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CHRISTMAS AT THE CHURCHES.

Children of the Sunday Schools Will Receive Treats—Christmas Services at All Churches.

The churches of Lexington are preparing to celebrate Christmas this year in the time-honored way. There will be exercises in which all of the children of the Sunday schools will take part and there will be candy, fruits and other good things for the little ones.

At all of the churches Sunday morning there will be services appropriate for the occasion and in some of the churches there will be special Christmas music.

First Methodist Church—At the First Methodist there will be a Christmas entertainment Sunday night at 7:00 o'clock. Every member of the Sunday school is urged to be present and especially every youthful member.

First Baptist Church—At the First Baptist there will be a Christmas treat for the children Friday night at 7:00 o'clock. There will be something nice for every child and some pleasing exercises.

First Presbyterian Church—The First Presbyterian has not announced its plans for the Christmas entertainment and treat, but a delightful time is promised. There will be a big surprise for the children.

Second Reformed Church—At the Second Reformed the Christmas exercises will be held Saturday afternoon at 2:30. There will be a Christmas tree and Christmas exercises.

Lutheran Church—At the Lutheran church the services Sunday will breathe a joyous Christmas spirit and the pastor, Rev. V. Y. Boozer, will preach on the theme "God's Greatest Gift of Love."

West End Methodist Church—The West End Methodist church will have its Christmas entertainment Thursday evening, beginning at 7:00 o'clock. There will be a short address by Rev. A. W. Plyler, pastor, and recitations by the children, followed by a Christmas tree.

Rass is Held Up. Lexington had excitement enough Monday with the drunks, the almost-riots, and the near-murders, so perhaps it is quite as well that it was known to only a few that the crime of highway robbery had been added to the calendar of that eventful day.

Rass is of a simple and confiding nature, and it is to his innate trustfulness that he owes his downfall. Journeying into the wilderness he met one Charlie Potter, whose concealing the malice that lurked in his heart, proposed a short-cut, and Rass, all unsuspecting, agreed, allowing himself to be beguiled from the broad highway into the woods.

The cases of Dr. E. J. Buchanan and Mr. Dermot Shemwell, both of whom were cited before the board to discuss certain points of difference, and both of whom failed to appear, were next brought up. It was moved and carried, that the matter be turned over to the city attorney, who will deal with the refractory ones as he deems best.

The Literary Digest declares that one of the principal objections that Russia has to W. M. Shuster, the American Treasurer-General of Persia is his Jewish descent.

CITY FATHERS IN SESSION.

Much Business and More Conversation Carried on Friday Night—Citizens Appear.

In a session that lasted from seven-thirty to ten-thirty last Friday night, the board of aldermen transacted various more or less important items of the city's business.

At the last meeting of the board the clerk was instructed to request members of the school committee to be present at this meeting to explain why the interest on certain bonds has been charged to the town account instead of the school, also why water and lights should be furnished the school free of charge by the town.

Mr. W. E. Holt had been asked to come to the meeting to explain why private property should be expropriated for public use, rather than pay for one that he had built. He explained that he had not built the sewer at all; that the city had built it and that he had simply advanced the money as a contractor drawn by the city attorney would show.

Mr. D. C. Hayes was elected policeman to succeed Officer Aushand, resigned. A petition for an arc at the corner of 8th avenue and North street was tabled; an ordinance requiring all hog-pens to be built according to certain specifications was passed.

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The above is an outline of what was done at Friday night's meeting; a verbatim report of what was said would occupy the rest of this paper. If the failed man from Mars should descend in this vicinity and be anxious, as he probably would, to secure a short but comprehensive review of the various ideas, religions, customs and manners of all the people of this earth, it would pay him to stand one meeting of the Lexington board of aldermen.

Every imaginable subject was discussed, from the latest decision of the supreme court of North Carolina, to Mr. Whit Spurgeon's affection for the town mules. Occasionally the confusion would become so great and the gentleman who happened to hold the floor at the moment would ramble so far from the subject, that it was beyond the power of the presiding officer to recall what was the question that was before that body.

Chief Davis, hearing the story, went down with a request for Potter to come and explain these doings to the Mayor; but having some summonses to serve, after he had collected the modern Tom Faguns, the officer left him in an office in care of a white man, and on his return after serving his papers, found that Charlie had sought green fields and pastures new; so Rass, having lost his confidence in mankind and his fortune at one fell blow, and denied even the sweetness of revenge, is left to nurse his broken head in bitter silence.

