

# THE CHARLOTTE MESSENGER.

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In the Interests of the Colored People  
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## TELEGRAPHIC TICKS.

### NORTH CAROLINA.

Cardinal Gibbons, accompanied by the Rev. Dr. Foley, are at Asheville to attend the convention of gentlemen interested in the promotion of immigration to the South. The party expects to return on Friday next.

Cross and White, the defaulting president and cashier of the State National Bank of Raleigh, gave bond and were released from jail a few nights ago. The bond was \$15,000 each. One of White's bondsmen is D. H. Graves, in whose name one of the forgeries for which Cross and White are to be tried was committed.

News has been received at Raleigh of a heavy and disastrous hail storm in parts of Iredell county. A heavy mass of clouds hung very low, and literally poured masses of hail upon the earth. The average depth of the hail is reported to have been a foot. Most persons believe the damage to the wheat crop will be very great.

### SOUTH CAROLINA.

The House of Representatives has refused to increase the appropriation for the Charleston jetties.

By fire at Union Courthouse eight buildings were burned. The losses were as follows: R. F. Briggs, storehouse, \$2,900; R. F. Gee, stock of goods, \$9,500; John Rodgers, stock, \$3,500; Harlan building, \$750; H. M. Grimbald, two storehouses, \$2,500. Insurance, \$11,000.

After a year of inactivity the Edgefield Rifles have been reorganized, with E. H. Folk as captain; R. S. Anderson, first lieutenant; F. A. Tompkins, second lieutenant; W. A. Strom, third lieutenant; orderly sergeant, Et. Julien Bland. There are all crack military men, one of them, the gallant first lieutenant, having seen and experienced service in the late "unpleasantness," while the others are either graduates or have been attendants of military schools.

### NORTH, EAST AND WEST

The New York banks now hold \$14,246,300 in reserve in excess of legal requirements.

A cotton factory is to be erected at Danville, Va., with a capacity of 32,000 yards of cloth per day.

There was a wreck on the Louisville and Nashville Railway at Calera, and two brakemen were killed.

N. P. B. Wells, treasurer of the Seneca Falls, N. Y., Savings Bank, has been lodged in jail for a defalcation estimated at \$2,000 to \$12,000.

P. Throckmorton and John Chandler, of a Philadelphia bucketshop concern, have absconded, leaving \$12,000 debts behind them.

### Soaring of Birds.

The sight of hawks mounting upward by a wheeling flight in circles must be a familiar one to all who have lived in the country. The eagle, the vulture, and other birds of prey have the habit of keeping aloft by the same mode of flight. The course described in ascending is a spiral, and it is made with no apparent effort. The wings and tail of the bird are kept spread out to their full extent, that is all. There is no flapping or fluttering, and yet the bird rises rapidly, aside from the speed with which it makes each successive round. There is much mystery about this flight. Naturalists, like Mr. Belt, suggest that the bird uses the center of gravity as a fulcrum, and takes advantage of the wind by setting its wings and tail something like the sails of a boat when tacking.

The difficulty with this explanation is that the birds are seen taking their flight in this manner on perfectly still days. To say that there are currents of air moving aloft, where the birds are, is nothing but assumption, when all the evidence we have that such is the case is the flight of the birds.

Again, if we refer this scaling motion to the action of the wind, there is still a difficulty in understanding how it happens that one bird so much excels another in speed, or that the same bird increases or slackens its speed so easily as it does. We may say that this is due to a difference in the extent of wings, and in the skill with which they are set. Even then it is inconceivable, upon this theory, how the swallow, for instance, attains the speed it does in scaling; and this, too, when we know there is little force of wind.

Persons who have observed the albatross, the Cape-pigeon and the stormy petrel say that these birds are unable to fly at all in calm weather, except by flapping their large wings. In high winds they keep themselves up with no other apparent action than that of changing the position of the wings. In this case, the great activity of these birds in stormy weather does not involve corresponding weariness. The winds toss them, and fondle them, and rock them to rest, if not to sleep. Naturalists have relied upon the uniformity of nature in reasoning from the habits of these sea-fowl to those of our land-birds. Such reasoning is usually safe, but there are difficulties here, as has been shown above.

