

# THE CHARLOTTE MESSENGER.

VOL. IV. NO. 25.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., SATURDAY, JAN. 14, 1888

Terms, \$1.50 per Annum. Single Copy 5 cents.

THE  
**Charlotte Messenger**

IS PUBLISHED

Every Saturday,

AT

**CHARLOTTE, N. C.**

In the Interests of the Colored People  
of the Country.

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1 year	\$1 50
8 months	1 00
6 months	75
3 months	50
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**W. C. SMITH Charlotte N. C.**

#### How Russians Make Tea.

"This is a Russian samovar," said the head of the Russian department at Tiffany's in answer to a question. People in this country don't know how to use them. They imagine that a samovar is to make tea in; whereas tea in Russia—where tea is made in perfection—is always made in an earthen teapot.

"The samovar ought to be engraved on the Russian coat of arms. Every Russian, from the peasant to the Czar, has a samovar, but the samovar is only to heat the water for the tea. This centre tube you notice," he continued, removing the cover, "when in use should be filled with lighted charcoal. I usually advise persons to start the charcoal in the range and put it lighted in the samovar tube. The space around this tube is filled with cold water, the samovar is placed on the table, and in a few moments the water begins to boil. Russian ladies always prepare their tea themselves at the table. An earthen teapot, with a small box containing tea, is always placed beside the lady at the head of the table. She first turns a little boiling water in the teapot to heat it; then she turns this out and puts in the tea. She turns boiling water over it and instantly turns this out—it is merely to wash the dust off the tea. This done, she turns on the tea sufficient water to make it quite strong, covers it with a napkin, and leaves it for a few moments to draw. Then she fills each glass partly full of this strong tea and fills it up with boiling water from the samovar, regulating the strength of the glass of tea to the taste of the person to whom it is served.

"Russians do not drink strong tea. All tea is served in thin glasses set in metal frames, like Turkish coffee cups. A tea glass and holder is a popular gift from a lady to a gentleman. Water that has boiled over fifteen minutes is considered unfit to make tea. All tea is served boiling hot. Cold tea is an abomination. It is not known in Russia."—*New York Tribune.*

#### The Spirit Bean.

A lot of people were staring yesterday afternoon into the sunny window of a curiosity shop on Clay street. The attraction was a lot of little nuts spread on a sheet of paper. They were popping about like things of life.

"What are they?" asked an Eastern lady.

"Chestnuts," ventured an old Californian.

"The proper name for them," said a member of the Academy of Sciences, "is spirit beans. They're also sometimes called electric beans. There is nothing mysterious about them. They grow in Mexico and Central America. A variety of the ichneumon flies an almost microscopic hole in the nut with its ovipositor and deposits the eggs. From the egg comes a grub that feeds upon the interior of the nut until a space is formed. It is the convulsive motions of the grub which produces the actions that astonish you. Until revived by the heat the grub lies dormant. If allowed to develop naturally it would eat its way out and become an ichneumon fly—a sort of winged beetle. See *Franklin's Review*."

## FARMS AND FARMERS.

Short Talks With the Men Who Guide the Plow.

Of General Interest to Farmers.  
Will It Pay?

Farming has its bright, poetic side. The embowered cottage, with vines and flowers and shade, the ruddy-faced children, the blooming maiden, the sturdy youth, the patriarchal father and motherly mother; these naturally spring up before the mental eye at mention of the farm. Green fields, waving corn, lowing herds, frisking lambs, racing colts, growing cocks and cackling geese, complete the picture. "Far more the world's ignoble strife"—removed from many of the temptations that beset the denizens of cities and towns—the farmer lives in close communion with nature. The sunshine, the clouds, the rain, the storm, cold and heat, touch him on every side and become part of his daily life. How to put himself in unison with nature; how to co-operate with her; how to avoid opposition to her laws, these are his constant aim and study. They bring no personal animosities, no initiative antagonisms. To watch the tiny seedling spring from the buried seed; to see it expand and grow into the lofty corn with its yellow tassels, flowing silks and hanging ears, or the branching cotton with its snowy locks, suggestive of death and life, of the grave and the resurrection, this is the pleasing, ennobling occupation of each recurring year of his life. In these he sees his own life pictured: birth, growth, maturity, death. No, not death; for in the now perfected grain a new life is hidden away, seeming death only—a real immortality. Is it wonderful that noble natures, with the ripening and mellowing of age, turn instinctively to rural life, and seek, or long for, its quiet and freedom from the bickerings and strifes of men and its foreshadowings of heavenly rest?

