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Short correspondence on subjects of interest to the public is solicited; but persons must not be disappointed if their papers do not appear in our columns. We are not responsible for the views of correspondents. Anonymous communications go to the waste basket.

SATURDAY, JULY 17, 1886.

Cleveland in North Carolina.

President Cleveland has been exercising his veto powers to the discomfort of the good people of Asheville, N. C. Congressman Johnston worked very hard and had a bill passed by Congress appropriating \$80,000 for a public building.

Personal.

Mr. J. Will Brown was in the city this week. He will bring his family home next week.

Mr. Israel I. Walker passed through the city last Tuesday for Salisbury where he expects to spend the remainder of the summer.

Miss Sallie B. Lord arrived in the city last Tuesday morning from Wilmington.

Miss Georgie Williams returned home last Saturday evening from a very pleasant visit to Chester, S. C.

Prof. N. W. Harlee was in the city last Wednesday and witnessed the marriage of Mr. Leary to Miss Latham.

Miss Annie Mannel, of Salisbury, is spending this week in our city visiting friends and relatives.

Rev. W. E. Partee, of Concord, was married to Miss Edith Smith, of Lynchburg, Va., on Thursday morning, 4 o'clock.

John Henderson is very proud of the boy. All are doing well.

The Christian Union Herald is a monthly paper published in this city by Revs. A. D. Waugh and W. E. Partee.

A pleasant ice cream supper was enjoyed at Miss Ella Jones' last night.

Miss Hattie McBeth leaves us to-day for Bascomville, S. C.

Mrs. John Hand has gone to Morehead City for the summer.

Hon. J. C. Dancy passed through the city yesterday on his way to Lincoln.

The MESSENGER will endeavor to be more original and readable after this week.

Our office is in the Davidson building over Mr. Jethro Sumner's barber shop.

Remember the excursion to Gastonia next Friday. Let everybody go and have a good time. 75c. round trip. See bills.

Service and kindness neglected suspend friendship.

As every thread of gold is valuable, so is every minute of time.

Truth, the open, bold, honest truth, is always the safest for any one in any and all circumstances.

There should be as little merit in loving a woman for her beauty as in loving a man for his prosperity; both being equally subjected to change.

The London Economist publishes from the report of the British mint a compilation of the coinage of nearly all countries for 1835, showing that \$65,344,150 gold and \$75,804,005 silver were added to the world's stock of coins in that year.

A pickerel was caught in a cornfield to the lock River (Ill.) bottoms while engaged in husking corn. The water of the river has covered the bottoms for eight months, and much of last year's corn remains ungathered.

FEAST OF BONG.

CURIOUS MEMORIAL SERVICES OF THE JAPANESE.

Religious Rites Lasting Several Days and Nights—Orations and Decorations—Addressing the Dead—Fireworks.

The Japanese Feast of Bong, says a contributor to the New York Observer, occurs during the month of August, partaking of the character of a national holiday, and is similar, in many respects, to the Chinese Feast of Lanterns.

The ceremonies continue through a succession of days and nights, and are participated in by the masses, seemingly engaging the interest of rich and poor alike, in the remembrance of their dead, to whom the occasion is dedicated.

Arriving at one of the cemeteries, we find the approaches to the same—the roads and by-ways adjacent—bearing the appearance of holiday preparations, reminding one of an American village fair.

Groups of people of all ages assemble at the tombs of relatives, where they remain during the day, and with the requisites for camping, or more properly bivouacing, with nothing above them but the starry heavens, they continue their visit until two or three days and nights have passed.

The younger portion of the assembled gathering are similarly instructed by an other dignitary, who receives the profound respect of all, and who in turn recounts the legends and native lore of the land to listening crowds.

When at the close of the day the darkness gathers, fires are lighted in the midst of each family group, and the evening meal of rice and fish is prepared over a kind of furnace called he-baches.

The night scene at the cemeteries is even more striking to the visitor than that which meets the eye by day. Myriads of lights twinkle and flash from the hills, and lanterns now aglow, swaying in the breeze, reflect the hundred varied hues and countless devices pictured on the banners and streamers, and the carved and quaintly drawn images, which, with the illuminated temples in the vicinity, impart to the occasion a weird and incomprehensible attraction which mystifies while it entrances the beholder.

