THE WORLD'S SUPPLY OF COTTON.

Cotton is more eagerly sought now than gold. The great manufacturing nations are searching the earth's surface for lands on which cotton can be grown. England, Germany and France are experimenting in cotton growing whereever they think there is a chance of finding soil and climate adapted to the cultivation of the fleecy staple. The search is being prosecuted more eagerly than is the search for lands that will yield gold. This is because of what is believed to be a shortage in the American cotton crop and the high price of cotton. There is also an impression that the limit has been reached in the American crop.

This impression is an erroneous one. On Tuesday, in Atlanta, Col. of North Carolina in 1831 by Presi-S. W. Eldridge, of Hillhouse, Miss., said that his crop this year was about 8,000 bales, and that in good cotton years he got about 10,000 bales on the 10,000 to 15,000 acres which he planted. He also stated that if he could get sufficient help he could raise all the cotton necessary to supply the mills of this country. He is the largest cotton planter in the world, and has, of course, given a great deal of attention to the growing of cotton.

He meant to be understood that there was land enough in this country adapted to the growing of cot on to supply the demand of the world for cotton. All that is needed is labor. And why shouldn't that be forthcoming? Hundreds of thousands of immigrants are coming to this country every year. They are crowded into the sweat shops of the great cities, and, owing to unsanitary surroundings, their death rate is alarmingly large. Why shouldn't a percentage of these immigrants be placed upon the cotton lands of the South, where they could soon make comfortable bomes for themselves? If this policy were adopted they would be better off and the world would be benefitted.

In the New York Sun of Tuesday last there is an article giving an account of a Pole who came to this country for the purpose of engaging in farming, in other words, of becoming a farm hand. He was an intelligent man, and no doubt ex pected as soon as he accumulated a little money to begin farming for himself. Some of his friends in New York city tried to persuade him to remain in that city, but he persisted in going to the country, and he is now established on a farm earning good wages, and in the coarse of a few years he will be the owner of a little farm.

More than half of the cotton pro duced in this country is the product of white labor. The old time idea that only the black man can work in the cotton field has been proven to be erroneous. Germany, England and France can accomplish far more towards increasing the world's supply of cotton by encouraging the intelligent and thrifty men and women who leave their shores to seek homes here to locate in the cotton-growing section than they can by searching for new cotton lands in Asia and Africa. And there is nothing in the way of their giving this encouragement. They have only to have the necessary information as to the advantages of settling in the cotton States scattered among the classes of their people from whom the immigrants come.

And our own government could do a great deal to direct the class of immigrants to the South that would do well in the cotton growing section. At present there isn't one immigrant in a thousand who knows anything about the South and her

advantages, There is no better time than the present to agitate this matter. The whole world is talking about cotton. Almost as many people are interested in it as are interested in grain from which bread is made. As already stated, not half our cotton lands are under cultivation, and those that are could be made to produce much more abundantly .-Savannah News.

VOL. XXXV.

BARLIEST HISTORY OF NORTH

CAROLINA.

North Carolina State Library at

Raleigh, which copy was presented

by President James Madison, in 1831.

The book, which the Observer

publishes, is neat in typography and

contains a better, cleaner and larger

reprint of the early map which

is found in Lawson's history. It is

indeed a very valuable publica-

tion, and should be in the

hands of every intelligent North

deeply interesting history of Caro-

lina in the early days of the colony.

In fact, the compiler says in his

preface that it may truly be termed

'the first real history of North

The compiler is Col. Fred A

Olds, the well known Raleigh news-

paper man, and he has done a good

work in his efforts to thus place with-

in reach of the people of the State

historical facts which very few Caro-

linians have had an opportunity to

Lawson's history, of which the

Observer's book is a reprint, bears

date of 1714, which ante-dates the

settlement of Wilmington. It ap-

peard that after Lawson gathered

the notes and material for his his-

tory, he began its publication in

parts as early as 1708 at London

and there are some copies dated

1710. The particular copy from

which this reprint is compiled by

Col. Olds was presented to the State

dent James Madison, and it is pre-

served in the State Library at Ral-

eigh. Truly it is a book more

marvellously interesting than fic-

Line changes that are now matters of

history, the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot

remarks, as a conclusion of the

whole matter: "In passing, however,

it may be worthy of note that the

forecast of the change in the presi-

dency made by the newspapers

weeks ago was 'authoritatively'