But farming has also a hard, business side—a matter of dollars and cents, in the strictest sense. In every venture, outside of the adornment of his home, or the comfort of his family, the first question that a prudent farmer should ask himself is: "Will it pay, is there any profit in it?" Why should he labor "for that which is naught," any more than a merchant or manufacturer or anybody else? "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread" is the divine announcement; he should sweat, but he should have bread as the reward thereof. After taking due allowance for possible contingencies, after careful, sober calculation, a farmer should have reasonable grounds for believing that an undertaking will pay before he begins it. Like a judge on the bench, he should canvass everything for or against it. Neither blind hopes nor gloomy fears should sway his judgment—these should be ruled out of court, and he should look at the naked facts in the light of the past experience. Past experience that is the touch stone, that is the safest counsellor. You need not fear to follow it. The only point to be guarded is, that you do not draw false influences from it, and then substitute these in the place of the experience itself. Take the naked facts; they are right hard to get at sometimes; they become mixed up with opinions, and false deductions, but strip them of these as much as you can and then be guided by past experience, whether it is pleasant or not. Be honest, whether it reflects on your past management or not.

Let us propound some questions which are pertinent to the present season: Have you good land to justify your running as many plows next year as you did this? If you had left out the poorest land you plowed this year and put the manure and labor upon your best land, would you not have made as much, or possibly more, and saved the keeping of one mule and one hand? Would it not be very pleasant to have the money paid that hand back in your pocket now, and the feed consumed by that mule back in your barn? Would it not have been better to have sowed down that land, or to have left it to rest and gather fertility to be utilized at some future day? Does it pay you to cultivate poor land? That is the most serious, the most important question that confronts the southern farmer to-day. Think of it. Look at it, as applied to your own farm. Count up the cost of cultivation, and then set over against it the actual yields obtained. No dodging. No shoving over the matter. Perhaps one wet year you made a fair crop on the poor land. Will you let that balance the failures of four others, when the seasons were not favorable? Far better to concentrate on the best land on your farm, though, by so doing, you make it a one-horse farm, than to run eight plows on poor land and simply make enough to pay the expense of cultivation, or possibly not do even that.

Does it pay to keep the same land year after year in cotton, without rotation? Does it pay to run rows up and down hill and let the soil wash away without terraces or ditches to save it? Does it pay to raise cotton to buy corn and meat? Does it pay to buy mules and horses when they can be raised at home? Does it pay to use commercial fertilizers on thin land, destitute of humus? Does it pay to cultivate land that is half prepared? Does it pay to use poor implements of any kind? Which pays best, a big venture on credit or a small one on a cash basis? These are a few of the many questions which a farmer may ask himself. He ought to ask and weigh them well, answer them carefully, and then plan his arrangements for another year. It is not wise to go forward as a matter of course, blindly taking the chances as they come. Look before you leap.—*Atlanta Constitution.*

## THE MIDNIGHT SHOCK.

Freight and Passenger Trains Telescope and Burn—Several Lives Lost.

The west-bound Union Pacific passenger train was halted near Edison station, Wyoming Territory, to repair a slight damage to the engine. After the delay, and when the train had proceeded but a few hundred yards, a freight train, running at a high rate of speed, rounded a curve and dashed into the rear car, telescoping two emigrant cars, which at once caught fire and were entirely consumed. The rear of the sleeper "Delhi" was also burned. A wrecking car and corps of surgeons were soon on the ground. Five hours after the collision the track was cleared and the dead and wounded were removed to Rawlins. The thermometer registered 20 degrees below zero when the accident occurred and assistance was nearly fifty miles distant. The clothing of many of the emigrants was consumed in the flames, and a number were badly frozen before reaching shelter. The company did everything possible for the unfortunate ones. Scott Vermillion, conductor of the passenger train, fled to adjacent bluffs immediately after the accident. Twenty cowboys searched for him all day, and it is believed he was rendered crazy by the awful sight. He doubled back until exhausted and then tumbled into an isolated drain and expired.

