

# THE CHARLOTTE MESSENGER.

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Charlotte Messenger

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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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Address,

W. C. SMITH Charlotte N. C.

It may be of interest to military men in this country to know that the Government of Great Britain is now engaged in a monster and most unique enterprise. A process has lately been discovered in that country for the manufacture of smokeless gunpowder, and the preliminary steps toward the formation of a company had been taken, when the Government stepped in, made inquiries and secured control of the entire scheme. This was an easy matter, as the powder is made by a secret process, known only to the inventor, and for which no patent was asked. One of our agents, who has just returned to this country, brings us the direct information that this smokeless powder is mainly made from straw, and that the British Government has despatched agents to all grain-growing countries with instructions to purchase all the straw in the market, as well as that now in process of growth, to the end that she may have at least a year's start in her new industry. Manufacturers of wrapping paper and straw board will suffer by this absolute withdrawal of raw material from its peaceful uses, and will be forced to cast about for a substitute, which may be found here. Meantime, as the secret is out thus far, is it not within the possibilities that American genius may be relied on to worm and work out the portion leading to the process of manufacture?

President Elbridge T. Gerry, of the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, has filed some important recommendations with Factory Inspector Connolly. Mr. Gerry has borrowed his ideas from the law in force in England, but he has greatly strengthened its provisions. He recommends that the employment of any child under eighteen years of age be prohibited in factories without a previous examination by a physician, who shall certify as to the physical ability of the child to perform the work required, and that it is not suffering from any disease making its employment at the work dangerous. He insists strenuously on a provision to that effect that no child under the age of sixteen shall be employed in handling or using any machinery dangerous to life or limb, or in any mining, glass, mercury, lead, arsenic or brick works, or in any match factory, or in the preparation or application of aniline or other poisonous dyes, or in the manufacture of any explosive substance or in any place not properly provided with proper or sufficient fire escapes or means of exit. He would make any violation of the statute a misdemeanor and the making of any false statement in a certificate a perjury. He suggests, in addition, that a full hour instead of forty-five minutes be given children for their dinners. These provisions, he insists, would prevent the employment of any delicate or sickly children, and would make the law easy of enforcement. Inspector Connolly favors the proposed amendment.

## WASHINGTON.

THE MILITIA FORCE OF THE NATION.

The Secretary of War has transmitted to Congress a tabulated statement of the militia force of the United States, which shows that at last return there were 82 general officers, 1,105 officers of the general staff, 1,638 officers of the regimental field, and staff and 5,385 company officers, making a total of 8,210 commissioned officers. There were 18,331 non-commissioned officers; 2,900 musicians, and 71,396 privates making in all 92,627 enlisted men and a grand total of officers and men, for the militia force on 100,837 men. The number of men available for military duty (unorganized) is set down at 7,920,768, but in some cases the figures are based upon estimates made in the War Department.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND GOING TO FLORIDA.

President Cleveland expects to leave Washington next Tuesday for a short visit to Florida. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Cleveland, the Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Whitney, and Colonel and Mrs. Lamont. The party will go by special train, and no stops will be made unless it be an hour at Savannah for a drive through that city. One day will be spent at Jacksonville and one day at St. Augustine. The party will return to Washington the following Saturday.

BREADSTUFF EXPORTS.

Breadstuff exports from the United States during January past aggregated in value \$8,122,277, against \$14,528,809 in January, 1887. Exports of the principal articles of provisions during January past were valued at \$6,826,980, against \$8,131,442 in January, 1887.

SENATE TO PROF. BAIRD.

The Senate has passed the bill appropriating thirty thousand dollars for the erection of a statue to the late Professor Baird, of the Smithsonian Institute.

ATLANTA'S PUBLIC BUILDING.

In a letter to Congress the attorney general says that the accommodations at Atlanta for Court officers and Government business are insufficient, and he therefore urges early action in appropriating money for the extension of the Government building at that place.

CLEARING THE CORRIDOR.