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BETTERMENT ASSOCIATION.

County Organization is Getting Busy—Miss Register, President, Outlines Plans.

Miss Flora Kathieen Register, one of the leading school teachers of the county, has been selected to head the Davidson County Betterment Association and she is going about her work with diligence and intelligence.

A long felt need has at last been realized: Davidson county has a Betterment Association, and we hope that in this its first year, we can accomplish much good work.

We want every teacher in the county to join this association. There are no dues; only service required. As summarized by the president of the state association, this of course requires the members to hold the following objects constantly in view:

1. To interest the patrons of the public schools in the condition of the houses in which their children spend so much of their time.

2. To make the school house the model of cleanliness and beauty for each home therein represented.

3. To cultivate a love for the beautiful in the children of the state. Mr. Coon said: "Ignorance is either a good thing for a community or it is a bad thing. The means with which to banish ignorance can be voted into a community or they can be voted out. A good school house, a good teacher and a good library are the deadliest foes ignorance has; they can be voted into any community in North Carolina."

This year we are going to strive harder than ever to make the school house the center of public interest in the community. We want the rough and comfortable benches exchanged for good desks; blackboards multiplied, the floors scrubbed, the stove polished, the windows washed; shades added to the windows, pictures placed on the walls, get a library and keep it going; beautify the school grounds by having stumps removed, grass and flowers planted and playgrounds laid out; finally, we want to uphold the hands of the teacher.

At the very outset we are going to offer three prizes: First to the school that makes the greatest improvement in the interior of the school room, second, to the school whose grounds are improved most; third, to the teacher whose final report shows the best average attendance for the year. These prizes will be awarded at our last Teachers' Meeting. Remember some schools are going to win. It costs nothing to join this contest. Let's get to work. We can have the old fashioned spelling-bees, Saturday picnics, public entertainments—anything so it brings about an interest in the interior of the school room, and we are naturally interested and will work whole-heartedly because it is for "our school."

This community of interest soon makes local tax a necessity, and the election carries every time, because the people have seen the improvement in their children since they began to work for the school.

Let's all get busy and have the report of our work for the last teachers' meeting. In all of this work and any other that pertains to the uplifting of the community, we will have all the help and encouragement that a most indefatigable superintendent can give us.

FLORA KATHIEEN REGISTER, President of Davidson County Betterment Association.

Messrs. Wood and Michael Argue. Ten arrests, half a dozen men under bond, one citizen much the worse for it, although on his feet, is the record for last Sunday, with Christmas still eight days away. Numerous revellers, having become too hilarious in the neighborhood of the police, were held in default vile by twelve o'clock, but the first casualty of the day did not occur until about two, when Curtis L. Wood and William A. Michael engaged in a personal disputation at the Veneer factory.

A Christmas Hymn. Near where the shepherds watched by night And heard the angels o'er them, The wise men saw the starry light Stand still at last before them. No armored castle there to ward His precious life from danger, But, wrapped in common cloth, our Lord Lay in a lowly manger. No booming bells proclaimed His birth, No armies marshalled by, No iron thunders shook the earth, No rockets clomb the sky; The temples builded in His name Were shapeless granite then, And all the choirs that sang His fame Were later breeds of men. But, while the world about Him slept, Nor cared that He was born; One gentle face above Him kept Its mother watch till morn; And if His baby eyes could tell What grace and glory were, No roar of gun, no boom of bell Were worth the look of her. Now praise to God that ere His grace Was scorned and He reviled He looked into His mother's face, A little helpless child, And praise to God that ere men strove About His tomb in war One loved Him with a mother's love, Nor knew a creed therefor. —John Charles McNeill.

Mr. Craven to Greensboro.

Of interest to many in this section will be the following from the Greensboro News of Friday: "Friends here and throughout the state will be interested in the announcement that Bruce Craven, an attorney of Wilkesboro, will locate here January 1 and that he will engage in the general practice of law in connection with his services as special counsel for a large business organization. Mr. Craven is a member of the well known state family club of that name a brother of George B. Craven, formerly on the staff of the Daily News, and was before receiving license to practice law one of the best known school teachers in the state, having been identified with the Winston, Goldsboro and other city schools.

