

THE CHARLOTTE MESSENGER.

VOL. IV. NO. 28.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., SATURDAY, FEB. 4, 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
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W. C. SMITH Charlotte N. C.

A Wonder Bird.

I had not been many minutes on the key before I discovered a large snow-white bird nesting on the ground under a spray of Rhachichallis. Its wings were barred with jet black; its bill was bright yellow, and tapered to a spear-like point, which forbade too close familiarity. This proved to be the yellow-billed tropic bird (Phaethon flavirostris), and we afterward caught several in our hand, taking them from the nest. When held up by the wings they strike lustily with their bills and utter a peculiar shrill cry. The tropic bird lays a single egg on the ground, beneath rocks or bushes. It is about the size and make of the hen's, and is finely sprinkled with reddish-brown, so as to appear of an almost uniform tint. One of these birds, which my companion shot and slightly wounded, flew a short distance and then alighted on the water. As we sailed toward it, first one and then another bird came and hovered over it as if urging it to take flight, which it presently did, and with its attendants soon passed out of sight. These birds resemble the gulls in many points, but are distinguished from other sea fowl by two long streamers in the tail, which wave behind them as they fly.—*Popular Science Monthly.*

Making Old Hickory Nuts Fresh.

A New Yorker prizes highest among the stores for the winter the stock of hickory nuts that are sent to him from the trees he climbed as a boy. For more years than he cares to admit it has been his unshakable conviction that no other nuts in the world can approach them in richness and flavor. But in the warm, dry closet of his flat, they do not keep until holiday time. Indeed, they were a source of deep disappointment to him some time earlier in the season. He had produced some before a visitor, to whom he had bragged in advance of their quality, only to be chagrined by finding them hard, dry and tasteless. His distress was so evident that the visitor suggested an experiment. Some whole nuts were soaked for half an hour in hot water, and cracked as soon as they were dry enough to crack well. The result was a surprise and delight to the host. The kernels were found swelled fat and smooth until they again filled the shells, and the flavor and freshness had come back to them so fully that he was able to say again: "There never were any other nuts like those on the big trees back of the old farm house at home."—*New York Sun.*

They Were Married.

It seems to make very little difference where you are when the marriage ceremony is performed. A young runaway couple in Kansas were driving to the church, but the horses took fright and the sleigh stuck in a snowbank. They were tied right there and then.

The next thing will be marriage or a toboggan slide, with minister, bride and groom traveling at the rate of a mile a minute. There is nothing like novelty in this world, and if an attack of rheumatism is thrown in, why, the interest of the occasion is vastly increased.—*New York Herald.*

Every beautiful, pure and good thought which the heart entertains is an angel of mercy.

Whoever makes home seem to the young dearer and more happy is a public benefactor.

F FARMS AND FARMERS.

Short Talks With the Men Who Guide the Plow.

'Of General Interest to Farmers.
Sowing Oats.

When should spring sowing of oats begin? Whenever weather and condition of soil will permit, after the first of January. Spring oats have to run the gauntlet of being killed by cold on the one hand, and of being cut off by drought and rust on the other. Those sown earliest are most exposed to injury from cold, but most apt to escape the effects of drought; the late sown run greatest risk from drought and least from cold. The wise farmer, therefore, will take both risks—will not stake all his crop on either the early or the late sown. Some of the best crops of oats we ever raised were sown in January. They matured almost as early as fall-sown oats, making fine, heavy heads. Then again, we have seen the best crops produced by the latest sowings in spring. The best plan, therefore, is to begin sowing early, and sow at intervals till the first of March. If one sowing does not strike favorable seasons, another may. Sometimes a week's difference in the time of sowing makes a wonderful difference in the yield of crops. Again, from January to March the ground is not always in condition to plow; it is often too wet, and one who decides to sow his whole crop at one particular time, which he regards as best, is apt to plow his land sometimes too wet, and to rush things through in a rough, slovenly manner. It is better to begin early, strike the land whenever in good condition to plow, and when good work can be done. Suppose you lose your seed by hard freezes, are you any worse off than when you lose your crop by drought? You are really better off in the first case, because you can resow or use the land for some other crop; in the second case the result is known too late to utilize the land to great advantage.