## FATAL ACCIDENT.

The Engineer and the Fireman Killed—A Complete Wreck—Cause of the Accident.

A fatal railroad accident occurred on the New River division of the Norfolk and Western railroad just below Eggleston's, sixteen miles below New River Junction. A freight consisting of thirty-five empty coal cars ran into a rock slide, and the engine and fifteen or twenty cars were thrown from the track and wrecked. The engine was precipitated into the river, carrying down with it J. G. Abbott, the engineer, who was instantly killed and partially buried under the wreck. The fireman, F. Johnson, was also killed, his body being fearfully mangled. The front brakeman had his ankle severely sprained by jumping from the train. The slide came down on the track just in front of the engine, and no precaution could have prevented the accident. The railroad authorities here will send the body of the engineer to his home in Pennsylvania, for interment.

## Crushed to Death.

A locomotive ran off the track at Benettsville, S. C., and several hours elapsed before it could be placed on the rails again. Among the crowd of country people who had gathered to see the prostrate iron horse was a white boy about sixteen years old, named Owens, who seated himself on the track in front of the engine to watch the proceedings, and while thus engaged he fell asleep. Meantime the engine had been replaced upon the track and started up again, without arousing Owens, who was run over and crushed to death.

A shocking fatal accident is reported from Pekins county, S. C. John Runnels, a prominent white farmer, was standing in Bogg's mill, when his coat caught in a large cog wheel in the machinery and before he could be released he was drawn to the wheels and crushed and mangled almost beyond recognition. His death was instantaneous.

## FATAL EXPLOSION.

Explosion of a Boiler of a Saw Mill—Killing one Man and Injuring Two.

The boiler burst at K. H. Worthy & Son's mills, two miles from Jonesboro, N. C., instantly killing Richard Melver, colored, and fatally injuring Henry Dark, the Sawyer, and Peter Melver, one of the hands. Richard Melver, the fireman, had chained the safety valve down to prevent a loss of steam, and having filled the furnace full of pine knots, left the engine for a few minutes and immediately after his return to the engine the explosion occurred, blowing him through a grist mill house and throwing him a distance of 75 feet from the place of the explosion, completely demolishing his body from the waist down, tearing it into very small pieces. Geo. Sloan a young white man, was standing in front of the engine and was blown a distance of twenty feet, on top of a pile of lumber and left unconscious for some minutes, but escaped unhurt. His hat was blown at least one hundred yards in the mill pond. One half of the engine was blown fifty yards from the place of the explosion. The loss of property is two thousand dollars.

## A Difficult Case.

Mr. S. Wittkowsky returned yesterday from New York, and reports that his son, Gerard Wittkowsky, is rapidly recovering from the surgical operation recently performed upon him in that city. Gerard has the distinction of being the only person in the world who has survived an operation of a like character. Drs. Baruch and Sands, assisted by five other physicians, had Gerard's case in hand, and they performed upon him an operation of laparotomy for perforation of the vermiform appendix. This appendix, by the way, is one whose use has never yet been ascertained by the doctors. The cause of trouble in Gerard's case was a raisin seed that had lodged in the appendix. Dr. Sands says that this is the only successful operation of the kind that has been performed within the history of the world.—*Charlotte Chronicle.*

## WASHINGTON.

WORK OF THE 50TH CONGRESS.

A Few of the Bills Which Were Introduced in the Senate and House.

Jan. 9.—House—Mr. Baker of Illinois, tendered his resignation as a member of the Committee on Claims and it was accepted.

On motion of Mr. Crisp, of Georgia, a resolution was adopted granting leave to Committee on Elections to set during the session of the House.

Mr. Shaw, of Maryland, chairman of committee on Accounts, reports a resolution designating the committees entitled to employ clerks. The question of committee clerks excited a general discussion of the subject.

Perkins, of Kansas, offered an amendment providing that every member of the House not a chairman of a committee should have a clerk at a salary of one hundred dollars a month.

