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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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Probably one of the oldest meeting houses in the world is the Bangund Church in Norway, the age of which is 800 years. The pagoda-like structure is covered with shingles and an inch or two of tar. Runic inscriptions, interesting to scholars, are on the building.

Out of fifty-three palatial residences in Paris inspected by a government sanitary engineer, forty-seven were found to have such defective plumbing that the health of the occupants was constantly threatened. It is agreed by those who have made the matter a study that the United States is ten years ahead of any other country on sanitary matters.

It is the custom of people who live in the Northwest to declare that although the cold of that region is extremely severe when measured by the thermometer, it really causes less suffering than the variable temperature of lower latitudes. This is all very well as a matter of humorous conversation on a warm summer day, but its force as an argument is materially injured by the nimble blizzard which destroys hundreds of lives.

In every country there is some special drawback to the sheep industry. Here we have dogs and wolves. In Australia rabbits eat nearly all the grass, and leave the pastures as bare as Old Mother Hubbard's cupboard. In New Zealand the great enemy of sheep is a large green parrot. It lights on a sheep and devours its living flesh. After it has eaten its fill it flies away. But, as a rule, the wounds it makes never heal.

The North China Herald of recent date says that persons who doubt the barbarity of some of the Chinese punishments "have only to walk into the city of Shanghai this morning, a few minutes' task, and they will find one of the most revolting of these punishments in full operation, and its infliction applauded by all the Chinese who know of it." The criminal, one Koh, is a hardened ruffian, who has passed the greater part of the past ten years in jail. The specific offence for which he was being punished was his habit of blackmailing the new prisoners who were put in jail with him. He was suspended in a cage about five feet high, with his head through the top in a wooden collar, so that he could not reach it with his hands. His feet, which were loaded with chains, were so far from the bottom that he could only just touch it when standing on tiptoe. Here he was condemned to stand, without food or water, just inside the outer gate of the magistrate's yamen, the sport of hundreds, until death put an end to his sufferings. The writer suggests that a photograph of the cage and its occupant would be a telling frontispiece to the Marquis Tseng's recent article on the "Awakening of China."

TELEGRAPHIC TICKETS—

THE SOUTHERN STATES.

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

NORTH CAROLINA.

All arrangements have been completed for the immediate erection of a cotton mill at Salisbury. The capital stock is \$150,000.

Davis Brinkley and Charles Lawrence, young white men of Catawba county, who are charged with burglary, have been taken to Charlotte jail for safe keeping, rumors being in circulation at Newton of threatened lynching and also rescue by their friends.

L. L. Polk, State Secretary of the Farmers' Alliance, reports that there are four hundred and thirty-six alliances in North Carolina, with sixteen thousand five hundred members.

The Auditor's report will show that there are forty-nine railways in North Carolina. Two of these are exempt from taxation.

Near Battleboro, a few nights ago, W. I. House was struck by the mail train while he was sitting on the track apparently asleep. His injuries are very serious.

It is learned that several suits for damages in large amounts are to be instituted against the Chester and Lenoir Narrow Gauge Railway. These grew out of an accident near Hickory a few weeks since, wherein the train fell through the trestle and all was burned.

William Ellis, a young white man, has made a confession that he robbed the postoffice at Floral College, Robertson county. He stated that he had hidden the stolen property, money, stamps and registered letters, in the church near by. His statement was true, and the property has nearly all been recovered.

An attempt was made some days ago to wreck the train on the Scotland Neck Branch Railway, near Ferris. The switch leading to the gravel pit was opened by force, the train ran into the pit, wrecking six flat cars and two box cars. The passenger cars did not leave the rails, but several passengers were severely shaken up.

In Winstboro in the case of the State versus Charles Veal, charged with assault with outrageous intent, the jury, after a half hour's deliberation, returned a verdict of guilty, and the Judge sentenced him to ten years at hard labor in the penitentiary.