denied, and each reiteration met

with similar denial. We throw the

suggestion out for what it is worth,

but it would really seem that the

truth and stick about as close to it

Emperor Menelik will present

President Roosevelt with two lions

and a pair of elephant tusks. We

don't know what Teddy will do with

the tusks, but the lions will be

mighty handy when he is pestered

"Hon. D. B. Hill has been select-

ed as orator for the annual banquet

of the Albany Undertakers' Associa-

tion." His acceptance of that in-

vitation shows that the pungent

paragraphers have no terrors for

A telegram from Roanoke, Va.,

says: "The Anti-Saloon League met

its Waterloo here to day, Roanoke

going wet by 982 majority." Looks

more like they met their Whiskey-

"Who would be free himself must

strike the blow." Let the people of

Wilmington keep this always in

mind while demanding justice at

the hands of the Seaboard Air Line.

A woman is reported in Iowa

show some spleen.

too much with office-seekers.

as anybody else."

Carolina."

learn.

WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1904.

GROWING COMMERCE

Swall bralatele

Among the new books just out is 'History of North Carolina," "by Wilmington's Export Trade Dur-John Lawson, Gentleman." The ing 1903 Has Increased book is from the presses of the Along All Lines. Charlotte, N. C., Observer, and it is a reprint of the copy now in the

\$20,000,000 IN MERCHANDISE.

that Has Been the Value of Cotton, Nava Stores and Lumber Sent Away from This Port--- Number of Ships Here the Past Year 233.

The steady increase in the com merce of Wilmington is extremely gratifying to the people of our city, and the growing importance of the Carolinian. The publisher deserves commendation for reproducing this | chief port of North Carolina will alike be a sourse of matification to the peopublication, as it will be the means ple of the entire State. of preserving a most quaint and

During the year 1903, ended yesterday, the exports of Wilmington were more than \$20,000,000.

The fiscal customs year ends December 31st, and at the custom house yesterday, Deputy Collector William Struthers kindly sided a STAR representative in taking from the books the following statement of exports, by months, of cotton, naval stores and lumber from Wilmington during the



Messrs. Alexander Sprunt & Son, cotton exporters, on yesterday cleared the British steamship "Caprera," Captalu Connell, for Bremen, Germany, with a cargo of 12,500 bales of cotton, weighing 6,021,989 pounds, valued at Commenting on the Seaboard Air

> Mesers. Helde & Co., on yesterday cleared for Glasgow, Scotland, the British steamship "Aarmenia," Captain Schearf, with a cargo of 2,704 gum logs, valued at \$20,000, and 335 tarrels rosin, valued at \$1,000. Cargo by Mr. Will L. Miller, sgent for the Acme Tea Chest Company, of Glas-

The German bark "Carl" arrived in port yesterday from New York, and s consigned to Helde & Co.

The American schooner "Longfelnewspapers get about as close to the ow" arrived in port yesterday and is consigned to C. D. Maffitt. She brought a cargo of fertilizers for Armour & Co.

SHIPPING IN 1903. From the books of Col. John L. Cantwell, port statistician, we learn that during the year ended yesterday there arrived in the port of Wilming too, 305 ships of all classes the total

tonnage of which was 309,905. Of the ships which strived there were 233 American vessels, including 105 steamships of 136,220 tone, 2 barques of 818 tons, 3 brigs of 1,007 tons, 9 barges of 26,344, and 114 schooners of 51,773 tons. The total tonnage of American vessels was 216,164.

The foreign arrivals were 72 ships, including 46 steamships of 83,441 tons, 12 barques of 7,570 tons, 1 brig of 233 | Chatham Record, Pittsboro, N. C. tons, and 13 schooners of 2,597 tons. The total foreign tonnage for the year | the address on the occasion. was 93,741.

During the year 1903 the total number of vessels which arrived in port the Crosses of Honor to the old was 336 and their aggregate tonnage was 311,461. Of these there were 250 American vessels, of 210,902 tons, and 86 foreign ships of 100,559 tons. There was a slight falling off the past year both in the number of vessels and tonnage, but the record makes a good showing for our increased shipping interests. There has been a gratifying growth of Wilmington's shipping

cans ships were 10 steamships of 11,770

tons, 2 barges of 6,000 tons and 11

schooners of 3,971 tons. Total num-

ber of American ships 28, with a total

tonnage of 21,741. The foreign ves-

sels were 4 steamships of 8,672 tons, 2

barques of 1,141 tons and 1 schooner

of 111 tons. Total foreign tonnage for

LOCAL DOTS.