Mr. Brumm, of Pennsylvania, favored the amendment.

Mr. Stubble, of Iowa, also favored the proposition.

Mr. Browne, of Indiana, opposed the creation of 300 additional clerks.

Mr. Blount, of Georgia, urged his party friends to defeat the amendment.

Messrs. Bayne and Scott, of Pennsylvania, favored the amendment. After further expression of opinion on motion of Mr. Mills, of Texas, the report and pending amendments were recommended to the committee on Accounts. The speaker then proceeded with the call of States and the following were introduced and referred:

By Mr. Wheeler, of Alabama, to increase the compensation of fourth-class postmasters; also for the retirement of disabled army officers.

By Mr. Oates, of Alabama, for the forfeiture of the Mobile and Girard railroad Land Grant, also resolution directing Judiciary Committee to report what legislation is necessary to limit and restrict immigration and secure protection from pauper and criminal immigration.

By Lawler, of Illinois, resolution providing for the appointment of a special committee to investigate the causes underlying labor strikes.

By O'Donnell, of Michigan, to repeal the duty on sugar and provide for the payment of a bounty of \$2,000,000 a year for two years for cultivation of sugar in the United States.

By Hatch, of Missouri, for the importation of salt free of duty.

Without concluding the call of States, the House, at 5 o'clock, adjourned.

Jan. 9.—Senate—In the Senate to-day Mr. Sherman introduced bills to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to invest in government bonds that were sold by the Treasury for the redemption of national bank notes to the par value of bonds deposited; also to provide for a national bureau to prevent importations of adulterated food products, &c.

Mr. Everts introduced a bill to protect New York harbor from obstructions.

At the close of the morning business in the Senate Mr. Brown called up his resolution for the abolition of internal revenue taxes, and proceeded to address the Senate in an able speech.

At the conclusion of Mr. Brown's speech his resolution was tabled and Mr. Vest took the floor in opposition to the educational bill. Mr. Vest said that in his opinion the passage of this bill would be worse for the South than war pestilence or famine.

Mr. Wilson, of Maryland obtained the floor.

On motion of Mr. Spooner the Senate took up and passed a bill appropriating \$1,000,000 for a government building at Milwaukee, Wis. The Senate then proceeded to consideration of executive business and half an hour later, at 4:40 adjourned.

Jan. 10.—Senate—In the Senate to-day Mr. Voorhees introduced, for reference to the finance committee, the proposed condition of National bank laws committee by the comptroller of the currency.

The resolution to appoint a special committee on postal telegraphy was reported adversely, and consideration indefinitely postponed.

Mr. Edmunds introduced a bill to incorporate the Nicaragua Canal Company. The Senate at 3:45 proceeded to executive business. Senator Edmunds from the Judiciary Committee made an adverse report on the nomination of L. Q. C. Lamar to be Assistant Justice of the Supreme court, and Senator Pugh in behalf of the minority of the same committee submitted a favorable report.

Senator Edmunds made a favorable report from Judiciary Committee on the nomination of Wm. F. Vilas to be Secretary of the Interior. Calendar.

Senator Sawyer from the Postoffice Committee made a favorable report on the nomination of Don Dickinson to be Postmaster General. Calendar.

At five minutes to five the doors were reopened and the Senate adjourned till to-morrow.

Jan. 10.—House—The Speaker announced the appointment of Messrs. Wheeler, of Alabama, and Phelps of New Jersey, as members of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

Mr. Barnes, of Missouri, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the urgent deficiency bill and it was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

The call of States which was uncompleted yesterday, was then resumed, the following bills were introduced and referred:

By Mr. Woodburn, of Nevada, directing the purchase of not less than four million dollars worth of silver bullion per month and the coinage of the same into standard dollars.

By Gallinger, of New Hampshire, for

the protection of the public services (it requires the dismissal of all persons now in service who are not citizens of the United States.)

By Mr. White, of Kentucky, to authorize the refunding of the national debt, into uniform consolidated bonds.

By Mr. Nichols, of North Carolina, to repeal the internal revenue laws.

By Mr. Wilkins, of Ohio, authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to apply the surplus to the purchase of United States bonds.