What kind of seed to sow. Home grown, other things being equal, are best and rust proof the most reliable. For spring sowing preference should be given to seed from spring sowing, and for uplands, seed raised on uplands. In some respects plants adapt themselves quite readily and rapidly to their surroundings. Seed from the rich lands of the west produce plants not at home on our poorer soils. Western corn does not do well in the cotton states; why should oats do any better. With our usual improvidence we are getting into the habit of relying largely on the west for our seed oats. Is it good policy, either in the light of sound economy or in the matter of getting the best seed? Very doubtful, to say the least. Our best corn, best wheat, best oats are grown at home.

Every one knows and realizes the importance of selecting seed corn. Why should not the same care be exercised in improving oats. If one went through his field and selected the best stools and sowed seed from these to themselves, and did this year after year, does any one doubt that an improved variety would soon be established. In ordinary practice the poorest and best seed are indiscriminately mixed by the threshing machine, those from the feeblest, unhealthiest stalks with the strong and vigorous. Under such circumstances what chance is there for improvement. Some improvement could be had by an old, simple method within the reach of every one. Lay aside some seed oats in the sheaf. In preparing seed select the heaviest and best bundles and strike them lightly over a barrel so as to get the ripest, heaviest seed only. Let the imperfect seed remain on the straw and be fed to stock. These "barrel" oats will be decidedly better than ordinary seed.

How should land for oats be prepared. If in cotton or corn the previous year, and has not been tramped by stock, there is no necessity for breaking. It is well to go over it with one of the deep running harrows like the Disc, the Shares, or the Acme. Sow and cover seed with the same. For the latter work the Share's harrow is best. After covering the seed harrow the land. Oats can thus be put in at greatly less cost than when plowed in with a scooter, and will do just as well. If the land for oats is hard or rough, it will have to be plowed as a matter of course, but it is very desirable that some cheaper and more expeditious method be employed than breaking or plowing in with scooters or twisters. This is too slow and too costly. Whenever the land is clean enough double footed plows may be used to advantage—or wide cutting and rather shallow running turn plows may be used to break the land, and seed put in with Share's harrow.

Atlanta Constitution.

Tired of Living.

News has been received of the suicide of John Bass, near Nashville, Nash county, N. C. He went into his house a short time before his body was found, and asked his wife if the boys had brought the wood in. His wife shortly afterwards heard the sound of some one falling on the floor. She went in and saw the body lying on the floor with the throat cut. A razor was the weapon. Bass was heard to say not long since that he was tired of living. This is the only explanation of the act.

They Left a Note for the Sheriff.

At Louisburg, N. C., there was a general jail delivery, resulting in the escape of five prisoners, four of whom were under sentence to the penitentiary. They effected escape by means of a crow-bar, furnished by friends on the outside. A note was found containing their respects to the sheriff. A large reward is offered for them.

A VITAL ISSUE IN COTTON.

The Brokers on the New York Exchange Stand Up for the New Classification System.

The members of the Cotton Exchange had occasion yesterday to save the new system of classification that went into effect on September last year.

The board of managers last week decided to submit to vote an amendment to the by-laws that would enable sellers to make deliveries on warehouse receipts at any time during the month when it is found impossible to have the cotton classed and an inspector's certificate of grade completed in time for such delivery. The rule to be amended required that from the 1st to the 20th of each month the cotton must be delivered with full certificates, but from the 20th to the end of the month it may be delivered on warehouse receipts.

President Miller was in the chair at yesterday's meeting, which was held at the trading pit. William V. King was the spokesman of the opposition to the amendment. He said it was an effort on the part of the board of managers and the bears to kill the new classification, and that, if adopted, it would leave the field clear for an undesirable manipulation of the market. He therefore offered a resolution referring the amendment back to the board of managers. A substitute proposing that the amendment go into effect January 1, 1889, was voted down, and then Mr. King's resolution was adopted by an overwhelming vote.

Among the prominent brokers favoring the amendment were Solomon Ranger, of Fatman & Co.; Charles W. Ide, Theo. H. Price, of Hubbard, Price & Co., and C. Rich. They contended that the amendment would facilitate trading without giving undue advantage to anybody.

President Miller said after the meeting that the board of managers had no special interest in the amendment. A petition for it had been received a good while ago, but a motion to submit it to the Exchange was lost. Subsequently the change was again proposed, and once more voted down in the board. Finally, to end the matter, the amendment was adopted by the board in order to get an expression from an open meeting of members. That expression had been obtained, and Mr. Miller said the subject was disposed of.—*New York Herald*, January 22.

THE WEST VIRGINIA VENDETTA.

A Whole Community Placed at the Mercy of a Gang of Desperados.

