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THE
Charlotte Messenger

IS PUBLISHED

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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W. C. SMITH Charlotte N. C.

Fatal Errors.

Successful Merchant—"I have no further need of your services, sir."
New Clerk—"Eh! What's happened?"
"You have been here but one day and have already cost me two good customers."

"My gracious! In what way?"
"You addressed Miss Skindandbones, that old maid herself, as 'Mrs.' and you called Mrs. Sweet sixteen, who was married last week, 'Miss.'"—*Omaha World.*

Australia.

In 1788, Captain Phillip took possession of the whole island continent of Australia in the name of King George. The total area of Australia, including New Zealand, is 3,073,238 square miles, almost precisely the area of the United States, and thirty times that of the United Kingdom. The white population, at the end of 1886 was 3,367,436, and increased by the surplus of births over deaths at the rate of 67,994 in one year. The number of immigrants from all countries was 252,631; but the emigration is also great, and the excess of those remaining was only 61,917. Australia, therefore, would only increase by about a million in every eight years; but the tide of population is setting at last in its direction. The total revenue is \$117,500,000, or nearly \$10 a head, almost three times the British average; but the total expenditure is higher still, and the total debt rises to the enormous sum of \$765,000,000. That will be a danger hereafter; but, as yet, Australia possesses an unshared estate of eighteen hundred and fifty-six million acres, and has raised in gold since the first discoveries more than double her debt. Much of the Australian state estate suffers from want of water, but it is noticed that, as immigrants push in, the "desert" recedes, and in all but the worst districts irrigation is possible. The belt round the coast, known to be fertile, would support fifty millions with ease.

Strange Discoveries.

So often have toads been found enclosed in solid bodies that it is not surprising to read in a Scottish paper that a servant, while breaking a large piece of coal for the fire, was startled to find in the centre of the block a full-grown toad, which appeared to be in excellent health and spirits. A less common discovery was made in Birkenhead. A gentleman there was presented with a cow's tongue, which appeared to be a perfect in every respect. After the cow's tongue was boiled, he discovered a piece of sandstone imbedded in it about three-quarters of an inch in length, half an inch in width and a quarter of an inch in thickness.—*Longman's Magazine.*

After Seventeen Years.

At Freiberg, in Saxony, a native of South America was a pupil of the Miners' academy. There he was engaged to a girl. Having no ready means of support he left without her, promising to fetch her as soon as his income would allow. The girl waited patiently seventeen years. When Christmas eve set in she was surprised by the sudden reappearance of her long missed lover. He had at last secured a certain income large enough to support them in luxury, and the happy couple are now on their way to their new home.—*New York Press.*

FARMS AND FARMERS.

Short Talks With the Men Who Guide the Plow.

Of General Interest to Farmers.

Depth For Planting Seeds.

The proper depth for planting seeds is not to be determined by the greatest depth from which they will come up and reach the surface successfully. A plant may struggle and reach the surface so exhausted that it never recovers its vigor, and though it may not die, yet never attain perfect development. The conditions of life whilst under the ground, and after it has come up into the light and air, are quite different. Under the ground it lives upon the food stored up for it in the seed, drawing nothing from the soil, perhaps, but water. The heat in the soil is the motive power which excites it into activity. When it gets up into the air an entirely new set of operations begins. Like everything else it tends to lose moisture by evaporation; the water which thus escapes is replaced by more absorbed from the soil, and with this absorbed water comes into it food from the soil. Its leaves bathed in the air, draw in carbonic acid from the atmosphere, and with the aid of sunlight build up, out of it and the elements of water, new tissues. It thus becomes an independent existence. Whilst under the ground it was dependent under its mother's milk (the food laid up for it), now it can forage for itself. If planted too deep, the food laid for it may be exhausted before it can reach the surface; in that event it perishes; or it may fall a little short of this, and reach the surface with its parts imperfectly developed—its leaves small, its stalks slender; or still farther, it may reach the surface before its supply of seed food is exhausted, and proceeding to gather food from the atmosphere, receive no check and not become stunted in its growth.

