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Subscription price of the Weekly Star is as follows: Single Copy 1 year, postage paid, \$1.00; 6 months, 60 cents; 3 months, 35 cents; Single Copy 5 cents.

VERY IMPORTANT

During the past two months bills have been mailed to about sixteen hundred subscribers to the WEEKLY STAR. The aggregate amount due on these bills was very large, but the aggregate amount thus far paid is comparatively small.

It is hoped every subscriber in arrears will read this notice, and that he will forward the amount due us at once.

It is unjust to the proprietor to read his newspaper without paying for it—fully as much so as for the proprietor of the paper to eat the farmer's chickens and eggs and then fail or refuse to remunerate him.

HARD TIMES AND THE RAILROADS.

The railroads of the country have seriously felt the nip of the hard times, so much so that about seventy of them, and among them some of the greatest systems in the country, have gone into the hands of receivers.

While it is recognized that the decline in business was the immediate cause of the embarrassment of these roads, it does not follow that they did not do business enough to pay current expenses, but the fact is that most of the large railroad systems of the country carry heavy bonded debts, the interest on which must be met or they are in trouble.

MINOR MENTION.

At the caucus of the Democratic members of the House of Representatives Friday night, two resolutions offered by Speaker Crisp, were adopted by acclamation.

RIVER AND MARINE.

The new Pilot Chart of the North Carolina coast, issued from the U. S. Hydrographic office, advanced sheets of which have been received by the STAR, shows many improvements, among which are the following:

Among the dangerous obstructions to navigation along the coast are these—On Outer Diamond Shoal, S. 3/4 E. from Cape Hatteras Light; Sunken wreck, with hull and masts, bearing NE. 1/4 E. 3/4 miles; Wreck sunk in 16 fathoms, with one mast showing.

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STOPPAGE OF SO MANY INDUSTRIES

The stoppage of so many industries has gotten rid of much of the old surplus stocks that were on hand, and leaves the establishments which start up clean-handed and free to calculate on probable future demands and supplies.

The financial question will be either definitely settled, or very materially improved, and that will be another element of uncertainty removed.

Both of these were potent factors in bringing about the derangements in business and the finances, from which the country has suffered and is still suffering so acutely.

When the revival begins there will be a revival in railroad building, and when it begins we believe the South will be the first to feel it, for the double reason that she felt less and stood the shock better than other sections, is now in better shape than other sections, and has more inherent recuperative power than any of them.

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THE POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT

The Postoffice Department, with a commendable desire to curb the linguistic fancy of the cowboy has decided that, henceforth, new towns which desire to have postoffices established must have decent, respectable names that may be pronounced in civilized society.

MORE ABOUT COTTON.

Figures to Show That There Will Be a Smaller Crop Than is Generally Expected.

NEW YORK, Jan. 8.—Atwood Violett & Co. say: About two weeks ago we estimated the amount to come into sight by the end of December, 5,600,000 bales; the exact figures, according to the New Orleans Cotton Exchange, are 5,400,000.

It is what is to come into sight from Jan. 1 to Sept. 1 that is now worrying the high crop estimators. The planter has insisted this year upon making, perhaps 500,000 less than their minimum estimate of Dec. 24, and while it is a great pity that the South cannot accommodate estimates, they will have to stand it.

Our San Antonio telegram to-day says that eighteen of the largest towns in that section show stocks of 9,000, against 11,000 last year. The movement and the stocks of twelve months ago were unusually small, and to fall even under these figures shows a condition of things, if it applies to the whole State, which confirms the smaller estimates from there.

We have, through thick and thin, stonied a tendency to over-optimism, and though the movement for some time has shaken the faith of many as to these impressions, and at the same time made us doubt, temporarily, the existence of a small production this season.

The circular of E. E. Glenny & Co. says: The upward tendency of prices appears to be caused by an anticipation of an early falling off in receipts and a certain amount of speculation which has remained dormant of late, terms to have entered the market within the past few days, but each advance brings out sellers of long cotton, and the demand is freely met on all strong markets.

McElroy & Co.'s circular says: The new year has opened with 5,400,000 bales in sight. The trade, looking back over the experience of a number of years past, and the market with the past few days, but each advance brings out sellers of long cotton, and the demand is freely met on all strong markets.

Whether these reports are true or not, the general conviction that the movement will show a decided decrease will undoubtedly have a tendency to depress all who are able to hold back what they can and in this way bring about a decidedly smaller movement for a couple of weeks to come.

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THE NEW BUILDING OF THE FAYETTEVILLE KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

Of the new building of the Fayetteville Knights of Pythias, the opening of which was celebrated last Tuesday night, the Observer gives this description: As many of our readers know, our prosperous has been this order in our community that they undertook, last summer, to build a house of their own.

This has just been completed, at a cost of \$13,000, and is in truth an ornament to the city. It stands on the southwestern corner of the Market Square, and so overlooks the site of the old State House, where the General Assembly of North Carolina adopted the Constitution of the United States in 1789.

