

# Daily Charlotte Observer.

VOLUME XXXIV.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., TUESDAY AUGUST 11, 1885.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

## JUST RECEIVED.

### 1,000 Yards 5c. Lawns in Beautiful Patterns.

1,000 YARDS 10c WHITE INDIA LINON.

We are selling our 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. and 15c. Dress Gingham at 10 cents per yard.

Oriental Laces and Flouncings very cheap. Mosquito Canopies from \$1.50 to \$5.00 each. Look at our new \$1.00 "Comfort Hip" Corset.

### TRUNKS, VALISES, LINEN ULSTERS, &C.

10 White Robes at prices that will surprise you.

Butterick Pattern Sheets for August.

Truly,

## HARGRAVES & ALEXANDER.

SMITH BUILDING.

### Gents' Furnishings.

OUR LINE OF

Shoes.

Hats.

Trunks

And Valises is Complete.

Fine line of Trunks and Valises for summer travel.

GOOD GOODS AND LOW PRICES.

Orders by mail have prompt attention.

## Pegram & Co.

A DOLLAR SHIRT

Which for quality of material, workmanship and fit, cannot be bettered.

Also a Good Stock of

### Laundried :-: Shirts

With Plaited Fronts.

COLLARS AND CUFFS

Gents Half-Hose, in Solid Colors and Plaid Stripes. Try my 25c. Balbriggan.

Gauze Shirts

And Suspenders. A nice line of Scarf Ties. Also just received a pretty assortment of

Buttons for Plaited Shirt Fronts

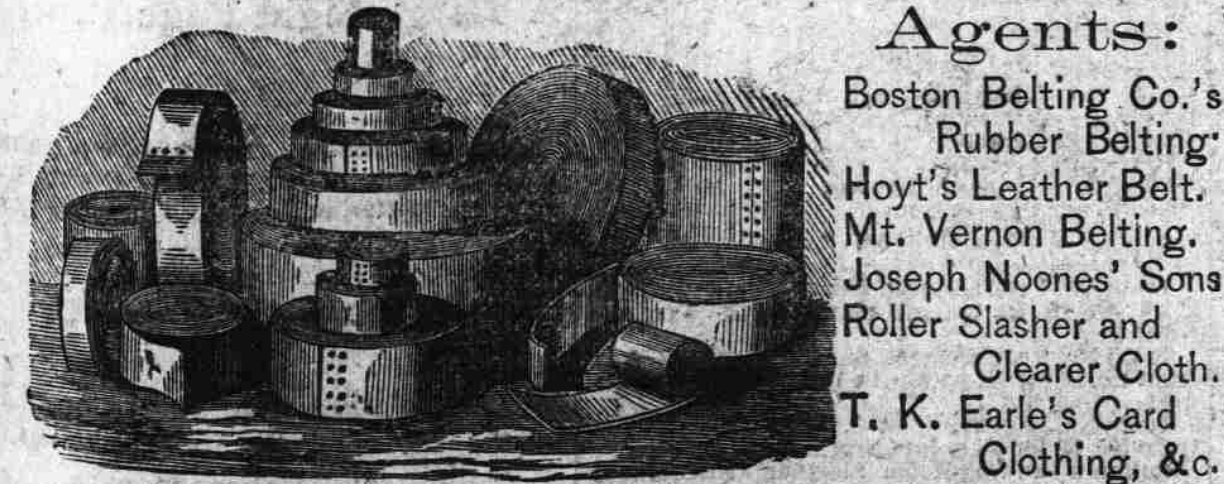
## T. L. SEIGLE.

## THOMAS K. CAREY & CO.

25 S. CHARLES STREET, BALTIMORE, MD.

### MANUFACTURERS PURE OAK LEATHER BELTING,

And Dealers in RUBBER BELTING, PACKING, HOSE, &c. COTTON, WOOLEN and SAW MILL SUPPLIES, &c.