One object which the hawk and his kindred may have in soaring is the getting into a more agreeable temperature. It sometimes seems that the hotter the day, the higher they soar. It is possibly their way of going to the mountains. It may be that the spiral course is taken to enable the bird to scan a wider field than it could in any other way. If this supposition has any foundation, then the size of the circles described depends upon the extent of vision, and not upon the wind or the powers of flight. There is need of careful observation on some of these points.—*Youth's Companion.*

## GOSSIP FROM UNCLE SAM'S CAPITOL

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

The Senate has confirmed the nominations of Brigadier General George Crook to be major general; Colonel J. R. Brooke to be brigadier general; Lieutenant Colonel C. B. Comstock to be colonel of engineers; Commander W. T. Schley to be captain, and W. G. Isaacs, of Alabama, to be chaplain in the navy, and Thomas T. Tunstall, of Alabama, consul at San Salvador.

Acting Secretary Thompson has transmitted to the Senate, in compliance with the resolution of that body, a list of national banks which are depositors of public moneys, with the amount held by each on April 7th, to the credit of the Treasurer. In the letter of transmittal he informs the Senate that no interest is paid by the national banks on public funds so deposited, and that the place of deposit is discretionary with the secretary. The amounts vary from \$40,000 to more than \$7,000,000, and aggregate more than \$60,000,000.

The letting of the star route mail contracts has been completed. Among the more prominent in the South were the following: From Elizabeth City to Fairfield, in North Carolina, steamboat service twice a week each way, for four years; contractor, Frank N. Hussey; compensation, \$3,500. From Chattahoochee to Apalachicola, Fla., steamboat service three times a week each way for four years; contractor, Peter Burke; compensation, \$8,149 per annum. There were 1,102 contracts in all.

Senator Brown has introduced a bill intended as an amendment to the interstate commerce law. It provides that an shipper who shall misrepresent the character, weight or value of his shipment, with a view of securing lower rates than are charged to other shippers of like property shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished as prescribed by the interstate commerce act. Any railroad company or common carrier which shall receive shipments knowing them to be misrepresented as above referred to shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished accordingly.

Reports from the Northern States indicate that the week has been unusually cold and that farm work has been greatly retarded. Reports from the Southern States show that the weather during the week has affected all crops favorably. Cotton planting is progressing rapidly, and generally throughout the cotton States the week is reported as the most favorable of the season. Light frosts occurred in North Carolina on the 20th, which may prove injurious to fruit and crops on low grounds. From the States south of the Missouri River, including Kansas, Nebraska and Southern Missouri, the weather has been generally favorable and crops are well advanced.

## CAUGHT BY AN INSPECTOR.

Young Hawkins, the Newberry Postoffice Embezzler, Caught in New Orleans.

John Hawkins, the assistant postmaster at Newberry, S. C., who on March 24th embezzled \$175, was captured at New Orleans Friday night.

Before stealing the money Hawkins drew up a money order for \$100 payable at Sanford, Fla. He did not apply for this money, but endorsed the order and inclosed it in a letter to Dr. King Wylie at Sanford, asking him to collect, forward, &c., money, less expense of sending, to Pensacola.

Instead of doing this Dr. Wylie, who had read of Hawkins' crime, got the Sanford postmaster to hold the money.

Chief Inspector Simpson, of Atlanta, having been posted by Dr. Wylie, sent an inspector to Pensacola to watch the express office. The express agent got a letter asking him to forward the \$100 to New Orleans. As Hawkins stepped up to the express office in New Orleans last night to get the money he was arrested by an inspector.

Inspector Herbert has kept track of Hawkins from the time he left Newberry.—*Atlanta Constitution, April 23.*

## The Chinaman's Devotion to Rice.

The Chinaman's devotion to his rice says a Canton correspondent, is as great as an Englishman's to his dinner, and at their regular times for "chow"—11 in the morning and 5 in the afternoon—nothing can take him away from his bowl of rice. As all the city life is *à fresco*, one sees miles of feeding Chinamen if he progresses through the streets at their meal hours. In each open room or shop the scene is the same—a circle of dirty heathens gathered around a table, shoveling the rice into their mouths as fast as chop sticks can play, the edges of the bowls being held to their mouths merely as a funnel to direct the stream. One can stand in the shops, vainly waiting to purchase, and a surly Chinaman will only come forward when he has finished his bowl of rice, and has a sublime indifference to trade, profits, and cheating when it is his rice time.

## Taking One Too Much at One's Word.

Hostess—Won't you play us something, Mr. Spinks?  
Musical Amateur (who thinks a good deal of himself, in spite of his modesty)—O, don't ask me. You're all such first-rate performers here, and you play such good music, too.  
Hostess—Well, but we like a little variety, you know!—*Harp's Weekly.*

A Providence (R. I.) man has invented a fog horn that can be heard seven miles.