Nature's mode of seeding is to drop the seeds on the surface, and trust to their being covered by rain, or alternate freezing and thawings, or by insects disturbing the soil, or other agencies of like nature. Whilst this is an uncertain mode, and calls for a large amount of seed, because so great a portion is liable to failure of covering, it indicates very clearly that nature's method is shallow covering, and that the organization of plants is adapted to shallow covering. Just enough covering to secure the necessary moisture is the plain indication. Especially is this true early in the season when moisture near the surface is abundant, and heat (the motive power) is greater than at lower depths. As the season advances moisture retires from the surface and heat penetrates deeper down, and seeds must be planted deeper, but the loose dry nature of the soil above them enables young plants to reach the surface more easily than when the soil is wet and cold. So much for theoretical considerations—practice, however, confirms them—careful experiments with planting seeds at different depths show that for the larger seed, like corn, wheat, oats, etc., one or two inches covering give the most vigorous plants and largest yields. Plant corn now as shallow as possible.—*Atlanta Constitution.*

The Sandbagger's Advice.

"I'll never forget my first experience as a footpad," said "Soaps" out at the workhouse the other day. "I'm not a professional footpad or robber, but once in Chicago I thought I'd go out and get in my work with a stuffed club. Well, who do you suppose I picked out as my first victim? A man with a plug hat. Did you ever hear of such a thing?" and Soaps, who never washes, fairly overflowed with laughter.
"Why, what is funny about that?"
"Well, 'a sandbagger'—that is, a professional—never tackles a man that wears a plug hat. It don't do any good."
"Why not?"
"Well, you are green. A sandbagger attempts to strike either just in front of or behind the ear. Those are the most effective places. Well, a plug hat is so constructed that no blow can get in on the points on the head it covers. The rim is very stiff and breaks the force of the blow, and before a second can be given the man has cried out for help and your attack has been in vain. Now you know what to do when you are going out at night—wear a plug hat. It's a complete armor against sandbaggers."—*St. Joseph (Mo.) Gazette.*

China's Solomon.

Another Solomon has arisen at Shanghai, China. A man was accused of having stolen a table. He professed to be so weak and sick that he could not have carried away the table. The judge listened sympathetically and then said: "I think you are right. I pity you. Take that bag with \$10,000 and spend it in getting thoroughly cured." The accused bowed and took up the bag on his shoulders and walked out. "Bring that man back!" ordered the judge, and on the culprit's reappearance the wise judge told him he had noticed him as he had walked through the room with that heavy load of money on his back, and he considered him quite equal to the task of carrying away a table. So he pronounced the accused guilty of the theft.—*Chicago Herald.*

A man at Deadwood gave his wife \$200 in greenbacks for safe-keeping. The lady put the money in a pillow-case, and shortly after thoughtlessly gave the article, with others, to a Chinese washer. Discovering the loss, she went to the laundry and found the greenbacks floating around in pieces in a kettle of boiling water. The fragments were recovered and sent to Washington, and it is thought the loss will not be more than ten per cent.

TELEGRAPHIC TICKETS.

THE SOUTHERN STATES.

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

NORTH CAROLINA.

Charles Harrington, son of James Harrington, was found dead in the woods near his home in Johnson county. Considerable damage is reported as done to the fruit crop in the Piedmont section by the recent cold snap. Peaches are said to have suffered badly, and it is evident that three-fourths of the entire crop is killed.

The large two-story dwelling of Mrs. Caroline E. Cherry, near Greenville, was destroyed by fire, and Elisha Johnson, a colored preacher living in Halifax county, has mysteriously disappeared. Seeing some fire in the woods, he went last Friday to look after it, and has not since been heard from.

News has been received at Raleigh of the death of Rev. Dr. Matthew T. Yates, in China. He was the oldest of the Baptist missionaries, having been in China forty-two years. His age was seventy. Last September he had a paralytical stroke, from which he never fully recovered. He intended returning to North Carolina next June. Dr. Yates was born in Wake county, near Raleigh, and graduated at Wake Forest College. He was looked upon by the Baptists as one of their leading preachers.