## ALEXANDER & HARRIS

HAVE A FEW PIECES OF

### WHITE GOODS

### That Must Be Sold.

Also Fine French Organdies at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c., which are cheap at 35c. Our remnant of Summer Black Dress Goods must be sold. Our friends can get a Mosquito Canopy cheaper from us than elsewhere. We have a small stock of very fine Embroidery and Flouncings that we are offering at less than half price. The great sale will continue until every dollar's worth of goods we have is gone. Remember this is not a sale to get rid of trash, but our entire stock is being sold at a great loss to us.

## ALEXANDER & HARRIS.

P. S.—We can furnish Siberian Crabs in any quantity, by leaving orders at the store. They make finer jelly and preserves than any other fruit.

### The Charlotte Observer.

"TRUTH BEARS THE SUN, SOMETIMES SUBMITS TO BE OBSCURED, BUT, LIKE THE SUN, ONLY FOR A TIME."

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### CIVIL SERVICE.

#### THIRD LETTER FROM CHIEF DORMAN B. EATON.

The Charges About the Absurd Character of Questions Met and Answered, and Their True Character Shown.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10, 1885.

To the Editor of THE OBSERVER.

In my second letter I answered several objections against the questions, and showed how they had been approved by Congress and by the President. Let me now expose some more of the false representations made concerning them by the adherents of the spoils system.

They speak of the questions as if the same questions were put for all parts of the service. Then taking those used for the highest grades of the service, they have represented them as unfit for the lowest grades, and on that assumption have sought to make them unpopular. Let us look at the facts. The classified service—that is, the parts subject to the examinations—is in three branches: The Departmental service at Washington, the Postal service and the Customs service. For each of these branches there are separate grades of questions, and those used for one branch are never used in the other. Beyond this there are separate grades of questions in each of the three branches. The Postal service has positions for carriers, for clerks and porters or those having the lowest positions. Each series of questions is adapted to each of these three separate divisions. In the Customs service, three or four grades, as for clerks, for inspectors, for weighers, and for examiners.

Next coming to the Departmental service there are special questions for the Patent Office, the Signal Service, the Geological Survey, the Pension Office and the State Department.

There are separate or supplementary examinations, in several languages, and for various other places. The highest grades of these examinations are for the State Department, for the Signal Service and for certain parts of the Patent Office Service. In the Patent Office, it is essential to have persons skilled in chemistry, in electricity and in the practical application of all the sciences, inasmuch as patents cover such subjects, and without a thorough knowledge of them, the examiners would be entirely incompetent to pass judgment upon applications for patents. The lack of such knowledge has caused much litigation. Several of these special examinations are for places where a considerable knowledge of mathematics is indispensable. In the preparation of the questions for these special examinations the Commission consults the experienced persons in the several offices, and the grade of the questions has been, in the light of their experience, carefully adapted to the needs of the service. All these special supplementary examinations do not cover more than seven or eight per cent. of the whole number examined for the Departmental service. The residue of the applicants take either the general or limited examination, (or that for the Pension Service) which is sufficient for the ordinary clerkships; the limited examinations not going beyond copying, orthography and the four fundamental rules of arithmetic, without fractions, as taught in the ordinary common schools of the country to all boys and girls.

Now, the spoils system critics have concealed these facts and have taken the more difficult of the questions used for the patent office, the signal service and State department examinations and have presented them to the country as fair illustrations of the questions put to all persons for the ordinary clerkships of the departments. Their sample questions were selected from the reports of the commission to which I have referred, which plainly showed on their face that such questions were never used except for these special places which in the aggregate do not exceed 7 per cent of the departmental service. There could have been no misunderstanding or misconception in the matter. The dishonesty involved in such a transaction is not above the morality of procuring goods under false pretences. It is such a palpable fraud as would hardly be endured at a gambling table or a faro bank. Even the most unscrupulous defenders of the spoils system would hardly have the audacity to make such gross misrepresentations had they not relied upon the prejudice against all real tests of merit which prevails among politicians generally, and is largely shared by those not well informed on the subject.

