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Every Saturday,

AT

CHARLOTTE, N. C.

In the Interests of the Colored People
of the Country.

Able and well-known writers will contribute to its columns from different parts of the country, and it will contain the latest General News of the day.

THE MESSENGER is a first-class newspaper and will not allow personal abuse in its columns.

It is not sectarian or partisan, but independent—dealing fairly by all. It reserves the right to criticize the shortcomings of all public officials—commending the worthy, and recommending for election such men as in its opinion are best suited to serve the interests of the people.

It is intended to supply the long felt need of a newspaper to advocate the rights and defend the interests of the Negro-American, especially in the Piedmont section of the Carolinas.

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PERILS OF THE RAIL.

A Horrible Accident on the Port Royal Railroad—A Mother and Child cut to Pieces.

A dispatch from Augusta, Ga., says: A negro woman and child were run over by the down train on the Port Royal Road, and both instantly killed. The accident was a most peculiar one. There is a steep grade track for a long distance on this side of Martin's Station, and, of course, in going down it all trains run very rapidly. About a mile and a half this side of Martin's the engineer saw a negro woman leading a child by the hand in a cut some distance ahead. The train was going at headlong speed and the engineer quickly reversed his engine and put on breaks, but the train was not perceptibly checked. The woman looked back and saw it was instant death unless she got out of the cut very quickly. Not seeming to think of lying down on the side of the track, she clung to the child's hand and tried to outrun the engine, but to no purpose, for hardly had she taken a dozen steps before the mammoth machine struck both she and the child, terribly mangled them and producing instant death. The engineer could not stop his engine at once, but when he did so he backed to the scene of the accident, where he was horrified to find that the bodies of both woman and child had been mashed and mangled into unrecognizable shapes. The bodies were turned over to the woman's husband, who, at his house, a short distance from the place of the accident, had witnessed the death of his wife and child.

THE CUBIAN FILIBUSTERS.

A despatch from Key West, Fla., says: Espanol, the organ of the Spanish government at Havana, announces the capture and death of Beriben, leader of the expedition which recently left here, and says: "The balance of his band are surrounded by troops and must soon surrender." The statement however is much doubtful. In Key West, as private advices positively announce their safety, and it is said that the false report of this brave leader's death was being circulated by the Spanish authorities simply with a view to discourage others from going from here to join him.

The filibusters, numbering about 150 men at the time, did have an encounter with the Spanish soldiers near Matanzas Sunday morning, and for some time held at bay the 1,500 troops sent against them. In the affair thirteen soldiers were killed while the filibusters all escaped with but Beriben and three men wounded, and none of the four seriously. Beriben himself receiving but a slight flesh wound while leading his men into the fight. Beriben, by a steamer from Cuba, sent quite encouraging reports of the way those friendly to the cause in Cuba are flocking to his standard, and says his supply of dynamite did his band good service in both their encounter with the troops since landing.

All About a Jug.

A despatch from Gallatin, Tenn., says: A terrible and sanguinary fight took place at Sandersville over a jug of whisky. One, Davis, a blacksmith, had a jug of whisky locked up in his shop, and Clay Lyles broke the lock to get a drink. Davis reprimanded Lyles for his conduct, and hot words ensued followed by a blow from Davis, knocking him senseless with a hammer. Davis went to work shoeing a horse, when Lyles came up behind him and cut Davis across the cheek, laying it wide open. Lyles cut Davis across the shoulder, making a dangerous wound. Davis turned and struck Lyles over the head with a heavy pile of pinchers, laying him out. Both are dangerously hurt.

ALL ESCAPE CUT OFF.

A WHOLE FAMILY BURNED TO DEATH.

Their Frantic Cries for Help—A Horrible Catastrophe in New Orleans.

A special from New Orleans says: An explosion occurred in the grocery store of Dominick M. Messina, at the corner of Euphonia and Dauphin streets, and a moment later the entire building was on fire, and all escape from the upper stories where Messina's family resided, was cut off. The fire must have been burning some time before the explosion, which was doubtless caused by the ignition of powder, which Messina kept for sale. When the firemen reached the scene, the voices of the Messina family could be heard, mingled with the roaring and crackling of the flames, crying for help. Every effort of the firemen to rescue the unfortunate inmates of the burning building failed, and the entire family, consisting of Messina, his wife and their four children, burned to death.

