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NO. 24.

A Letter of Interest from Mr. H. A. Davis, of Sands, R. F. D.

EDITOR WATAUGA DEMOCRAT: I am writing you to tender my thanks for your favor in assisting me in my search for the North Carolina Lieutenant who so generously assisted the wounded Federal soldier (J. L. Balsley) upon the battle field of Gettysburg on July 1, 1863.

It is with much pleasure that I announce to you that we have been eminently successful, and not the least of the pleasure comes from the fact that the man who performed this noble act was one of our own county men, and a member of our Confederate Camp, (Camp Nimrod Triplett.)

When we asked you to help us locate the man, it was more than we dared to hope, to find him so near home, but I am in receipt of communications from Mr. Balsley in answer to my statements of the oft-repeated statements remembered by Mrs. Hannah Brown, widow of the late J. Milton Brown, having heard her husband relate, in which Mr. Balsley says: "I am fully satisfied that Mr. Brown is the man." So it is with pleasure that I announce to his old friends and comrades that the late J. Milton Brown, of Blowing Rock, is the Lieutenant for whom we have been hunting. All who had the pleasure of his acquaintance will not wonder at his deeds of mercy, for it was very characteristic of the man:

The following clipping from the Connellsville (Pa.) Daily News gives some of the details of the conversation on the field of battle:

"One of the main objects of J. R. Balsley's trip to Gettysburg last July, to attend the exercises in connection with the Fiftieth anniversary of the great battle, was to locate, if possible, the Confederate lieutenant from North Carolina who befriended him after he was injured in the first day's fighting. Mr. Balsley's efforts were successful, as the contents of a letter mailed by H. A. Davis, of Sands, N. C., to Mr. Balsley under the date of December 8 will indicate.

"Mr. Balsley met Mr. Davis at the battlefield and they discussed the incident. Upon returning home Mr. Davis inserted a short statement of the facts in his county papers. In a short time the widow of the late J. M. Brown, of Blowing Rock, N. C., sent Mr. Davis word that she recognized every detail in the statement, as corresponding with that she had often heard her husband relate, with one exception. She does not recollect anything concerning an extra blanket, but the water incident and the conversation, especially about the desertion of the flag, Mrs. Brown remembered.

"This incident about the flag, wrote Mr. Davis, 'is all convincing. There was nothing in the article published concerning a conversation between you.'

"Brown was a lieutenant in the 37th North Carolina troops. He was a member of Camp Nimrod Triplett, No-1273, until his death five years ago. Mr. Davis and Mr. Brown were life-long friends and acquaintances.

"On the first day of July, 1863, while trying to secure the flag of his regiment, that had dropped from the hands of a smitten comrade, Mr. Balsley was stricken down by two bullets. Three lines of soldiers passed over him as they drove the Union soldier columns back, and he was with the enemy. Late that afternoon a lieutenant of the Confederate army approached Mr. Balsley and stopped to have a talk. He was very jubilant over their suc-

"Therefore: Be It Resolved."

News and Observer.

Let's have a talk, just you and I, about this new year just ushered in. Let it be retrospective and perspective, perhaps a little introspective, a kind of heart to heart talk.

It's about resolutions that this talk is to be. Resolutions of 1913 that were kept or which went into the waste basket, and about resolutions which we have already made, or have in mind to make for 1914. It is an old habit this resolution making when we hang a new calendar on the wall, and open a new set of books with ourselves.

A good habit, even if we fail to keep the resolution as we planned, for it is out of our failure that we often attain to success. It has been written truly that "men may rise on stepping stones of their dead selves to higher things." So make resolutions for the new year and strive to keep them, even if you have failed in the past. Let there be resolutions of service to self which will prove of service to others, and of service to others which will have a multiplying influence for good as the days roll.

Let us aspire to higher, better, cleaner things in our lives, for our State, for our nation, for the world. Let us do our part in keeping aroused the public conscience for the right of the individual, for just and fair treatment of man by man. If we have failed to do this in the year gone, let's make a fresh start today, and make a hard fight to keep on at it.

Don't imagine it's a long time task to keep resolutions. Just keep them a day at a time. That's the important thing in making New Year resolutions. Don't think of the 365 days they are to be kept. One day and then another follows. Resolutions kept one day makes it easier to keep them the next. And the year will round itself out.