As the night advances and the light of the lanterns wane and dimly burn, groups

after group of the assembled throng spread their mats beside the graves of their dead and sink to sleep. The second day's proceedings are a repetition, with some variation, of the first, but on the third day the scribe dwells, in his discourse, on subjects of a more local and less important character, in which the village gossips enjoy a harvest of information, in which every household seems to possess an interest.

The Feast of Bong terminates on the third day with a great procession lasting into the night, which occupies for the time being, the main streets of the town. Animals and birds may be seen moving in the procession, propelled by some invisible force, which, on inquiry, we learn is supplied through the agency of concealed men and boys.

Following with the moving throng we find that the most impressive scene is yet in store for the on-lookers. After the procession has passed through the town, it arrives at the water side, where those who have borne the little food-laden ship consigned to the dead of the sea, launch upon the waters these miniature vessels as maritime memorials, dedicated to the memory of those who among relatives and friends have in other days gone down to the sea in ships never to return.

Each one of these little craft are supplied with a paper lantern and combustibles, which, after being set afloat, ignite and continue to burn for a length of time. At this stage of the proceedings already the darkness has followed the end of the third day, and soon the surface of the water is covered with hundreds of these burning ships, the lights of which, mingling with those on land, the blazing rockets and the illuminated temples and habitations, with the increasing splendor of pyrotechnics of all descriptions, make up a fitting finale of the strange and startling scenes associated with the Feast of Bong.

A Tragedy of the Far West.

A dispute arose in an Indian camp near Stockton Hall, Arizona, recently, and before it ended a buck named Pizzur with his Winchester rifle shot and killed Ah Quinthe and his squaw, a daughter of Chief Leve-Leve, mortally wounded another buck and another daughter of the chief, and slightly wounded two other Indians.

In the mean time the avengers were riding fast after the fleeing murderer, and followed his trail into the Wallapa Valley until darkness put an end to the pursuit. Early next morning they took up the trail, and, after riding twelve miles, they came upon the dead bodies of the murderer and his horse.

Galley Slaves.

A galley slave is a person condemned for a crime to work at an oar on board of a galley; a low flat-built vessel with one deck and navigated with sails and oars. Among the early Greeks and Romans these slaves were prisoners of war. The Carthaginians manned their galleys with captive Mauritians.

Last year there were only five W. C. T. Unions in Mississippi; now there are about seventy. Antigo, Wis., has a live union of sixty-eight members. Seventeen unions have been voted out of town.

THE GAUCHOS.

COWBOYS OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC, SOUTH AMERICA.

A Picturesque Combination of Savagery and Courtliness—The Gaucho's Dress and Food—Cattle and Sheep Interests.

A Montevideo (Argentine Republic) letter to the Chicago News says: If it be true that the beef-eaters govern the world, then Argentina must bear her full share of government, for she has been eating beef ever since she has been eating anything.

The original cowboy is the production of South America. He rides a horse as if he and the animal were one. He comes near to realizing the old thought of the Mexicans, when they first saw the Spanish horsemen, that this mounted human body was a distinct order of beings.

Here he takes his breakfast on broiled meat. He goes after the herd, leaving his wife, when he has one, in the hut, and he returns late at night to be fed on meat. For months at a time he never tastes vegetables or bread.

Next he wears a chirrepa. This non-descript is worn where civilized men wear pantaloons. It looks like a square or oblong piece of cloth, folded diagonally, one corner fastened to the waist and the opposite corner brought up between the limbs and fastened to the belt in front.

It is not well to regard him as a savage. Though he feeds on meat, and enjoys both dangers and hardships, he has in his veins some of the best blood of Europe. Go to this man's hut on the pampas, push aside the untanned bull's-hide which serves as a "portiere" at the doorway, greeting you with all the dignity and ostentatious politeness of an old Castilian knight, he will offer you a seat on the skull of an ox.

The gauchos are chiefly interested in cattle. This industry has risen to wonderful proportions. In 1864 there were 10,364,000 horned cattle in these countries. In 1884 this number had increased to 16,000,000. The slaughter of cattle amounts to 3,500,000 per annum.