At Asheville, C. D. Higgins was arrested, charged with attempting to kill the conductor of a Pullman car. The conductor ordered him out. Higgins struck at the conductor, who knocked him down. Higgins sprang up and shot twice at the conductor, the bullets striking the car and frightening the passengers. The train moved off, but Higgins began firing promiscuously into houses near by. He was arrested after a chase and desperate fight.

Details have been received at Raleigh of a most horrible story, the scene of which is an illicit distillery on Barnes creek, on the line between Montgomery and Randolph counties. A young man named Andrew Collicott had been to the Steel gold mine, and imbued too freely of whisky. Upon returning to the distillery he was soon involved in a drunken stupor, in which he remained unconscious for some time. Some one, attracted by his piteous cries, went to his assistance, and found him in the still house with almost his entire body, from the waist up roasted. Physicians who were summoned think the injuries are fatal. It is stated that his injuries are the result of the brutality of a party of gamblers, who had gathered at the still for the purpose of winning Collicott's money. The gamblers finding him too drunk to resist poured whiskey on him, and set him on fire, taking his money and afterwards claimed that it had been burned.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

New rails have been ordered for the Barnwell Railroad.

Only sixteen acres of land were sold for taxes at the last salesday in Orangeburg.

The Barnwell Railroad during January cleared \$1,883 above all expenses.

All the piers for the Three C's bridge over the Catawba river have been finished.

Col. Eugene B. Gary, of Abbeville, will soon have ready for publication a book on criminal law.

Dr. C. H. Green, Jr., of Sumter, has received an appointment of the surgical department of the Chambers Street Hospital, of New York city.

During the twenty-three days of January that the Blackville, Alston and Newberry Railroad was in operation its receipts amounted to \$1,689.92.

William Pleasant, colored, while trying to get on the up train while in motion at Reynolds Station, fell and was instantly killed.

A petition, which is numerously signed by the most influential and conscientious citizens of Beaufort, has been circulated and will be sent to Governor Richardson asking him to commute the death penalty appointed to be executed on the 6th of April against Si Robinson, for the homicide of Bailey. The mental condition of the unfortunate condemned would seem to be a sufficient reason for the extension of the sought for clemency.

Both evening trains on the South Carolina Railway were thrown out of time on account of a terrible fire along the track, and in the surrounding woods a few miles below Windsor. The fire was raging for several miles along the track, and hundreds of cords of wood were burned. The heat was so intense that for a considerable distance the steel rails were twisted so as to render it impossible for the trains to pass over. The whole community turned out to fight the fire, but could do but little against the heavy gale that was blowing all day. The section hands along the line have been telegraphed for, and the damage will be repaired as soon as possible.

GEORGIA.

Atlanta claims a population of 66,000 within the city limits.

Thomasville has 1,500 visitors, who spend an average each of \$3 a day in the town—\$4,500 per day—\$32,500 per week—\$135,000 per month—\$440,000 per season of four months.

At Macon the large number of visitors to the jail to see Tom Woolfolk is daily on the increase.

It is reported that a Northern capitalist will build a \$150,000 hotel in Bainbridge this year.

A State military encampment on St. Simmon's Island is suggested for the summer.

But a few hundred dollars in postoffice receipts is needed to ensure Athens having a free delivery system of mails. The annual report is not made until April 1, and there is every probability that the receipts will reach the necessary \$10,000 notch by that time.

Several large pieces of the monument to be erected over the grave of the late Gen. Robert Toombs have arrived at Washington. It will be a massive and stately shaft, and altogether a fit monument to mark the last resting place of that illustrious man.

Lumber City has another barrel factory in operation. B. S. Pinkleton was the founder of the first one in the spring of 1887. The new one is supposed to be owned by a syndicate of naval stores commission merchants of Savannah, who proposes to fight the present monopoly in the spirit barrel business.

