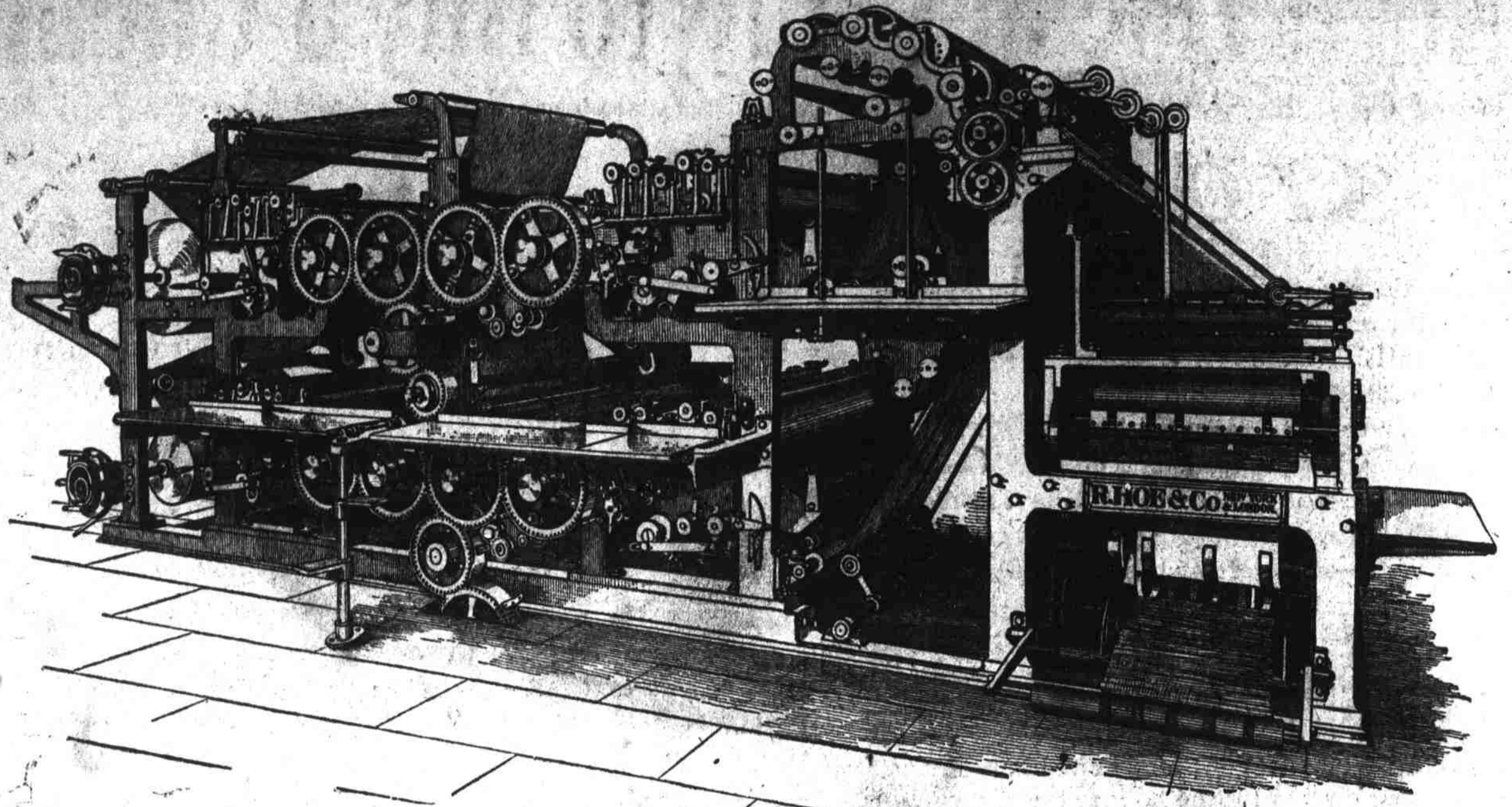


A BEAUTIFUL PIECE OF MACHINERY

The New Hoe Printing Press installed for the Use of The Observer and Chronicle—Some Particulars About the Machine.