Another class of statements concerning the questions is hardly less

deceptive and unjustifiable. These statements present the questions as if it were required that every question should be accurately answered in order to become eligible for the public service. This is false in two particulars: First, the answers to all questions are graded according to their merits on the theory of a perfect answer being credited as 100. Under the rules it is only required, in order to pass an examination successfully, that an aggregate credit of 65 per cent should be secured. Therefore a considerable portion of the questions may remain unanswered, or all of them may be imperfectly answered, and yet the applicant be successful.

To make more clear the second false statement referred to, I give here a part of the seventh rule, which defines the subjects of the general, or course including limited examination: 1st. Orthography penmanship and copying. 2d. Arithmetic—fundamental rules, fractions and percentage. 3d. Interest, discount and elements of book keeping and accounts. 4th. Elements of the English language, letter writing and the proper construction of sentences. 5th. Elements of the geography, history and government of the United States.

It is not required that one should secure 65 per cent on all these subjects to be eligible for appointment under general examination, but only that 65 per cent of a perfect examination should be secured on the first three subjects on a general examination. For the limited examination only the first subject and the easier part of the second subject are taken. It is only necessary to obtain 65 per cent on the first and that part of the second subject in order to become eligible on the limited examination. In addition, the writing of a letter is required to complete the limited examination. In the general examination, which is for the higher grade of clerkships in the departments, the credits or discredits beyond the first three subjects only affect the applicant's grade and not his eligibility for appointment.

It will be seen, therefore, that to represent, as the spoils system critics do, that every applicant must answer every question, is a palpable misrepresentation. There must be some questions difficult enough to cause a real competition between the most competent of those examined. Let it be noticed here that these limited and general examinations, through which nine-tenths of the places at Washington are filled, do not include geometry, algebra, trigonometry or any of the natural sciences. They do not relate to the geography, history or government of any country but the United States, nor do they include any foreign language whatever. Persons passing these examinations are allowed to supplement them at their choice with an examination in some language or in stenography, or in law, which gives them an additional chance of being selected in the few places where such additional qualifications are indispensable.

These critics have objected that the questions, thus carefully adapted to all the grades and need of the public service, are not practical. Applicants ought to be questioned, according to these critics, about the technical details and expert information of the several bureaus and divisions. Such questions would be very well if persons from North Carolina and all other parts of the Union, could first go to Washington, and acquire the information needed to do on ce all the technical work of the bureau. But to put such questions as a condition of entering the service would be to exclude everybody but those who could come on to Washington and acquire this technical knowledge. Just as the public schools teach that kind of knowledge which is essential to the various pursuits of life, the questions for the public service relate to those matters which need to be known in all places which come within the range of the examinations.

That the questions have not been too difficult is clearly shown by the facts. Out of 6,347 persons examined, in the year covered by the last report, 4,141 passed successfully and 2,206 did not. That is, more than two-thirds by these questions were slow to be competent—quite as large a ratio of applicants being successful as any manufacturer or merchant would find to be competent of those who seek to enter his service as private employees.

In my next I will conclude what I have to say in regard to questions and examinations. And I am your obedient servant,

DORMAN B. EATON.

### The Queen's Sausage-Maker.

London Letter to Philadelphia Telegraph.  
While upon the subject of royalty, I may mention an amusing anecdote concerning Prince Albert Victor. The Prince was in Sheffield the other day and in the course of his travels passed the establishment of a well-known pork butcher, over which was displayed the royal arms and the legend "By Special Appointment to Her Majesty the Queen." As every one in England knows, this signifies nothing, except that perhaps twenty years ago a royal footman or scullion may have made a trifling purchase at the store in question. The prince would have passed on, unheeding the important fact, had it not been for a young Sheffield blade, jealous of the repute of his town, who yelled out in the forcible vernacular of that part of the Yorkshire: "Hi, that 'Yon's the shop were the granny buys sausages." A shout of applause drowned the laughter of the Prince and his suit.