- Mr. T. A. Wortham and

bride returned last evening from Ox-

ford and Durham, where they have

been visiting his relatives and friends.

- Mr. W. E. Glenn, contractor

for laying the drain pipe on Market

large force of hands at work and is

-- Mr. W. J. Reaves has pur-

chased a \$10,000 interest in the Wil-

mington Iron Works and becomes

vice president and manager. Mr. E.

- Mr. J. Q. Herring, of Berts,

called on us yesterday and says every-

thing is lovely around his country.

The new bridge at Still Bluffen Black

neighborhood now has an outler.

P. Bailey is still the president.

making rapid progress.

whose spleen has been removed and during the past few years. yet is alive and well. Make her SHIPPING IN DECEMBER. mad and she will be mighty apt to Col. Cantwell's books show that during the month ended yesterday 30 ships arrived in the port of Wilmington, of which the aggregate ton We don't understand how Edward nage was 31,665. Of these the American "recognize" so small a speck on

the month, 9,924.

It is a good long jump from England to Panama. Panama has had an election and will proceed now to organize a national government, we are told.

the map as the "infant" republic.

cary?" The boll-weevil has inflicted much damage on cotton; but the bullweevil has proved a terror to the speculators known as "shorts."

'An ounce of civet, good apothe-

If there is war between Japan and Russia China will aid Japan by street, from Fourth to Second, has a furnishing the tom-toms and the stink-pots.

- "That's the local weather forecaster who just passed us." "Indeed? He isn't a very healthy-looking man, is he?" "No, he says the climate here doesn't agree with him." "I wonder if that's why he keeps changing it so much?"-Philadelphia Press.

Robert Alexander, a negro mail car-rier, was assassinated at his home, Ripley, Tenn., by unknown parties.

BEAR, TURKEYS AND DEER.

This Section an Eldorado for Nimroda What Two Hunting Parties Bid in the Woods Last Wednesday.

That this section of North Carolina is a great field for the sportsman may be inferred from reports from the N.mrod friends of the STAR.

Capt. W. H. Ward, who lives in

Wilmington and hangs out at Rook's station, on the A. & Y. branch of the Atlantic Coast Line, in Bladen county, dropped in to make a report from the committee on field sports during Christmas. He tells us that from Christmas day till Thursday, hunters in the neighborhood of Rook's killed ten fine deer, and quail, squirrels and other game too numerous to mention. On Wednesday morning Capt. Ward and Mesers. O. F. Woodcock and Fee Woodcock took to the woods and in a short while were on their way home with two fine does on the pole. The deer each weighed from 125 to 150 pounds and were young, fat and sleek. While on the way back the dogs flushed a big drove of wild turkeys and Mr. Lee Woodcock brought down a fine gobbler that lit on a tree. The turkey was a fine one and weighed 16 pounds after he was dressed.

On the afternoon; of Wednesday, Captain Ward went to Rook's millpond to see how the duck crop was spending Christmas. He found them disporting themselves in great num bers, and he didn't do a thing but carry six fine ducks back home.

Talking about wild turkeys, Captain Ward says the oldest inhabitant has never known them to be so plentiful about Rooks as they are this year. Al ready this winter Mr. Luden Sherman has killed about thirty. Deer are plentiful and quail are also in great abund-

KILLED A BEAR.

Dr. W. D. McMillan returned Thurs day evening from a trip up to Duplin county. He tells us that on Wednes dsy, near Teachey's, on the Atlantic Coast Line, in Duplin county, Mr. F. J. Sauders, chief of the mason force of the Atlantic Coast Line, and Mr. G. W. Boney, of Richmond, Va., went out for a day's sport. While hunt ing on Mr. Ephraim Boney's place the dogs bayed a bear in a pocosin. Mr. Sanders shot the bear and wounded him, and while the animal was making the desperate fight of his life ne killed one of the hunters' best dogs. Mr. Boney then got in a shot and killed the bear. The bear was a young one, but weighed 280 pounds. The hunters sent it to Mr. I. B. Rhodes and was on his stalls at Front street market yesterday.