In April last The Observer Company placed with R. Hoe & Co., of New York, an order for a new perfecting press for the use of The Daily and Semi-Weekly Observer and The Evening Chronicle. It was received in two cars, which came through from New York, a few days more than three weeks ago, and at the same time came from the factory Mr. F. Wasch, whose errand it was to install it. He has done his work and done it well. The Chronicle has been printed on the new press three successive afternoons, and this is the third morning it has printed The Observer. It is a tremendous machine, weighing 23,700 pounds, with a length of 34 feet and a height of 9 feet. No time has been lost in its erection or in preparation for that event. Such weight requires a firm foundation to rest upon, and this was built in nine hours by Mr. J. D. Brown, who had given himself twelve hours for the work. To drive this press,



is capable of printing a four-, six-, eight-, ten-, twelve-, or sixteen-page paper at one impression. For the eight-page paper—the week-day size—only the lower deck is used, and 10,000 papers an hour are printed and delivered from the press. With duplicate stereotype plates and both decks in operation, 20,000 complete eight-page papers an hour can be produced. Accompanying the press is a complete stereotyping outfit, and the paper is printed from cylindrical plates, made from the type—not from the type itself as formerly.

The Hoe is the standard printing press of the world. The company makes larger presses than this one but none more complete; and the size of this can be increased by the addition of other decks until a paper of any size desired can be had from it. When the belts were thrown on and the power applied the press moved off as if it had been running for a year, and has given the perfection of motion ever since. Many persons have seen it and all have admired it. It is in charge of Mr. C. B. Rogers, pressman, and Mr. Parks Stone, assistant, for The Observer, and of Mr. C. M. Wills, pressman, and Mr. Sam Williamson, assistant, for The Chronicle. All of these have been with it every moment since its installation began, and all understand it, for ponderous as it is, it is simple, and, incidentally, its noiselessness is one of its striking qualities.

Naturally this occasion is of more interest to The Observer and Chronicle people than to any others, and the machine appears more admirable to them; but almost any one would be interested in it and all who care to see it will be welcomed. A correct cut of it appears at the head of this article.

While the former press was being torn out and the new one introduced, The Observer was printed on the press of The Evening News. The results have been altogether satisfactory, and for his cheerful courtesy in taking care of us we extend thanks to Mr. W. C. Dowd, president of The News Publishing Company, and gladly acknowledge the obligation we feel.

EVEN DEMOCRATS HAPPY. CONGRESS HAS A GOOD TIME.

Most Delightful Profession in the World Except Being a Popular Pastor—A Congressman Who is Unmarried Can Cut a Wide Swath—Some Members Work Hard and Others Take Life Easy—New York for Below Washington Architecturally.

Correspondence of The Observer. Washington, Dec. 16.—To Randolph-Macon College some years ago came a new student from the West. He was tall, straight and strong, and he wore a blanket over his shoulders. "Where are you from?" inquired the college secretary, when he went to matriculate. The Indian threw back his head and with a sweep of the arm wrapped his blanket closer. "I am a Cherokee," he said proudly. In not his forthright fashion does the newly-elected M. C. arriving in Washington announce that he is a Republican from West Virginia. The speechlessness with which some of them have to acknowledge that they are Democrats is almost heart-rending. What a poor little minority it is! However, a Congressman can always have a good time in Washington, even though he is a Democrat, and if he happens to be a single man, he can have a perfectly gorgeous time. Viewed from the outside, the profession of Congressman is one of the most delightful in the world; nothing beats it except that of the popular pastor. Apparently, both Representatives and Senators are in one particular as fortunate as any people in the world—a fortunate, for example, as the dwellers of the South; for they have solved the problem of living without work. It does not take the newly-elected Congressmen long to do that. He soon discovers that after seeing what is to be seen in Washington, he has plenty of time to go to New York and knock around some, also to run out to Chicago, if he likes, or San Francisco. Why stay in Washington when there is nothing to do? What is the use of trying to make that speech which was going to electrify the nation, not to mention one's constituents, when a man could hardly make himself heard in the lower House with a megaphone?