There are to be many interesting features at the Craven county fish, oyster and game fair, which comes off on the 13th, 14th, and 15th of March. A tournament, a street parade of one of the most efficient fire departments in the south and a glass ball and clay pigeon shooting. Special low rates over railroad and steam boat lines in the state, and excursion rates from points north have been secured.

Joe Berry, a noted negro desperado, was killed by the superintendent of the state penitentiary farm, near Columbia. He was evidently intent on robbery, if not on murder. Mr. Davis, the superintendent, on his approach ordered him to halt, but the warning was unheeded. After he was shot, Berry ran some distance. He was a terror to the neighborhood and his death by violence occasions little surprise or regret.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

George Sims, who is wanted by the Atlanta officers for larceny, has been arrested at Greenville by Detective Schlappack.

About six miles from Abbeville a negro about twenty-one years old, named Jas. Wharton, shot a small negro boy 12 years old, named Nathan McClinton. The ball went in at the right shoulder, but it has not been found yet by the attending physician. The doctor considers the wound mortal. There was no apparent cause for the shooting. A warrant has been issued, and it is thought that Wharton will be arrested.

A curious complication has arisen in a murder case pending in Lexington county, in S. C. Dixon Addy was convicted of manslaughter in killing Joseph Swygert at a political barbecue in 1886. He appealed to the supreme court and got a new trial. When the case was called up at Lexington, it was discovered that the indictment and other papers were lost. The case cannot be tried without the indictment, nor can a new indictment be written out until a nolle prosequi is entered and written on the old paper itself. It looks now as if Addy can never be tried again, and there is considerable talk about it. Nobody undertakes to guess who abstracted the papers, but the suspicion is that some friend of Addy did it to help him out of his very bad case. His lawyers are men of high character, and there is no suspicion whatever of them.

GEORGIA.

The monument to them memory of the late Bishop Pierce will be erected in Sparta on the 1st of next September.

The citizens of Sugar Valley arrested Henry Kinnebrew, a negro house-breaker, and brought him to Calhoun with a chain around his neck last week. Their experience with a former prisoner taught them the lesson that it would not do to trust a prisoner, and hence the chain.

Two miles north of Crayfish Springs, on the Chattanooga, Rome and Columbus Railroad, Jess McGugin and Taylor Camp, both colored, quarreled about a bride. McGugin got his pistol and shot Camp through the heart. Camp died instantly. McGugin has skipped the country.

A little negro girl on Dr. Steve Jackson's place, in Oconee county, was burned to death by her clothing taking fire while in the house. She ran out, but before the flames could be extinguished she was so badly burned that she died in a short time.

Southern Briefs.

Two copies of the Cleveland issue of the Sanford Fla. Journal will be printed on satin, and presented to President and Mrs. Cleveland as a souvenir of their visit to the Gate City of South Florida.

An attempt was made to rob the St. Louis, Arkansas and Texas express train at Kingsland, Ark. It is said that the messenger locked the doors but the robbers smashed them in and robbed the car of two thousand dollars.

A special to the Galveston, Tex. News from Tenaha says: "Tom Forsyth, the murderer of Treasurer Hill, was taken from the Panola county jail by a mob of two hundred men and hanged.

Mr. Davenport teacher of a public school at Rome, Miss., expelled one or two pupils recently.

Friends of the teacher on the one hand and those of the expelled parties on the other met at the schoolhouse, and, after matters were thought to be satisfactorily arranged, some difficulty occurred. James Bailey, Jr., fired six charges from his pistol, instantly killing R. A. Rutledge and fatally wounding his son.

NORTH EAST AND WEST

The sheet mill of the Reading Pa. iron works has suspended, throwing 275 men out of employment.

Smallpox is reported as raging in Havana. Two thousand deaths occurred from the dreaded disease between May last and January, 1888.

It is rumored at Washington that General John Newton, superintendent of public works, is to be appointed superintendent of the coast survey.