Accompanying Mr. Craven here will be Mrs. Craven and daughter and they will find a hearty welcome awaiting them in Greensboro. Mr. Craven is a brother of Mr. E. B. Craven, of this city and has many friends in Lexington.

Moonslayers Attack Revellers. There was a red-hot pitched battle Thursday evening in the mountains 12 miles from Morganton. Revenue Officers Kanipe, McCoy and Roland and Sheriff Berry, of Burke, had discovered and cut to pieces the moonshiner "plant" and were looking for the still, which had been got out, when they were suddenly fired on by the incensed owners and manufacturers of the mountain dew, who were armed with rifles and shotguns. The cut round just above the powder, which has the effect of concentrating the load. Buses as big as a man's wrist were cut off by the bullets, but none of the officers were struck. They did not at first return the fire, attempting to surround the moonshiners. This being impossible they sent in a hot fusillade, which silenced the "shiners," who made for the tall timber and escaped.

The officers say they recognized three of the men, Abner and Lige Recor and Jim Huffman. The Recors are said to be desperate men.

Battleship Maine Will Not Be Sold. The house of representatives last Saturday acted adversely on a proposition to sell the remains of the battleship Maine to private parties who desired to fit it up so that it could be towed round to various ports and exhibited to visitors who would pay an admission fee. Offers approaching \$1,000,000 had been made to the navy department for the rear portion of the hull, which is in such condition as to make practical a scheme to render it water-tight. Representative Macdon, of Georgia, led the fight to have the hull sold, but representative Fitzgerald, of the appropriations committee opposed it.

"In my opinion the American people would not tolerate making a public show of that old vessel," said Mr. Fitzgerald. "There are some things that are sacred to the people, and among them are the remains of men or of vessels lost in defense of the nation. I would deplore the American government attempting to make profit out of this ship merely to gratify the idle curiosity of any people of the United States."

The republic of Cuba has made a request for the foremost of the vessel to be erected as a monument in the city of Havana, and it was decided to allow the secretary of the navy to give to cities or patriotic organizations parts of the vessel to be used for that purpose; then what is left will be towed out of Havana harbor to deep water and sunk, with naval honors to the gallant ship and her crew that went down in the defense of the nation.

Dowdy Released.

Charles F. Dowdy, who was arrested recently at Wilmington, charged with the murder of his father, who a short time ago was beaten to death with an axe near that city, has been released.

He was released by Recorder Furlong, to whom the case was removed by Magistrate Harris who issued the warrant. Several witnesses were examined before the recorder, but not a scintilla of evidence was brought out against Dowdy. The recorder before announcing his decision requested an expression from the prosecuting attorneys, County Attorney Marston Bellamy and Assistant City Attorney George L. Peschau, and both recommended that the recorder not hold him for superior court as there was no evidence. The defendant was represented by Walter P. Gafford, Esq., but he offered no testimony.

The police are at work on several clues which may lead to the apprehension of the guilty person or persons. The arrest of Dowdy was not made at the investigation of the police, but county authorities. The police are proceeding on the theory that two negroes committed the crime and that the object was robbery.

Big Company in Receiver's Hands.

The American Warehouse Company of Spray, a corporation modeled after the plan of the American Tobacco Company, was placed in the hands of a receiver Friday. J. L. Clement was made temporary receiver. The defendant was given until January 2 to show cause why the receivership should not be made permanent. The litigation involves two million dollars.

The complaint filed by creditors, alleges that because of a factional war between the stockholders of the corporation, headed on one side by the Marshall Field Company of Chicago, and J. R. Morgan and Duke interests on the other, the solvency of the corporation has grown so desperate as to jeopardize the interests of other creditors. The Marshall Field people are creditors to the extent of \$415,000. The unsecured indebtedness is said to be \$200,000. No authoritative statement of the liabilities and assets has been made.

A Duel to the Death.

Standing 25 feet apart, Ulrick Langford and Henry Driggers, poured squirrel shot into each other at La Belle City, Fla., Friday afternoon. Driggers expired before he could be removed from the street and Langford died a few hours later. It is said both men had been drinking and after a quarrel decided to shoot it out. Both secured shotguns, stepped off the distance and at the word commenced firing. Driggers was completely disabled, being the second shot while lying on the ground. Both men are prominently connected.

Double Murder in Cleveland.