By Mr. Harmer, of Pennsylvania, to increase the pensions for those who have lost eyes, limbs, or who are deaf.

By Mr. Tillman, of South Carolina, prohibiting stoves or oil lamps on passenger trains.

By Mr. Cummings, of New York, to provide for licensing conductors on inter-state railroads.

Reports of committees as follows: By Wilkins, from banking and currency, to provide for the issue of circulating notes to National Banks. House calendar.

Bills were also introduced for the erection of public buildings at the following named places: Fayetteville, N. C.; New Bern, N. C.; Manchester, Va.; Newport News, Va.; Brunswick, Ga.

The House then at 1:50 p. m. adjourned.

Jan. 11.—Senate—After the introduction of a variety of petitions Mr. Saulsbury introduced a resolution to declare that this government shall take no further steps to bring about an international agreement as to gold and silver coinage.

Mr. Hoar introduced a resolution calling upon the President for the reports and accompanying documents submitted by the Pacific railroad commission.

Mr. Coke took the floor in opposition to the educational bill. Mr. Coke spoke an hour and confined his remarks to the Constitutional points of the proposed bill.

At the conclusion of Mr. Coke's speech Mr. Gray obtained the floor, but gave way to a motion to adjourn, which the Senate did at 3:45 p. m.

Jan. 11.—House—The Speaker, as the first business in order, proceeded to call the committees, but no reports of any character were submitted. The House on motion of Mr. Mills, went into committee of the whole upon the state of the union for the consideration of the President's message. Mr. Mills offered a resolution referring the message to the committee of Ways and Means. Confirmation by the House.

Mr. Randall, from committee on Appropriations, reported a resolution which was adopted, calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for schedule of claims allowed by the treasury department, under appropriations.

The House then went into committee of the whole on little deficiency bill. The discussion on the bill became political, and was participated in by Messrs. Randall, Burnes, Milliker, Henderson and Reed.

Mr. M. C. Comas, of Maryland, defended the Committee on Appropriations from the charge of being dilatory in its presentation of appropriation bills, and laid the blame for the tardy passage of those measures upon what he termed the Constitutional and characteristic delay of the Democratic party. The bill was then read by paragraphs.

On motion of Burns an amendment was adopted appropriating \$100,000 for the payment of judgments and awards against the United States on account of damages caused by reason of the improvement of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers. The committee then rose and the bill was passed.

The House then, at 4:30 adjourned.

## Washington News Notes.

Hopkins, who some weeks ago sent a bogus infernal machine to Chief Justice Waite, pleaded guilty in the police court was fined \$100.

Acting Secretary Thompson has addressed a letter to the chairman of the lighthouse board in regard to the case of Keeper Odell of Cape Henry light station.

It is stated at the department that the case has assumed the importance of a political issue in Virginia, and almost the entire democratic influence of the state has been invoked to secure the removal of the lightkeeper in question.

Secretary Lamar has tendered to the President his resignation as Secretary of the Interior, and it was accepted by the President. The formal resignation, it is understood, will not go into effect for a few days in order to enable the secretary to close up some routine business.

The President has sent the following nominations to the Senate: Jacob T. Ake, of Ironton, Mo., to be register of the land office at Ironton, Mo.; David K. Tuttle, of New Jersey, to be melter at the mint at Philadelphia.

Consuls—J. Harvey Brigham, of Louisiana, at Kingston, Jamaica; William L. Bradford, of Alabama, at Barranquilla; Lebbens G. Bennington, of West Virginia, at Rio Grande de Sul; Bickford Mackey, of South Carolina, at Passo del Norte; Charles Storck, of Texas, at Monterey.

Postmasters—John F. Redding, at Barnesville, Ga.; John F. Kiddo, at Cuthbert, Ga.

## THE GRAIN CROP.

Estimates of the acreage production and value of corn, wheat and oats for each state and territory has been prepared for publication by the statistician of the department of agriculture. The area of corn harvested, excluding abandoned or worthless acreage is 72,000,000 acres in round numbers. 1,436,000,000, value \$646,000,000; area of wheat 37,400,000 acres, product, 456,000,000 bushels, value, \$309,000,000. The area in oats nearly 26,000,000 acres, product, 639,000,000 bushels, value \$200,000,000.