Work on the new gunboat Yorktown and a dynamite cruiser, at Cramp's shipyard, Philadelphia, has progressed so rapidly that they will be launched within a month.

Eighteen men were injured by the explosion of dynamite in a rock cut on Fourth street, Duluth, Minn.

The roof of a nearly completed hotel at Kansas city, Mo., collapsed and crushed through eight stories to the ground. One workman was killed and about a dozen injured.

At Salimanca, N. Y., the second largest fires that ever occurred in the town broke out at 12:30 o'clock yesterday morning. The buildings burned were the Opera House block, post office, Nies's block and other buildings. Loss, \$75,000; insurance, \$25,000.

Five shares of the New York Sun Publishing Company, par value \$1,000 each, were sold at the New York Real Estate Exchange for \$3,350 each.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court has declared inoperative the law enacted by the last legislature, which permitted habitual drunkards to be confined in an asylum not to exceed two years.

A slight shock of earthquake was felt at San Francisco, Cal., the other day. The shock is also reported from several points north of that city, where it was more severe and caused persons to rush from their houses in alarm.

Governor Green, of New Jersey, has vetoed the local option high license bill which the Republicans had passed as a caucus measure.

HONORING A GOOD MAN.

Funeral of Mr. Corcoran—Mrs. Cleveland Attends the Services.

The funeral of Mr. W. W. Corcoran took place late from his residence in Washington, D. C. In accordance with the wish of the deceased the ceremonies were simple and devoid of all ostentation. Among the floral tributes was a large pillow sent by Mrs. Cleveland. The services were confined to the form laid down in the Episcopal ritual. There was no address. Rev. Dr. Leonard, pastor of St. John's Church, conducted the services with the assistance of Bishop Parel and Rev. Dr. Stuart, of Christ church, Georgetown. Mrs. Cleveland was present during the services and her carriage was in long drapery, which followed the remains to the grave. She was escorted by Secretary Endicott and stood during the services in the house very near the head of the casket. Chief Justice Waite, Senators Barbour, Eustis and many other persons of note, were assembled in the parlors of the mansion during the service. There was a large representation present of various organizations with which the deceased was connected, and which he had aided. Upon the arrival of the funeral cortege at Hill Cemetery, the casket was placed in the chapel, and it will be placed in the vault, next to one containing the remains of Mrs. Corcoran. A touching incident was the presence at the grave and the singing of the children of the City orphan asylum.

It may be of scientific interest to know that a wife with a cold can make it very warm for her husband.

WASHINGTON

GOSSIP FROM UNCLE SAM'S CAP-ITOL

What our Busy Law Makers are Doing, Congressional and Other News.

Orders have been issued for the discontinuance of a number of signal service stations. Pensacola, Fla., is the only one in the South. The remainder are in the North and Northwest. The scarcity of money is the cause.

The bill to appropriate an additional \$75,000 for the Chattanooga public building has passed the committee of the whole. This gives Chattanooga an appropriation in all of \$275,000. There are now only five public buildings on the calendar ahead of Mr. Grimes', and his bill will be voted on in the house about Tuesday or Wednesday. Mr. Grimes has many friends in the house and, this together with the true merit in the bill makes its passage doubly assured.

The civil service commissioner gives notice that it will hold examinations for applicants for positions in departmental service at Washington, who, in addition to ordinary clerical attainments, have a knowledge of stenography and typewriting at the following times and places in the south: Birmingham, Ala., Thursday, March 8; Chattanooga, Tenn., Saturday, March 10; Knoxville, Tenn., Tuesday, March 13; Nashville, Tenn., Tuesday, March 13; Memphis, Tenn., Thursday, March 15.

The President has signed an order placing employees of the civil service commission in the classified departmental service. This is the first act of the President under the new rules and regulations, and it is understood to be preliminary to an order placing under civil service rules the Inter-State commerce commission, the Indian school service and all other commissions and bureaus which were organized independent of the executive departments at Washington, as contemplated by the new rules.

