### VOL. 20.

## SMITHFIELD, N. C., FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1902.

NO. 43.

# NELL CROPSEY FOUND.

Her Body Was Floating in the River Near Her Home.

Wilcox Arrested and Lodged in Jail-Story of the Dead Girls' Disappearance.

The body of Miss Nellie Cropsey was found floating in the Pasquotank river opposite her father's home at Elizabeth City last Friday morning.

The body was discovered by J. the girl: D. Stillman, a fisherman. Upon downward.

but with no previous result.

VERDICT CHARGES MURDER.

iury of prominent men from the last we saw of her. When we among the crowd that had as found that she was gone after sembled and called in Drs. J. E. Wood and O. McMullen to make a thorough autopsy so as to ing that Ella and young Wilcox

vestigation made by physicians something there. of Elizabeth City, and from their opinion, and also from our personal observation, that Ella Cropsey came to her death by would ask Jim. He never group temple and by being drowned in help in the search. the Pasquotank river. We have not yet investigated nor heard and is now in custody. We recommend that investigation as to his trates in Elizabeth City town- knew ship, and that Wilcox be held to await such investigation."

to guard the jail.

more Sun last Saturday:

the center of Elizabeth City. The she wore a low shoe. tamily went there from New York about four years ago.

Pasquotank river, a stream at not find a fresh trail. of the house is a swamp.

been paying Miss Ohve Cropsey has not severed their friendship. attentions for about the same Young James has a frank, open time. The two young men were face and does not look the part any one, neither have I heard any visitors at the house on the night that many credit him with having one speak evil of her. Wonderful of November 20. Miss Carrie played. Cropsey, of New York, a cousin, was in the parlor.

Wilcox rose to go about 11 asked. o'clock. He asked Ella to step to the door with him. At that replied. "You can account for it hour all the others had retired as well as I." except Miss Olive, who, with "Would not the fact that you Leroy Crawford, was sitting in returned her gifts and had a disthe parlor.

At 11:30 Miss Olive, thinking drown herself?" her sister had retired after bidgo home. Crawford left and Miss to her, and that we had a disa-Olive, who occupied the same greement some time before. But room with Ella, went to bed

Noticing that Ella had not her life." have a private chat.

At midnight a pointer dog ance.'

and went out, thinking that some- away or where she is. body was trying to steal the turkeys or young pigs. The whole while you were on the piazza?

JURY SAYS SHE WAS MURDERED. and fearing her sister and Wilcox ing all the time we were out there. were on the lawn, Miss Olive I said very little." screamed out warning him not Did you ever declare that Ella to shoot. Then she asked her would never go to New York?' father if Ella was not downstairs. "No; not even in a joke." It was after midnight and nearly Soon the fact was known that ter?' Ella had disappeared.

Here is a statement recently up against me.' made by Mr. Cropsey, fa her of

"I went to bed at 8:25 o'clock discovering that the floating ob- that night, after sitting for a ject was the body of a young girl time with the children. Olive tells ne gave notice, and Coroner Fear- me that all that evening Jim ing had it brought to the shore. Wilcox did not speak a word to When found it was floating face Ella. He told the others that he every time and tell her that I'll was to be home at 11 o'clock. The spot where the body was found had been dragged several every few minutes. In view of times since her disappearance, what has happened I regard this as important.

and then spoke to Ella, asking again. Coroner Fearing summoned a her to go to the door. That was midnight and my wife began to weep I tried to cheer her by saylearn if there was any signs of violence on the body. The verdict of the jury was as follows:

Ing that Ena and young wheox had eloped. But my wife became so worried that, with my brother, I decided to go to the Wilcox ict of the jury was as follows:
"We report that from the inhouse to see if we could learn

"It was after 2 a. m. when we being struck a blow on the left to see me or to volunteer any

"From the Wilcox home I went to Chief of Police Dawson. I did any testimony as to who inflicted not want the young fellow arrestthe blow and did the drowning. ed even then. Wilcox was taken We are informed that one James to my home and questioned for Wilcox is charged with the crime hours by my family. My wife begged him for her sake and for the sake of his own mother, or anyone else's probable guilt whom we all respect, to speak be had by one or more magis- frankly and tell everything he

'All he would say was that he Wilcox was arrested and lodged they were there about ten mining in jail. Fearing violence the utes, and that she cried and was James Mecom, departed this life mother and brother, who found Naval Reserves were called out still crying when he passed out of in perfect peace, saying to those the flesh recent the fles the gate and started home.