MOST APPLIES FOR CITIZENSHIP.

He is Refused because he Insists on Being a Law unto Himself.

A dispatch from New York, says: John Most, the Anarchist, in accordance with a promise made at the last meeting of Anarchists, made an application for citizenship at the Court of Common Pleas naturalization bureau. He arrived at the bureau accompanied by several friends. In reply to questions put by the chief clerk, Most said he believed in the Constitution of the United States and in the laws passed by proper authority if they were good laws. If he believed that the laws interfered with the rights of the people he would resist them by force. Most admitted that he had been in prison for violation of law, but claimed that his conviction was unjust and asserted that if he could take his case to the United States Supreme Court judgment would be reversed. Most continued that he had resisted tyranny in every country he had lived in and would continue to do so. Thereupon the clerk declined to administer the oath, adding that if he made a mistake the Courts would rectify it. Most replied that he would test the point. This is the first time a refusal has been made on the same grounds.

OUR SISTER REPUBLIC.

CITY OF MEXICO, VIA GALVESTON, September 19—President Diaz opened Congress with the usual ceremonies. His message, which is of some length deals mainly with practical topics, the material progress of the country and education.

He said that, generally speaking, Mexico's relations with foreign Governments were friendly, and that harmonious relations continue to be cultivated with the United States, and if there be not wanting diplomatic complaint of one country against the other, it is due to private individuals who do themselves injured. This must be considered as a consequence of the contact which neighborhood produces, and this contact is growing more and more intimate daily by reason of traffic on railways which on the other hand, are destined to scatter positive benefit on both nations.

To day being Mexican Independence Day was celebrated with great pomp and splendor.

How He Worked It.

A despatch from Troy, N. Y., says: The people of Glens Falls never were so shocked as when the news of the embezzlement of \$18,000 by Charles B. Ide, a book keeper of the First National Bank was announced. Ide's method was when a draft amounting to \$1,000, or thereabouts, was given by some large customer of the bank to make a duplicate entry on the stub and make the draft payable to his brokers. He would charge the amount of the draft to the customer on the day book and make a posting mark, but would never post the amount in the ledger. In this manner, and by forcing balances, he covered his work for years. Ide, in his confession, said that the whole amount had been lost in Wall street. It is stated on good authority that no effort will be made to prosecute Ide, and that partial restitution will be made by his relatives.

Veterans at a Barbecue.

The confederate reunion at Meriden, Mo., was attended by a large number of soldiers, who represented either side of the conflict. About forty thousand people gathered in the little city of seven thousand and overflowed its corporate limits, but accepted of its beautiful hospitality. A grand parade with veterans of the successful side on the right of the line, societies and military following, and an army of "Johnnies" bringing up the rear, opened the exercises of the day. Banners of the president were floated to the breeze on the side streets, but on the line of march these were conspicuously absent. In a grove at the north of the city one hundred cattle had been barbecued, and when the procession broke ranks it was served to the visitors at a large table covered with the meat pits. In the afternoon orations were delivered by prominent politicians, who found words of praise for both sides and a cause to fight for worthy of either. The reunion lasted two days.

Navigators were natural to the Venetians, and they absorbed all commerce from the year A. D. 1660 to 1790.

General News Notes.

The imports of gold into New York last week amounted to \$3,081,630.

E. S. Wheeler & Co., of New Haven Conn., have filed their schedule. Liabilities: \$2,000,000, assets \$600,000.

The roof of the Jewish synagogue in Chicago caved in fatally injuring two men. Several others were severely hurt.

Governor Gordon, of Georgia, has signed the wine-room bill, which imposes a tax of \$10,000 on all wine-rooms.

LaBelle glass works, at Bridgeport, Ohio, was totally destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of \$85,000; insurance \$50,000.

The manufacturing establishment of the Joseph Peters Furniture Company, of St. Louis, was burned out. Loss \$110,000; well insured.