New York is called a great university; so many of the education in Congress is spent at least a month in New York. This no born and bred New Yorker will admit, for of all self-education on earth he is the most. He has graduated in logic, art and the drama in New York; he must come to Washington to study architecture. After leaving from the outside and going through the capitol, the Treasury, the army and navy building and the library, he will return to Gotham wondering how it was he ever considered spending his life in anything much of the Waldorf-Astoria worth looking at. In fact, about the only building in New York worthy to stand in the same class with the government buildings of Washington is St. Patrick's cathedral, on Fifth Avenue.

For that that the city is a heavy one can never tire of looking at it. Right there, if the rest of the city were destroyed, one might get a good education in literature and art. What other city in the world has a "magnificent" of monuments for the mind? 470 by 335 feet, built of white granite and costing six millions of dollars. The dome-like interior, with its stately marble columns, its wilderness of statues, paintings and mosaics, has a ceiling of white marble, and a floor of red granite. Where will you find a reading room 100 feet in diameter and 15 feet in height with windows 22 feet wide, with 100,000 books and capacity for 2,000,000 more? Antony gave Cleopatra a big library, but it contained only 20,000 volumes. The custom of making your best gift a present of books is a very old and quite general. If but two-thirds of the book-binding capacity of the congressional library were utilized, it would be the biggest collection of books ever seen in the world—bigger than the library of the Vatican, the Escorial in Spain, the Bodleian in Oxford, the British in Germany or even the Great Library of France, which contains 3,000,000 volumes.

The place is delighted to see them. Washington does not care whether they work or not; in fact, prefers that they do not work. Why work when you are sure of your salary without it? Why, especially if you are a Democrat? For no Republican will ever get your place, else he would have got it last month. After dictating some letters to your stenographer, who may be your wife, your daughter, your school-boy son or anybody else near and dear to you to whom you care to give \$300 per month, take a car for the capitol, or a cab if you don't mind paying 25 cents a mile; hear the shrieks and behold the gyrations of your fellow law-makers for a time, then stroll through the botanical gardens and up Pennsylvania avenue, dropping into the hotel lobbies on the way, so as to give the Washington newspapers a few lines of copy, or to call on the parents, most of our law-makers find it so; further refreshing themselves from time to time with excursions to New York and elsewhere, or to the restaurant, or to the opera, or to the theatre. A winter can be spent very pleasantly thus. And there are large and magnificent office buildings in New York, but the largest and most magnificent on earth is this army and navy building in Washington. It is two miles of marble halls, and 50 rooms. The stairways are granite and the balustrades bronze. The outside walls are granite. If any building on earth is fire-proof, this one is. Of course it is full of all sorts of interesting things, including the Declaration of Independence as it came from Jefferson's hand, and the original copy of the constitution of the United States.

Still more interesting is the Patent Office, with its 40,000 patented articles open for public inspection, and the necessities of modern life—a glorious record of human achievement. And then there is the Government Printing Office, which is the largest printing office in the world; and the agricultural building; and army medical building; and the Dead Letter Office, and the Halls of the Ancients; and I do not know what all besides; the whole going to make the city of Washington the most wonderful and interesting of permanent positions. To talk about Washington without mentioning this exposition feature would be like talking about a woman without mentioning the color of her hair and eyes.

The indications are that on the fourth of next March Washington will witness the grandest military pageant seen there since the Union armies marched through it forty years ago. Already have applications been made for the honor of being in the parade, and there is every probability that our previous glory will be accorded to and from the capital by such an array of our martial and artillary as will delight the mortal soul to the utmost. And then the ball at night. Think of a ball-room big enough to permit the united company of 16,000 people. It will be the biggest and sweetest ball on the continent.

