

# Daily Charlotte Observer.

VOLUME XXXIV.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 1885.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

## Jersey::: Jackets.

JERSEY JACKETS. JERSEY JACKETS.

## JUST IN!

By Express, a large and handsome lot of Ladies' and Misses' Plain and Braided Jersey Jackets, from \$1.25 to \$5.00. Black and White Canvas Belts.

Large Stock of Trunks, Valises, Etc.

A Few pieces of Gingham left at 8 1/2c. per yard. Summer Dress goods cheaper than ever.

CLOTHING AT A SACRIFICE. CALL AND SEE.

## HARGRAVES & ALEXANDER.

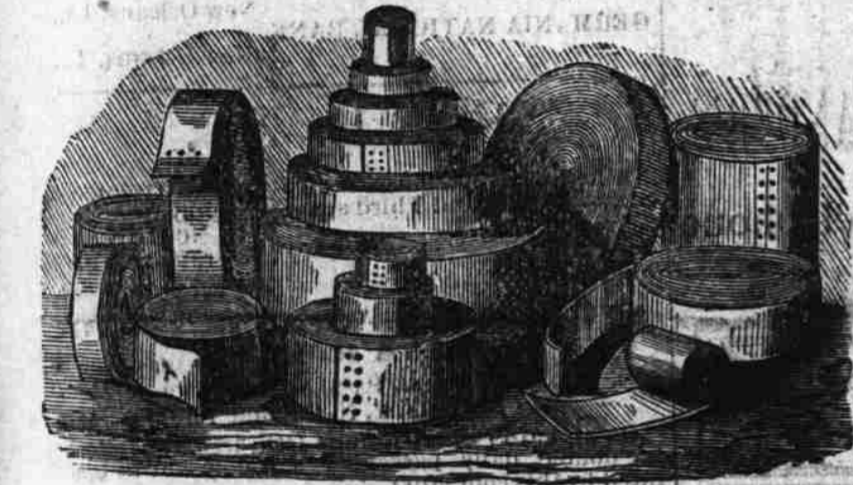
SMITH BUILDING.

## 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.



Agents:

Boston Belting Co.'s Rubber Belting, Hoyt's Leather Belt, Mt. Vernon Belting, Joseph Noones' Sons Roller Slasher and Clearer Cloth, T. K. Earle's Card Clothing, &c.

## NEW GOODS!

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.

## T. L. SEIGLE, Pegram & Co.

## The Great Closing Out Sale

## ALEXANDER & HARRIS

Will continue until the entire stock is disposed of.

ALEXANDER & HARRIS.

## The Charlotte Observer.

"TRUTH, LIKE THE SUN, SOMETIMES SEEMS TO BE OBTAINED," BUT, LIKE THE SUN, ONLY FOR A FEW.

### Subscription to the Observer.

DAILY EDITION.  
Single copy..... 5 cents.  
By the week in the city..... 25  
By the month..... 75  
Three months..... \$2.00  
Six months..... 4.00  
One year..... 8.00

### WEEKLY EDITION.

Three months..... 50 cents.  
Six months..... 1.00  
One year..... 1.75  
In clubs of five and over \$1.50.

No Deviation From These Rules.  
Subscriptions always payable in advance, not only in name but in fact.

### TONS OF LETTERS.

Missives Sent to and from the Washington Officials.

New York Sun.

The President of the United States receives daily an average of 50,000 letters, which, as a rule, are answered or their receipt acknowledged on the day of delivery. To enable him to cope with this vast correspondence, much of which requires not a formal reply but considerable research and special knowledge, the executive is furnished with 10,000 clerks, who, for convenience, are divided into seven departments, according as their work has to do with our foreign relations, the army or navy, the fiscal machinery of the government, its internal relations, the postal service, or the administration of justice. The heads of these seven principal departments are asked by the President to meet him once or twice a week at the White House, and from what is known as his cabinet. At these conferences the more important business of the departments is discussed, so that the work may be done promptly and harmoniously; and so well regulated is the system that it is not necessary for the President to see personally but a very small part of the executive correspondence. Two or three sacks only out of the tons of mail matter that is dumped every morning on the floor of the Washington City Postoffice, goes to the White House.

This postoffice is the third in the country in volume of business, though Washington is only the fourteenth city in population. This is on account of the enormous official mail that passes through Postmaster Conger's hands. During the fiscal year which ended June 30, 1885, the letters received were in excess of 25,000,000, or about 70,000 daily, and of this total it is estimated about 70 per cent. goes to the departments.