Col. Green B. Board, president of the trustees of Reanoke College and of the Farmer's National Bank, of Salem, died at Salem, Va., after a week's illness.

A gang of negroes, numbering about a dozen, attempted to create a riot at Charlebb, Fla. The ringleaders were arrested and put under bond.

O'Brien has received \$100 from America, which he will distribute among relatives of victims of the recent affray at Mitchellstown.

Governor Gordon and staff, accompanied by the Atlanta Rifles, have left Atlanta for Philadelphia, to attend the Constitutional Centennial celebration.

A Hazleton, Pa., dispatch says 25,000 men, employed in the middle coal fields, are on a strike for a demand of an increase of 15 per cent in wages.

Lieutenant Governor Waterman occupies the Executive chair of California, made vacant by the death of Governor Bartlett.

At Lynchburg, Va., ground was broken for the Lynchburg, Halifax and Durham Railroad. The road will run from Lynchburg to Durham, N. C.

Near Clark's hill, in Edgefield county, S. C., two colored men were digging a well. One was overcome with gas. The other tried to rescue him but was also overcome and both died in the well.

Eighteen barrels of new Louisiana molasses, were received at New Orleans from St. John the Baptist Parish and classed choice. It was sold at 90 cents per gallon. This is the earliest receipt of molasses ever known. Seven hogsheads of sugar were made from the run producing the molasses above mentioned.

At Fellaine bridge, four miles below Wheeling, W. Va., on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad while Foreman Ed Duffy and his gang of workmen were repairing a bridge, the yard engine crossing from Leewood to Billcare, came swiftly upon them and knocked Duffy and two of his men into the river-bed below, all three instantly killed.

Great prominence is given by the San Francisco newspapers to the changes announced in the directory of the Nevada Bank, by which Ex-Senator James G. Fair again becomes a prominent stockholder and accepts the presidency of the bank in place of J. C. Flood, who retires, though remaining a director. It is said that Fair furnished money to get the bank out of trouble caused by recent heavy wheat speculations.

Governor Washington Bartlett, of California, died at the home of his cousin, Mrs. Beckett, in Oakland. The Governor had been in a critical condition for a month and his death had been expected any day during the past two weeks. His death resulted from chronic affection of the kidneys. Governor Bartlett was a native of Savannah, Ga., and was 63 years old. He removed to California in 1844, and has lived there since.

THE AMERICAN PARTY.

Proceedings of the First Convention at Philadelphia.

A despatch from Philadelphia says: The first convention of the newly organized American party, was held in this city for the purpose of nominating a national ticket. About 150 delegates were present, and a permanent organization was quickly effected by the election of W. Horace Hepburn, of Philadelphia, chairman, and J. M. Nunyon, also of this city, as secretary. After organization had been completed, a motion was made that a committee of thirteen on resolutions be appointed, and that all resolutions offered be referred to the committee without debate.

This motion caused quite a row, in which George F. Edgar, of New York, was the chief figure on the opposing side, and he declared that the purpose of the motion was entirely un-American and savored strongly of the gag law. After a spirited debate the motion prevailed and Edgar promptly left the hall as an expression of his dissatisfaction. Ex-Senator Pomeroy, of Kansas, addressed the delegates, and was enthusiastically received. The convention will continue in session tomorrow, when it is expected by the officers, there will be a much larger attendance of delegates.

A portion of Jacob Lorillard's brick-yard at Union, N. J., was burned. The loss is very heavy, including \$60,000 in machinery; no insurance. Origin of fire unknown.

HANGED TO A TREE.

THE TRAIN STOPPED BY MASKED MEN.

Who Tear the Prisoner Away from the Officers and Put a Speedy End to His Existence.

A Birmingham, Ala., Special says: Monroe Johnson the negro who murdered Mrs. John Foster on the night of the 31st of August, was lynched at 4 o'clock on the morning of September 18th, near the scene of his crime. Johnson was arrested in Atlanta about ten days ago, and held to await a requisition. Saturday Special Officer Dabney went to Atlanta for the prisoner. He left there on the night train with his prisoner handcuffed and chained to a seat. At Leeds sixteen miles from this city, the train was signaled to stop. The moment it came to a standstill four masked men, armed with shotguns, boarded the engine and covering Engineer Shivers with their weapons ordered him to stand still, while a dozen others entered the cars. When they caught sight of the negro there was a shout and

THEY SEIZED HIM.