Besides killing the bear, Messrs. Sauders and Boney bagged sixtyseven quail. On account of the dry summer the birds hatched out and raised in great quantities, and it is said it has been years since they were

GEN. LEE'S BIRTHDAY.

Editor H. A. London, of Pittsboro, to De liver the Address at the Celebration Here on January 19th.

Preparations are now under way by Cape Fear Camp, No. 254, U. C. V., Cape Fear Chapter, Daughters of the Confederacy, and George Davis Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, for the celebration of Gen. Robert E. Lee's birthday, in Wilmington, January 19th. All three organizations have appointed committees and they are

now preparing the programme. Captain T. D. Meares is the chairman of the Veterana' committee, and he informs us that Hon. H. A. London, a prominent lawyer and editor of the has accepted the invitation to deliver

Col. John D. Taylor has accepted the invitation of the ladies to present

The celebration is to be made a particularly interesting event.

VETERAN 101 YEARS OLD.

Death of Mr. Ezekiel Blizzard, Who Served

in Two Wars. Mr. Ezekiel Blizzard, aged 101 years, died on last Wednesday. December 30th, near Cronly, Bladen coun-

ty, N. C. Mr. Blizzard served in the United States army during the Mexican war, and was also a Confederate veteran, having served during the civil war in Company I, First Regiment, North | Twenty Men Arrested in Connection With Carolina volunteers.

The aged soldier has been able to work on the farm up to within a few days of his last ilineas.

rrested on Charge of Stealing a Horse Jim Judge, who was in jail up to a few days ago under a peace bond, was suspicion of stealing a horse.

Mr. Joe Rodderick, who is a watchman on the wharf and is a special policeman, saw Judge go into Mr. S. out with a horse which had been bridled. Mr. Rodderick thereupon arrested Judge.

Judge denies that he was stealing the horse and says it was following him.

The Republican State committee of Mississippi has fixed March 23d as the time and Jackson as the place for holding the State convention, at which delegates will be chosen to the national convention in Chicago, Resolutions endorsing President Roosevelt were adopted unanimously, as was also a resolution declaring for the river has been completed and the speedy construction of the Panama

canal.

WILMINGTON IN 1903.

Large increase in the Commerce, Trade and Banking Business of the City.

Three Savings Banks- A Big

During the year just ended Wilmington has enjoyed the greatest prosperity in its history. The commerce of the port has increased fully 25 per cent., the shipping interest maintains its increase of the past few years, and the wholesale and retail mercantile business has increased fully 331 per cent. The industries of the city have shared in the prosperity of the city, and during the year at least \$200,000 has been invested in bu-iness, no " industries and new corperations. The banks have done the largest business in the history of the city, the clearings for the year having been \$10,000,000 or more. A promineut banker said yesterday that the charances greatly exceed those of the pr. vious year, a palpable evidence of the great increase of Wilmington's business in 1903 The present capital of the banks is, including surplus, \$914,008, and their total footings are \$5,938,917.

counts aggregate \$3,857,782. The savings banks of the city contain deposits of \$1,754,082, which fact indicates the the thrift of the working people of Wilmington in a most marked degree, Tae cotton mills have done as satisfactory a business as the depressed coadition of that branch of the manufacturing interest warrant, but in no period of the history of Wilmington have the lumber interests been on so large a scale and in such a prosperous condition. The lumber manufacturers have done a business of \$1,000,000 and telegraph and telephone poles to the value of \$100,000 and cross-ties to the value of \$150,000 have been shipped

During the year the seaside resorts here have been visited by 150,000 people and the street car line in the city has haudled 1,250,000 passengers. All railroads entering Wilmington have largely increased their freight and passenger traffic, which is a conspicuous evidence of Wilmington's growth and progress.

Wilmington has become the fifth cotton port in the United States, the receipts here since September 1st having been 271,570 bales. The exports of cotton, naval stores and lumber during the year just ended have exceeded in value \$20,000,000, the specific value of these items being \$19,671,909 for cotton exported; \$117,-094 for naval stores, and \$168,506 for lumber. During the year the exports of cotton were 343,988 bales.