Take an inspective view, let's look into ourselves and see what are our needs, what things need remedying, what errors are to be guarded against. Then let us resolve to be guided only by high purposes, to do our part in making home life, civic life, the better. Let's make resolutions with an uplift in them. Then we have made a fair start in 1914. And may strength be given to you and to me to keep our grip tight and fast till it is time to make new resolutions for 1915.

It must be about the nicest thing on earth to be a young lady and preety and come home from a boarding school for the holidays.

cess and went on to tell how they were going on the next day from Gettysburg to Harrisburg, Baltimore and Washington and would wind up the war. After talking in this manner for some time he said:

"Sergeant, what did you come out to fight against us for anyhow?" Mr. Balsley's reply was: "Lieutenant, I thought it right to fight for the old flag." At the mention of the flag his countenance dropped and he walked away a few steps. Then he came back and said: Well, sergeant, never desert the old flag." Then calling one of his men he bade him get Mr. Balsley a canteen of water, and he himself procured a blanket and fixing him as comfortably as possible said: "God bless you," and went on."

Again thanking you for your kindness, I am,
Respectfully yours,
H. A. DAVIS.
Sands, Dec. 29, 1913.

STATE AND GENERAL NEWS.

On Sunday 28th, ult, President Wilson was 57 years old.

Secretary of State, Bryan and wife spent the holidays at Grove Park Inn, in Asheville.

Mr. C. H. Gwyn, a prominent citizen of Elkin and proprietor of the Elk Inn, died on the 23 ult. of Bright's disease.

President Wilson and family went to Pass Christian, Miss., to spend his holiday vacation of three weeks.

J. W. Thomas, Jr., president of the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis railway died recently in Nashville, Tenn.

Col. David Farthing Clarke came down from Boydton, Va. to visit relatives and friends during the holidays.—Lenoir News.

A Cunningham, editor of the Confederate Veteran, published in Nashville, died on the 20th, ult., after an illness of several days.

Walter Poovy who about three years ago shot and killed Gus Ward, in Caldwell county, and escaped, has lately surrendered to the Sheriff and has been released on \$5,000 bond.

The Biltmore Hotel, just completed in New York at a cost of \$10,000,000, was opened on New Year's eve. It is 26 stories high and occupies a block and is the city's most magnificent hotel.

The Queen Dowager Sophia, of Sweden, mother of King Gustave V, died at Stockholm on the 30th, ult. of inflammation of the lungs. She had been an invalid for 25 years.

The Roaring Gap Hotel and a cottage belonging to Mr. Alex Chatham, Sr. were destroyed by fire on Sunday the 28th, ult. The fire is supposed to be the work of incendiaries.

Joseph Cullen Root, founder of the Woodmen of the World, died in a hotel in Hendersonville Christmas eve, after a short illness. His home was in Omaha, Neb., and his remains were taken there for interment.

President Mingeau, of the Virginia-Carolina Railroad Co., has announced his intention of building a through trunk telephone line along their new railroad from Abingdon to Todd and from the latter place to Blowing Rock.—Wilkes Patriot.

The following is a Rock Creek item in Lenoir News of the 30th, ult: Our teacher Miss Ella Day underwent a very successful operation today at the home of Miss Margaret Williams. The operation was the removal of an abnormal growth from her left shoulder, performed by Drs. Corpening and Moore of Granite Falls. [Miss Day is a daughter of Mr. Thomas Day of our county.]

CROUP AND COUGH REMEDY.

Croup is a terrible disease, it attacks children so suddenly they are very apt to choke unless given the proper remedy at once. There is nothing better in the world than Dr. King's New Discovery. Lewis Chamberlain, of Manchester, Ohio, writes about his children: 'Sometimes in severe attacks we were afraid they would die, but since we proved what a certain remedy Dr. King's New Discovery, we have no fear. We rely on it for croup, coughs and colds.' So can you. 50c and \$1.00. A bottle should be in every home. At all druggists. H. E. Bucklen & Co. Phila. and St. Louis.

Bull fights and dances are still patronized by Huerta. Perhaps war after all is not what Sherman said it was.—Ex.

Galax Leaves and Holly.

(By J. A. Robinson.)