## OUR GRAND CLEARING SALE ENDED

### Saturday, August 8th.

It was a successful one, our sales of the past few weeks increased nearly 50 per cent over the same period of previous years. The public appreciated our low prices and showed their appreciation in patronizing us liberally.

## We Expected Large Returns FOR THESE REASONS:

Our prices were lower than | The more one gets the more  
can duplicate them at. | is expected. We are not different from others.

It is generally conceded by merchants that August is the dulllest month in the year.

### We Know no Dull Times! We Make Business!

The offerings which we make to you at the beginning of every week draw numerous purchasers to our store, who are in the habit of remaining at home and making themselves comfortable during this hot weather.

## THIS WEEK'S OFFERINGS.

### Ladies' and Misses' Shopping Bags.

We will allow you a discount of 10 per cent. on all bags purchased during this week, besides we have reduced the prices.  
Alligator Bags from 85c. to 65c.  
 finer Alligator Bags from \$1.25 to 85c.  
Higher grades in proportion. Our assortment is complete. We have them to suit everybody's taste and pocket.

### Ladies' and Misses' Silk Mitts.

Those who have taken advantage of the low price which we have placed on the above goods for the last week only have advertised them fully as well as printers' ink. They were pleased with their bargains.  
Our many customers will please notice that we will continue these reductions for another week.

Those interested in Table Damasks will please notice the statements which we make below in regard to these goods.

## Bleached, Unbleached and Colored Damask REMNANTS,

2 yds, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  yds, and 3 yd. lengths, in various grades and widths, at 30 to 40 per cent. below their actual value. Some of these Remnants are slightly specked, which actually does not injure the cloth, therefore this unusual reduction. Fifteen pieces of 62 inch Bleached Table Damask at 95 cents per yard. These are goods which never sold for less than \$1.15 per yard, and above \$1.35 per yard.

## MOSQUITO CANOPIES JUST RECEIVED.

Prices range from \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.50, up to \$7.50 each.

## To Our Customers:

We will positively refuse to sell bargains a day or any time after they fail to appear advertised in these columns. We frequently have calls for goods at the reduced prices which were advertised a week previous. In such cases we will charge the regular selling price, not the marked down price.

## WITTKOWSKY & BARUCH

angdtf CHARLOTTE, N. C.

## W. Kaufman & Co.

## CLOTHING!

Our great sale continues all this month. Our variety is not confined to ODD SUITS, nor are the sizes limited. We have all sizes and styles. It may be of INTEREST TO YOU to

## LOOK THROUGH THIS PRICE LIST.

One Hundred Men's All-Wool Suits, Sack and Frock, at \$6.50, worth \$10.00, \$12.00 and \$14.00.  
One Hundred Pairs Men's All-Wool Cassimere Pants at \$1.50, \$2.00 and \$2.25, worth \$2.50, \$3.25, and \$4.50.  
Boys' and Children's Clothing at remarkably

## LOW PRICES.

Seersucker Coats and Vests in very large varieties, which we offer for less than they can be bought for elsewhere.

## STRAW HATS!

## STRAWHATS!

We intend to close out at a great sacrifice. A full line of

## Gents' Furnishing Goods.

One Hundred Dozen Gents' Summer Scarfs, 6 for 25 cents. It will pay to visit the store of

## W. KAUFMAN & CO

LEADING CLOTHIERS, CENTRAL HOTEL CORNER.

## Cheap Lots For Sale.

I offer for sale Eight Lots 50x200 feet, lying in the northwestern corner of the city (outside the city limits) and north of the cemetery, cheap. Any one wishing to secure a cheap lot, would do well to call soon, as the prices at which they are offered means quick sales.  
R. E. COCHRANE, Manager.  
may20dtf

## B. S. MYERS,

### Broker and Commission Merchant,

AND Dealer in Feed of all kinds,  
COLLEGE STREET,

## CHARLOTTE, N. C.