Mr. and Mrs. John Dixon, who lived ten miles from Shelby, were found by neighbors one day last week, weltering in their own blood. Mrs. Dixon's body was found in the bed with her infant child, unharmed, clasped to her breast; Mr. Dixon was found a hundred yards away in his barn. An axe had been used in both cases, and the bodies were horribly mutilated; the axe with which the deeds had been committed was found in the yard later. Two negroes who had been heard to make threats against Mr. Dixon were arrested and lodged in jail. The young white man held a chattel mortgage on their crops, and it is thought that they decided to put him out of the way. The young couple had been married only about a year, which makes the tragedy all the more pitiful.

SCHOOL MATTERS.

Exchange Old Books for New—Rural Libraries—Facts That Everybody Should Know.

To the Editor of The Dispatch: I have frequently been asked what conditions books should be in for them to be exchangeable for the new books. I wrote Supt. J. Y. Joyner asking him to consult the attorney general for the law on the subject. Mr. Joyner did so and the following is the exact copy of the letter from the attorney general, which letter is now in my office:

"Replying to your inquiry of Dec. 4th, I beg to advise that, in order to entitle a text-book to be exchanged for a new book under the recent adoption, the old book must be in such condition that if there had been no change, the book could have been used by the child in the public schools. I do not think that the fact that a book had its back torn off or a few leaves missing here and there would prevent the book from being exchangeable.

"You will readily see that what is an exchangeable book is incapable of exact definition, but there ought not to be any difficulty in determining whether or not the book is in such a condition as to be usable. I think all doubt about the matter should be resolved in favor of the child, and every book tendered for exchange should be accepted unless it is manifest that the book could not have been used by the child in taking the public school course if there had been no change.

(Signed) T. W. BICKETT, Attorney General. I hope this statement from the attorney general may be clear to both purchaser and salesman. I think it is wise for all parents to secure the newly adopted books for their children as they shall need them, before the exchange period runs out. The newly adopted books will be in use for five years if not longer, and it is very decidedly to the child's advantage as well as the school and the teacher.

RURAL SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

I have also been frequently asked about the establishing of rural libraries in our public schools. Any public school in the county may establish a \$30 library by raising \$10 in the community and placing this amount in the hands of our county treasurer. To this \$10 the county adds \$10 and the state adds \$10 thus making the \$30. A nice book-case with a lock and key and shelf is furnished to the district.

Every two years the legislature apportions so much money to each county to be used in the establishing of these libraries. When the appointment is made up by a county that county has then to wait until another apportionment is made, or to receive the money not used up by the other counties of their apportionment.

We now have applications on file before the state board for the following districts: Lexington, No. 3 and 6; Arcadia No. 1 and supplement; Concord Hill No. 4; Healing Springs No. 4.

Mr. J. A. Bivens secretary of the library fund writes as follows: "I cannot say positively just now, but think that we can take care of all the extra applications you may send in. I believe we shall have something like \$2,000 left by November 30, 1912. There are not many extra applications on file from other counties."

This is our opportunity. If we expect to establish libraries in our districts, we should raise the money at once and send in the applications for these applications are granted according to their dates. Every school in the county should have one. If it has one of these libraries, even if it should have to wait until Nov. 1912 for the application to be filled. It is to do this or wait another three years.

PRESTON S. VANN, County Superintendent.

Baxter McHary Re-Elected.

At the closing meeting of the Grand Lodge of colored Masons of North Carolina Thursday in Greensboro, the following grand officers were elected: Grand master, R. B. McCrary; grand secretary, Dr. C. S. Brown, of Winston; grand treasurer, A. Middleton of Warsaw; grand junior warden, Shakespeare Simmons, Bayboro; grand senior warden, E. W. Purvis. A loving cup was presented by J. W. Paisley for being the best-learned Mason in the first district, in which there is a spirited contest every year to secure the honor for being the best trained in the work. Several interesting addresses were made by delegates to the session.

An agent of some liquor house was in Albemarle last week, and is said to have scooped up several orders for the liquid joy. It would be well for our mayor to provide a sufficient number of assistants to our chief of police J. Duncan Love to see that there is no excess of the joy and its consequences. In the meantime, how about the Mr. Agent who comes into our territory to obtain orders?—Stanley Enterprise.

IN AND ABOUT LEXINGTON.

Personal Mention—Movements of the People—Small Items of Interest.

Miss Frank Robbins spent a few days in Winston-Salem last week. Attorney John C. Dower spent Monday in Salisbury on legal business. Miss Ola Horney and Miss Mary Trice spent Saturday in Charlotte. Mrs. C. E. Godwin, of Thomasville, spent a few hours in the city Tuesday.