The Presbyterians of Atlanta discussing among themselves various plans for establishing in that city a Presbyterian college. The idea seems to be to establish at Atlanta a Presbyterian university for the South of such high character as to attract patronage from other States. The matter has gone so far that a meeting of the Presbyterians of Atlanta and Georgia will be called at an early day to discuss the subject.

NORTH, EAST AND WEST.

A heavy blizzard is raging in the south east of England. The storm is slight in London.

It is reported that the French Government has decided to cashier Gen. Boulanger.

At Cassell, Germany, a snow storm has prevailed for three days. Commander Griffin, of the American navy, offers to back Kilran for \$500 against Sullivan.

At Aberdeen, Miss. Gattman & Co., bankers, have failed. It is believed that the failure is for over \$200,000.

The Dublin Evening Telegraph says that Mitchell has challenged Sullivan to fight in a sixteen foot ring for £1,000 a side.

In Spain the storm is very heavy, especially in the north, and in the south of Spain floods are doing enormous damage.

In central Germany there is complete suspension of highway traffic, and in many districts railways are snow bound.

H. H. Key, representing D. Appleton & Co. of New York, died suddenly at the Battle House, Mobile, Ala., of heart disease.

THE PRESIDENT'S PICTURE.

Sent as a Compliment to a South Carolinian.

A rare honor was conferred upon Judge W. G. Field, of Pelzer, S. C., a few days ago, by President Cleveland sending him a photo-engraving of himself and wife. Mr. Field was a great admirer of the President before his nomination, and on the first of June, 1884, he was made father of a baby boy which he christened Grover Cleveland Field, in honor of the President. Mr. Field mentioned these facts to Congressman Perry in one of his letters, and in this way it came under the eye of the President, and he wrote him the following letter.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, Feb. 27th, 1888.—W. G. Field, Esq., Pelzer, S. C.: Dear Sir—I have received from Mr. Perry your recent letter to him, and learn from its perusal that you have a son who bears my name. Permit me to thank you for so flattering a manifestation of your confidence and regard, and as further evidence of my appreciation of your courtesy, I take pleasure in sending the accompanying engraving. Yours very truly,

GROVER CLEVELAND.

In response to the compliment, Mr. Field wrote to the President thanking him for the letter and engraving of himself, adding a "modest" request that a picture of Mrs. Cleveland might be sent him to be placed alongside of his in the "humble home at Pelzer." The request was promptly granted, and Mr. Field was made the recipient of a handsome photograph of Mrs. Cleveland, with her own name affixed.

Three People Burned to Death.

News has reached Charlotte of the fatal burning of three people, in Rutherford county, two being burned to death in a house, and the other in a field while firing brush. In the first mentioned case, Mrs. Lawson Davis and her sister-in-law, an imbecile, perished in the ruins of their burning home. They were in the house alone, at the time, and the origin of the fire cannot be accounted for. A colored girl named Jane Freeman was burned to death while firing brush. Her clothing took fire and before assistance could reach her she was burned so badly that death ensued very shortly thereafter.

It is interesting to trace the evolution of words and expressions. Cultured people say "how do you do?" Those who are less precise say "howdy do?" In the backwoods of Tennessee they say "howdy!" The noble red man of the West says "how!" While the cat on the fence says "ow!"

THE WHITE TERROR.

COVERING EVERYTHING IN THE NORTHERN STATES.

Terrible Stories of Suffering—Drifts Reaching the Second Stories of Houses Trains Fasted Between Stations.

The sun is shining brightly in New York and the weather is moderating. Travel on the elevated roads has fully resumed, but the surface roads are still entirely cut off and there is little if any communication east. Meagre reports received show that people living in New Jersey towns who started for New York Monday had dreadful experiences.

Many trains were snowed in a few miles from the city and passengers were compelled to sleep on them or wade through the snow to look for shelter in villages. A number of persons, it is asserted, perished from cold and exhaustion.

