

THE BLOWERS' WETMORE CONTROVERSY.

The letter from Mr. Blowers' which appears in another column, was received on the 6th inst., and but for the long report of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trade and other important articles, would have appeared last week. As it was we had to add four pages to our usual number. Knowing that the storm was interfering with mail communication with the southern counties, and our friend Mr. Wetmore being some 600 or more miles from the city, we judged it proper to send him a manuscript copy in advance of what we were going to publish, knowing that it was almost impossible that Mr. Wetmore could receive Friday's paper in time for him to make a reply the following week. As circumstances ruled, Mr. Blowers' article did not appear and Mr. Wetmore has been able to put his reply before the public in the same issue as the attack upon his character. But even now this has only been done at the cost of writing a long communication. One word more: Charles A. Wetmore has rendered services to this State which can hardly be counted in money, unless we run up into millions, and every leading viticulturist in the State freely acknowledges this. Moreover, he is the Editor's warm, personal friend and has been from the day he left college. We will not permit any man to impugn the character of Charles A. Wetmore by use of the MERCHANT'S type without giving him the earliest possible opportunity of defending himself. Mr. Blowers' has won considerable reputation as a raisin maker, but Mr. Wetmore simply did his duty in giving his opinion as the Chief Executive Viticultural Officer on the methods of growing and making raisins. Mr. Blowers took umbrage thereat and was the first to introduce personalities into what should have been a friendly discussion. We gave Mr. Blowers his opportunity of reply and he used it without scruple. In Mr. Wetmore's answer there was not one word implying anything but honorable motives to Mr. Blowers. To-day there are personalities on both sides and the controversy has gone beyond the power of the Editor to control it except by shutting out both, and that extreme course we have hesitated to take.—EDITOR S. F. MERCHANT.

MR. WETMORE ANSWERS MR. BLOWERS WITHOUT GLOVES.

[TELEGRAPHED BY WESTERN UNION WIRE.]
 SAN DIEGO, Cal., February 13, 1884.
 EDITOR MERCHANT.—Your courtesy in affording me the opportunity to reply to a personal attack made this week by Mr. Blowers is duly appreciated. Mail communications, however, have been temporarily delayed, and I am forced to talk by telegraph; I hope no errors may occur in transmission.
 I shall address myself first to the insinuations so cowardly made by Mr. Blowers, intimating that I have used official position and State funds to advertise personal interests. This is, however, a matter for the State Board to investigate. The attack is so wantonly malicious and false, that it can not be passed by quietly; therefore I intend to call for an investigation. If he had used his words as any honest and brave man would have done, I should have given him an opportunity to display his cunning in a court of justice. I shall not attempt to dispute details of fact regarding San Diego county with him. He is determined not to tell the truth, and appears to desire to injure me through my private business interests. Two weeks ago I was informed that

he had threatened, in case I should continue to disagree with him as to the proper method of cultivating and curing raisin grapes, that he would publish my private business correspondence, in which I had offered him a share in the profits of managing the El Cajon Co.'s land, and also that he would publish that I had realized a profit in selling the Esccondido ranch. He has evidently known me a long time without becoming well acquainted, as I wrote him recently authorizing him to publish my letters. I do not see what my private real-estate business has to do with the question of curing raisins in the sun or drying them artificially, but, nevertheless, Mr. Blowers has imagined that there was some connection, so I must, in justice to San Diego county, which he attacks over my head, make some reply.

In the first place, Mr. Blowers did not decline to take an interest in the Esccondido ranch, as he states, but told me that if I could wait until he had sold a large tract of land in Yolo county in which he was interested, he would go to San Diego and see the land. He said that two of his friends, Mr. Brownell and Mr. Ladd, had just sold a large tract of land near El Paso Robles and that as soon as his Yolo lands were sold he would go with them to seek some large investment, which would probably be managed in his name. He said, also, that he had been negotiating with the railroad company for a large tract of cheap land in Shasta county. I informed him that I could not wait for him, that I was limited in time by my contract, but if I got any other favorable opportunity for him, I would tell him know. As to my making a profit in selling the Esccondido, there is no secret whatever; I did make a good commission. The owners of the ranch paid it willingly, and the purchasers are all satisfied that they bought their land for less than one-half its real value. I am anxious to make another transaction of the same kind as soon as possible, and I should do so without any fear of publication of the facts.

Mr. Blowers is, however, more malicious and ungentlemanly in his reference to the Cajon lands. The facts are these: The property of the Company, fully worth half a million dollars, was owned by a gentleman in ill health, who proposed to Mr. George West and myself that if we would share equally in expenses and manage the business, we should share equally in all profits over the contract price of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. This gentleman desired, also, that we should secure the co-operation of Mr. Blowers, on account of his reputation as a raisin maker. I told him that for such purpose I preferred other parties, but that if he desired to have Mr. Blowers to act, he should offer him a share of the profits worthy of his reputation, and, to avoid any reasons for refusal, we should guarantee to carry his interest without expense to him. I therefore wrote to him, asking him to examine the property, and if he could, after careful inspection, conscientiously recommend it and act as president of the company, that we would give him, after all the debts were paid, an interest in the profits that would be equal, probably, to one thousand acres of land of average quality, valued at, at least, ten thousand dollars. He came to San Diego and spent three days with me, examining the Cajon and Esccondido valleys, and Mr. Brownell accompanied us. We naturally differed in opinion as to the best location for raisin vineyards. Mr. Blowers preferred the alluvial bottom lands, of which he saw many

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