Mr. L. K. Pitzer, of Portsmouth, O., spent Sunday in the city with relatives. Mrs. C. W. Trice and little daughter, Alice Virginia, went to Concord Sunday. Mr. William Rape is assisting the Lexington Drug Co. in handling their holiday trade.

Miss Mildred Davis, of Wilson, was the guest of Mrs. A. F. Welborn for a day or two last week. Mr. W. A. Myers, of Route 4, Thomasville, was in Lexington Friday and visited The Dispatch office. Miss Ananda Simmons, of Charlotte, spent several days of last week here visiting Miss Esther McCrary.

Mr. William Oates, of Davidson, spent some time here last week as the guest of his uncle, Mr. W. E. Holt. Master Herman Boozer, son of Rev. and Mrs. V. Y. Boozer, has gone to Columbia, S. C., to visit his grandfather. Mrs. A. L. Fletcher left Friday for Stokes county to spend the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Pitzer, near Danbury.

Dr. S. H. Yockey of Beuna Vista, Va., spent a day or two with relatives in the county last week, returning to Virginia Wednesday night. Misses Lois and Frances Williams and Maude Grimes were at home a short time last week on account of the Burgin-Greer wedding.

Miss Beulah Conrad, a student at Salem Academy and College, is at home to spend the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Conrad. Messrs. Ed Layden and Paul Raper have returned to the city from Bedford City, Va., where they have been in school in Randolph-Macon, to spend the holidays with their relatives here. Mr. Stokes Smith, who is in the service of the Southern Railway at Richmond, Va., has returned to Lexington to spend the Christmas holidays with his father, Mr. J. C. Smith.

Mrs. E. D. Stimpson, who for the past ten days has been visiting her early home for the first time in eighteen years, left Saturday morning for her present home in Washington, D. C. Judge H. T. Phillips, for many years clerk of the superior court of Davidson county, now of Fairview, N. C., returned home yesterday after a visit of several days to his son, Captain Wade H. Phillips.

Mr. Young, of High Point, inspector of construction work for the United States Government, was in the city Monday looking over the work on the public building. He will not make another inspection until after the holidays. Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Senseman, of Spartanburg, S. C., Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Hall, of High Point, and Mr. Joe Hill Clodfelter, of Danville, will arrive this week to spend Christmas with the family of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Clodfelter.

Dr. R. L. Reynolds and Messrs. E. I. Bug and C. E. Godwin went to Thomasville Monday night to hear George Stuart's lecture. They were delighted with the lecture and returned proclaiming Mr. Stuart the best in the business. Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Crippiver, of Shell City, Mo., arrived in the city last Saturday night to visit their son, Dr. W. L. Crippiver. Mr. Crippiver is pleasantly remembered by many Lexington people, he having paid a visit to this city some time ago; his friends welcome him again.

With Our Subscribers.

Mr. S. H. Kindley, of Thomasville, Route 3, was in Lexington Monday on business. Mr. P. W. Sowers and daughter, Miss Lula, of Bethesda, were visitors here Monday and called on The Dispatch. Mr. A. H. Michael, a well-known citizen of Chandler, was in town Monday and renewed his subscription to The Dispatch.

Mr. B. F. Banier, of Emmons township, was here Monday buying an extra supply of Christmas goods for his store near Old. Mr. W. H. Haley of Clemmons, Route 2, was one of several of our friends from the county who renewed their subscriptions last Thursday. The Dispatch was pleased to have calls yesterday from Mr. P. N. Bodenhamer, of route 5, Winston, and Mr. H. P. Byerly, of Yadkin College township.

Mr. Wiley P. Steed, of Bain, Alleghany township, was in Lexington yesterday on business. Mr. Steed is anxious to have one or more rural routes established in his section. Mr. A. N. Weisner, of Route 4, High Point; Mr. W. F. L. Miller, of Linwood; Route 2; Mr. Jan. P. Ray, of Route 4, Winston, and Mr. J. F. Hlatt, of Thomasville township were visitors at The Dispatch office Monday. Two good friends of The Dispatch, Messrs. A. W. Sharp, of Boone township and Josiah Miller, of Arcadia, were in the city Monday and called on us. Both of these gentlemen are Confederate veterans and are numbered among the best citizens of the county.