

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THE WEAK SURRENDER.

The deaths in Camden, S. C., of the President and Cashier of a bank in that place have awakened wide-spread interest and sympathy. It is more than suspected that the President took his own life with deliberate intent though attempting to disguise the fact of suicide with the theory of accident. It is known that the Cashier committed suicide shortly after hearing of the death of his chief. Whether there were one suicide or two, it needs to be said that of all ways of escaping from the consequences of misfortune or of ill-doing, this is the most cowardly. Taking the life that is spared by the judgment of Heaven is a weak surrender, a confession without repentance, for there is left no opportunity of reparation. Moreover it too often leaves the burden of the battle to those who are innocent of the wrong-doing, with the added shame of the suicide's death to be borne as a heritage of disgrace.

For in spite of the vaporings of their Asininites, Ingersoll and his imitators, there is still left in the breasts of our race that sentiment that puts murder and suicide in the same category. We are not moralizing. But the fact remains that in this Southland of ours, at least, where the fear of the Lord still abides, the suicide leaves to the religious members of his family, the womenkind, the unescapable shadow of the soul defying its Maker and rushing unbidden of him into the awful Presence. There is no blotting out of that fact. We can deplore the suicide's fate and we can speak mincingly for fear of adding to the burden of grief, already too heavy to be borne. Nevertheless, if one is a man and not a coward, no matter what may be his fault or his misfortune, it is the part of a man to bear it, and not to take the coward's refuge in running away from life.

While there is life there is hope. Life is the holding forth of the opportunity to begin over again, whether by paying the penalty for the wrong-doing, giving the satisfaction which the law demands, or making at least the effort to repair a broken fortune or a damaged reputation. And when life is weakly yielded, all this is impossible. It is not a brave thing, it is a coward's part, to leave those who have greater reverence for life to bear their burden alone and to add to its sorrow and shame.

NEW LEADERSHIP.

We wish to commend the new leader of the house for his wisdom in making the minority a party to the passage of the Cuban Reciprocity Bill. It is true that the amendment offered by the Democratic minority is a righteous amendment and goes still further in the line of Democratic doctrine concerning the tariff. But nevertheless, reciprocity is free trade in spots, and the argument is a hard one to overcome, that if freer trade with Cuba is a good thing for our own people, as the President affirms, then freer trade with other countries would be still more of a good thing.

The Democrats have really scored a victory for tariff reform, but, besides the good politics of it is simple justice to Cuba, that if our interest in the island is so great as to warrant the control over her finances which we exercise by the treaty with her, then with control should go the corresponding advantage which she might get elsewhere except for that control.

Besides this, the country generally, has gotten tired of opposition simply for the sake of opposition. As was noted yesterday the Democracy failed once in the critical time of its opportunity, to do a good piece of constructive work. And the reputation for successful criticism is not so valuable as that for successful accomplishment. We see more and more signs of a brighter day for the Democratic party, not the least promising being the leadership of the young Southerners of the Aycock and Montague and Frazier and Williams type, who have come into their inheritance in a better period, so far as Southern politics is concerned, than the preceding generation, for no fault of theirs, could possibly enjoy.

The News and Observer is willing to make this much of a concession: As indicating the deep-seated hostility of most true blue Democrats to the suggestion of the nomination of Cleveland, the papers quote Senator Blackburn as saying he would prefer Roosevelt. That is putting it most too strong. Anybody is to be preferred to Roosevelt except Hanna.

TARIFF-REFORM THE NEW WAR-CRY.

It sent heart of hope into thousands of the unterrified, the announcement of Representative Williams, that tariff reform would be made the leading issue of the next Democratic campaign. That is a good issue for us all to get together on, to begin with. And the principles on which the campaign of 1891 were fought and won, belong to that class that do not change with political exigencies.