All telegraph offices have been removed from the corridor of the House of Representatives, adjoining the main entrance where they have clustered thickly for a long time, and where the throng that they gathered impeded the passage.

CONDUCTOR'S LICENSE.

The House committee on labor after hearing further arguments on the bill to license railway conductors, authorized Mr. Burnett, of Massachusetts, to report it to the House adversely.

POSTOFFICE INSPECTOR APPOINTED.

Hon. J. L. Webb, of Shelby, N. C., has been appointed a postoffice inspector.

THE BLAIR BILL PASSED THE SENATE.

The Blair educational bill passed the Senate by a vote of 39 for to 29 against.

## A BLAZE IN A BOARDING HOUSE.

Men and Women in Their Night Clothes Leap into the Ice Streets of Brooklyn—Two Men and Two Women Burnt.

Fire broke out early Sunday morning in the three story and basement frame boarding house Nos. 105 and 107 Clark street, Brooklyn, N. Y. The boarders, most of whom had not time to dress, endeavored to escape with their goods as best they might into the icy streets. Several were severely injured by jumping from windows, and were carried by ambulances to hospitals. The place is known as the old Harper Mansion, and was kept as a boarding house by Mrs. McComb.

The flames were discovered about 2 a. m. in the basement, and burned away the stairs, causing great confusion and panic. Several women leaped from the windows in their night dresses. One gallant policeman, who was in the district telegraph office in Montague street, got on the scene early and rescued three women from the flames. Two men and two women were burnt, one man having his skull broken and another his leg. The two women injured jumped from a third story window and struck feet first on the pavement, breaking their ankle bones. The two men were taken to the Clinton House in Fulton street, and from there to a hospital. The name of one was Mr. Gordon. He was injured by jumping from a third story window front and striking on the balcony. He was dangerously wounded. The damage is estimated at \$50,000.

A Noted Outlaw Killed.

The notorious leader of the train robbers, Captain Dick, alias "Brack Carnett," was shot and instantly killed, on Monday last, while resisting arrest, by Sheriff Alice, of Trio county, Texas, near Pearsall, a station on the International and Great Northern Railroad. Carnett was a noted outlaw, and a few years ago organized a band of horse-thieves for the purpose of robbing express and mail trains in Texas. For the last two years numerous train robberies, where large amounts of money, and in one instance \$3,000 worth of diamond jewelry was stolen, have been traced to Carnett's gang, and although the secret service of the railroads and the civil officers of Texas have often been close on their trail, they have heretofore evaded capture. The authorities say the killing of the leader will result in the capture or killing of the whole gang.

## THE NATURAL ADVANTAGES OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Address by President K. P. Battle, of the State University, Before the Farmers' Convention at Greensboro.

Correspondence of the Raleigh Observer.

I have rarely heard so complete and eloquent a presentation of the natural advantages of our State as that made by President Battle at the recent Farmers' Convention. It was a capital speech, well delivered and well received. It ought to be printed and circulated over the United States and Europe by the Board of Agriculture. I send a very brief and inadequate summary:

"North Carolina has, as a farming country, many extraordinary advantages.

1. Range of productions—the same as if the State stretched along the seacoast from the Gulf of Mexico to New York.

2. The climate—Our average isothermal is that of South France, Florence, Yeddo. Dakota's range of temperature is 105 degrees F. in summer to 38 degrees below zero; Kansas from 98 degrees to 25 below; Indianapolis from 100 degrees to 22 degrees below zero; West Texas from 102 degrees to below zero. In Pennsylvania and New York farming operations are hindered about five months in winter.

3. North Carolina has no blizzards, and as the cold waves start from the northwest, the telegraph gives our people one or two days' notice of their coming.

4. We have pure air and pure water in most of the State, and therefore good health. With cistern water the eastern counties are also healthy.

5. North Carolina has comparative freedom from drought. We have 47 inches per annum of rain, while Dakota has only 21, and West Texas only 18. At El Paso there were one year only 11 1/2 inches, and about one-third of this fell in one month.