Reports of winter wheat do not show

much decrease of area. In Texas there is considerable increase, and a slight increase in some other states. The average decline appears to be between one and two per cent. In Kentucky 97, Ohio 99, Michigan 98, Indiana 100, Illinois 98, Missouri 99, Kansas 98. The condition is effected somewhat by the dryness of the seed bed in the district that suffered from drought, delaying seeding, germination and growth. Later rains greatly improved the situation. The average condition is 95, ranging in the principal states from 96 to 98. The condition of winter rye coincides very closely with that of wheat.

## Telegraphic Ticks.

The News of the North, East, South and West, Reduced to Facts

An Interesting Budget for our Busy Readers.

The news of the shooting of the noted Mexican bandit, Bernal, has been confirmed.

The latest news from Powderly is to the effect that he is improving in health.

Reuben Crawford of the internal revenue department died at Lansing Mich.

Isaac Merrick, at Camden, N. J., murdered his daughter and then shot himself. No cause is ascribed for the tragedy.

The fire at Louisa Courthouse Va., resulted in the destruction of twenty-one out of twenty-four business houses.

A fire in Chicago destroyed a seven story building, No. 298 and 300 Third avenue.

A large deposit of bituminous coal has been discovered near San Antonio Texas.

John Gibson, another victim of the Cincinnati Southern Railroad accident on the 31st, is dead.

The National Bank of Greenville, S. C. has been designated as a depository of public funds by the Government.

Two elevators belonging to the Northern Pacific Railroad Company were burned at Rockford, Minn.

The anniversary of the battle of New Orleans was celebrated in New York by a banquet at the Hoffman House President Cleveland sent a letter.

"Aunt Eunice" Cottrell, died at Norwich, Conn., aged 115 years. She was the great grand child of King Phillip, of ante-revolutionary fame.

The body of Capt. Amos Cliff, formerly of Sheridan's staff, who died in Washington about two weeks ago, has been stolen from the cemetery and sold to the medical college.

The death is announced of Bonamy Price, M. A., professor of political economy in Oxford University. He was 80 years old.

The President and Mrs. Cleveland have been formally invited to attend the opening of the Sub-Tropical Exposition at Jacksonville, Fla.

At Rockford, Ill., the Rockford Co-operative Furniture Company's building was burned with all its contents. Loss \$60,000.

Delegates have arrived in Chattanooga, Tenn., from several Southern States to attend the railroad convention to secure an excursion rate of one cent per mile from the North and West to all points in the South.

The Vicksburg, Miss., Commercial Herald building, newspaper, job office and bindery, were burned. The loss is heavy. The insurance on building and stock is \$15,000. The paper appeared as usual.

R. Gaylord Eaton, charged as an accessory before the fact to the lynching of Waldrop, at Central, S. C., applied for bail before Judge Norton, at Wallhalla, S. C., and it was granted in the sum of \$5,000.

Dr. James R. Dugan, Professor of Chemistry at Wake Forest, N. C., College, died there, aged 28 years. For more than a month he had been sick with typhoid-malarial fever, followed by pneumonia and meningitis. His body was taken to Linton, Ga., his home. It was accompanied as far as Raleigh by five professors of the college and a committee of ten students. Dr. Dugan not long since married the niece of Rev. Dr. Taylor, President of Wake Forest College.

Large crowds are attending Evangelist Pearson's meetings, at Spartanburg, S. C. Many of the audience have gone into the inquiry meetings, and have otherwise manifested an earnest interest. Quite a number of people come in from the country, and strangers generally drop in to hear what is going on.

A premature blast occurred on the 3 C's road, about three miles from Blacks, S. C. One negro was killed and two others severely injured.

Henry Dennis, a well-known negro in Spartanburg, S. C., was arrested on the affidavit of J. M. Spann, charged with robbing the delivery wagon of the Southern Express Company. Dennis was committed to jail to await trial. He had two accomplices, who escaped.

At Quancock, Va., William C. Duer, cut the throat of his wife, killing her almost instantly, while riding with her and their two children. He is said to have been insane for some time, but was supposed to have recovered. Duer was committed to East Vale jail.