A tariff for revenue only is something that appeals to men by its simple justice, Protection for protection's sake is the robbing of the many for the benefit of the few. In general the principle holds, that the less the Government interferes with the business of the people under it, the better. Here is a man who raises cotton. He sells that cotton to the manufacturer at home or abroad. The price of the cotton is regulated by the demand for cotton goods, wherever manufactured. But the manufacturer, whether of cotton, or of woolen goods, whether of steel implements for the farm or sewing machines for the family, says that if the farmer, who sells his cotton in the markets of the world, is allowed to buy his manufactured goods wherever he profanely or piously pleases, then the American manufacturer cannot compete with the British or German manufacturer. So the Government must levy a tariff tax on these foreign products, then the American Manufacturer puts up his price to about the level of the foreign price plus the tariff tax, the farmer pays the manufacturer the additional sum, represented by the tariff tax, while not a dollar goes into the revenues of the government.

The old objection, that the factories would close and the laborer be thrown out of work, never was a valid objection. For the government had no business taxing the farmer in the first place to build up those industries. But the objection is worse than illogical now, for these same manufacturers go to Germany and England and sell the products of their factories at a lower cost than the English and German manufacturers can. So that the present conditions of the tariff problems are the continued tax on the American consumer, while the foreigner gets the benefit of the lower prices which the American manufacturer makes to him, in competition with other manufacturers. That is simply iniquitous.

Added to the great farming class today are the millions of wage-earners and consumers generally, who have found that the cost of living has been steadily advancing beyond their means of meeting the additional expense. There are a lot of these who will rally to the Democratic party next fall, if it can be demonstrated that the trusts and the tariff together are taxing them beyond what is either right or reasonable.

Incidentally, the new-old war-cry will materially affect the fortunes of Senator Gorman, as regards his presidential ambitions. It will not do for the Democracy to have a leader that ever betrayed the principle of a tariff for revenue, whether for selfish ends or for those of party expediency.

The following is going the rounds of the press with more or less pertinent advice to President Roosevelt. It is the pledge that General Grant made in a letter to General Joseph R. Hawley:

"If elected to the office of President of the United States it will be my earnest endeavor to administer all the laws in good faith, with economy, and with the view of giving peace, quiet and prosperity everywhere.

"Peace and universal prosperity, its sequence, with economy of administration, will lighten the burden of taxation while it constantly reduces the national debt. Let us have peace."

Our contemporaries might admonish President Roosevelt to follow the spirit of Grant's pledge by avoiding Grant's example. Grant was literally the poorest chief-executive this Republic ever had. He meant well, but he was a total failure as a President, such a failure that the Republican party had to raise the Third Term cry in order to keep Grant's popularity from forcing him into the Presidential chair again. There was never an administration that was such a helpless prey to the rascally politicians.

The private letter from a lady correspondent to the editor on the subject of the race question as it affects the domestic economy places the entire subject in such a novel and practical light that The News takes the liberty of laying it before its readers for their edification.

Go on Back On Everything.

The appointment of Gen. Robert Show Oliver to be assistant secretary of war will be fought, it seems. Oliver is from Albany, N. Y., and it is said that certain influential Republicans at Albany have filed a protest against his selection for this place. "Mr. Roosevelt," says the New York Sun, "as governor of the State of New York, was perfectly familiar at Albany with the social life of Gen. Oliver," and "as a matter of fact, the president has been furnished with information concerning Gen. Oliver's social relations, not only in Albany, but in Florence, Italy." Manifestly, Bobby is a gay boy. But a president who can stand for Addicks and Crum and the like ought not to mind backing a fellow whose "social relations" are just a little off color.—Ex.

Among The New Books



After much bidding back and forth by English publishers, T. Fisher Unwin, of London, has secured the British rights to "The Pilgrimage," Anna Katharine Green's successful detective story. He is compelled by his contract to bring the book out in cloth, which is an unusual thing in English reprints of American books, and to arrange for its distribution in all the colonies except Canada, where the rights have been sold to local publishers. Unwin believes that "The Pilgrimage" will prove popular with English readers.

"The Red Triangle," published by L. C. Page & Co., for sale by Houston, Dixon & Co., price \$1.50.

"The Red Triangle," by Arthur Morrison, is a thrilling detective story, closely resembling the writing of Conan Doyle, and quite as interesting. The book contains the adventures of a certain Martin Hewitt, who investigates the causes of numerous crimes in which a red triangle figure conspicuously. This mark found imprinted on the forehead of the victims, and by which a strange hypnotic power is exerted, is the feature on which the story centers.