6. With deep ploughing and good cultivation we need not suffer from drought.

7. Grasshoppers (called locusts in the Bible) flourish where there is a dry land near rich vegetation. They will always infect Kansas, etc., while North Carolina is free from them.

8. We have a good, orderly population, composed of the best blood of England, Germany, France, Highland and Lowland Scotch, etc., who have been in the State long enough to become homogeneous. No religious denomination is dominant. All are represented.

9. Our geographical situation is excellent. The most civilized nations, with 240,000,000 of people, with ten thousand million dollars of imports and exports per annum are clustered around the North Atlantic. North Carolina is on the water-front of this great lake of the nations.

10. As the mountains opposite the Southern Chesapeake have been recently pierced by railroads, the building of a great city somewhere on its waters is in the near future. But even if the prediction be not verified, New York is now the second commercial city in the world. On Manhattan Island alone there were sixty-seven millions of dollars worth of new buildings last year. Counting Brooklyn, Jersey City and other places, there are clustered here already about two and three-quarter millions of people, with wealth beyond conception. Between here and New York are other populous cities, rapidly growing, so that it will not be long before the lands of North Carolina will be adjacent to forty millions of non-producers. Farms in twenty-four hours of New York should now be worth \$100 per acre. They have not only the advantage of a ready market for their productions, but they are in close proximity to the storehouses and manufacturing whences they get their supplies.

11. "What are the disadvantages of North Carolina?"

  1. The presence of slavery excluded men unaccustomed or averse to that institution. After the great civil war the uncertainties of Reconstruction and the bitterness of party feeling have retarded the influx of Northern men. It will not be long before these disturbing elements will have passed away.

2. Some unaccustomed to colored labor do not like to settle where negroes are a large portion of the population. To this there is a sufficient answer—first, that many counties are largely white, and in the eastern counties the negro element is superior to that in the South, because for many years it had been the custom to sell to that region the turbulent and vicious slaves. And lastly, the proportion of the colored must rapidly diminish, because they have no accessions from immigration.

3. "Want of schools is urged as an objection, but that does not result from hostility on the part of our people, but from sparseness of population and poverty. When settlers come schools will spring up.

4. High railroad freight will disappear when our farmers demand it. The railroad companies will lower their rates from policy whenever farm products increase in bulk.

5. All these objections to North Carolina are remediable. We come lastly to the most serious, viz., that our lands are not naturally fertile.

As to this, President Battle contended that if our lands are not naturally rich, they are cheap and easily made rich, so that the total cost will be only one-half or one-third of the cost of land at the same distance from New York in any other direction. He quoted from a letter of a friend in Kansas City to the effect that the lands in Western Missouri and Eastern Kansas brings thirty to sixty bushels of corn to the acre, and cost \$25 to \$49 per acre. He asked if a North Carolina farmer should put on his land

the difference between the cost of land here and there, our lands would not produce as much or more.

"Mr. Hazard, the great cattle farmer, says the common plan in Chester county, Pennsylvania, is to put on each acre forty two-horse loads of stable manure at \$2.50 per load, i. e., \$100 per acre; then plant in corn. The result is 75 to 100 bushels of corn per acre. Then seed to wheat and timothy, applying 200 pounds acid phosphate. This gives forty bushels of wheat per acre. Then seed clover on the timothy in the spring, and get three tons of grass per acre for three years. Then repeat the rotation.

"Now, suppose we in North Carolina should farm in this way, would not our lands show similar results? The land in Pennsylvania costs \$100 to \$150 per acre. Our land can be brought to bring as much as theirs, adding enough in fertilizers, labor, etc., to make the cost only \$40 or \$50 per acre. The interest on the difference in cost of the land would be a handsome income."

