

# THE CHARLESTON EXPOSITION.

*To the Editor of The New York Times:*

I can bear witness to the truth of the account given by Congressman Scott of Kansas of the state of things at the Charleston Exposition. I was there for a week last Winter, up to the day when the President was first expected, and had intended to write to you about my experience there, but on second thought I desisted, through an unwillingness to do anything which might keep others from going to Charleston. Now that the facts have appeared in print and the close of the exposition is near at hand, I will state what I consider a very prominent cause of the meagre support which has been given to this very commendable and deserving enterprise.

As Mr. Scott states, there was not anything like a crowd on the grounds during the week I was there. The hotels had ample accommodations for all; the streets showed no unusual influx, and, judging from the register at the Hotel St. John, the visitors were principally from near-by towns. At my first dinner I was about to call for a wine card when, upon glancing around the dining room, I was struck by the total absence of any bottles on any of the tables. Even then the reason did not occur to me; but not to appear singular, I ate my dinner without my usual modest glass of vin rouge. It was only when, later on, I became unpleasantly affected by the Charleston drinking water and tried to get a little eau de vie as a corrective, I was called to realize that I was in a Prohibition State.

After considerable delay I found a branch "dispensary" on another street about a mile from my hotel, and thus "saved my life." Now, it is my view that people who visit the expositions and constitute the bulk of the patronage thereof are people of means, accustomed to travel, who are in the habit of taking wine at dinner, even though they may drink nothing but water at other times, and they will not flock to a place where they are deprived of their ordinary comforts.

As to the prospects at St. Louis, (to which you allude in your issue of to-day,) you need fear nothing on this issue we are considering. St. Louis is by no means a "dry" town! Success to her and to her patriotic enterprise.

A. E. LEWIS.

Milford, Penn., May 12, 1902.

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