The will of the late W. W. Corcoran has been filed and admitted to probate. The only public bequests are \$100,000 to the Corcoran art gallery, to which Mr. Corcoran had already given \$1,500,000; \$50,000 to the Louise Home, to which Mr. Corcoran gave in his life half a million dollars; \$5,000 each to the three orphan asylums of the district, and \$3,000 to the Little Sisters of the Poor. He makes many bequests, ranging from \$100 to \$15,000, to relatives, personal friends and servants. The remainder of the estate is left in trust for his three grandchildren.

The Proud and Chivalrous Japs.

The nature of the soil is such that it produces most luxuriantly. The skies are rich with rains and dews. The yields of rice, tea and cotton are often more than sixty-fold. Surely nature has smiled propitiously upon this land of 150,000 square miles, with some thirty-eight millions of people. The sea, land and sky conspire to render it romantic and sublime. But as the sojourner comes in contact with the people, hearing their myths and fables as to their pedigree, and learning from history whence they are believed to have sprung, he is soon convinced that they are a race of romance and chivalry. They delight to dwell upon the past, recounting their heroes. Wonderful stories they will tell you of their Mikados. Nearly every city of any size will point you to its written history, and every province to its encyclopaedia of the treasured past. Neither will they fail to inform you of their first written Bible, produced in the sixth century, consisting of three large volumes, the first treating of the creation, the events and centuries of the holy age; the second and third of the history of the Mikados from 660 to 1288 of the Christian era. Then with enthusiasm they will recount the victories and achievements of Ilyyasu from the sixteenth century and on to the present time. They will refer you to Jemmu Tenno, their first imperial ruler or Mikado, who was the fifth in descent from the Sun goddess, and therefore divine, as all the other Mikados have been, from the fact that they have descended from him, making the present one the 123d in direct lineage.—Boston Journal.

The Wind Lifts a Train.

Mr. C. W. Woodward, a traveling man hailing from New York, related an interesting story yesterday of a trip from Buffalo to this city in the storm Thursday night. He is a guest at the Forest City house, and narrated his experience to a small circle of friends. "After leaving Dunkirk," he said, "the wind was so severe that we proceeded along at a snail's pace. At times the force of the hurricane lifted one side of the train several inches from the track, and then it would descend to the rails again with a startling thump. We were asked by the conductor to sit on one side of the cars to balance them. A number of Cleveland passengers left the train at Erie, preferring to remain in that city over night rather than to risk riding any further. It was the first time in seven years' traveling that I was ever alarmed in a railway train."—Cleveland Leader.

Content vs. Discontent.

One, satisfied with what most he lot—
"Was not a corner lot—serenely meant
Never to wander from her humble cot,
Made beautiful by wise and sweet content.

And one, dissatisfied with all he had,
Howled from his place into the world's mad whirl,
What did he find? Well, it was not so bad—
The fellow found that cottage and that girl
—The Century.

The Retort Courteous.

"Come and dine with me to-day,
Grindstone," said Kiljordan, "the bill of fare will just suit you. Calves' brains is the principal dish."
"I'll come, Kiljordan," said Grindstone, "in order that you may have one man at the table who can eat calves' brains without making a cannibal of himself."—Chicago Tribune.

Cannibal Island Currency.