WHAT ELOQUENCE DID. Senator Vest's Noted Speech in a Missouri Court Which Won a Damaged Suit for a Dog.

(By request.)

Drum was a foxhound and his master sued the man who killed him. The case was brought in Johnson county, Mo., some years ago, and its legal title was Charles Burden vs. Leonidas Hornaby, but it was known as the Drum case, because that was the name of the dog. George G. Vest, now Senator, was attending court in Warrensburg, the county seat of Johnson, and the adjoining county on the west of Pettis, now the home of so many members of the Missouri Field Trial Association, and it was while waiting for the trial of a case in which he was interested that he was urged by the counsel for the prosecution, Colonel Blodgett, since general solicitor for the North Missouri Railroad, now the Wabash, to help him. Drum, the foxhound, was known far and near in that part of Missouri as one of the fastest, best nosed, least uncertain, having the most singularly muscular and regular voice, and the most tireless foxhound in the chase. No hunt of any importance was had in Johnson, Cass or Henry counties for Reynolds that Vest did not run down the game and modestly presented "the brush" to its owner, making no difference whether it was a grey or red fox.

Voluminous evidence was introduced to show that the defendant had shot the dog in malice, while other evidence went to show that the dog had attacked the defendant, Thomas P. Crittenden, later Governor of the State, and P. M. Cockrell, now Senator, were the defendant's attorneys. After the evidence was presented and the instructions given by the court, Judge Foster P. Wright then presiding, allowed two speeches on a side, covering four hours, saying: "I want this dog case to be fully tried and decided, I have already exhausted too much time."

Colonel Blodgett made the opening speech for Drum, followed by Mr. Crittenden and Mr. Cockrell. The latter thought they had the jury on their side, politically and sympathetically, and the verdict was sure to be against Drum. Colonel Blodgett had made a great speech, he being always an accomplished lawyer, but he had made every one thought Mr. Cockrell had made a greater one. Half of the jurors were Crittenden's and Cockrell's clients, who had never failed them on previous trials when they had half a chance for a verdict. The court adjourned after Mr. Cockrell's speech, which all then thought was a favorable omen. He had made such a speech as the jury could retire on, and the more they weighed the more strong points there were to be considered by the jurors.

FACTS ABOUT SPENCER. It Was Named After the President of the Southern Railway and Has Strictly a White Population—Figures of Interest.

Special to The Observer. Spencer, Dec. 17.—The following interesting facts have been gathered concerning Spencer which shows the present resources of the place. An unique feature of the town, which now has a population of about 3,500, is that it is composed entirely of white people and was named after Mr. Samuel Spencer, president of the Southern Railway Company. The town was established in 1896. Tax rate, 50 cents on the \$100 worth of property, with poll and special school tax \$1.40 per capita. There are to be found one Lutheran church, one Methodist, one Baptist, one Presbyterian and one Catholic church, and one Railroad Young Men's Christian Association. A nine months graded school is maintained. Has two banks with a capital of over \$600,000. Railroad terminal for 12 divisions—six passenger and six freight. Twenty-four passenger trains each day, all of which stop at Spencer. Thirty-eight freight trains each day. Two hundred and one locomotives in service from Spencer. Fifty engines repaired each month in the railroad shops, located here. One thousand two hundred miles of road in mechanical division. Seven hundred and fifteen mechanics employed in the locomotive department. Twenty-six men employed in the tin and copper department. Twenty-two men employed in the paint department. Sixty thousand dollars, approximately, paid in the mechanical department. Five hundred thousand dollars expended in building a mammoth brick and steel addition, 1,000,000 feet in size which has just been completed. One hundred engines per month will be repaired when the new shops have been put in operation. Twenty-two miles of siding on the Southern Railway here. One thousand five hundred men now employed in Spencer and the increase of the town's population to the building of the new shops will enlarge the payroll to \$1,500,000 per month. Fifty-five dollars per month is the average pay of employes. An electric street railway connecting the town of Spencer and Salisbury is now nearing completion. Has no distilleries, saloons, nor bawdy houses. The town officials are now arranging to install electric lights, a water and sewer system, erect a large school building and macadamize forty blocks of streets. New citizens are arriving continually from almost every State in the Union, many coming from foreign countries, many of whom are investing in property and all of whom are delighted with their surroundings and unparalleled prospects and advantages.

