

**"Powell" Last Saturday Night.**  
On last Saturday night at the Opera House, "Powell, the Prestidigitator," held the boards. The people of Wilson have never been treated to a better performance than the one given by him.

It was as good, and perhaps superior to the average show of the kind, and deserved a much better audience than was present, but it is an established fact that Wilson is no town for a Saturday night show.

From the different tricks he performed it could be seen that the magician was well up in his business.

The greatest trick performed by him was entitled "Double Rapid Transit," its equal has never been performed on our stage. Two large trunks were put upon the stage, and two of our citizens were requested to come forward and examine them. They did so and found that they were from all appearances like the average trunk. A large sack was produced, into which a man was put, the tops tied and sealed. The sack and its contents was then put in the smaller trunk which was locked at both ends by the committee. The small trunk was then placed in the larger one which was in turn locked as the first had been. At this point there was a man in the sack, the sack in a small trunk and that in a larger one, the last having been securely wrapped on all sides with a strong rope. This was then placed in a cabinet commonly used in spiritualism. A young lady then appeared and Powell informed those present that in five seconds from the time the cabinet was closed, the young lady would be substituted for the young man. Of course every one thought it a fake, but in the time stipulated the curtains was parted and out stepped the one whom everybody supposed was resting in the bottom of the trunk. The trunks were then unlocked and the seal on the bag was found intact, the string was cut and out stepped the young lady. It was truly a wonderful trick, and as one of our young men expressed it, "I wouldn't trust that man in a bank with a million dollars in the safe if it had forty thousand combinations on it."

The sugar-coating, which makes Ayer's Pills so easy to take, dissolves immediately on reaching the stomach, and so permits the full strength and benefit of the medicine to be promptly communicated. Ask your druggist for Ayer's Almanac, just out.

**The Education Question.**

The supremest need of the state is to better and improve its public schools. And what we need is real remedy, not a scheme of destruction. It is unfair and unfortunate that it has been sought to confound the University and the state schools with this question. The University is the logical head of the public school system. It founded them in the past, it has supplied and is supplying them with teachers, without which they would be useless and it has always been foremost in working and pleading for them.

Its destruction would not add a day and a half to their length of term, but would deprive hundreds of poor boys of the opportunity of making men of themselves for the state's sake.

Let us have a real plan for the common schools, not destructive and foolish as would be a scheme to abolish the supreme court and distribute the money among the justices of the peace, but some system of local taxation supplemented by the state tax which would give us in time good schools everywhere.

What we need is to strengthen both the University and the public schools. The state spends \$835,000 for its public schools and \$20,000 for its University. This is the smallest

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sum given by any state to its university. The tax for it comes entirely from property. No man who pays poll tax only pays anything to it and the average property holder pays only a few cents each year. The men of wealth really support it and yet its halls are thronged with poor boys who could not get an education elsewhere. Let no backward steps be taken.—Winston Republican.

**Original Observations.**

A stitch in time saves many yards of thread.

No words of slander ever fell from a wagon tongue.

Nature puts up many parcels, but few contain prizes.

The cabbage head never suffers with the brain fever.

They never stop slaying even on bear ground in Wall street.

A bill deferred until to-morrow often drives a man to borrow.

A wood stove is not made of wood, neither is a sponge cake made of sponges.

A religion that could adapt itself to all kinds of business would find many votaries.

The cod-liver oil industry is said to be languishing. Another case of over production and lack of consumption.

If man feared the displeasure of God as much as he does that of his fellowman, the paths of sin would need mowing.—Orange (Va.) Observer.

**Blind Man, Groom; Pretty Girl, Bride.**

Weldon is the scene of many Gretna Green affairs, but the one that takes the rag off the bush was that of a blind man who ran away with a pretty girl to have the nuptial knot tied here. The contracting parties were Mr. A. M. Garder and Miss Hattie L. Andrews, both of Manchester, Va. They arrived here on the noon train Friday and after some delay in obtaining the necessary papers, they were united in the holy bonds by Rev. P. N. Stainback, who usually officiates on such occasions.