## FARMS AND FARMERS.

Short Talks With the Men Who Guide the Plow.

Of General Interest to Farmers.

### Planting Cotton.

There is danger, before the planting of cotton is finished, that the ground may get too dry to bring the seed up. This may be circumvented, to some extent, by harrowing after rain before planting time. One who has never tried it will be surprised to see how much longer land thus treated will remain moist and soft than that which has been allowed to have a crust formed on it. Cotton land should be harrowed repeatedly from the breaking to the planting. A double team, with a three section Thomas harrow, will cover six feet at a go, and go over twenty or thirty acres a day. It is comparatively a light job, therefore to harrow land.

The surest plan of getting a stand of cotton is to cover with two furrows (double foot plow) sufficiently deep to allow the knocking off when the plants are just ready to come up. And this is a most excellent plan. It has the appearance of increased labor, but it is only apparent, because the knocking off is equivalent to a working. It often kills the first crop of grass and allows the plants to come up on a clean, fresh surface. When cotton planters are used, they do not usually cover sufficiently deep to allow knocking off, although they might be arranged to do it. Most of them, however, have a wheel in front that firms the soil upon which the seed fall. This is a decided advantage, as moisture rises to the seed much better through compact earth than it does through that which is very loose. With a wheel in front and another behind to press the seed into the soil, cotton might be planted and covered very shallow and yet come up well in quite dry weather. Unless it is to be knocked off, the seed should not be covered deep. Because they will come up sometimes when covered quite deep is not proof that it is best to cover deep. To get a strong, healthy plant the seed should not be covered over two inches deep.

It is well to put a little manure with the seed when planted. It imparts great vigor to the young plants and makes them grow off rapidly. When genuine Peruvian guano was on the market, we found it admirably adapted for this purpose. Any highly ammoniated guano will answer, however. Fifty pounds to the acre will be sufficient. The seed may be either rolled in the guano, or they may be dampened and the guano mixed with them.—*Atlanta Constitution.*

### Nest-Building Fishes.

Among the nest-building fishes which inhabit German waters, the most interesting is the tiny "stickleback," whose life-history has been carefully studied. The home of this little animal is sometimes found in ditches, hanging among branches and twigs of plants; the nest is about the size of the average hand, and in structure and material bears a marked resemblance to the round nest of the titmouse. It is a peculiar and remarkable fact that among the sticklebacks the hatching is done by the male and not by the female fish. The building of the nest, a task to which the male also attends, is an interesting event. For many days in succession the little animal, whose energy and perseverance are truly worthy of admiration, collects its materials, which consists of loose stalks, plant-shreds, root-fibers, and grass. These it assort carefully, discarding all material that proves too light. It often drags along pieces exceeding its body in length, and sometimes with great exertion strips growing plants. All this material is worked up into a tangled mass, and layers of sand are scattered in between. The nest is rendered firm by a glue-like juice, which the little mason excretes after the completion of each layer, gliding slowly over the structure; this causes the separate parts of the nest to adhere closely together. The whole, when completed, has the appearance of a sand-hill, and is detected with much difficulty.

While at work the fish rarely partakes of any food; it seems that during this blissful period of its existence it finds no pleasure in such everyday events; but with intense animosity it drives back any jealous rivals, larva, salamanders, or water-bugs, which cross its path, sometimes with evil sometimes with harmless intentions. After the troublesome hatching-time is over, the anxious papa still continues to care for his numerous offspring; by day and by night he watches over them, and drives away all creatures whose approach seems dangerous. This unremitting watchfulness ceases only when his young are able to raise their weapons of defense and have become somewhat acquainted with their surroundings. Any inquisitive little one venturing too far away is quickly sent home, and it actually happens that those who are very disobedient are imprisoned in the nest. The home life of these little animals really presents an abundance of interesting and touching traits.—*Popular Science Monthly.*

### Authentic Information.

Landlady (to attic floor, back, a newspaper humorist)—"Will you have another piece of liver, Mr. Burr?"  
Mr. Burr—"No more, thanks."  
Landlady—"Mr. Burr, I see much in the newspapers about chestnuts. Please tell me what a chestnut is?"  
Mr. Burr—"A chestnut, Mrs. Hendricks, is anything that has been repeated so often that it becomes aged and stale—er, liver for instance."—*New York Sun.*

Electric slaughtering of cattle has proven successful in St. Petersburg, Russia, death being instantaneous.