During the year the arrival of shipping has been 305 vessels, including 151 steamships, and 154 ships of all

The population of Wilmington has steadily increased, and one gratifying reflex of improved conditions may be emphasized. That is that five years ago the colored population composed two-thirds of the inhabitants, while now there is a majority of whites. Thus we observe that the negro handicap of "non-producers but consumers" has given way to the more intelligent, enterprising, provident and thrifty white man, and altogether the future of Wilmington has a wide horizon of opportunity and glowing promise.

On Wednesday morning Messrs. George Schnibben and J. F. Christian went up to Morrison's Creek on a hunting expedition and killed four fine deer and a lot of birds while in the country. They stayed at the house of Mr. Bill Futch and returned home Friday morning. Two of the deer were sold on the market and the

Mr. A. H. Holmes returned on Friday from a hunting expedition. He killed two wild turkeys and several

MANSLAUGHTER CHARGED.

Chicago Pire in Police Court. By Telegraph to the Morning Star.

CHICAGO, Jan. 2.—Twenty men ar rested in connection with the Iroquois theatre tragedy were arraigned before Justice Caverly in the Harrison street police court to-day on a charge of manulaughter. Five of the defendants were members of the chorus of the again arrested last night about 9 "Mr. Blue Beard" Company, and o'clock. This time he was taken in on | were defended by Attorney Thomas Hogan. No testimo y was given in said he was looking up at the 'flood" court and it was immediately agreed that a continuance be granted. Most of the time was devoted to an effort the fire. by the attorney to have the bonds Seigle's stable, near Robinson & of his clients reduced from the King's office, and watched him come held. In the end the bonds in each \$5,000 in which they had been case were reduced to \$1,000 and the cases placed on the calendar for hearing January 11th. Attorney Hogan told the magistrate that his clients had nothing to do with the management, construction or handling of the scenery. He said they continued singing even after the audience became panicstricken, in a vain effort to allay the fears of the frightened audience.

The other defendants will have a hearing before Justice Caverly Mon-day. Their bonds were placed at \$5,000

> - "No one should ever judge to love, honor and obey me? The that man by the company he keeps." "Why?" "He's the warden of our jail."— Troy Budget. Woman—Didn't you promise to endow me with all your worldly goods?
>
> —Chicago Tribune.

N. C. CORPORATION COMMISSION'S REPORT

[Special Star Correspondence.]

RALEIGH, N. C., Jan. 2.—The North

Darolina Corporation Commission

tax commission, which shows among

numerous other important items that

\$4.35 per acre; Gaston leading at

\$18.43 valuation per acre and Dare

The towns showing largest real and

personal property valuation are Ashe-

Salisbury, \$3,169,708; Greenstoro, \$3.

885,597; Durnam, \$9,382 643; Raleigh

\$5,818,592; Wilmington, \$3,171,190.

11.356,658; Dare least with \$5,807.

Counties showing largest indebted

Towns showing largest indebtedness

re Asheville, \$1,000.000; Charlotte,

\$605,000; Greensboro, \$452,749; Wil-

Tax rates, including municipal,

State, county, school and special taxes

as in towns, are Asheville, \$2 50;

Wilmington, \$3 43; Greensbore, \$3.09;

The total amount of taxes levied in

North Carolina for 1902, State, coun-

ty, school and municipal, was \$728,-

445.74. This was on total property

valuations, etc., amounting to \$346,-

The report as Corporation Commis-

sion shows that during the year only

68 93 miles of railroad were construct-

ed and put into operation, the total

at the end of the year being 3,750.88 miles in operation. Net earnings

were greater than ever before. Gross

arnings amounted to \$18,610 815, and

perating expenses \$12,186,977. There

are 14,652 men employed against 11,-

During the year 121 persons were killed and 1 657 injured; against 87

killed and 1,069 injured during the

year previous. Of those killed this

rear five were passengers, 43 employes,

I trespassers and 12 not trespassers.

There were 389 complaints made to

the commission during 1903 the greater

part being settled by correspondence

The commission reports that there

are now 155 banks in the State, against

120 last year, the present total re-

sources being \$26,188,282. There are

36 building and loan associations

operating in the State with assets ag-

GEN. JAMES LONGSTREET.

Died at His Home in Gainesville, Ga., of

Pneumonis, Aged 84 Years.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star.

