miss Birdie Bustin is visiting at A. H. Bastin's. J. B. McDougal, of the leaf tobacco firm of Liggett & Myers, St. Louis, with his handsome wife, is stopping for a few days at the Harris House. Hon. Samuel Ward, that jolly bulk of Rockcastle republicanism, is here visiting his father, Mr. James Miller, of Lewisburg, on his way to the mountains, where he will embark in the lumber business, stopped over here Sunday to see his wife and pretty baby girl. Dr. A. M. Egbert has gone to Pineville on a business trip.

—Of consumption, which had been preying at his vitals for years, Thomas M. Carson, son of the late Judge Ransom Carson, died at his home at 6 o'clock A. M. Tuesday morning. He was 24 years of age and unmarried. Kind, generous, warm-hearted and genial, he was a favorite with all who knew him intimately and many an eye amid the circle in which he moved will congregate with tears when his handsome yet delicate figure is known no more. For several days prior to his death he was unconscious, called his mother, sister and friends around him and told them that he was dying and not to weep; but strive to meet him in that glorious spirit land above. The remains were taken to Stanford to be interred in the family lot. To the bereaved ones our sympathy and the sympathy of the entire community is extended.

LANCASTER, GARRARD COUNTY.

—R. E. McRoberts went to La Grange Wednesday night to visit the sick wife of his brother, Charley. James Hemphill is off on a business trip for the Mill & Elevator Co.

—John Young, the negro who was jailed last week for trying to get into the house of Mrs. Durant, was liberated on Monday evening, there being no charge sufficient to hold him.

—The court of claims met Monday and fixed the county levy at 17 1/2 cts., which added to the State levy makes our taxes for 1890 65 cents on the \$100's worth of property. The amount of taxable property of Garrard county as shown by the assessor's list amounts to \$4,190,659.

—James Adams, of Camp Robinson neighborhood, entertained the young people Thursday evening. Misses George and Tommie Moore assisted Mr. Adams in entertaining, which is a guarantee that the affair was a pleasant one. The Lancaster String Band was on hand and merry feet kept time to the music till the wee sma' hours.

—The postoffice appointment for this place has hung fire from some cause. It has been generally conceded from the first that the appointment would be given Miss Ella Watson and no particular fight was made against her till the 11th hour, which we consider very unjust to the young lady. If there was any objection to her appointment, why was the fight not made from the beginning and not delayed until she had been recommended for a commission? Gen. Landrum was telegraphed Monday by the department that he could get the office if he desired. He answered by wire declining and received another dispatch urging him to accept the place.

STAGG & McROBERTS

Successors to Bruce & McRoberts,

Desire to announce to the public that they are now ready for business at their new stand, recently vacated by Owsley & Craig, cor. Main and Lancaster streets, and ask a share of your patronage. They keep constantly on hand a full and complete stock of

Gents' Furnishing Goods, Boots, Shoes,

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LARGE SUPPLY OF CLOTHING.

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Stock of Overcoats is Very Large,

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Dry Goods, Boots and Shoes, Fancy Groceries, Queensware, Glassware, Tinware, Wooden and Willowware, &c.

Next door to Portman House.

NOTICE!

Having purchased the interest of Mr. Stagg, I will conduct the business at the old stand, where I shall be pleased to supply the wants of all former and new patrons from a

Full Stock of Drugs

Paints, Oils, School Books, Wall Paper, Jewelry and Silverware at low prices, for first-class goods. I have a good Jeweler, ready to do watch and jewelry repairs in the best workman-like style. Very respectfully,

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KEET'S SPECIFIC cures all blood diseases, such as Scrofula, Ulcers, Pimples, Ulcerated Throat, White Swelling, Syphilitic diseases in all its stages, Necrosis, &c. Price \$1 per bottle.
HAVIS' IRON BITTERS is the most pleasant to take of all the Iron tonics. It cures Dyspepsia, it gives a keen appetite, enriches the blood, regulates the liver and imparts new energy to the muscles and nervous system. Price \$1 per bottle.
GATLIFF'S WORM SYRUP is made of the best worm killers and expellers known to the medical profession and therefore recommends itself. It is pleasant to take, safe and reliable. Price 25 cents per bottle.
GATLIFF'S MAGNETIC PILLS for all Liver Complaints, Impaired Digestion, Sick Headache, &c. Acts as cathartic. Price 25 cents per box. Manufactured and for sale to the trade by the

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Will keep constantly on hand a large and select line of Furniture and Undertaker's Goods. My prices will be as low as such goods can be bought in the cities. Give me a trial and you will be convinced that I sell lower than the lowest.