It has three lofty stories, which are crowned by a castellated cornice, thus making a conjunction with a turret at the corner of similar construction, a most effective skyline. There are three fine stories on the first floor, occupied respectively by Messrs. K. Lewald, C. H. Callais, and C. M. Watson. These face to the north. The second floor is approached from the Gillis street side, which may be taken as a lobby, from which eight handsome offices, chiefly fronting on the Square, are reached by a fine staircase.

The main one of these, lighted by the great window on the Square that forms such an important feature in the Northern facade, is occupied by the Hon. J. M. Mayor Cook, who is to a prominent member of the order. A row of convenient closets, one for each office, completes the second floor. The entire third floor is reserved for the use of Cumberland Lodge. There is the great hall, or meeting room itself, loftily pitched and splendidly lighted; then a banquet hall, which may be thrown into one with the other; and then opening into these, several handsome apartments, used as ante-rooms, library, &c.

The age limitations are: For clerk, not under 18 years; for carrier, not under 21 or over 40 years.

The regular semi-annual examination for the grades of clerk and carrier for the postoffice in this city, will be held on Saturday, February 10th, at 9 o'clock a. m. Applications therefor will be accepted up to 4 o'clock Monday, January 21st. After that hour no application will be received.

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GRAND LODGE OF MASONS.

Third Day of the 107th Annual Convocation—Officers for the ensuing year installed—Centennial of St. John's Lodge—Address by Hon. A. M. Waddell—Banquet at the Orton.

The morning session was called at 10 o'clock a. m., with Most Worshipful Grand Master No. W. Cotten presiding. The minutes of the preceding day were read and approved. The Committee on Proposals and Grievances submitted their report, which, after being read, was adopted.

Committee on Orphan Asylum presented their report, which was read and adopted.

At this point a cordial invitation was extended from St. John's Lodge No. 1 to the officers and members of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, through Brother H. H. Munson, of Wilmington, to a banquet at the Orton, immediately after Col. Alfred M. Waddell's address at the Y. M. C. A. Auditorium.

The invitation was unanimously accepted with applause and thanks. At 12:30 o'clock the Grand Lodge was called from labor to refreshment.

At the afternoon session, at 3 o'clock, Brother Fred Meares, in behalf of St. John's Lodge No. 1, gave the Grand Lodge a hearty invitation to join the Wilmington Masons in an excursion and general jollification down the river on the steamer Wilmington, in the morning (Friday, January 15th) the boat leaving Market street dock at 10 o'clock, and that the Brethren were all expected.

The Grand Lodge on motion, unanimously accepted the invitation.

The following Grand Lodge officers were then installed for the ensuing year: Gen. John W. Cotten, of Tarboro, Grand Master.

Francis M. Moye, of Moyock, Deputy Grand Master.

Richard J. Noble, of Springfield, Senior Grand Warden.

Walter E. Moore, of Webster, Junior Grand Warden.

Wm. Simpson, of Raleigh, Grand Treasurer.

Wm. H. Bain, of Raleigh, Grand Secretary.

The installation ceremonies were conducted in their usual solemn and impressive manner by acting Grand Master H. H. Munson, acting Grand Marshal J. C. Drewry, acting Senior Grand Warden—Summers, acting Junior Grand Warden—London.

The Grand Lodge at 5 o'clock was called from labor to refreshment, to convene again at 8 o'clock p. m.

COL. WADDELL'S ADDRESS.

Shortly before 8 o'clock last evening Plantagenet Commander Knight Templar and members of St. John's Lodge, marched from the lodge room to the Y. M. C. A. auditorium, where the Grand Lodge and a large number of ladies had assembled.

Before the address Mr. Herbert K. Holden sang a solo, "Fear no Foe," which was well rendered and loudly cheered. Miss Minnie Schwarz sang one of her beautiful selections, a soprano solo, which was also loudly applauded.

Dr. J. E. Matthews in a few well chosen words introduced the orator of the occasion, Past Master Alfred M. Waddell. From every standpoint Col. Waddell's address was a gem, and no synopsist can do it justice.

It had to be appreciated, and Col. Waddell is always at his best when he is bringing to light his original historical researches. Many new facts were told of St. Johns of a century ago, and Col. Waddell's address is a valuable contribution to both Masonic and Cape Fear history.

The address occupied little more than thirty minutes in delivery, and at its close Col. Waddell was the recipient of an old-time Masonic ovation.

After the address of Col. Waddell the procession proceeded to The Orton, where a banquet was spread and the proceedings were as follows:

1. Invocation—Rev. L. L. Nash.

2. "Our Guest"—The Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

Response by D. G. M. Francis D. Moye.

3. "Our Sister Grand Jurisdiction"—Each in her domain bears testimony to the Ancient Craft and universality of Masonry.

Response: Gen. Thos. J. Shroych, G. M. of Maryland.

[NOTE: Death in his family had prevented his attendance. No other response.]

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