The western part of North Carolina furnishes a number of beautiful evergreens for Christmas evergreens. From the beautiful Blowing Rock section, in the north-western portion of the State, through the mountains to the Tennessee line, the mountain evergreens are bought and shipped to Northern markets. In the fall and winter galax leaves are the principal staple. These leaves are in great demand for Christmas decorations, and the trade is growing. One dealer at Little Switzerland, in the mountains of western North Carolina, last season, bought \$1,800 to \$2,000 worth at that place alone, and there are six to eight other merchants within twelve miles of that point who buy the same amount. All these leaves are shipped to the Northern markets, New York and Philadelphia principally.

Local residents principally women and children, are busy from the middle of October to the last of November gathering galax leaves, and this represents as much of an industry to the people of the mountains as the cotton-picking is to the people of the low country.

Another dealer at Little Switzerland gives a demonstration of how this industry is carried on, and the packing of Galax leaves for shipment. He has two rooms one filled with water-moss, in the leaves are embedded as he buys them; in the other room they are packed in wooden boxes. There are twenty-five leaves in a bunch and ten thousand leaves to the case. The cases are lined with waxed paper, then a layer of water-moss, and the leaves packed closely, another layer of water-moss, and waxed paper on top. Balsam and ferns are sold to some extent.

Coming down into the eastern portion of the State, there is a great demand for holly. Hundreds of cart loads of holly are cut in Onslow county and shipped from Jacksonville to the other cities. Most of the holly is shipped to New York City, which is the clearing-place in the East. Hundreds of thousands of trees and branches are sent from the northern and Middle States and retailed for Christmas.

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Last Cookite Retires.

Charlotte Observer.

We don't know yet just what to do with Dr. Fredrick A. Cook, but we are clear in refusing him the congressional investigation which he now asks for his much exploited polar claims. Doctor Cook has been at his old tricks again. He has finally alienated well nigh his last remaining adherent, Capt. E. B. Baldwin, who was meteorologist of the Peary expedition in 1893 and organizer of the Baldwin-Ziegler expedition in 1901. It came about through Doctor Cook's attempt to use the manuscript of a forthcoming book by Captain Baldwin which Captain Baldwin had sent him for return with illustrative photographs and original data as Doctor Cook could supply. The great explorer-lecturer heavily edited the manuscript into a lurid defence of his own claims and added four type written out-ribs. He then mailed the manuscript thus handled to Captain Baldwin, with the statement that it would be used as an outline of his communication to Congress. Among numerous other interlineations was a list of fifty odd explorers alleged to have upheld Cook's allegations but for the most part never heard of by Captain Baldwin before. Incensed at this effort to make him a party to a fake document, the Captain after consultation with George B. Cortelyou, now president of the Consolidated Gas company, and several Congressmen whom he also numbers among his friends, decided to give the Doctor what the Doctor deserved. He had been resisting with great difficulty the belief that the latter was a fakir ever since the appearance of the Cook book, in which his eminent friend added three paragraphs over his signature to a friendly letter written by him. In these circumstances his attitude and ours toward the proposed congressional investigation explains itself. We don't believe that Congress needs any more vandyville to keep out of mischief, and, besides, Doctor Cook's valiant champion, Representative Macon of Arkansas, will not be there to make the vandyville truly a success.

Reciprocation by Moonshiners.

From a Polkton Letter in Wadesboro Messenger and Intelligencer.

A few days since, some 200 of Savannah's "first ladies" sat down to a card party, the proceeds of which was to go for the education and uplift of the mountain people. From the gambling city lady to the mountaineer the distance is long and steep, but it is all in favor of the rough but uncorrupted mountaineer. It would be more in accord with the eternal fitness of things for a moonshiner to set apart the proceeds of his still for the education and uplift of Savannah's card playing women. There are purity and refinement in the mountains, and a lamentable lack of these ennobling qualities among the silk-skirted inhabitants of the cities. "All that glitters is not gold."

Women Who Get Dizzy.

Every woman who is troubled with fainting and dizzy spells, back ache, headache, weakness, debility, constipation or kidney troubles should use Electric Bitters. They give relief when nothing else will, improves the health, adding strength and vigor from the first dose. Mrs. Laura Gaines, of Avoca, La., says: "Four doctors had given me up and my children and all my friends were looking for me to die, when my son insisted that I use Electric Bitters. I did so, and they have done me a world of good." Just try them, 50c. and \$1.00, at all druggists or by mail. H. E. Bucklen & Co., Philadelphia or St. Louis.

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G. H. HAYES,
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