More important than the cattle interest is that in sheep. The fortunes of this industry have gone through every

shade of trial and success. At one time the carcasses of the sheep, like corn in Iowa and Kansas, were burned for fuel. They fed their furnaces. The 23,111,000 of 1864 have increased in twenty years to 70,610,000. The price has advanced from thirty cents per head in 1880 to \$1.40 per head in 1880.

Early Use of Artillery.

When Romulus was marking out the limits of his new city, gunpowder was already known, and 2,000 years before the birth of Schawrtz, pieces of ordnance had been cast in China. The Moors used guns in Spain in the beginning of 1200, if not in 1100.

It is now doubted whether, indeed, the Black Prince did use guns at the battle of Cressy; but there is no doubt that Murad I. had before then employed them at the battle of Cossova. On both sides they were used, the Turks having already instructed the population with whom they were at war.

He Cured the Horse.

A Connecticut farmer drove a horse attached to a rack wagon to the wood lot for a small load of wood. The animal would not pull a pound. He did not beat him, but tied him to a tree and let him stand. He went to the lot at sunset and asked him to draw, but he would not straighten a tug.

Seventeenth Century Topers.

Most of the Saxon drinking-cups were made without foot or stand, so that they must be emptied before they could be set down again on the table. But these seventeenth century toppers required that a man, after drinking, should turn up his cup and make a pearl with what was left on his nail, "which if shed, and can not make it stand on by reason there is too much, must drink again for his penance."

Sad Fate of a Young Lady.

In Aspen, Col., a party of young ladies climbed to the top of the fire bell tower, sixty feet high, to obtain a good view of the city. Eppa Stewart stepped to the edge of the tower, and was leaning against a corner post, looking over the country, when the janitor, not knowing of the presence of the ladies, seized the bell rope to call a meeting of the fire company.

In the little German village of Segeberg

there lives a humble shoemaker named Homelach, who has collected 2,563 different kinds of beetles, 1,300 being native and 1,173 foreign. They are all scientifically arranged and classified, and the collection is an exceedingly valuable one from a scientific point of view.

LADIES' COLUMN.

White Hands.

White hands are coming in fashion again, lawn tennis, boating, and all the nascent accomplishments having for a time induced women unnecessarily to redder their hands. Chapped and red hands are never pretty. The daughters of fashion now have dashies of hot water, shaped like a flower leaf, on their toilet tables, in which they steep their hands for a while before going to bed, then moisten them with vaseline and put on gloves lined with a preparation of cold cream.

The Wives' Side.

In all the vigorous efforts now being put forth throughout the country for more wages and less work, why is it that the wives' side of the question is so little considered? The next time a procession of laboring men on a strike parade your streets, just hunt up their wives and ask them about their work.

Week after week, year after year,

with only an occasional afternoon or evening respite, the work goes on. What do these women know of leisure? What chance have they for self-improvement, for true growth? What compensation do they receive for such a toilsome life? Cheap food, poor shelter, poorer clothes. And what do they think of strikes? How many would there be if they were consulted? Few, very few.

Fashion Notes.

Velvet flowers of the most gorgeous sorts appear on straw bonnets. The fringe of hair over the forehead should always be slightly curled. Black, dark brown and navy-blue hosiery are worn with walking costumes.

The wearing of wavy curls resting on the neck is restricted to very youthful ladies.

Graceful head wraps are made of pina silk with an edging of silken tassels tied in.

The short-hair craze has passed and seems to have been a whim of the moment.

Black silk hosiery is worn with evening toilets and with light dresses of even description.

Many of the new sunshades show bouquets of jonquils or daffodils tied on with black ribbons.

The black and white striped satin over which Paris went so wild last year have come, and bid fair to be popular here also.

Charming and becoming as well as the little mull poke bonnets which promise to be very much worn during the coming summer.

The new foulards are stamped with fine designs. Heliotrope and red grounds will have bunches of small mushrooms and ferns, as well as many other tiny designs. Some of the silks for summer wear have alternating stripes of lace grenadine. Moire antique and satin have stripes of close fringe woven in the material.