and Olive. Their home is a 65. night wore a large, loose rubber shining stars. acre farm about half a mile from instead of a shoe. On the other

that stoop. I had the best train- not be splendid unless it has the The fact is not generally known, Stories The house sits back 100 feet ed bloodhound in Virginia down glamour of publicity around it. but the Agricultural and Mechanfrom the road. About 100 feet here with 'Hurricane' Branch to That woman lives the most and ical College is open to women in wood is preparing a life of Gov-

One can walk from the veranda old. He is short, standing about strength and beauty, and thus are open to all young men in the Dodd. of the house to the river bank in 5 feet 1 or 2 inches, is stocky half a minute. Half a mile back built and wears a brown moustach. His father, ex-Sheriff Wil-James Wilcox, who runs a small cox, is one of the best-known and engine in a shipyard, had been best-liked men in the town. He paying court to Ella Cropsey for and Mr. Cropsey are warm friends, death. two years Leroy Crawford had and the unfortunate happening

"How do you account for

"I cannot account for it," he

agreement with her cause her to

"No. It is true I gave her back ding Wilcox good night, told her photograph and a parasol Crawford it was time for him to and some other things belonging that would not cause her to end

come in, she supposed her sister "Who could have taken her and Wilcox had stepped into the away, then? You know that a sitting room across the hall to great many people think you are

bark. Mr. Cropsey's brother, me if you listen to these people. Henry N. Cropsey, took up a gun But I don't know who took her

"What happened between you

family was aroused by the noise.

Seeing her uncle with the gun, she began to cry. She was cry-"I gave her back her things and

"Did you say that you would an hour since the girl had been suffer tortures before you would

Why did you not get out of y came to your house and help him in the search for the girl?'

I am a sound sleeper. My mother has to awaken meseveral times every morning. I answer get up, and the next second I'm asleep again. When they came up that night and awoke me and said Mr. Cropsey wanted to know where I left Ella, I said, 'On the "At 11:05 o'clock he rose to go front porch,' and fell asleep

'Were you and Ella engaged to

tioned by either of us.'

the action of the grand jury on so far, it is learned. the charge of abduction. On the on suspicion of being Ella Cropey, but she was soon released.

Nearly \$300 has been raised by private subscription, bringing the total reward offered for the finding of the girl and the conviction of those implicated up to \$900, without counting a special reward of \$500 offered by A. G. Cropsey, of New York, the girl's u cle. Search for the missing girl was kept up unremittingly.

### Mrs. Eveline Mecom Dead.

In Kenly, N. C., on December left Ellacrying on the porch; that 29, 1901, in her fifty-sixth year. about her, "I am ready to go of his body."
The girl never committed sui- and have no fear." She was

"No, my girl was carried off Let us not think that a life can cruiser Raleigh.

never heard her say aught against women.

testimony! We tender our heartfelt symtheir faith that husband and careful Father, in whose near presence the departed wife and

The funeral services were conducted by the writer and her remains were laid to rest in Pleasant Grove cemetery.

GEO. B. STARLING.

Last Monday 32 applications for divorce were filed in the Washington City Courts.

responsible for her disappear. 18 injured in the wreck of a 500. Since then there have been Indian Teritory, by the cage parents of 10 children, all living owned by Mr. Cropsey began to "Yes, you can hear a lot about Malta, Ill., Sunday.

### STATE NEWS.

Short Items of Interest Clipped and Culled From Our State Exchanges.

Ex-Congressman W. H. H. Cowles died at his home near publishing of books. Our popu-Wilkesboro Monday of pneu-lation is a rural one and as in all monia. Col. Cowles was born in rural communities the growth of Yadkin county 61 years ago.

seen by any member of the family. tell all you knew about the mat- installed in the newly completed textile school building at the "No; that is one of the lies put Agricultural and Mechanical matters educational and our pagainst me."

Agricultural and Mechanical matters educational and our people are turning their attencost the State \$25,000, and the tion more and more to literature. Calvert, Texas, Saturday, in the bed the first night Dr. Crop- machinery, which is estimated to We are beginning to make a good be worth as much, is the gift of many makers.

> Mr. and Mrs. George Vanderbilt are entertaining some dis-H. Choate, Prince Delgracio issued. Talleyrand Perigord, and naval Dr. Talleyrand Perigord, and naval Or. J. Battle Avirett's "The Commander W. J. Cowles, Old Plantation" has appeared. brother-in-law of President Roosevelt.