At Elizabethport, N. J., a dozen employes of the Singer's machine works started for their homes. Several were badly frozen. One man was picked up out of the snow stiff and breathless. He was carried into the railway station where he soon died. By strenuous efforts the Pennsylvania road got a single track clear to Newark. Trains were kept running all night between there and Jersey City to keep the track open. None of the other roads have been able to move trains. Above New York on roads of the New York Central system the situation is unimproved.

The Chicago limited express train on the Pennsylvania road, which was stalled for a day near Harrison, on the New Jersey meadows has reached Newark. Relief cars of supplies had been sent out with three locomotives pulling and three more pushing. About Elizabeth a stock train is blocked on a siding and many sheep and cattle frozen to death. In the Pennsylvania freight yard a car load of sheep perished.

The meat supply is getting short and prices are advancing, \$15 per ton being paid for coal. There is plenty of it in the yards in New York and Brooklyn, but the difficulty is to deliver it.

Snow again fell heavily at Philadelphia, but the temperature is decidedly warmer, and the snow melted as fast as it fell. The situation so far as the railroads are concerned are much more hopeful. Pennsylvania railroad officials report their main line to the west open, but that the New York division is yet closed. The Chicago limited express which at other times is started from New York was made up here and left for the west. The fast express for the west left about half an hour later and in addition to those for father points also carried passengers for larger way stations. Travel has also been opened with the south, and trains arrive from and depart for Baltimore and Washington during the forenoon. The situation on other lines, centering here, is also improved, and with the continuance of moderate weather, the officials believe that travel can be resumed to all points by tonight or tomorrow. Telegraph communication with New York, Baltimore and Washington is still interrupted, and the only way to reach those points is by way of Cincinnati and Pittsburg, over very precious wires.

GRATEFUL DAKOTA.

The following dispatch has been received at New York:

Mayor Hewitt, New York: Bismarck stands ready to give substantial aid to the blizzard sufferers of New York. Let us know your needs. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Mayor Hewitt has received telegrams from sympathetic people in Bismarck and Huron, Dak., St. Paul, Minn., and other places in the west where blizzards are not uncommon, offering relief for the storm sufferers in New York and vicinity.

Slavery of a White Man.

[From the New York Herald.]

ATLANTA, GA., March 17.—A slave is now a strange sight in the South. A white slave is yet more strange; still one was seen on the streets of Atlanta yesterday.

John S. Hughes, a white man of good character, owed Gus Kaglemacher a sum of money which he was unable to pay. He met Kaglemacher yesterday, and jokingly asked him if he would accept a bill of sale to himself as pay for the debt. Kaglemacher agreed, a lawyer was called in, the bill of sale drawn up and properly signed. In the document "Hughes sold himself, and his body after death, to Gus Kaglemacher, the said Kaglemacher to have control of the said Hughes as long as he might live, and to charter, sell or convey him to others if he chose to do so." A copy of the contract was given each party.

After the contract was handed him Hughes began to think more seriously of the matter, and consulted a lawyer as to its validity. Upon being informed that it would hold good in the courts, he got drunk and was arrested. This morning he was fined in the Police Court, and his owner, (?) who was on hand, paid the fine, and this evening took him out to his farm, where, he says, he shall work him for the balance of his life.

A Lake Boiling Hot.

Lake Rotokakahi, New Zealand, is enclosed by steep, lonely mountains, the volcanic deposit covering which looked just like half-melted, dirty, slushy snow. It is a rather significant fact in thermal activity that two or three years ago this lake rose to nearly the boiling point. This was considered a most remarkable phenomenon, as the lake was always cold before. It afterward regained its normal state.—*San Francisco Chronicle.*

WASHINGTON.

GOSSIP FROM UNCLE SAM'S CAPITAL.

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

The President has recognized Eugene Thiebaut as vice consul of France at Charleston, S. C.

Congressman Hemphill presented a petition from the citizens of Bay Springs, S. C., recommending an increase in the compensation of fourth-class postmasters.

The Supreme Court has rendered a decision affirming the right and power of the State of Massachusetts to tax the property of the Western Union Telegraph company within its limits.

