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# Watauga Democrat.

VOL 6 BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, N. C. THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1894, NO. 11.

### PROFESSIONAL.

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ATTORNEY AT LAW.  
Boone, N. C.

**W. B. COUNCILL, M. D.**  
Boone, N. C.

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**L. L. GREEN & CO.**  
March 16, 1893.

**NOTICE.**  
Hotel Property for Sale.

On account of failing health of myself and wife, I offer for sale my hotel property in the town of Boone, North Carolina, and will sell low for cash and make terms to suit the buyer, and will take real or personal property in exchange. Apply soon.  
W. L. BRYAN.

**NOTICE.**  
Parties putting papers in my hand for execution will please advance the fees with the papers and they will receive prompt attention, other wise they will be returned not executed for the want of fees.  
D. F. BAIRD SHFF.

**FOR SALE!**

In the town of Boone, a comfortable dwelling house with 6 rooms and five fire places, with nine acres of land, good spring, some apple, peach and chestnut trees, situated some 300 yards from Main street. It is a desirable private residence. The place will be sold cheap on terms to suit the purchaser. For further particulars apply to L. W. Thomas, Hibriten, N. C., or W. B. Councill, Boone, N. C.

### WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent.

President Cleveland and every member of his cabinet, except Attorney General Olney, who is in Boston, spent Christmas in Washington with their families. The day has been a quiet one at the White House, a large part of it devoted to the children and their Christmas tree which was put up Saturday evening, although Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland informally entertained several friends both at lunch and at dinner. The idea of going to Lakewood, N. J., for a few days has been abandoned, but the President hopes to get a little recreation this week on a short hunting trip.

In view of the misstatements which have been made concerning the attitude of Commissioner Lochren toward the pensioners the following from a speech he made in the case of Judge Long, of Michigan, whose pension was suspended by him, which is pending in a Washington court, is worthy of attention. "I am not anxious to worry or to vent off my old comrades with whom I fought and carried a musket. I am anxious that they should get all their dues. Yet, at the same time, as an officer of the law, I have a sworn duty to perform, to see that they do not get more than they are entitled to."

By the way, speaking of pensions, it was lately decided by Commissioner Lochren that no retiring official of the pension office could do business as a pension attorney before that bureau until he had been two years out of the office. Had Gen. Raum made a similar decision the bank account of "Corporal" Tanner, who was so unceremoniously kicked out of that office by Mr. Harrison, and who is said to have made a fortune as a pension attorney, would be very much smaller than it is. It is, however, a wise decision and it would be well if it were made a rule in all branches of the government service, as it is well known in Washington that many officials make use of their positions to accumulate information which they turn to valuable use as attorneys after they leave the government service; and cases have been known in which they have undertaken as attorneys to have decisions wrongfully made by them as officials reversed by their successors in office, the inference being that the decisions were internationally made wrong in the first place.

Secretary Lamont scotched a sensational story, that he promised compelling the clerks of the record and pension division of the war department to again take up their quarters in Ford's old theatre, by making the following statement: "There is no purpose or disposition on the part of any officer of this department to quarter any of its clerks or employees in any building not determined to be perfectly safe. On that

point that point there is no question for uneasiness. The \$6,000 appropriated by Congress for repairs to the old Ford's theatre building has been expended under the direction of the chief of engineers of the army, as directed by law, and the building has been restored to the condition it was in before the commencement of the improvements in progress at the time of the accident, with some consequent strengthening of its foundation. While it is probable that it would serve its former purpose, the commission of experts appointed by the department to examine and report as to the safety of the building find that certain additional work should be done before it shall be occupied by clerks. This report will be referred back for an estimate of the cost of this new work, and when returned the matter will be submitted to Congress for its direction as to further alterations." Just before the Senate adjourned for the recess Senator Voorhees offered a resolution against the quartering of clerks in this building again.

The number of Congressmen who went home to spend their holiday was unusually large this year; consequently there is just now a decided lull in the talk about the tariff, Hawaii, etc. which have been constantly going on for months and which will take a fresh start next week when the absentees will again be on hand prepared for the hard and long struggle that is before them.

A sub-committee of the House ways and means committee will spend the most of their holiday in working up on the internal revenue bill, which it is hoped will be ready to be reported to House when it again assembles. Several democratic members of the Senate finance committee are also at work on the tariff, so as to be prepared to receive the Wilson bill as soon as it is sent over from the House. The work of the Senators has been, so far, mostly confined to the gathering of information which will be useful later on.

Speaker Crisp, who is still in Washington, is confident that the tariff bill will be passed by the House before the first of February, and that it will not be necessary to deny any man the right to get it through by that time.

Blacksburg (S. C.) News: A strange phenomenon was seen by many of our citizens on last Wednesday just before sunrise. It had the appearance of a bright serpent playing in the air above the rising sun. Some look upon it as a sign of the end of time and have already begun to prepare for the event. Would it not be well for those sign-reading people to keep themselves ready for that last day? We would also suggest that they pay the printer, as they can never tread those golden streets as long as their subscriptions remain unpaid.

### Six Million Miles We've Sped.

This is the beginning of the new year, and we have made a very long journey. Old travelers say that when a man gets lost in the wilderness he goes round and round in trying to go ahead, and he finds himself following his own tracks in a circle. I don't know whether this is so or not, but I know that to-day we are right exactly where we were a year ago, and yet we have traveled round and round nearly 6,000,000 miles at the rate of 1,000 miles a minute. Astronomers tell us that we are right exactly where we were a year ago.