Mr. Walter Coote has described some curious moneys of the New Hebrides and the Solomon Islands. On one of the islands he noticed a neatly-kept house, which he was told was the money house. Entering it, he found a number of maps hanging from the roof, beneath which a fire was constantly kept up, under the effect of which they become covered with a black, glistening coating and adorned with festoons of soot. It was a man's business to keep the fire always burning, and so low as not to scorch the maps. A well-colored map is worth about as much as a well-grown, vigorous boar. This is the strangest of all kinds of money, for it must never be taken from the money house, even when the title of it is transferred from one owner to another. The inhabitants of Santa Cruz Island use for money, rope-ends, about an inch thick, and ornamented with scarlet feathers, which are worn about the waist. The traveler could not obtain new coins of this kind, but found them current everywhere. The specimens he bought were already old, and the feathers grown dingy. The money of the Solomon Islands consisted of neatly-worked pieces of shell of about the size of our shirt-buttons. They are strung on strings about four yards long, and are distinguished under the names of red and white money. Dog-teeth are of higher value, and comparable to our gold coins. They are usually worn on a string around the neck. Mr. Coote saw a necklace of this kind that was valued at about \$100. Marble rings are also worn for ornaments, and as valuable money.

A Whistling Language.

At a meeting of the Berlin Anthropological Society, Lieutenant Quedenfeldt lectured on the whistle language used on the Gomoero Island. During some months' stay in the Canary Archipelago the lecturer was able to learn the nature of this language, which is a sort of pendant to the drum language of Camaroon. There are no fixed whistles or signals. The Gomoero can carry on any conversation by means of whistling, and be understood by the person with whom he is conversing a mile off. The whistling is quite articulate, and is a kind of translation of common speech into whistling, each syllable having its peculiar tone, so that even foreign words can be whistled. The vowels e, i and y are more loudly whistled than a, o and u; and if a consonant is at the end of a word, for example, "Juan," the a is whistled in a rising tone. The Gomoero either uses his fingers or his lips when whistling. The practice is only common on the Gomoero Island, and is not found in the other six islands of the Archipelago. The reason may be the peculiar geological construction of the island, which is traversed by many deep ravines and gullies, which run out in all directions from the central plateau. They are not bridged, and can often only be crossed with great difficulty; so that people who live very near to each other in a straight line, have to make a circuit of hours when they wish to meet. Whistling has therefore become an excellent means of communication, and gradually assumed the proportion of a true substitute for speech.

She Brought the Road to Terms.

The second railway built in this country, we believe, was a short line of twenty miles from Niagara Falls to Lockport, the track made of wooden scantling or string pieces with strap iron laid on top for rails. By the way, these often turned up one end and, catching above the wheel, came piercing up through the bottom of the car. The engines of those days were of course very weak in power. On this railroad was a light grade for a few hundred feet. Near this lived a widow woman who had a large fat hog which one day got upon the track and was killed. The railway people refused to pay her for it, on the ground that the hog had no business on the road. She had the lad tried out, and after failing to get anything from the railway, she spread this lad liberally along the rails for a considerable distance along the ascending grade. The engine having then no "sanding" arrangement, it was unable to climb the grade; and as often as they sprinkled sand on the track by hand and had passed by, she swept it off and applied more lad. The result was, the railway company paid her all she asked for the hog.—Prairie Farmer.

About Canary Birds.

How many of our readers are aware that a canary has four notes to his song? Indeed, according to the Detroit Free Press, dealers, after listening to the singing for a moment, are able to tell whether the singer is German or American.

These four notes are the water note, which is a rippling, attractive bit of warbling like the murmur of a rill; a flute note, clear and ringing; the whistling note, of the same class, but very much fiercer, and the rolling note, which is a continuous melody, rising and falling only to rise again. It is in the last-named note that the American birds fail. They cannot hold it. Another difference between the two is that the German canaries are night singers—they will sing until the light is extinguished. But American birds put their heads under their wings with darkness.

Two Interesting Price Lists.