"Peg Leg" Williams, well known days, "The Broken Sword. as the promoter of the great 'No; that had never been men- negro exodus in 1890 and 1891, was arrested Monday at Maxton A fortnight after Ella Cropsey's for conducting his business withdisappearance Wilcox was ar- out a license, and was made to rested, and at a hearing given in pay a fine of \$50. He is not Elizabeth City on December 3 he securing many negroes now, not was held in \$1,000 bail to await over 250 having been sent away

The Baptist State mission following day a young woman was detained at Wilson, N. C., \$25,000 to missions had appli-\$25,000 to missions, had appli- Feeding. cations for \$30,000. It sets apart \$3,000 for schools in the mountains, and the other appro- "Beautiful Thoughts from Ralph priations are for eastern mission Waldo Emerson. hundred missionaries are em-

> John Morgan Green, a well-known tobacco dealer, formerly of Durham was killed at Mount Airy a few days ago, by falling on ries. Airy a few days ago, by faming a redhot stove. He was at home standing near the stove, when he standing near the stove, when he sumptuous two-volume edition of the "Memiors of Sir William of the "Memiors of Sir Willia the stove and seized the pipe in his arms. The door was locked the flesh nearly burned off much

The following story of the dead cide. She was bright, happy and greatly beloved by the people of A trophy gun has been received girl was published in the Balti- healthy minded. She was looking her community, and was, when at the State museum in Raleigh. forward with the greatest delight able, going about doing good. It was part of the second battery Ella Cropsey was 17 years old to a visit to New York with her Surely in the home she will be of the Cristobal Colon at Santiand was one of nine children-six cousin. Nor did she elope. Not greatly missed, while we know ago. The Spaniards, during the daughters and three sons-of W. one of her things was missing, she has gone beyond our mortal hot pursuit, threw overboard the H. Cropsey. Most of the children except the light clothing she wore. grasp, we are thankful for the breech blocks of most of the guns. are younger. There were two She had had a lot of trouble with conviction that there is a better This gun is about 14 feet in firmed to history and biography. alleged to have illegally secured other grown daughters, Louise a corn on her right foot and that and brighter world beyond the length. It will be placed beside the gun captured from the Span-She was a kind mother, a good ish fleet at Manila, which was writing histories of the State, woman, was deposed from the wife, and a devout Christian presented to Raleigh by the

the other side of the road is the direct its work. The hound could best, gives most that helps so all departments. The board of ernor Tryon. Passengtenk river a stream at not find a fresh trail."

best, gives most that helps so all departments. The board of ernor Tryon. A life of Na that point about half a mile wide. James Wilcox is about 24 years the immediate forces of moral agricultural scholarships which be expected from Dr. Wm. E. concretely embodies them forth State, and young women too, for her age to observe. This desiring to pursue agricultural a second volume of the "Lives of tended over a period of five years, one lives, and what the loss of have applied for admission to linians. the community sustain's at the wintercourses indairying and agriculture. It is expected that is being written by Maj. W. A. Mrs. Mecom was a woman of the course in cotton manufact- Graham. simple habits, and a pure life. I uring will be very popular with

> The supreme court has upheld the verdict awarding \$12,500 damages against the Southern Railway to Capt. S. G. Coley, of engine because defective piping court of course was revoked. gave way. Suit was instituted in Wake for \$30,000 damages Four persons were killed and and he received a verdict for \$12,- Allister coal mine, Hartshorn, land, respectively. They are the

#### NORTH CAROLINA IN THE LITER-ARY WORLD.

In almost everything North Carolina has been slow and conservative. In nothing is this truer than in the writing and books and literature has been matters educational and our leased. start as book producers, as the of \$150,000,000. following list from the Progressive Farmer will show:

our British Ambassador Joseph mental Histories have been jeweled silver medal,

Col. D. Worthington has published a novel of reconstruction

Miss Sallie W. Stockard has

History" is just from the press. "Cotton and Cotton Oil" subjects have been exhaustively dis-

cussed in a volume by D. A. Thompkins. Prof. W. F. Massey has given us "Crop Growing and Crop

work in factories and co-operative work among negroes. One with the Poets" has been comthe Virginia-Carolina Chemical

Byrd" is edited by Dr. Jno. S. Bassett.

T. Gilbert Pearson, has appeared passed off without a hitch.

and won golden opinions. Moreover, one of the best selling novels of the year, "Joscelyn bus, Hocking Valley and Toledo Cheshire," is a story of North

who formerly lived in this State. But the end is not yet, though the prospective output is con-Samuel A. Ashe are said to be York to marry a Kansas City another volume of the "History

Mr. Marshall De Lancy Hay-

The life of Gen. Joseph Graham

Really, this is not a bad showing for a beginner.