This is mighty curious to me. Who is doing it? This world has been going on this grand round for thousands of years and is still at it. What is it? for I want to know. Why don't it stop and rest? What did it ever start for? If this earth was made for us, why does it have to go round and round forever and forever? If it has to go round the sun, why wouldn't a circle do as well as an ellipse—why go at all? Could not the universe be still and every planet be independent? Why does the earth have to turn a somersault every day and whirl us round at the rate of a thousand miles an hour? Who is doing all this, and what is it done for, and when is the whole business to come to an end, or a focus, or a transformation?

I confess my ignorance and feel as humble as a dog when I contemplate the wonders and mysteries of creation. I don't understand how the corn grows, nor the flowers bloom, nor the birds hatch their young, and yet I realize that everything has been made for our good, our comfort, our pleasure.

I was popping corn last night for a little grandchild, and I know that in the grand design of Providence this little corn was created just to please the children and nothing else. I know that cotton grows to clothe the millions in summer, and the sheep were created to give us wool in the winter, and the cattle to give us milk and butter and shoes. Even our complaints and ailments are provided for in nature's remedies, for we have quinine and calomel and castor oil and opium and turpentine and mineral springs, and the best are the cheapest. All the best things are the cheapest—the air and water and fire, the bread and meat and vegetables, and the fruits of the earth and the material for clothing.

The evidences of design and care and love are all around us everywhere and in everything, and I cannot understand how a thoughtful man can be an agnostic or an infidel. I want to thank somebody every morning for preserving me through the night, for I know that sleep is near akin to death, and I cannot keep my own heart beating. There is some great thing behind me, and I will trust him because he has

been good to me and sustained me all my life. The best religion is to trust in the Lord and do good.—Bill Arp.

### IN FAROFF RUSSIA.

The New Year Season Brings Joy to the Young—Twelve Days' Festival.

In the smaller cities of Russia, New Year's day is in the "Twelve Days' Festival." The Russians in many parts have held to the old ways from time immemorial. The preparations for the season begin early in November. The host of some great home begins to lay in stores of salted beef and sausages, liquors, etc. The hostess calls on all her friends and invites young and old. Next day she is succeeded by the nurse, whom she makes the same rounds of visits. Her duty is to invite especially the young ladies. She is hailed with joy, and the lady of the house hastens to mix for her a cup of wine. She delivers her message and is plied with questions as to the invited and rejected. But the most important question is, "Who are the elected?" These are the young men invited by the hostess for the girls or "fair maidens," as they are called. The duty of the young man thus designated is to look after the amusement and pleasure of his "fair maiden" during the "twelve days." The responsibility of the choice lying with the hostess, she has to be careful in her selection.

But the invitation has again to be repeated, this time by the master of the house in the person of his servant or "swat," who, with mace in hand, performs his mission. On entering each house he offers a prayer before the shrine of the saint to which it is dedicated. He then delivers the invitation in the name of his master or mistress. At first, according to etiquette, the invitation is refused, but after much pressing it is finally accepted. When the day arrives, the young ladies who are the heroines of the season appear in a sledge, accompanied by their mothers and favorite companions, generally girls of inferior rank, who sit at their feet. This sledge is followed by another containing the tire women, charged with caskets and dressing boxes. Other sledges follow, the longer the procession the greater the honor to the house visited.

On the arrival the host and hostess meet the guests at the gate, bow without speaking and conduct them into the house. The young maidens are then delivered over to the care of the hostess, and after friendly greetings, presents to the domestics and sweetmeats to the girls, the mothers and retinue return home. On Christmas morning, as the bells are ringing, the hostess herself awakens the fair maidens and serves their breakfast with the help of the nurses. But a very important part is the interpretation of their dreams on the first night. Then the "elected" arrive. The days following are full

of gayety and pastimes for young and old. This season is very important to the young people in Russia, who at other times of the year, by the strict etiquette observed, are kept much apart.

Among ourselves the "Happy New Year" greetings and the social gatherings are now the sole recognition of Jan. 1.—Exchange.

Gov. RUSSELL, of Massachusetts, has received the report of Hon. Daniel Needham, President of the New England Agricultural Association who represented Massachusetts in the Farmers' Congress at Savannah, and in it Mr. Needham expressed himself as deeply impressed by his visit to the South and the kindly spirit manifested by the Southerners for the Northern delegates. This seems to point a moral. There has been too much misapprehension among such Northern men as Mr. Needham about us. The estrangement began a century ago and has been maintained through interested motives ever since. In order to undo it let us seek to have those men visit the South oftener and remain with us longer when they come. There are some points of difference, it is true, but in the main association will round off many angles, and smooth the way to a proper understanding.—N. O. Chronicle.

### Senator Z. B. Vance.

It is stated that Senator Zeb. B. Vance is in very poor health and is quite feeble. This is sad news to all North Carolinians and to the country at large.

Senator Vance has for a long period of time been a potent factor in the politics of the old North State and in the South. His word has always had much weight. In North Carolina it has been and is still almost supreme. With his passing away the people of this State will lose their trusted leader in whom they so long implicitly confided. He has had a remarkable and phenomenal career. No man has ever enjoyed the high esteem of his people so uniformly and uninterruptedly as has Senator Zeb Vance. We hope however that many years yet will be spared to the good man to bless his people with his filial love and esteemed advice.—Hickory Press.

### War Cloud in Honduras.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec 23.—A cablegram has been received at the State Department from Minister P. M. B. Young, dated Nicaragua, stating that the Honduras revolutionists are marching from Nicaragua to Honduras. The army of the latter country has been put in motion to meet them. The cablegram gives no hint of the probable outcome of the contest.

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