Mr. Garder is totally blind and is the organist of a Presbyterian church at Manchester. The bride is quite pretty, very young, apparently about 16 years old. She has been acting as a sort of guide for the blind organist for some time, and their friendship ripened into love. The little bride stated that there was no objection to her union at home, but that owing to her tender age they could not get a license in Virginia.—Weldon News.

**Served the Same Purpose.**

Mr. Cleveland is too kindly disposed to Ambassador Bayard to rebuke him for talking in England, but he served the same purpose by approving a change in the diplomatic regulations which forbade diplomatic officials from political discussions in public.—Springfield Union.

**Long has Accepted It.**

A private telegram from Boston, received this afternoon by a prominent New England Senator, announced authoritatively that ex-Gov. Long of Massachusetts has been tendered and has accepted the Secretaryship of the Navy.—Post.

The London Times has a dispatch from Hong Kong saying that an American Methodist mission station about 50 miles from Foo-Choo, in the province of Foh-Kien, has been attacked by a mob. A number of shots were fired, but none of the inmates of the station were injured. The local officials defended the mission.

Smithfield Herald: Robert N. Dixon, of Chatham county was placed in jail in Raleigh last week charged with postoffice robbing. He is only 16 years old. He has already served a term of eight months in the workhouse for crime

**FROM CURRITUCK TO CHEROKEE.**

**REVIEW OF RECENT HAPPENINGS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.**

There are 3,014 white and 1,304 colored children in Onslow county between the age of six and twenty-one.

Legislator Whedbee, of Hertford, is said to have in preparation a bill in this State, similar to that in South Carolina, with the objectionable features of the South Carolina plan eliminated.

Mr. B. F. Tillery, of Tillery failed in business last week and his store is closed. Mr. Tillery had built up a large business in Tillery and Roanoke Rapids, and his trade was the while increasing. His embarrassment came by reason of his inability to realize any ready cash on his estate as security.

The Loan and Savings Bank of Charlotte will close up its affairs and go out of business. This was decided at a meeting of the stock holders held on January 12. The bank is perfectly solvent, and will pay all its depositions in full and the stock holders expect to realize par on their stock. The capital stock is \$150,000.

Asheville, Jan. 13.—E. I. Holmes, a prominent citizen of Asheville, and a native of South Carolina, shot himself this afternoon with a pistol, behind the right ear, with intent to suicide. He is still living, but it is thought will die before morning. He was secretary and treasurer of the Asheville Club and treasurer of about all the benefit orders of the city. Financial troubles the cause.—Ex.

On Friday last Dr. T. B. Wolfe's one year old child fell into the fire and was badly burned about the head and face. It seems that Mrs. Wolfe left the room for a few minutes, leaving the child and its sister, aged about three years, at play on the floor, and on her return she found the little girl pulling the baby out of the fire. The little girl, while too young to tell just how it happened, had sense enough to rescue the baby from what would have been a most awful death.—Roanoke Beacon.

Just before Christmas a telegram was sent from High Point to Mrs. J. D. Horney, of Maxton, stating that her mother was expected to die that night, and for her to come immediately. The message came one morning and the next evening she sent one of her boys to the express office with a package, and the telegram was then sent to Mrs. Horney. The next morning Mrs. Horney entered suit against the Western Union Telegraph Company for damages. How much she will claim we are unable to say, but some one should be made to suffer for such neglect.

COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 18.—The National Miners' convention Saturday elected Michael Ratchford, of Massillon, O., president of the organization. He received 128 votes to 17 for Patrick McBryde and 2 for Alexander Johnson. John Kane, editor of the Mine Workers' Journal, of this city, was elected vice president, and W. C. Pearce re-elected secretary and treasurer.

Valuable Discovery for Physicians. LONDON, Jan. 18.—A dispatch from Vienna to The Chronicle says that Professor Friedrich, of Elbing, has notified the Vienna assembly of his discovery of a new kind of Roentgen rays, which will infallibly determine in a subject whether death or a coma has intervened.

**THE DREADED CONSUMPTION CAN BE CURED.**

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