### Lynching in Northampton.

Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 28.-Gover-Ella's disappearance?" he was this to them so don't and training is Raleigh. The opinion is one of nor Aycock this morning issued this, to them, so dark and trying the most important that has an order and commissioned Judge hour of affliction, asking God to, been rendered by the court, estab. Justice to hold a special term of comfort them, and to so direct lishing the broad principle that criminal court for Northampton the fellow servant act, passed by county, to try Jeter Mitchell, a children may see Him as a tender the legislature of 1897, deprives negro, for criminal assault on all railroad companies operating Mrs. Lucinda Hall, near Garys. pioneer residents of Kosciusko in this State of the defense of the burg, but before the documents county, Indiana, now living at mother is now eternally happy. assumption of risk. The Coley left the city a telegram was case is one of the most famous le- received to the effect that a crowd day of the sixty-eighth year of gal contests that has figured in the of infuriated citizens gave "Judge their married life Sunday and State courts in years. Back in Lynch" jurisdiction early this celebrated their sixty-ninth an-1898 Mr. Coley was yard master morning, and Mitchell was hung niversary. Mr. Kinsey is 93 for the Southern Railway in on the limb of a tree by the jail years old and his wife is 87. Both Goldsboro and he fell from an The order for a special term of are in excellent health. They were

Northwestern passenger train at Malta, Ill., Sunday. three hearings of the case in the jumping from its guidings while descending a shaft, Monday. except one, the oldest of whom is nearly 70 years old.

#### GENERAL NEWS.

A Partial List of the Week's Happenings Throughout the Country.

Frank Hutchinson Peavey, the Minneapolis millionaire, who died Monday in Chicago, carried \$1,376,000 insurance on his life.

-Chief Geronimo and his band The machinery is now being slow. But the past year has have been held at Fort Sill, Okla., of 298 Arizona Apaches, who witnessed a great awakening in as prisoners of war, are to be re-

> A disastrous fire occurred at which two lives were lost and

On Monday evening at Washington City the Junior Order of tinguished guests at Biltmore, near Asheville. In the party are volumes of our Confederate Regi-

During the year 1901 it is estimated that 53,500,000 tons of anthracite coal were mined and marketed in the United States, breaking previous records.

Another effort will be made by sent forth her "Lily of the Val. the Panama Canal company to sell the Panama canal to the Col. R. B. Creecy's "Grand-United States. It is said the father Tales of North Carolina price asked will be \$40,000. It is said that Gov. L. M. Shaw,

of Iowa, selected for secretary of the treasury by the president, has made \$800,000 out of speculating in the Texas oil fields. Rear-Admiral Francis A. Roe,

Feeding."

Emerson admirers have wellowed Mrs. Margaret B. Shipp's night. He entered the navy in 1841 and was retired in 1885. The Attorney-General of South

piled chiefly by Miss Minnie Curtis Company to revoke its charter, Wait.

Wait.

Prof. W. C. Allen has published his admirable collection of Saturday while attempting to cross the Mississippi river between Harmitage plantation and Riverside, two miles below Donaldsonville, La.

The battleship Missouri was assett.

Prof. B. F. Sledd has issued a day. Fully 15,000 people, it is ew volume of poems.
"Stories of Bird Life," by Prof. go overboard. The launching

Suits have been brought to revoke the charters of the Columand other Morgan lines in the Carolina life written by a lady Ohio coal region, on the ground that they constitute a trust.

Rev. James Heath, who is Judge Walter Clark and Mr. a divorce from his wife in New while Prof Allen is at work on ministry and expelled from the Calvary Baptist Church at a meeting of the congregation at Kansas City Sunday.

United States Senator William J. Sewell died at his home at A life of Nathaniel Macon may Camden, N. J., Friday. He suffered from diabetes complicated with stomach and heart trouble. Mr. W. J. Peele will bring out Senator Sewell's illness had exsidered serious until a year ago.

Miss Mary Louisine Benner, a cripple about 28 years old, committed suicide Saturday night in Chase's Theatre, Washington, after frantically waving a note at David Lozelle, an acrobat with whom she was infatuated. The performer, it is said, had ignored Miss Benner's adfor several months. Her mother was in the theatre when the girl swallowed the poison. Death was almost instantaneous.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis A. Kinsey, Warsaw, Ind., completed the last married in Knox county, Ohio, December 29, 1833, and were Six men wer killed in the Mc. natives of Delaware and Mary-