## TROPICAL COFFEE CULTURE

THE NUTRITIOUS BERRY AS FOUND IN COSTA RICA.

How the Fruit is Prepared for Commerce, and the Great Extent of the Industry.

Coffee constitutes the chief article of commerce of Central America, and is in consequence the real source of wealth. The climate and soil of this section—this neck of land joining the great Northern and Southern continents—are eminently adapted to its cultivation, the high lands producing qualities rivaling, if not equalling, in favor the famous brands of Mocha or Java. Costa Rica and Guatemala take the lead in Central America, their average yearly yield being almost the same.

Near the hot springs and in the village of Agua Caliente, Costa Rica, is the plantation in which the most approved machinery for the preparation of coffee for the foreign market has lately been set up. The visitor, mounted on the good steed, which has carried him into and out of many dangers since he began to make his tour of discovery, rides slowly through the hacienda along a road bordered with oranges and lemons, the snowy blossoms of the oranges mingling their delicious fragrance with the faint odor exhaled by the few waxen stars left nesting under the evergreen foliage of the coffee trees. Before reaching the building in which the coffee passes through the preparatory state the path is lined with the drying patios, a wide sloping terrace paved with cement so hard a nature as to present the appearance of the smoothest and finest marble. These patios were all well filled with the berries, and men armed with an instrument resembling an enormous wooden rake, were engaged in turning over the reddening mass.

An enormous tank of solid masonry was more than half full of berries, large and red, almost exactly resembling cranberries. After soaking for some hours they are conveyed to the pulper, a cylinder which slowly revolves and separates the outer skin from the seed. After the process of fermentation the berries are dried in the patio, care being taken to keep them well shaken in order that the drying may be thorough. The seeds then pass into a machine which removes the gossamer-like coating and sets the two halves of the berry free; then through another machine, whose graduated rollers separate the coffee into the different qualities, the large, full grains being known as the first-class, and so on through all the gradations, each variety finding its way to its own special receptacle. The first grade of Costa Rica coffee is a large, full bodied berry of a grayish color, ranking in the foreign markets without a superior. The inferiority of the lower grades may be detected even by the most inexperienced eye at a glance. The traveler was struck with the vast difference in the berries as they came through the last machine, having found all the big red fruit alike in the handful he had picked up from the outer patio.

In Costa Rica banana trees are placed at intervals in the long rows of coffee shrubs in order to shield the ripening berries from too great heat and rain, the broad leaves furnishing just the amount of shelter required. Greater climatic extremes can be endured by this tree than by almost any other of the vegetable kingdom, as it thrives in localities varying as much as thirty degrees. It averages in some localities no more than eight or ten feet in height. In others it attains a growth of twenty feet. The foliage is dark green, luxuriant, smooth and glossy, losing nothing by the change of season. It blossoms all the year round, and at any time the delicate waxen loveliness of its blossoms and the deepening red of its clustering berries may be seen. It is raised in nurseries from the seed, and is transplanted when about six months old, bearing in from two to four years, and under favorable circumstances yielding for twenty years. The plants are placed from eight to ten feet apart, and the average yearly yield of a single tree is from two to three pounds. The traveler, never having gone deeper into the matter of coffee than the grounds in his cup, was surprised to learn that each innocent little berry consists of no less than five distinct parts—the outer skin, a soft pulp adhering to the covering, a third coating of a saccharine character, then a tough, yellowish white envelope, easily removable by friction, then a silvery gossamer-like film, and then the two parts of the grain laid face to face within all these coverings.

The wondering pilgrim thought that he had gazed upon the last scene in the strange, eventful history of coffee, to find out his mistake when the courteous haciendado conducted him back through the pleasant odored road to the dwelling house to view with awe the final process. Behind the house is an immense patio covered with drying coffee and tanks full of the berry on draught. A wide gallery encloses this patio on two sides, under its shelter being placed long, slightly sloping tables, piled with the coffee which the pilgrim had thought to be quite ready for market. At equal distances on the inner sides of these tables were seated women of all ages and sizes, apparently engaged on account of their possession of swift fingers, for to them was entrusted the task of picking over, berry by berry, the contents of the huge sacks already filled by machinery in the other building. Remembering the amount of a man's annual crop, the traveler was for a moment overcome with the task—20,000,000 pounds of coffee exported in one year from Costa Rica alone, and every individual grain passed through the fingers of a woman.—*San Francisco Chronicle.*

Morality is the harmony between act and circumstance. It is the melody of conduct.