"The Mystery of Murry Davenport," published by L. C. Page & Co., and for sale by Houston, Dixon & Co., price \$1.50.

"The Mystery of Murry Davenport," in this book the author takes up modern American life, and so perfectly original is the whole plot of the story that the readers is entirely absorbed.

"The Great Scoop," published by L. C. Page & Co., and for sale by Houston, Dixon & Co., price \$1.50.

"The Great Scoop," by Molly Elliot Seawell is a splendid story for boys. The hero, Richard Henshaw, is a youth who "because a fellow has a chance to rise in the newspaper business" begins as an office boy. The boys' loyalty to the "Daily Times," from his beginning, as an office boy until he becomes an enterprising reporter, show the true newspaper instinct, at last when the rival paper, "The Journal," is "scooped" through his efforts, Richard's delights is unbounded. The success of the hero tends to stimulate a like ambition in the heart of the reader.

"The Story of the Gravelly's," published by L. C. Page & Co., and for sale by Houston, Dixon & Co., price \$1.50.

"The Story of the Gravelly's," by Marshall Saunders, tells of an interesting New England family, who are tenderly devoted to each other. The joys and sorrows of the Gravelly's, as related by the author, are true to human nature and the story is altogether entertaining.

"Little Pilgrimages Among the Men Who Have Written Famous Books," published by L. C. Page & Co., and for sale by Houston, Dixon & Co., price \$1.50.

Information about the lives of the present day writers can be gained from the attractive book "Little Pilgrimages Among the Men Who Have Written Famous Books," by Edward L. Hawkins. The following writers are discussed: George Ade, Irving Bacheller, John D. Barry, Cyrus Townsend Brady, Robert W. Chalmers, Thomas Dixon, Jr., Finley Peter Dunne, George Cary Eggleston, Elliot Flower, John Fox, Jr., Henry Harland, Arthur S. Hardy, Jack London, George H. Lorimer, Charles Major, George Barr McCutcheon, F. Hopkinson Smith, Booth Tarkington, and Owen Wister.

"Dickens' London," published by L. C. Page & Co., and for sale by Houston, Dixon & Co., price \$1.50.

A beautifully illustrated book and one of unusual interest to all lovers of Dickens and travellers in London, is "Dickens' London," by Francis Mil-ton. The author describes in a delightful manner the scenes identified with the works and life of Charles Dickens in the City of London, and tells of the changes which have taken place. The writer tells of the literary life and contemporaries of the great novelist, the locality of his novels, and not only describes the London, which Dickens knew, but relates many interesting facts about this great city.

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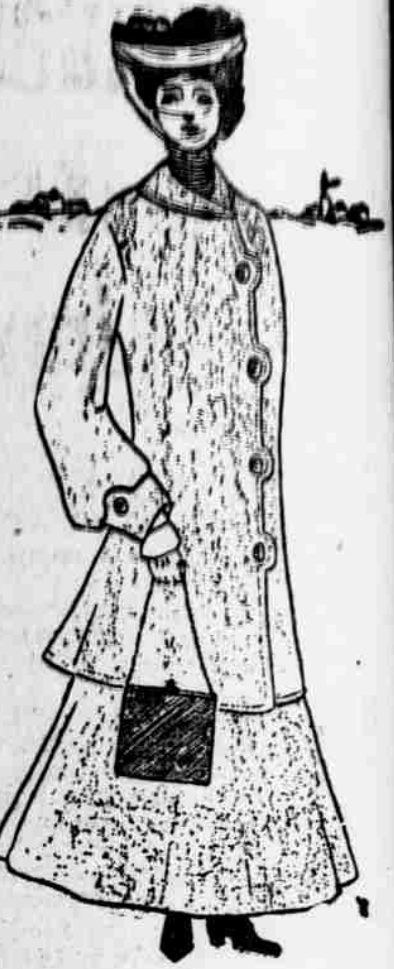
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