ATLANTA, GA., Jan. 2.-General

James Longstreet, soldier, statesman

and diplomat, and the last lieutenant

general of the Confederate army with

the exception of General Gordon, died

in Gainesville, Ga, this afternoon at

o'clock from an attack of acute pneu-

General Longstreet was a sufferer

rom cancer of one eye, but his gen-

eral heal h had been good until Wed-

nesday when he was seized with a

cold, developing later into pneumonia

of a violent nature. He was 84 years

old. He is survived by his wife, two

sons and a daughter. He will be

buried in Gainesville which has been

General James Longstreet was born

n the Edgefield district, S C., January

8th, 1821. He was appointed to the

military academy from Alabama, where

he graduated in 1842. He won his

spurs in the Mexican war where he

participated in eight important battles

and was brevetted captain and major

When the civil war began he en-

listed on the Confederate side and was

mmediately made brigadier general.

He had an important part in many of

as one of the hottest fighters in the

service. He was in the surrenderlat

After the war he took up his resi-

dence in New Orleans and established

commercial house, of which he was

the head. He was appointed surveyor

of the port of New Orleans by Presi-

dent Grant and was afterward super-

visor of internal revenue in New Or

eans and postmaster in that city. He

was sent as United States minister to

Turkey by President Hayes and under

President Garfield was United States

marshal for the district of Georgia.

Some years ago he was appointed United States commissioner of rail-

roads with headquarters at Washing-

ton, which position he held at the time

THE CAUSE OF THE FIRE.

Explained by the Manager of the "Spot"

Light at the Iroquois Theatre-The

So-called Explosion.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star,

CHICAGO, Jan. 2.-William McMul-

len, manager of the "spot" light, which

is alleged to have caused the fire in the

ing before Fire Inspector Fulkerson

He said the fire was caused by the

McCullen said his "spot" light was

turned out when the fire started. He

heat from the "flood" light used to

Iroquois theatre, testified at the hear-

to day that the "spot" light had noth-

his home since the civil war.

for gallant conduct.

Appomattox.

of his death.

ing to do with it.

the fire.

"flood" the theatre.

fire to be an explosion.

sound of an explosion.

monta. He had been ill two days.

101 for the previous year.

satisfactorily to all parties.

gregating \$2,233,507.

Raleigh, \$2.35; Salisbury, \$1.86.

mington, \$682,000.

878.023.

lowest with only 92 cents.

Showing the Acreage and Value of Taxable Lands and Other Properties in State-Other Important Matters.

BANK CLEARINGS \$10,000,000.

Deposits in the Pive Banks Aggregate \$4,727,498, Including \$1,754,082 in the Lumber Business.

The deposits at the present time are \$4,727,498 and their loans and dis-

from this port.

Killed Deer and Turkeys.

other two were given to friends in the

Captain John H. Sharp, the El ficient Treasurer, Dropped After Long Service.

BUSINESS POLICY UNCHANGED

issue their annual report as a State Ryan Interests Wanted a Man of Thei Own Choice to Take Captain Sharp's Place-Mr. Barr Pleased at Be-27,783,894 acres of land are valued at ing Chosen President.

> [Richmond Times-Dispatch.] NORFOLK, VA., Dec. 31 .- Mr. James M. Barr, the new president of the Sea

ville, \$5,186.313; Charlotte, \$8,248 660; board, is naturally greatly pleased a the vote of confidence accorded him by the directors of the system, and during Solvent credits in the State amount \$28,456,156, Forsyth leading with the morning he received many callers who desired to extend congratulations. relegrams and telephone messages of sess are Meckienburg. \$354 506; Rucongratulation were also showered herford, \$148,300; Cumberland \$123.upon the official.

Mr. Barr, nevertheless, remained at his desk all day, attending to the rouino business of his office. He said that he had no statement whatsoever to make regarding the policy of the railway during his administration as its president. He has been in charge of the policy of the road for almost three years now, anyway, and it is scarcely probable that there will be any change therein. In fact, the presidentelect stated this fact definitely.

Regarding the change in treasurers Mr. Barr said that certainly no reflection could possibly be intended upon the faithful and upright retiring treasurer, Mr. John H. Sharp, who ha efficiently handled the funds of the company for the past twenty-three years. He desired to make public acknowledgement, he said, of the ability and fidelity of this gentleman.