HENDERSON NEWS ITEMS. New Methodist Protestant Pastor Takes Charge—Personals and News Notes.

Correspondence of The Observer. Henderson, Dec. 16.—The Rev. W. F. Kinnette, the new pastor appointed to the Henderson Methodist Protestant church by the annual conference at High Point, has arrived in town and begun a pleasant impression. He comes from Rockingham county, where he has labored for 12 years, and has the reputation of being one of the best preachers and pastors of the Conference. Mr. Kinnette succeeded out Rev. G. Dixon, whom the conference removed in order that he might have the management of the Methodist Protestant College to be established at Greensboro. In the prosecution of this very important work Mr. Dixon will for the present make his headquarters in Henderson. He is universally beloved by the members of his Henderson charge, who were very loath to give him up. Mr. Henderson was a distinguished visitor in the person of John Philip Sousa, who is the leading bandmaster of the United States at this time, and whose "marches" and other compositions of a popular character have made him the best-known and most admired member of his profession before the American public. Mr. Sousa comes with his valet to the Massanutts Hotel every winter about this time for a few days rest and recreation, and shooting. He makes his headquarters at Monticello, the well-known hunting lodge, a few miles away that is frequented every winter by northern sportsmen. His close one in the quest of birds is Mayor Dick Southernland, who is not only one of the most accomplished all round sportsmen, but the best raconteur and most genial of companions. Mrs. Ayscus, the wife of Mr. C. W. Ayscus, died here this morning after a week's illness with pneumonia. She deceased was 75 years of age, and was one of the most esteemed residents of Henderson. She will be buried to-morrow at her old home near Spotts from the Liberty Christian church, in which she was for a long time a faithful member.

WOMAN WINS OUT IN BUSINESS. MRS. J. M. HESTER

There is no nobler type of Womanhood in the World than that which is Found in the Southland—Southern woman in war and in peace, in prosperity and reverse, has risen to whatever the occasion required of them and proven that they were made of sterner stuff.

A short time ago this paper presented a portrait with a short sketch of Mrs. Joe Person, a veritable Joan of Arc in the battlefield of business. We take occasion to give the likeness of another and a younger woman who under somewhat similar circumstances has built up a successful and widely known business and by reason of her industry and ability now occupies an independent position.

Mrs. J. M. Hester, the charming and popular proprietress of the Queen City Steam Dyeing and Cleaning Works, 208 North Tryon street, is a native of Valdosta, Ga., and was educated at Macdon, Ga. Her husband, who was a popular and successful traveling man, had as an experiment purchased a small pressing club in Charlotte, to which she gave such time as he could spare from his business on the road. He died about four years ago, leaving this business as a legacy to his young wife, who came here and immediately assumed entire control of it.

Under her management the business has grown from small to considerable proportions and has become prominent.

The dramatic business coupled at first had to be started about two years ago in order to secure the present sample ones. A trade in pressing and cleaning has been built up all through North Carolina and with that came a demand for a steam dyeing and dry cleaning plant which Mrs. Hester has just installed, equipping it to do work of this character in competition with the well-known houses in Atlanta, Richmond, States Island and other points, which our people have felt obliged heretofore to patronize.

Not only has Mrs. Hester purchased one of the most up-to-date equipments to be found in the entire country, but she has employed Mr. J. W. Kreis, of Atlanta, an expert dyer and cleaner of 25 years' experience, to take charge of this department. All kinds of ladies' and gentlemen's garments are cleaned and dyed, besides, gloves, curtains, feathers, etc.

This is a really important industry for Charlotte and Mrs. Hester is to be congratulated upon its establishment here and upon the large measure of success which has crowned her efforts.