The senate committee on postoffices and postroads has ordered a favorable report on the senate bill to reduce the postage on seeds, cuttings, bulbs, etc., to one cent for every four ounces. The present rate is sixteen cents per pound, while that of Canada is only four cents. The purpose of the bill is to place American seedsmen on an equality with the Canadians so far as the use of the United States mails are concerned.

In anticipation of the decision in the telephone cases, the United States Supreme Court room was crowded to-day when Court assembled at noon, and a large number of people were turned away from the door. Alexander Melville Bell and Mr. Starrow, of counsel for the Bell Company, were present, as were also the Commissioners of Patents, several patent attorneys and a large number of persons directly or indirectly interested in telephone stocks.

At 12:05 Justice Blatchford, acting for Chief Justice Waite, began reading the opinion in the telephone cases. The opinion was prepared by the Chief Justice, but owing to a slight indisposition he did not feel able to read it, and therefore requested Justice Blatchford to read it for him. The cases covered by the decision of the court are six in number, one coming from Massachusetts, one from Pennsylvania, and four from New York. In the first five cases the appellants are Amos E. Dolbar et al, the Molecular Telephone Company, the Clay Commercial Company, the Peoples' Telephone Company and the Overland Telephone Company. In the sixth the Bell Company is the appellant against the Molecular Company. The opinion was a lengthy one, and decided in the favor of the Bell Telephone Company.

The dissent of Justices Bradley, Field and Harlan is based on the Drawbaugh claim. These three Justices are of opinion that the evidence overwhelmingly shows that Drawbaugh was the first inventor of the speaking telephone, although he was unconscious of it and was not aware of its importance.

The opinion of a majority of the Court was read by Justice Blatchford, but was prepared by Chief Justice Waite. The latter, owing to indisposition, did not feel able to read so long an opinion, which occupied in delivery one hour and three-quarters.

Immediately after the conclusion of the reading of the opinions in the telephone cases Justice Lamar began the reading of his first opinion as a member of the United States Supreme Court, the case being No. 163, the Missouri River Packet Company vs the Hannibal and St Joe Railroad Company. The point involved was the construction to be given to a law of Congress, authorizing the building of a bridge for the use of the railroad company across the Missouri River at Kansas City. The judgment of the Supreme Court of Missouri, in favor of the Hannibal and St. Joe Company, was affirmed.

A Modern Woolly Horse.

Louis J. Wyman, of Roxbury, Mass., owns a horse which is dressed in a full suit of hair instead of being clothed in coat of hair like the ordinary everyday horse. The wool is an inch long and of a reddish brown shade. The owner shows a bundle of yarn made from it and says he has enough to make a suit of clothes for the man who will exhibit the horse. Mr. Wyman bought the animal from E. B. Rhodes, a planter and stock raiser of Spartanburg, S. C. The horse was bred by thoroughbred Kentucky horses and is perfect in form, 14 hands high and weighs from 850 to 875 pounds. It arrived on the Gate City from Savannah, Georgia, last week, and has since been recuperating from the effects of the sea voyage. The covering of the animal seems to be veritable wool, and has not been pronounced by a number of wool dealers in Boston. The horse has no foretop or mane—only a somewhat thicker growth of wool where these appendages should be. His tail, as well as the rest of him, is covered with the wool, and, singularly enough, hangs limply down between the legs, exactly as a sheep's tail does. Another mark of the sheep is the horse's disposition to butt, an offensive operation which he resorts to frequently.—*Hartford Times.*

Had Already Been Worked.

Bunco Steerer (to stranger)—"Why, how do you do, Mr. Sloppenhaimer! I am very glad to see you."

Stranger—"But my name is not Sloppenhaimer; it's Tuggerly."

Bunco Steerer—"What, not the Tuggerly who was recently mulcted in \$50,000 damages in a breach of promise case?"

Stranger—"Yes the same."

Bunco Steerer—"Ah, then I will bid you a very good morning.—*Pittsburg Chronicle.*

The position of postal clerk has been handed down in one family in Germany for two hundred years.