President Battle closed by showing that we have isolated cases of farmers who put brains on their land. Williamson, of Raleigh, had raised land bringing 600 pounds of seed cotton to 1,800 pounds per acre. President Upchurch had secured 33 bushels of wheat per acre on Wake county land. Captain S. B. Alexander, President Elias Carr and others farmed with similar intelligence and success. He made an earnest appeal to all to follow their example, to study their farms and the needs of their soils, to learn and practice the best methods. North Carolina ought to be one of the garden spots of the world, and with such intelligent farming it will become so."

Let 100,000 copies be printed and circulated.

## A TREASURER KILLED

And the County Funds Stolen—Pursuing the Murderer.

At three o'clock Sunday morning a messenger arrived at Marshall, Texas, direct from Carthage, thirty miles distant, bringing the news of the murder of Mr. Hill, county treasurer of Panola county, by some unknown parties, about dusk on Saturday last. Mr. Hill was struck three times on the head with an ax, crushing his skull, and his throat was cut from ear to ear. The safe containing the county money was robbed of \$10,000 or \$12,000. The messenger came to Marshall for the purpose of securing aid from Sheriff Perry with bloodhounds to trace up, if possible, the murderer. Great excitement exists at Carthage, and the whole community is searching for the murderer.

## Given his Deserts.

A few weeks ago a house and a warehouse were destroyed by fire in Hinesville Ga., and all the circumstances pointed to its being the work of an incendiary. The people have been greatly wrought up in consequence. A negro was arrested there on the charge of burning the houses aforesaid. He is said to have confessed the deed, and implicated several in the crime. After a preliminary investigation, he was committed to jail. That night a band of armed men overpowered the deputy sheriff, who had the prisoner in charge, and carrying him off to the woods shot him to death. Great excitement prevails in that section.

## A Strange Phenomenon.

A special from Raleigh, N. C., to the New York Herald says: "The wells in the vicinity of Wood, Johnson county, are reported to be violently disturbed, and to be boiling and bubbling with loud noises. At a distance of thirty yards from the mouth of some of the wells this noise is plainly perceptible. The phenomenon was observed ten days ago. The soil is sandy in that section. Nothing like it was ever before known there."

## North Carolina Tax Collections.

The State Auditor has completed the footing of the report on taxes collected during the past year for county purposes and for education as follows: Tax on licensed retail liquor dealers, \$82,757; tax on white polls, \$173,855; taxes on colored polls, \$80,038; on real and personal property at 12 1/2 cents on \$100 value, \$257,480. Total school taxes, \$605,000; total taxes for all county purposes, \$920,000.

## Richmond's Electric Cars.

The Union passenger line, which has its ramifications through many of the principal streets of Richmond, and on which cars are propelled by electric motive power, has been formally opened to the public. With insignificant interruptions, the cars were successfully run over the line for a distance of seven miles. They were crowded with passengers all day.

## Unique Lily Ponds.

The most unique and beautiful collection of water lilies in this country is the boat of Fairmount Park in Philadelphia. In the great lily ponds every variety, from the pink blossom of New York to the imposing Victoria Regina, an island in its broad expanse of leaf, is to be found. Through blue, purple, red and snow white lilies, the gold and silver fish dart, and in summer butterflies of brilliant hue hover over the pond flowers in delight. A new variety of the lily family is to be added to the collection. It is produced by a French gardener, Latour Marillac. The flowers are six inches in diameter, and their color is the soft canary of the Marchal Neel rose. Only two other yellow water lilies are known—a pretty North American species and a dull colored species of Brazil.

## TELEGRAPHIC TICKS

### THE SOUTHERN STATES.

News Collected by Wire and Mail From All Parts of Dixie.

There are twenty-one iron furnaces idle in Pennsylvania in consequence of the strike.

Two escaped convicts were recaptured in Durham N. C., a few days ago and taken to the penitentiary at Raleigh.

Orders have been given to largely increase the working force on the new railway from Shelby via Morganton to Cranberry, N. C.

The Suffolk and Carolina Railroad is completed to Chowan river. It is an important connecting point between Virginia and North Carolina.

Rev. A. R. Hunter, late of the Diocese of Colorado, has accepted a professorship in St. Augustine Normal School, at Raleigh, N. C.