The reflux tide is even larger, for the outgoing delivery includes all the publications of the government. Statistics in this field would be staggering. They would be on such a high scale that the figures would lose their meaning. On some days, for instance, during the busy days of Congress, 2,000 large sacks, mostly of executive documents will pass through the office, and the average for the summer months is 20,000 sacks a month. Much of this is registered, for greater safety, so that the work thrown on the city force is prodigious.

Evidently, then, the Washington Postoffice is a busy place. It is in a vile building, but the clerks agree to condone its contracted spaces, dinginess and vermin on an understanding with it that it won't tumble down during office hours. The Postmaster is a son of Senator Conger, and an active Republican politician. As a Postmaster his record is good. The clerk in charge of the manipulation of the mail is Mr. Springer. He looks and acts much like General Francis A. Walker, and, like that gentleman, has a knack of turning off business quickly and well. There are "crews" of men in the office all the time, night and day, Sundays and holidays. One section works from 7 a. m. to 3 p. m., one from 3 to 11 p. m., and one from 11 p. m. to 7 a. m.

The busiest time of the day for the incoming mail is early in the morning, when the great night mails arrive. From 7 till 9 o'clock the office seethes with activity. Shortly before 9 o'clock the mail wagons for the departments and the outlying bureaus are hauled up in rear of the office, and the mail is handed out to them for distribution. These vehicles are of every description, from heavy, red, circus like vans to neat covered carriages, which have a strong suspicion of twilight and Sunday excursions about them. The heaviest mail generally goes to the Postoffice Department, due to the routine correspondence between the Department and the 50,000 postmasters of the country. Each postmaster has occasion to write at least four letters each quarter to the Department, thus involving a mass of 200,000 letters every ninety days, or more than 2,000 a day from this cause alone. Then there is an equal volume of business in the Dead Letter Bureau, where all un-called-for, misdirected or unintelligible letters are sent. The other two departments that receive enormous mails are the Interior and the Treasury. The mail for the Pension Bureau of the Interior alone often mounts into the thousands.

All the departments have a mail room where the letters are received and sorted. In the larger departments these rooms have quite a post-office look of their own, and exposed in the volume of business transacted the figures of many towns of considerable size. Here the sacks are opened and the contents distributed into trays or boxes which represent

the office of the Secretary and the different bureaus. When thus sorted the letters go to the chief clerks, who go through the pile, whether "confidential" or not. Heads of departments are not supposed to have any guilty secrets, and they certainly have not the time to read all the missives which come to them as confidential matter. So the clerk rips open every thing, and many "confidential" letters drop into his waste basket. Communications on business matters the clerk tosses into wicker trays, and these are borne by messengers to the chiefs of division and the heads of rooms having special supervision of the matter. If, however, the letter is seen to be important, it is sent up instead of down, and eventually may find its way to the desk of the Secretary, or even to the President. In the ordinary routine, however, a letter goes first to the city postoffice, then to the department, and then, step by step, to the chief clerk of the bureau, the chief clerk of division, and the particular clerk who is assigned to attend to its subject matter.

Then, in due progress, the reply goes back, on thick white letter paper of official size, elaborately headed, and gathering indorsements as it proceeds—red marks and blue marks, numbers and dates, circles, squares and crosses—till it is finally signed, folded and mailed again. Necessarily there is some red tape, for unless a rigid system were followed there would be fatal confusion in a week in all the large departments. These mysterious marks all have a meaning, as the careless or stupid clerk finds out soon enough, for by them every step is registered and a blunder traced back to its source.

The last hour or two of each office day in the departments is devoted to finishing up the correspondence and signing it. The latter means great drudgery to the Secretaries and their responsible subordinates. Some days these officers sign their names for two hours as rapidly as they can write, with a messenger at their elbow to pass them sheet after sheet, and blot the signature as it is scratched off. Rarely are the contents of the letter noticed. It comes to the desk through the proper channels, and is assumed to be correct. If not, the one who suffers by the error will be pretty likely to complain. Of course, the more important correspondence is treated more carefully.

And now the reply begins its travels. Again the department wagons, from the heavy red vans to the suspiciously neat carriages, convey the sacks to the city postoffice, where they are emptied, and the letters hurried from clerk to clerk. One arranges them in piles, then the canceling-stamp and the postmark are put on, and then the first rough distribution by States and chief cities begins. At the city postoffice, also, a further distribution takes place to ease the strain on the railway postal clerks. About 20,000 postoffices are located by the most direct railway lines, and letters are distributed for these lines, thus saving the railway clerks from a vast task that would have to be done very quickly.