They didn't wait to unlock the chain, but tore the seat from the floor and dragged it out with the negro. Two hundred yards from the depot a large walnut tree stood, and to this the mob hurried. A rope was already around the negro's neck and in a moment he was

SUSPENDED IN MIDAIR.

The mob then moved off ten paces and with shotguns, rifles and pistols riddled the writhing body with bullets. The body remained hanging to the limb all day and was viewed by hundreds of people. The crime for which Johnson was lynched was brutal murder of a respectable white lady. He had previously killed two negroes, served two terms in the state prison and was considered the worst character ever in this community.

It is rumored here that a riot, growing out of the hanging, is now in progress at Leeds, but owing to the imperfect telegraphic communication, particulars are wanting. Johnson is reported to have begged piteously for his life, asserting his innocence till the last.

A GREAT YACHT RACE.

The Volunteer Will Defend the Claim of the New York Yacht Club to the Custody of the Famous America's Cup.

A despatch from New York says: "The third attempt to have a trial race to choose the ablyst yacht as the defender of the America's cup against the Scotch Thistle resulted in one of the finest contests ever seen in these waters.

There was a strong wind blowing from north to northwest all day. It reached a velocity of thirty miles an hour. Added to the splendid condition of the elements was the excellent judgment of the committee, who decided after the yachts got under way, that a triangular race should be sailed. That decision gave the contestants a course of thirty eight miles to sail over with the wind on every hand.

They had a run to leeward of ten miles a stretch of nine miles and return, and a beat for home of ten miles. At every turn and in every weather, except during the first part of the run to leeward, when the Mayflower sailed better than the Volunteer, the latter beat her opponent. The outcome of the day's race was that the Volunteer was chosen by the America's cup committee, who judged the event from the flagship Electra, to meet the Thistle in the international contest.

The Thistle was out too, but her handling was of such kind during the first half of the race as to give no idea of what she could do. After that she was evidently sailed for all she was worth with a foul bottom, and under the conditions was out sailed by both the Mayflower and the Volunteer. The official table of figures made by the judges was as follows:

VOLUNTEER.	
Start	11.11.57
Finish	3.32.46 1-5
Elapsed time	4.20.49 1-5

MAYFLOWER.

Start	11.14.43
Finish	3.51.34 4-5
Elapsed time	4.36.51 4-5

There was no corrected time figured, as neither yacht had been measured, and as the time allowance would have probably been less than a minute, the result could not have been affected.

Double Crime of a Jealous Husband.

A despatch from Baltimore, Md., says: information has reached this city of a double teagdy, which occurred at Huntingtown, a small village in Calvert County, in the southern part of the State. Edward Coolidge, a farmer cut his wife's throat with a razor, after failing in an attempt to shoot her, nearly severing her head from her body. He then tried to kill his sister, but she escaped, and with the same weapon cut his own throat, dying, after kissing his two little boys. Jealousy caused the tragedy.

Taken Out and Whipped.

A despatch from Columbia, S. C., says: Two negro men living on Dr. W. A. Shands plantation, near Tylersville, Laurens county, were taken from their houses last night by six disguised white men, and whipped and beaten in a most brutal manner. The cause of the whipping is a mystery, as both the negroes are said to be quiet and inoffensive.

WASHINGTON DISPATCHES.

WITHOUT ANY FOUNDATION.