All manufactured articles, says the Current, have fallen greatly in price since the dawn of the industrial era, and the purchasing power of money has consequently been greatly increased. The following table affords a fair idea of the reduction which took place in the price of a few necessary articles in daily use between the years 1820 and 1860:

THE SONG OF THE FOOL

Within my sanctum snug I sit,
And watch the world go round and round;
My ink is dry, my pen is split,
My pen and scissors can't be found.
Ah! joy for me, my work is dropped,
For who can work without his tools!
True, as you say, my pay is stopped,
But money is not good for fools.
So foolish here I sit and dream
Within my sanctum's scanty bound;
I touch no pen to thought or theme,
But watch the world go round and round.
With sweat and struggle, toil and pain,
From dawn of day to set of sun,
With lust of power and greed of gain,
With battles lost and victories won,
With hate and fear and bitter strife,
With treacherous blow and angry wound,
While I, the fool, in happier life,
Just watch the world go round and round.
—Robert J. Burdette.

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

Risings are treated so summarily in Russia that even yeast is afraid to do its duty.
When a physician loses his skill it naturally follows that he is out of practice.—Merchant Traveler.
How would it work for the women suffragists to colonize and govern the territory of No Man's Land?
Schools of herring are striking in toward the American shore. They obeyed the orders of the swimming delegate.
After all, it is perhaps appropriate that physicians' prescriptions should be written in Latin, a dead language.—Pittsburg Chronicle.
In view of his preference for a "shining mark," it is a little strange that death doesn't capture more bootblacks.—Danville Breeze.

When a washerwoman changes her place of residence one may ask her "where she hangs out now" without using slang.

An Illinois man who went fishing with Lincoln fifty years ago threatens to sue the Century Magazine for not printing his picture.—Life.

Now does each side in Congress Declare in hot ferment,
That the other eyes the surplus
With burglarious intent.
—Tit-Bits.

A burglar in Harlem took, among other things, a cornet belonging to an amateur, and the neighbors are trying to raise a fund of \$500,000 to bribe the thief to return some night and carry off the amateur.—New York Times.

Oh, sad is the touch of a vanished hand,
And the sound of a voice that is still;
And sad is the winter without any ice
The ice dealer's house to fill.
But saddest of all the things I know
Is the toboggan slide without any snow.
—Courier-Journal.

Chicago Lady (to husband)—"My dear, did you think to order a ton of coal today?" Husband—"Yes." Chicago Lady—"And my shoes?" Husband—"Yes, and" (peering out of the window) "there is a truck backing up to the door now, but it's too dark to see whether it has the coal or the shoes."—Harper's Bazar.

Why wouldn't it be a good idea if somebody should get up a code of signals showing how people feel, thus saving much wind in asking "How are you?" and kindred questions? There might be a white label button for "Pretty well," a red one for "So-so," and a blue one for "I feel like the deuce." They could easily be made quite as trustworthy as the weather signals, and would fill a long felt want.—Boston Transcript.

Big European Armies.

"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 2,051,458 troops, exclusive of the territorial army, which is equally large; that of Russia at 1,922,465; Germany, 1,433,690, and Austro-Hungary, 1,055,955. The military strength of Italy has now attained proportions that would have been deemed incredible ten years ago. Including militia, it is all told 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 is small. Including the militia and volunteers, as well as the Indian army, that nation can just muster 281,679 troops; and these have to serve for the defense of territory distributed over a very much wider area than that ruled by any of the other powers.

Two Interesting Price Lists.

All manufactured articles, says the Current, have fallen greatly in price since the dawn of the industrial era, and the purchasing power of money has consequently been greatly increased. The following table affords a fair idea of the reduction which took place in the price of a few necessary articles in daily use between the years 1820 and 1860:

Boots per pair	1820	1860
Shoes	\$ 6.14	\$ 2.31
Stockings per pair	1.25	1.02
Calico per yard	.36	.103
Cotton Cloth per yard	.415	.115
Flannel	.657	.405
Shirting	.523	.184
Shirting	.380	.107
Flour per barrel	11.67	8.92
Indian meal per bushel	1.75	.983
Coffee per pound	.250	.163
Lard	.190	.137
Molasses per gallon	.851	.493
Salt per bushel	.801	.669
Sugar per pound	.183	.093
Tea	1.13	.539
Burning Oils and Fluids per gal.	1.37	1.03