"It is quite natural," said the new president, "that the people who have recently put their millions into this property should desire a man of their own selection as treasurer. The elec tion of Mr. M. S. Meldrim as vice pres ident and treasurer was the logical outcome of the recent change in the

Mr. Sharp, the retiring treasurer has been a resident of this city for the past ten years or more. He started in olina Central Railway, one of the most important constituent proper ties of the Seaboard, as a book-keeper This was in April, 1892.

In 1893, when the Georgia Carolina and Northern Railway was completed to Atlants, he was made treasurer of the consolidated lines, with headquar ters here. Later on, when Mr. J. S Williams combined the then Seaboard system with the Southbound, th Florida Central and Peninsular and the Georgia and Alabams, Mr. Sharp

When seen this morning he was a his office, performing his duties as usual He had no criticism whatever to make of the action of the Board of Directors, but quite to the contrary, he said that it was the most natural thing in the world that the New York financiers, owning an interest in the property, should desire a treasurer in New York. Regarding his future

plans, he could not speak. It is the belief of those close to the president-elect that Mr. Sharp will be offered some position of responsibility with the system, as an indication of efficient service.

SENSATIONAL DAMAGE SUIT

Brought by Mrs. Laura DeLaug Against the Counters Esterbazey for Allenating Her Husband's Affections,

By Telegraph to the Morning Star. WASHINGTON, Dec. 2.—The Countess | FIRE AT WILSON, N. C., Esternazey, widow of the late Maximilian Esterhazey, who was at one time secretary of the Austrian embassey in Washingtor, is the defendant in a damage suit for \$100,000 brought by Mrs. Laura M. DeLang, who charg s that the Countess alienated her husband's effections. The papers were served on the Countess here to-

Mr. and Mrs. Martin DeLang have New York and Warrenton, Prince William county, Va. Mrs. DeLang says her husband left their home in Vir ginia on August 3d and has since absented himself. She charges that much of the time has been spent by Mr. DeLang in the company of the Countess Esterhazey in Washington. Friends of the Countess said that Mr. DeLang had been received by her as a riend and that she had no knowledge hat he was married.

Mr. DeLang is a member of an old wiss family and is said to be without means. Countess Esterhazey is the daughter of William Carroli, of Washington, a cousin of Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, who was one of the signers of the declaration of independence. The counters has been twice married her first husband having been General Griffin. She has many friends at the Austrian court and is said to be a favorite of the present emperor. She has an independent fortune.

PERSONAL EFFECTS LOST.

Estimated that \$100,000 Worth of Valuables Disappeared from Bodies of the Victims of the Chicago Pire.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star.

CHICAGO, Jan. 2.-From the large number of complaints received of the

light and saw the flimsy border blow loss of personal effects from the bodi directly over the "flood" light. The of the fire victims, coroners' office heat from this light, he alleges, caused clerks estimated that \$100,000 worth of diamonds, walches, jewelry, furs and other property was lost in the fire. The city electrician followed with testimony that the heat from the "flood" light was sufficient to cause Many of the victims had money in their possession which could not be found when the bodies were examined James J. Hamilton, scenery shifter, at the morgues. Much of the property explained what seemed to many at the "Five minutes after the fire started." ghouls. The largest amount of cursaid he, "the big set piece in the shape rency recovered was \$405, found of a fan, used as a finale in the second pinned to the garments of a woman. act, fell forty feet to the stage. The Superintendent of Streets Cleaning piece was studded with 150 incan-descent lamps and weighed several Solon and a force of men went to the Iroquois theatre to-day with instruchundred pounds. The noise of its fall tions to clean it most thoroughly. As and the breaking lamps gave forth the the men set to work they examined every scrap for jawels, articles of clothing and trinkets. The order was issued after City Custodian De Witt | them into their seats. - The Man-Didn't you promise C. Oregier, had found a diamond pin The attack of the police in front wholding a stone as large as a pea and as sudden as had been the fire alar

L. SITUATION.

Ex-Alderman Andrew Walker, colored, was able to come down town yesterday and tell of his thrilling experience with the two highwaymen who robbed him Friday night at Sixth and Nun streets.

He states that the robbers got from

him a roll of bills amounting to \$287 .-

CHWAYMEN ABROAD

Might-Andrew Walker Robbed of \$287.34 Priday Night.

