THE OCALA BANNER.

FRANK HARRIS, Editor.

LOCAL DISPENSARY BILL.

Two state dispensary bills have been introduced in the Florida legislature, but what progress they are making we have not been able to ascertain.

For fear either of these bills will fail of enactment, and believing it is easier to pass local bills than general ones, a number of the most prominent citizens of Ocala of both sexes have interested themselves in framing a local dispensary bill and have forwarded the same to Hon. W. K. Zewadski for introduction.

The bill is fashioned somewhat after the South Carolina law, puts the sale of liquors under the control of a commission, prescribes that the sales shall be in sealed packages and not less than one pint sold to any one person and the same not to be drunk on the premises, that the dispensaries must close at six o'clock, they are not to be kept open on any election day, or the day preceding and the day following an election, nor are they to be open on Sundays. One half of the revenue derived from the sales is to go into the school treasury.

With some modifications the bill ought to become a very popular one.

Its promoters have made a thorough canvass of the measure and say the sentiment is very strong in its favor.

In some towns in Alabama and some other states these local dispensary laws are in operation, and the results are said to be in every way satisfactory, and are becoming more and more populrar wherever tried.

Growth of Divorces in the United States.

In 1870 3½ per cent. of all marriages in the United States ended in divorce courts. In 1881 the percentage had risen to 4.8. In 1890 it was 6.2, and in 1900 it was 8 per cent. In other words, the percentage of divorces to marriages in this country has more than doubled since 1870.

The total number of divorced in the United States for a given year was 23,427. During the same year 20,111 divorces were granted in all the world outside of the United States. There was an excess of 3361 divorces in this country as compared with the remainder of the world. Of foreign countries the smallest number of divorces in the given year was in Canada, where only 12 were granted. Next to the largest number was in France, with 6245 in the year. Germany was a close second with only one hundred less.

From a religious standpoint there are about 63 divorces to every 100,000 Catholics, while divorces for the same total among Protestants are 283.

More than 40 per cent of all divorces granted in the United States is on the ground of desertion, and divorces are five times as frequent in the city as in the country districts.

Mr. Thomas K. Spencer one of the oldest and most prominent citizens of Tampa, died Monday afternoon. In the early days he was printer and journalist; was a soldier in the civil war, eight years sheriff, and was port collector under President Cleveland.

Science has found that rheumatism is caused by uric acid in the blood. This poison should be execrated by the kidneys. No rheumatism with healthy kidneys. Foley's Kidney Cure always makes them well. Anti-Monopoly Drug Store. m

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The Rev. Dr. Parkhurst complains that he is not treated well by the newspapers. This is base ingratitude coming as it does from a man who has received more free advertising than any man in America.—Atlanta Journal.

The young man who wants to marry happily should pick out a good mother and marry one of her daughters—any one will do said the late Phil Armour. That's right. There's nothing in this world so good as a good mother.

The Nashville Banner says Texas is intoxicated with oil. If it had been generally known that it was that sort of oil the state couldn't have held the prospectors by this time.—Atlanta Journal.

Pneumonia follows la grippe, but never follows the use of Foley's Honey and Tar, the great throat and lung remedy. Anti-Monopoly Drug Store. m

JACKSONVILLE'S GREAT FIRE.

Florida's beautiful metropolis was swept almost out of existence by a cyclone of fire last Friday.

The rapidity with which the flames spread and the amount of damage done in so short a time beat all records.

The fire originated from a spark falling on the moss drying shed of Cleveland's fiber factory at 12:30, p. m., and in exactly seven hours from that time nearly the whole city were only smoking embers.

Some idea of the intenseness of the heat may be gathered from the fact that the Gardner building, supposed to have been fire-proof, and one of the biggest buildings in the city, was just eleven minutes in burning.

Smaller buildings were consumed almost in the twinkling of an eye.

Trunks taken from the hotels and placed in the middle of Hemming park were dried to a powder without ever igniting and snakes along the river wharves were burned to death before they could swim out into the stream.

The fairest portion of the city was laid waste.

The Windsor, St. James, Placide, United States, Albemarle and other hotels were destroyed; every church in the city, save one, met a like fate, and the convent and schools were all consumed.

One hundred and forty blocks are in ashes.

The loss is estimated to exceed fifteen millions; ten thousand people are left homeless; many destitute, and five were discovered to have perished in the flames, among whom was Col. Harry D. Bonnetheau, one of the most popular men in the city.

The people of the country did not wait for an appeal for help before donating money and supplies to relieve immediate wants.

Governor Jennings at once wired $20,000 as the state's contribution, and the mayors, aldermen and boards of trade in many towns of the state quickly followed the example, and many individual subscriptions were wired to the proper authorities, Mr. Flagler heading the list with $5,000 and $5,000 more if necessary; New York immediately started a $20,000 supply train, Atlanta, Savannah, Tampa, and other cities are doing likewise on a smaller scale.

Ocala sent in a contribution approaching seven hundred dollars, and this liberality is only a fair index to that shown in all parts of the country.

The brave hearted citizens of Jacksonville are not discouraged, and on the old ruins will build a more substantial, beautiful and enduring city than the one just sacrificed to the god of flames.