The vendetta between the McCoys of Pike county, Ky., and Hatfields, of Logan county, W. Va., has grown to such great proportions that it has been found necessary for the officials of Logan county to call upon Governor Wilson, of West Virginia, for aid to suppress the parties engaged in this local warfare, in order to protect the good people of the county, and to stop the feud. Two messengers from Logan county called to see Governor Wilson and ask for aid to repel the invasion of the Kentucky desperados into that county. They gave the Governor a detailed statement of the situation of affairs in that county, and represented that there are no hopes of the civil officers of Logan county being able to control these fierce men, and therefore desire aid from the State.

The Pike county gang is reported to be increasing, and the lives of several of the citizens of Logan are threatened.

Governor Wilson has the matter under advisement. While he still hopes that order may be restored without resorting to extraordinary means, he is determined to employ prompt and adequate measures to maintain the honor of the State. Several military companies have proffered their services to aid in suppressing the troubles. It is feared that the affair will not be settled for a great while.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.

An Insane Man Gets Up a Hanging of His Own.

Perry Benson, living near the Air Line depot, Greenville, S. C., tried to commit suicide by hanging himself. Perry's wife was away from home at the time, and on coming found him with a rope around his neck, and it tied to a rafter in the top of the house. She at once concluded what he was trying to do and gave the alarm. As soon as help arrived Benson was cut down. He was helpless, and would have died from strangulation in a few moments. More officers were called and Benson taken to the station house. Drs. Rowley and Peebles were called in, and on examination concluded that it would not be necessary to send him to the asylum. Benson says a tree fell on his head some years ago, and his head has given him trouble ever since, and added that he had no reason for trying to kill himself, but was sure he was "conjured," that some one had buried a "charm" in his back yard, and he could find it if they would let him out for awhile. Benson will have another examination, and will be sent to the State lunatic asylum if his condition is bad enough to warrant it.

Death at the Dance.

A dance was given in York county, S. C., and was largely attended by both sexes. As the festivities progressed moonshine whiskey circulated freely among the revelers, and about midnight a free fight ensued. Finally the lights were blown out, pistols drawn, and about a dozen shots fired. When the smoke cleared away Jim Beam, of Shelby, N. C., was found lying dead upon the floor, with a bullet through his heart. Several other persons were slightly wounded. George Gunther and John Philips are in jail in Columbia, charged with the murder of Beam.

THREE MEN LYNCHED

The Murder of a Homeless Peddler.

Four Men Arrested Therefor—One Killed and the other Three are Lynched.

News has reached Raleigh N. C., of a terrible lynching at the town of Plymouth, the county seat of Washington county. The mob, composed mainly of mounted men, marched to the jail and took therefrom Patterson Spruill, John Blount, and Matthew Blount, all colored. The doomed men were taken to a piece of woods a mile from town, and were tied to trees. The lynchers then opened fire upon them with all sorts of weapons, from Winchester rifles to shotguns, and did not cease firing till all the men were dead and riddled with bullets and shot. This lynching is the result of a very brutal murder which was committed in the afternoon of the 23rd of last December. While a man named Ed. Dawson, an itinerant jeweler, was passing through the country near the town of Creswell, four negroes, three of whom were those lynched, met him and presently knocked him in the head, robbed him and threw the body in a shallow pit, where a teamster discovered it, seeing the knees sticking above the ground. Christmas day all four men were arrested. One confessed the crime. All were taken to jail at Plymouth. Violence was feared, as public feeling ran very high, and special precautions were taken. The people in the section where the murderer was committed, which is some miles from Plymouth, where particularly stirred up, and it is probable that they were the lynching party. Everything was conducted quietly and with system. The men would have been tried for their lives at the spring term of court. The evidence against them was regarded as conclusive. It is the first lynching in the state in many months.

KILLING THE WRONG MAN.

Burglar Trap which Did not Kill Bur-
glars—A Distressing Accident Near Sa-
vannah.

Guyton Ga., is thirty miles from Savannah, on the Central Railroad. A. J. Futrell keeps a general store there and supplies the villagers and the surrounding country with merchandise. For some time past Mr. Futrell has been troubled with thieves. Not long ago burglars broke into his store and carried off a quantity of goods. To protect his store he set a spring gun inside the door at a slight elevation from the floor and so arranged it that it would be discharged by any one attempting to enter the back door of the store. Mr. Levi Edwards, a farmer who resides a short distance from Guyton, early this morning went to Mr. Futrell's house and asked him to go to his store as he (Edwards) wanted to get some goods. The two men started for the store and when they got there Futrell went in the front way, telling Edwards to go around the back way and he would open that door. Edwards is supposed to have run against the gun and the whole load was emptied into his body, killing him instantly, and tearing his body to pieces. There is a law prohibiting the setting of spring guns, and Futrell will probably be indicted for murder.