In answer to an inquiry relative to the statement made in the British house of commons by Sir James Ferguson, to the effect that the government had ordered a discontinuance of the seizure of British vessels sealing in Alaskan waters, Secretary Bayard said that his attention had already been drawn to the matter, and he had read the statement with surprise. He knew nothing of the making of an order, such as described. The vessels seized are now in the custody of the judiciary, awaiting the action of the courts, which will determine the legality of the seizures. Touching that part of the statement ascribed to the British parliamentary secretary, where he says that the seizures are to be discontinued, while fisheries negotiations are in progress, Secretary Bayard said that there was no relation or connection of any kind between the seizures in Alaskan waters and questions arising under the treaty of 1818 relative to the Canadian fisheries. Negotiations with the British government upon the last named subject are progressing as well as can be expected. No selections have been made of persons to assist the United States government in the negotiations, but Secretary Bayard says he is hopeful of his ability to lay before congress, when it assembles, a satisfactory basis of settlement of the difference between the United States and Great Britain respecting the fisheries.

MILLIONS FOR PENSIONERS.

Pension Commissioner Black, in his annual report, makes a number of recommendations for legislation in the line of greater liberality to the pensioners, among others that an additional clerical force be allowed to enable the commissioner, without making extra demands upon the clerks now in service, to complete and satisfy the Mexican pension claims, of which 8,000 have been allowed since the passage of the act. At the close of the year 400,000 pensioners were on the rolls classified as follows: 291,445 army invalids; 85,010 army widows, minor children and dependent relatives; 3,281 navy invalids, 1,973 navy widows, minor children and dependent relatives; 1,099 survivors of the war of 1812 and 11,831 widows of those who served in that war; 7,503 survivors of the war with Mexico, and 895 widows of those who served in said war. There were added to the rolls during the year names of 55,194 new pensioners and the names of 2,707, whose pensions had been previously dropped, were restored to the rolls. During the same period the names of 17,677 pensioners were dropped from the rolls for various causes. The amount paid for pensions during the year was \$73,460,581, an increase in amount over the previous year of \$9,669,750. In the aggregate 1,091,200 pension claims have been filed since 1861 and in the same period 675,948 claims of all classes have been allowed. An appropriation of \$79,045,230 is asked for the next fiscal year. That for the current year was \$78,701,250.

FLORIDA INVITES THE PRESIDENT.

The committee appointed by the board of trade and citizens of Jacksonville, Fla., accompanied by Senator Call, called upon President Cleveland, by appointment, to present an invitation to the President and Mrs. Cleveland to visit Florida. The chairman of the committee expressed the hope that the President might make the visit during his coming Southern trip, or if that should not be possible, on February 22, when the Sub-tropical Exposition would be in progress. The President expressed doubt of his being able to visit Florida in his Southern tour as now mapped out but said he would give the matter serious attention and hoped to be able to accept at a later day.

THE PURCHASE OF BONDS.

Offerings of 4-1/2 per cent bonds to the treasury aggregated \$5,175,900, at prices ranging from 107.98-100 to 110. Acting Secretary Thompson accepted \$4,199,500 of the bonds offered at prices ranging from 107.98 to 108.74.

THE PRESIDENT'S RETURN.

The Presidential party, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland, Secretary Bayard, Col. and Mrs. Lamont, have arrived from Philadelphia in the special car of President Roberts, of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Carriages were in waiting and the party immediately entered them and were driven to their several homes. The President and Mrs. Cleveland went to the White House, where they remained until the afternoon, when they drove out to Oak View. They were much fatigued with their constant round of receptions, though highly delighted with the trip. They regarded the celebration as a complete success and a great demonstration, and have nothing but praise for their reception while in the Quaker City.

A Peculiar Mark of Respect.

If a man should present himself at the White House in Washington, and, walking up to the President, double up his fist and shake it in Mr. Cleveland's face, he would in all likelihood be arrested on the spot for a crank or a madman. But in one of the African kingdoms, this is the prescribed etiquette for all those who approach the throne. It means, "I hope that I see you strong and well, O King, like unto my fist and my arm."—Golden Argosy.

The "Vedas," the sacred books of the Brahmin religion, are believed to be 8,900 years old, to date back as far as 8000 B. C.

THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS

Weekly Report of the United States Signal Service—General Appearance of Frost More or Less Severe, in the North and Northwest.