## A LOVE STORY.

We leave the wintry woods and stand Beside the old gray wall; "Good-by," he says, and clasps my hand And leaves me—this is all. To him a walk 'neath cloudy skies, The careless mirth of friends; To me, a glimpse of paradise That all too surely ends.

Why need I, standing in my room, Recall his parting words? Why dream of flowers and summer bloom And minstrelsy of birds? I know that not a thought of me Shall fill his brain to-night, Yet, as the moonbeams on the sea, O'er me he casts a light.

His are the sunny ways of life, The blossom and the vine; The thorn, the struggle and the strife, The aching heart are mine; In his a happy grace and ease, A welcome freshness dwells, That bids me dream of highland trees, Across the heather bells.

I build my castle but on sand, I know it soon will fall; A gay good-by, a clasping hand, A smile—and this is all. A winter sunbeam faint and pale That bends the snow to kiss; A winter blossom, small and frail— My hope is only this!

—New Orleans Picayune.

## HUMOR OF THE DAY.

Working on shares—Plowman. Signal Failures—Old Prob's predictions. Some newspapers are too dull to be worth filing.

The paper-hanger makes money by going to the wall.

Female carpenters have appeared in London. Plane women, probably.

Wouldn't it be sweet revenge to lick the sugar trust?—*Burlington Free Press.*

An old whalesman being asked if he admired the harp said yes, if it was a harpoon.

It is not impossible to meet with a plump refusal from a slender girl.—*New Haven News.*

Time flies and stays for no man. The only fellow who can beat it is the musician.—*Merchant Traveler.*

The electric light in cities is a very great convenience, but drunken men find it a long distance between posts.—*Somerville Journal.*

Women are contradictory creatures. When they say they will give you a piece of their mind, they give you a peace.—*Yonkers Statesman.*

"Do you attend any post, Doctor? You were in the army, were you not?" "Oh, yes, I attend post-mortems occasionally."—*New York Journal.*

The pale face, when his wife is ill, Buys tonic and elixir; The Indian, when his squaw is ill, Buys nothing, but he licks 'er.

There's many a slip 'Twixt the cup and the lip, Is a saying that's frequently quoted; But that cup to the lips, Cause the worst kind of slips, Is a truth that's as frequently noted.

Judge (to dulle prisoner)—"What a shame for a well dressed, gentlemanly fellow like you to be arrested for yelling on Fifth avenue at 11 o'clock at night! What is your profession?" Duce—"Howling swell." Judge—"Ten dollars."—*Tut-Bits.*

They have a way out in Kansas of bringing to time unruly members of the Legislature. Mr. Funstan, member of the Committee on Agriculture, was late at a committee meeting, and the Chairman fined him six cans of corn.—*Commercial Advertiser.*

Mother—"What has become of Charlie? I haven't seen him once this morning." Daughter—"He is in Uncle John's room. Uncle John is taking Charlie's photograph by the instantaneous process, and that always takes him three or four hours."—*Yonkers Statesman.*

"In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love." Oh, it does, eh? In the spring a young man's fancy doesn't do anything of the sort. It turns to thoughts of how he's going to get in about five thousand hours of four-hundred dollar-a-week fun into fourteen days of ten-dollar-a-week vacation.

A contemporary asks: "How shall women carry their purses to frustrate thieves?" "Why, carry them empty. Nothing frustrates a thief more than to snatch a woman's purse, after following her half a mile, and then find that it contains nothing but a recipe for spiced peaches and a faded photograph of her grandmother."

"You can take the witness," said the prosecuting attorney in a trial before an Arkansas court to the defendant's lawyer. "Judge," exclaimed a young man in the back part of the room, standing up on a seat and waving his hands wildly, "don't let him take her! That witness has been engaged to me for more'n three years!"—*Arkansas Traveler.*

"This is a queer-looking building, isn't it?" he asked, stopping in front of a house on Lafayette square. "Yes, it is quite odd and quite old," she replied, evincing much interest. "Is it very old?" "Oh, yes; very, very old. I can remember when—er—er—have you ever noticed, Mr. De Smith, what beautiful streets we have in Washington?"—*Washington Critic.*

Algy—"Do you think, my love, that your father will consent to our marriage?" Angely—"Of course papa will be very sorry to lose me, darling." Algy—"But I will say to him that, instead of losing a daughter, he will gain a son." Angely—"I wouldn't do that, love, if you really want me. Papa has three such sons living at home now, and he's a little bit touchy on the point."