At Raleigh, N. C., a cotton mill company, with a capital of \$40,000, has been organized and the necessary amount subscribed.

At Charlotte, N. C., three tenement houses owned by James M. Davis, were burned. The houses were outside of the district which has water supply. The loss is fifteen hundred dollars.

Adeline Allen, a negro woman tried at Winston, N. C., for murdering her infant by drowning it in a mill-pond, has been convicted of murder, with recommendation for mercy.

Two Mormon missionaries have left Warren county, Ga., in disgust after failing to make a single convert.

The residence of Atlas Jowers, in Anson county, N. C., was burned a few nights ago with all its contents.

The official statement of the State auditor of North Carolina shows that the value of property in that State is \$210,035,000, an increase of \$9,000,111 on the returns last year.

The steam launch Irine, at New Orleans, blew out a few heads, resulting in the drowning of William Meade, engineer, and the fatal scalding of two boys.

At Manning S. C. Stephen Murray, a negro, while trying to steal a ride on the down train of the Central Railroad accidentally fell. His skull was badly fractured by striking a cross tie.

At Palatka, Fla., arrangements have been made for a boat race in which Teemer, Hamm and McKay will row on St. John's River at Palatka for a purse of one thousand dollars.

It is estimated that there is about \$350,000 worth of timber in the port of Darien, Ga., waiting shipment. One firm is carrying \$135,000 worth of timber.

The schooner Adventure, Whitehurst master, from Charleston, S. C., bound to Washington with guano, is stuck in Oregon Inlet, N. C. She is a total loss, Cargo insured. The crew's effects were saved.

News has been received of the burning of two colored school houses in Chatham county N. C. All evidence points to the fact that both fires were incendiary, and the authorities offer a reward for the incendiaries.

Very great interest is manifested in revival meetings at Statesville, N. C., by Evangelist Pearson. Already there are over one hundred converts, and the great warehouse, where the meetings are held is packed nightly.

The report of Dr. T. J. Roberts, superintendant of the eastern North Carolina insane asylum for colored patients, at Goldsboro, says there are on file sixty-five applicants. There are 175 patients.

The school commissioners of Charlotte N. C., have elected Alexander Graham superintendent of the graded schools. He has for many years been superintendent of the Fayetteville graded schools, and is a very able man. He succeeds Professor Corlew. There are seventy-five applicants.

The authorities of Wake county N. C., have made contracts for the erection of two large iron bridges over the Neuse river, near Raleigh. It is understood that iron bridges have been constructed or contracted for in many parts of this State. The contracts were awarded to the Iron Bridge company, of Toledo, Ohio.

A reward has been offered for the discovery of the men who, on the 1st inst., at Oyster Shell Landing, Hyle county, N. C., murdered Reddin Supton, white, in the store of J. M. Supton, his brother, and then burned the body in the building. There is no clew as yet to the men who committed this terrible crime.

Governor Scales, after a careful consideration of the case, commuted the death sentence of Lucian Rowe, colored, to imprisonment for ten years in the penitentiary at Raleigh, N. C., at hard labor. Rowe was convicted of burglary at the March term of Durham Superior Court, and was sentenced to be hanged. He appealed to the Supreme Court, which confirmed the judgment of the lower court. Governor Scales then set March 6th as the date of execution. Rowe made earnest appeals for commutation, and has been able to show conclusively that the evidence of Mary Castleberry, a negro girl, which was unsupported, but which convicted him, was false. The girl has made a confession to that effect. The Governor therefore imposed upon Rowe the highest punishment for burglary.

At Elizabeth City, N. C., unknown persons entered the dental office of J. H. White and robbed him of all his dental instruments and apparatus, and tried to set fire to the building by turning over the stove, after putting kerosene and paper on the floor. But strange to say it was only partially burned.