The great official mail goes out to the North and West at 10 o'clock at night, but as much matter as possible is sent at 4 o'clock to help the railway clerks. There are few busier spots than the postal cars on the 10 o'clock train between Washington and Baltimore.

The government mail consists almost entirely of sealed packages, so that little need be said of the methods of handling the lower grades of mail matter. Some parcels go open, however, and these are handled in connection with newspapers, samples, books, shoes, horned toads and other bulky articles. The size of these articles does not admit of a pigeon-hole basis of distribution. The clerks therefore stand in the arena of a mimic amphitheatre of labeled pouches rising above them in overlapping tiers and toss the bundles into the gaping mouths of the sacks. It looks easy, but it is a special art. One calm elderly clerk, who has spent a life shooting pouches, has a perfect aim. It is as beautiful to watch him as he pops the bundles into their proper holes as it is to see Dr. Carver break glass balls or Ewing throw to Gerhard at second base.

### Bob Ingersoll's Boy Friend.

Christian Union.  
Mr. Ingersoll at his summer resort has made friends with a manly little boy just entering his teens, and the two had become summer companions. The boy was ignorant of Mr. Ingersoll's religious, or irreligious, views, and when some one told him that the friend whom he so greatly admired did not believe in the Bible, nor in Christ, nor in God, nor in a future life, he at first resented the accusation with indignation, and then, when it was confirmed, had a good cry over it. The summer coming to its end, Mr. Ingersoll was asked to write something in his young friend's album, and what he wrote read something like this: "It has been said that the best man is he who has the most boy in him, I think the best boy is he who has the most man in him. Judged by this standard, I think my friend — is the best boy I ever knew."

A Quick Recovery.  
We give us great pleasure to state that the merchant who was reported being at the point of death from an attack of pneumonia, has entirely recovered by the use of Dr. Wm. Hall's Balsam for the Lungs. Naturally he feels grateful for the benefits derived from using this remedy, for the lungs and throat; and in giving publicity to this statement we are actuated by motives of public beneficence, trusting that others may be benefited in a similar manner.

## ATTENTION!

## HOUSEKEEPERS!!

Those who have followed up our advertisements and called on us have found that we offered only desirable goods, and these at most remarkably low prices.

We Have Proven That We do not Advertise Imaginary Bargains.

THIS WEEK SHALL BE  
A week of great offerings! A week of genuine bargains!!  
A week never to be forgotten!!!

An important and profitable week for HOUSEKEEPERS.

CARPETS  
CARPETS  
CARPETS  
CARPETS  
CARPETS  
CARPETS  
CARPETS

22 Pieces Brussel Carpet  
Are being offered this week only, in lengths from 6 to 60 yards at following rates:  
THIS WEEK AT 55c. Per Yard, Formerly 70c.  
" " " 60c " " 75c.  
" " " 72 1/2c " " 85c.

## Nottingham Lace Curtains.

40 Pairs Cream, 3 1/2 yards long, \$1.40 a pair, formerly \$2.00  
25 " White, 3 1/2 " " 2.40 " " 3.25  
32 " " 3 1/2 " " 3.60 " " 5.00

## Notice These Three Lots.

I. 20 pieces Heavy Bleached 10 4 Sheeting 25c per yard, sold well at 32 1/2c.  
II. 10 dozen of 10 4 Honey Comb Spreads, 85c each, " " \$1.25  
III. 600 yards of All Linen Crash, 8c per yard, " " 11c.

## We Do Not Hide the Bargains We Offer

Because they are cheap, the less we sell of them the better off we are. To the contrary, we display them most conspicuously.

## WITKOWSKY & BARUCH,

CHARLOTTE, N. C.

## Our Grand Closing Out Sale

OF

## Summer Clothing

STILL CONTINUES.

In order to make room for our Fall and Winter Stock, which is daily arriving, we will offer this week at a great sacrifice,

## 100 Men's Suits at \$5.00,

WORTH \$10.00, \$12.00 AND \$13.50.

## 100 Boys' and Children's Suits from \$2.00 up.

These are extraordinary bargains and cannot be gotten anywhere else for

## Double the Money.

But they must be closed out. We don't intend to carry any over. We make a clean sweep of every garment every season, and do not take cost into consideration. An early call will pay every economical purchaser.

## W. KAUFMAN & CO

LEADING CLOTHIERS, CENTRAL HOTEL CORNER.