54, all of which was lodge money except \$6 38 which belonged individually to him. The money belonged to Free Love Lodge, of which Walker is treasurer. He says he took a trolley car at Second and Princess streets, and got off at Seventh and Nun streets to go to Second and Nun streets to attend a meeting of the trustees and financial board of Free Love Lodge. The meeting was to be held in Ruth Hall, and when Walker started on Nun street in that direction, he states that he saw two men standing alongside the pavement. As he passed them, one seized him by the arm'and tore his overcoat, and the other knocked him seuseless with a club. He says he remembers about having received two licks, but afterward he was unconscious and didn't know whether they struck him while he was down or not. His pants pocket was torn while the robbers hurriedly took his roll of money out. It was in a handkerchief and was wrapped around with paper. He was taking the money to the meeting to make a showing to the finance com-

Walker says his assailants were negroes, one being a brown-colored, tall man of heavy build, and the other a short black man of heavy build. After they robbed him one went over to the southwest corner of Sixth and Nun streets and disappeared while the other went over to the northeast corner of Nun and Fourth streets and disappeared. Policeman H. W. Howell, who was at Sixth and Ann streets heard the lick which felled Walker and heard him hollow for help. He ran in that direction but did not see either of the robbers. He found Walker unconscious. Walker says when he came to himself Officer Howell was helping him up off the pavement.

Walker does not know who his assailants were but thinks it is somebody who knew he was to take the money ceived two severe licks, one on the shoulder and one on the left side of the head, the latter causing blood to come from his ears and nose.

ANOTHER MAN KNOCKED IN THE HEAD. Last night about 9 o'clock, in Strauss' Alley, between Fourth and Fifth and Harnett streets, Henry Burton, colored, 19 years old, was found insensible from having been clubbed on the head. He was taken to the James Walker Memorial Hospital, where Dr. Akerman dressed a bad wound in his head over the left ear. It is not likely that the skull is fractured, but the wound is a serious one. Burton is suffering from concussion of

Who struck Burton or how or under what manner he was hurt is a mystery. He was so addled at the hospital that no sense could be gotten out of anything he said. It is quite probable that he was knocked down and the road's appreciation of his most robbed. He works at the Armour fertilizer works, near the Seaboard Air Line depot, and was on his way home. He was in a semi-conscious condition

when heard from after midnight last night. When Burton was picked up in the alley he was covered with blood, sand and dirt. There is no clue to the deed.

EARLY THIS MORNING.

Four Large Buildings to the Business Section and Other Property Destroyed. Loss Estimated at \$125,000.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star. CHARLOTTE, N. C., Jan. 3 -A telephone message from Wilson, N. C., at 1 o'clock this morning (Sunday) says that four large buildings in the heart of the business section have been destroyed at a loss of \$60,000, that the fire is still raging and threatens extensive damage. An appeal has been sent to Rocky Mount for aid, ment of that town is being hurried there. The fire originated in the basement of the Cooper Watson tobacco warehouse and spread to a large building owned by W. J. Betts, the

At 2 o'clock this morning the flames were under control, but much more damage than already reported had resuited. In addition to the buildings mentioned, the following were destroyed: Lewis & Cook's bar-room, W. H. Morris' grocery store, John Y. Moore's livery stable, two-story brick building of J. C. Wiggins, W. T. Clark's livery stables; M. C. Davis' bar-room, Edwards Brother's livery stable, and a half dozen smaller buildings. Total loss estimated at \$125,000.

Centre warehouse, the largest in.

Wilson, and Woodward and Jones to-

PANIS IN THEATRE.

Same Near Repeating the Scenes of the Chicago Pire,

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—An immense holiday audience which packed the Thalia theatre, on the Bowery, at today's matinee performance, all but repeated the scenes of wild panie of the Chicago fire, when a shrill cry of "fire!" ran through the house. Only the chance circumstance that several of value was undoubtedly lost, but a the chance circumstance that several large amount may have been stolen by policemen were standing in the lobby at the moment and met the emergency with strong measures checked the wild unreasoning frenzy of the autilence in their desire to escape from the build-

ing by the main entrance.
Clubs and fists met the rush the moment it began, the police and the em-ployes of the theatre rushing through the crowd and literally lifting the leaders from their feet and forcing Tue attack of the police in front w

valued at \$500. Mr. Cregier added the and served to quiet the crowd an gem to the collection of effects dis-played for purposes of identification. derous stampede.