WASHINGTON, The following weather crop bulletin has been issued by the signal office for the week ending September 17th:

During the week ended September 17 the weather has been colder than usual from Dakota eastward over the Lake region of New England, the daily average temperature being from 1 to 3 degrees below normal. It has been warmer than usual from the Gulf States to the Ohio Valley and the interior of the South Atlantic States; the daily average temperature being from 3 to 9 degrees above normal. For the Sacramento Valley, California, the daily average temperature was from 3 to 5 degrees above normal.

The daily average temperature for the season, from January 1 to September 17, has been in excess from the Ohio Valley, Tennessee and the interior of the Gulf States westward to the Rocky Mountains, the daily average excess ranging from less than 1 to about 4 degrees. The seasonal temperature has generally been deficient in the South Atlantic States and upper Lake region, the daily average deficiency being about 1 degree excepting along Lake Superior where it varies from 2 to 3 degrees below the average.

During the week the rainfall has very generally been slightly below the average east of the Rocky Mountains the greatest deficiency being over one inch along the South Atlantic coast. In the middle Atlantic States the rainfall has been slightly above the average. The large seasonal deficiency, exceeding ten inches continue throughout the lower Mississippi Valley and the greater part of Illinois and Iowa. During the past month over 100 per cent of the usual amount of rain has fallen in portions of New England, the lower Lake region, western North Carolina and the Missouri Valley, while less than 88 per cent of the usual amount has fallen along the South Atlantic and Eastern Gulf coasts, the lower Mississippi Valley, the larger part of Illinois and eastern Missouri.

In the tobacco region of Tennessee about 50 per cent of the usual amount has fallen during the month, while in that of Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois from 10 to 50 per cent of the usual amount has fallen.

Reports from Mississippi indicate that the weather has been more favorable during the past week, but not enough rainfall and the cotton crop will fall short.

From Tennessee reports state that cotton is opening rapidly. From North Carolina and South Carolina the weather is reported favorable for cotton picking. It is reported from Minnesota that the crops have been harvested and conditions are favorable for threshing. From Kansas it is reported that hot winds in the southwest part of the State injured the late crops. From Missouri the reports are that the weather is favorable to pasture and wheat seeding, except in the central portion. In Illinois seeding is progressing, but the revived pastures are again failing. In Indiana the pastures are parched and the wells are dry. In Tennessee the drought is serious and ploughing has been stopped. In South Carolina the crops are suffering from drought. In North Carolina and New Jersey the weather is favorable for crops. In Massachusetts the weather condition is favorable except that potatoes are rotting.

Killing frosts have occurred during the past week in the larger part of Dakota and Minnesota, northern parts of Wisconsin and Michigan, northern part of New York, and northern Vermont, and light frost in Wyoming, southern Michigan, central New York and the greater part of Maine.

Narrow Escape From a Big Bear.

The largest bear any of us ever saw was a cinnamon that came within an inch of killing one of my men, a good hunter and first-class guide—Charles Huff. (I may refer to the big cinnamon, too, as an instance of the danger that sometimes attends trapping the bear.) He had set his traps near Sunlight, in the spring, and was unable to visit them for a week. When we got to the bait trap and log were gone. After taking up the trail, he soon found the remnants of his log chewed to match-wood; the bear, evidently a large one, had gone off with the trap. He followed his trail as long as he had light, but found nothing, and had to return to camp. Next day, very foolishly, he took the trail again alone, beginning where he had left off. After a long march he came to the steep side of a hill; the bear had evidently gone up there; on the soft, snow-sodden ground the trail was plain. Just as he was beginning to ascend, there was a rush and a roar, and the bear was on him. He had no time to put his repeater to his shoulder, but letting it fall between his hands, pulled the trigger. The bear was within a few feet of him, and by a great chance the unaimed bullet took him between the eyes. He had evidently tried the hill-side, and, worried by the heavy trap, had come back on his trail and lain behind a great heap of dirt, into which he had partly burrowed, waiting for his enemy. Among the debris of spring-tide—fallen stones and uprooted trees—a bear could easily lie hidden, if he was mad and wanted to conceal himself till the enemy was within a few feet. It was a terribly close shave.—Scientist's Magazine.

Dakota among the States and Territories