Newspapers

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George W. Vanderbilt

The Citizen may truly state that no individual death which has occurred in this section in recent years was a greater loss than is the passing of George W. Vanderbilt at Washington yesterday under the most regrettable circumstances, for, as we count the span of years, Mr. Vanderbilt was a young man, being only in his fiftysecond year. We say his death is a distinct loss because no man identified with Western North Carolina has done more to bring it prominently before the rest of the world. It is true that the deceased millionaire had the means wherewith to accomplish much, as he did accomplish much, but he had the will and the earnest desire to do so, and not many men of great wealth have turned their millions into wuch useful channels.

George W. Vanderbilt belonged to a class which did not bring him into contact with the everyday walks of life, and therefore his personal characteristics were not generally known But this fact could not hide the knowledge that he possessed great generosity of heart and with the means wherewith he was blessed engaged in much charitable work. He at all times evinced a profound interest in the welfare of the industrial classes which came under his immediate attention, and this is surely emphasized by the splendid monument he leaves behind him in the Biltmore estate. Of him it may be truly said that he turned the wilderness into a paradise and made waste places bloom, He brought into this section a knowledge of farming that made it a science, and he inspired the tiller of the soil in Western North Carolina to better and more modern WAVE

Well has it been said that "the good that men do lives after them," and the good work which Mr. Vanderbilt achieved in these mountains will remain as an inspiration to the people and as indisputable testimony to the fact that great wealth can be profitably employed along the lines of popular uplift.

No one can tell now what the future contains for the great estate and the useful industries which Mr. Vanderbilt leaves behind. It may be that it will be left intact, continuing its direct benefits to this community, but whatever developments may follow. certain it is that the big-hearted mil-Honaire was one of the chief means to the end of placing Western North Carolina on the map of the United States.