The Gardner building will be immediately reerected and will be an eight instead of a six story building as before. The proprietors of the Windsor will build a handsomer hotel than the one destroyed. The Metropolis will be housed in a four-story building. The Hubbard, Baldwin, and other buildings will be at once rebuilt. Mr. C. O. Livingston who lost ten buildings, estimated to be worth $80,000 without a cent of insurance, has already begun rebuilding, and his example will set the pace and be followed by others, and in a fortnight Jacksonville will be the city of the greatest activity in the south.

God bless and prosper her brave hearted people.

The New Ground for Divorce.

Our legislature now in session has enacted a law, which has been approved by the governor, that four years of incurable insanity shall be a ground for divorce.

The law is based on common sense; it is equitable, just and right, and during the earlier stages of the passage of the bill it gave almost universal satisfaction.

The living and the healthy have rights, or should have under the law, as well as the diseased and the dying.

Marriage is a civil contract, and where one of the parties thereto, from any cause, fail to carry out their portion thereof, the contract is equitably null and void as to the other party thereto.

But about the time the bill passed both houses of the legislature some one happened to remember that Flagler's wife was demented and for many years has been an inmate of an asylum for the insane.

It would seem, from a christian point of view, that such an affliction would have gained for Mr. Flagler the sympathy and commiseration of all our people.

But not so. It was a case in which political claptrap would play a part. It was a case in which, by disregarding truth and trampling under foot the finer sensibilities of the soul, men who for years had lain on the ocean bed of obscurity could rise to the surface and blow like whales.

Every artifice that diabolical ingenuity could suggest has been resorted to by Cheap-John politicians to belittle this act of the legislature and to blacken Mr. Flagler's name and fame.

Pressure was brought to bear on the governor to induce him to veto the law, but fortunately for Florida the governor knew the pigmies by whom he was assailed and approved the measure.

Those ten-cent-a-bunch politicians exhibited their woeful ignorance of the Bible, its teachings and phraseology, by quoting in unison, "what God hath joined together let no man put asunder," and applying it to this law.

To ascribe to God Almighty all the marriages that occur in the country is a libel on the character of Jehovah and is a pitiful exhibition of ignorance of the teaching of Scripture.

But the capital stock in trade of these defamers of private character was, and is, that to make a physical infirmity a ground for divorce is sacreligious and outrageous.

If these pious (?) souls are so shocked because physical infirmity is a ground for divorce, why have they remained silent so long in regard to the laws on this subject which have been on our statute book for years?

The second ground for divorce as laid down on our statute book is impotence, which is a physical infirmity.

The fifth ground is a violent temper, which is a mental infirmity.

The sixth ground is drunkenness, which is a mental and physical disease.

These have been grounds of divorce for years, but not a word has been said against them, but these one-horse politicians in their extreme desire to injure a prominent citizen of the state will seize on anything as a pretext.

But their object is too apparent, their knowledge of the Bible too small and their vaporings too transparent for anyone to be deceived thereby.—Jno. M. Caldwell in Lake City Index.

Senator McLaurin's friends must at least admit that it is a queer sort of democracy that meets with the hearty indorsement and encouragement of a republican administration.—Atlanta Journal.

Cough, Cough,

Night and day, until the strength is entirely exhausted, and that dreaded word "*Consumption*" begins to be whispered among friends. That's a common story, familiar to the people of every town and village.

There's another story which ought to be as widely known as the story of disease, and that is the story of the cures effected by the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. Bronchitis, asthma, obstinate, deep-seated coughs, bleeding of the lungs, and other forms of disease which affect the respiratory organs, are permanently cured by the use of "Golden Medical Discovery."

"Only for Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery I think I would be in my grave to-day," writes Mr. Moses Miles, of Hilliard, Uinta Co., Wyoming. "I had asthma so bad I could not sleep at night and was compelled to give up work. It affected my lungs so that I coughed all the time, both night and day. My friends all thought I had consumption. My wife insisted on my trying Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery—which I did. I have taken four bottles and am now a well man, weighing 185 pounds, thanks to Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery."

Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser is sent *free* on receipt of stamps to pay expense of mailing *only*. Send 21 one-cent stamps for book in paper covers or 31 stamps for cloth-bound. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

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Cures Gonorrhoea and Gleet in one to four days. Its action is magical. Prevents stricture. All complete. To be carried in vest pocket. Sure preventative. Sent by mail in plain package, prepaid, on receipt of price. $1 per box, three for $2.50. Anti-Monopoly Drug Store, Ocala, Fla.

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To grow strong. Unless we get good meat we may as well let it alone. There is no strength in tough meat—instead of giving, it takes strength to digest it. It pays to be careful in buying meat—be sure to get the best—tender and choice. Pay a little more if need be and put something in your stomach which will put flesh on your bones and strong blood in your heart.

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My $2.00 Rye or Bourbon at	$1.75	My $4.00 Gin at	[illegible]
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My 3.00 " "	2.50	My 2.50 " " M't'n Dew Corn at	[illegible]
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I sell more whiskey and better whiskey than any house in Florida, because I give good [illegible] est goods and full measure.

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