Heavy Snow Storm in the North.

Reports from various points in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont state that the heaviest snow storm for years prevailed for twelve hours. Snow to the depth of 15 to 18 inches covers the ground within a radius of 25 miles, and travel is greatly impeded, many trains are entirely blocked, and highways are practically impassable. A dispatch from Bellows Falls, Vt., says: There is a solid blockade of snow in all directions today. About three feet of snow covers the ground, the result of the last two storms. It is still snowing, and a high wind is piling it up in all directions. No trains have arrived or departed on any of the roads.

All Burned Down.

Every business house in the little town of Walnut Cove, Stokes county, N. C., was burned to the ground a few nights ago. The fire broke out about 10 o'clock in the store of John C. Bailey, and was due to a defective flue. It burned Bailey's store, and also the stores of Wilder & Adams, W. A. Lash and W. N. Blackburn, the latter of which was unoccupied. Bailey, Wilder, Adams and Lash had large stocks of goods which were nearly all destroyed. The loss is said to be \$50,000, with not over \$6,000 insurance.

The Armies of Europe.

"The bloated armaments of the great military powers of Europe" display their proportions in a very striking manner in Colonel Vogt's work on "The European Armies of the Present." The mobilized strength of France is set down at 2,051,456 troops, exclusive of the territorial army, which is equally large; that of Russia at 1,922,405; Germany, 1,493,690; and Austro-Hungary, 1,035,955. The military strength of Italy has now attained proportions that would have been deemed incredible ten years ago. Including militia, it is said to amount to 2,387,332 men. If, however, a similar inclusion be made in the case of Russia, the military strength of that power will probably be found to exceed even that of the French republic. Compared with these figures the numerical proportions of the British army ought almost to satisfy the members of the Peace Society. Including our militia and volunteers, as well as the Indian army, we can just muster 781,677 troops. And these have to serve for the defence of territory distributed over a very much wider area than that ruled by any of the other powers.—*London Court Journal*.

A BATTLE AT A CHURCH DOOR.

Three Roughs in Knoxville Attack a Newspaper Reporter and Get the Worst of the Fight—One of Them Fatally Wounded.

A shooting affray occurred at Knoxville, Tenn., in front of St. John's Episcopal church, which resulted in the wounding of three men, one of them fatally. As James F. Rule, city editor of the Knoxville Journal, was entering church, accompanied by his wife, he was accosted by three men who wanted to speak with him. He walked with them to the opposite side of the street, where all four stood talking several minutes. The three men were John West, William West, and a friend of theirs named Goodman. They attacked Rule on account of a communication which appeared in the Journal reflecting upon Dr. T. A. West, city physician, and father of John and William West. Rule refused to give the name of the author of the communication, or to make any satisfactory answer to questions. Hot words ensued, when John West struck Rule and attempted to beat him to the ground. Rule drew a revolver and shot John West through the body. William West immediately fired on Rule, the ball passing through Rule's wrist. John West then cut Rule in the back seven times. William West placed his revolver to Rule's forehead and fired, but Rule knocked the pistol up, receiving only a scalp wound. Rule then fired two more shots, one of them taking effect in the shoulder of Goodman, who seemed to be attempting to separate the combatants. A number of men rushed out from church and stopped the bloody fight. William West ran away uninjured. Rule was able to get up and walk to church, but John West was carried home in a dying condition. Rule's injuries are not dangerous, and Goodman is not seriously injured. Rule's wife, who had entered the church, knew nothing of the difficulty till all was over, and the organ having drowned the noise of the pistol shots.

The entire community sides with Rule in the matter. William West has been arrested. Goodman made no attempt to escape. North, East and West. Fire at Newark, Ohio, caused a loss of \$150,000. The Buffalo Rubber Company, of Buffalo, N. Y., George D. Barr, proprietor, has failed. At Susquehanna, Pa., fire destroyed two hotels, five residences and a business block. Loss \$30,000. At Allentown, Pa., the thread mill of the Barbour Thread Company, containing 4,800 bales of Irish wax, was damaged by fire