Parties who bought what is known as Big swamp, in Robeson county N. C., containing sixty thousand acres, are running a canal through it. The canal is 30 feet wide, and will be used for drainage and transporting. The swamp was purchased from the state. It is expected that the extensive drainage system inaugurated will reclaim large tracts of it.

At Blackville S. C., J. D. White shot at a dog going out of his gate. He missed the dog, but hit a book agent, from Richmond, Va., named Sampson who was walking on the railroad track a hundred yards distant. Sampson's wound is painful but not fatal.

In the United States Court at Jacksonville, Fla., W. J. Cook, formerly a conductor on the Florida Railway and Navigation Company's road, is suing the road for \$20,000 damages for the loss of an arm. The caboose of the freight train of which he had charge was derailed and the plaintiff jumped to the ground, injuring his left arm and hand so that the limb had to be amputated.

Already over \$50,000 has been subscribed to a new cotton factory at Rock Hill, S. C., and subscriptions are still being taken. Nearly every one has some shares. It is a cheap and good investment, and many young men are putting their money into it.

James Wilson was found dead in his house near Excelsior, N. C. A neighbor went to Wilson's house and found him lying dead on the floor. It is thought death resulted from natural causes, but a jury of inquest has been summoned to investigate the matter.

A daring robbery was committed at Raleigh N. C., a few days ago. A negro entered the jewelry store of William Thame, in the block of the police station and carried off eleven gold watches and one silver watch, during the momentary absence of the proprietor. A cry was raised and the bold thief was run down and captured half a mile from the city. He gave his name as John Staples, of La-Grange, Lenoir County. He had a white accomplice, who has not yet been captured. Eleven of the watches were recovered, being found on the person of Staples.

## North, East and West.

Near New Orleans seven out of eight colored persons crossing the Mississippi in a skiff were drowned.

In Chicago Ralph Lee was convicted of the attempted assassination of his step-father, the banker Rawson, and sentenced to eighteen months in the county jail.

At St. Alban's, Vermont, fire broke out about midnight in the St. Alban's hospital. The hospital was completely gutted, and two out of eight patients were suffocated. There was no male help present, and no special provisions had been made against fire.

The United States Senate has confirmed the nomination of Alex McCue to be Assistant Treasurer of New York.

D. R. Locke, better known as Petroleum V. Nasby, editor of the Toledo Blade, is dead.

## A Freak of Lightning.

A funny thing occurred at Orlando, Fla., recently, when we had quite severe lightning. One of our surveyors was out in the woods surveying, and on the approach of the storm took shelter under a large tree, leaving his compass on the jackstaff, some two or three hundred yards away. During the storm a tree very near the compass was struck by lightning, and, strange to relate, the effect upon the compass was to reverse it so as to make the north point of the needle change position and point south. The gentleman not knowing that fact, when he went back to the compass took a course and started, as he supposed, for home. After walking eight or ten miles, going north, as the compass indicated, he, away in the night, came to the house of an old settler, who, upon inquiry, told him where he was and how far from Orlando and the proper direction, which, of course, was directly opposite to that indicated by his compass. After becoming satisfied something was wrong with the compass and that the settler was right, he retraced his steps and arrived at home, tired, wet and mad. This is the second instance we have known of the needle of a compass being affected by lightning so as to become reversed.—Orlando (Fla.) Record.

## A Superstitious Waiter.

A traveler obtained a satisfactory breakfast at a Southern hotel in an ingenious manner. Having called for different items on the bill of fare with the unflinching result of hearing "all gone, sah," he fixed a stern look upon the colored waiter and exclaimed in deep tones: "Do you know where you will go to when you die?" The waiter trembled and did not reply, but he turned away, and with dispatch brought out a smoking breakfast of chicken and other features of a good meal. It seems that he had reserved these delicacies for himself, but had been touched by superstition to produce them for the traveler.—Chicago Times.

Uncle Isaac Wallace, of Clarksville, Texas, is one of the most remarkable products of that State. He is said to be 102 years old, walks with crutches, is still able to earn a living at chopping cordwood, and walks a mile or two daily going and coming from work.