

IN THE HOTEL LOBBIES.

Mr. John D. Shaw, Jr., the capital lawyer, who is counsel for the town of Laurinburg, was here yesterday. He says they are in a quandary in Scotland about the snailpox. It is not a serious type of the disease, but it is peculiarly distressing, so by common consent they call it "the bumps." What to do with the bumps is the question. They had a meeting of the town commissioners the other day. It was in evidence before that about that person infected daily walked up and down the streets of the city unchallenged, poisoning the wind with the dreaded microbes. There was no ordinance under which to chain them. One member suggested jailing them, but that would never do, obviously. Another said they should be arrested and tied out in the woods until they had shed their scales, but the chief of police protested that they would not be the man to arrest them; that they were one set of people from whom he would run as best he could. The town fathers were then silent, and it was up to their learned counsel to play Moses.

"My advice to you, gentlemen," said Mr. Shaw, keeping his features in repose and looking in his most impressive sidewise manner, "is to pass an ordinance that when victims of the bumps are detected at large upon our streets they be shot with a squirrel gun from the hips downward."

"That's pretty strong," commented one commissioner, shaking his head. They thought on this proposition a while. "It is pretty strong," said another, rising to the situation, "but I'll move it."

A lawyer at the Buford was talking about the wit of Hon. George Hall, of Robeson county. "Hall was up here once," said the lawyer, "and a friend introduced him to a citizen of the city."

"What do you call it?" the reporter asked Mr. M. D. DeLoach, editor of the delta, after finding out that he is a stiletman.

Mr. J. T. Edwards, of Richmond, says that ugliness an appendage to his name. All the Edwardes, he says, he was taught from childhood to expect to be ugly. Some time ago he ran across a Mr. Holland, of Holland, Va., who said, upon their introduction, "By George! an ugly Edwardes." This astonished the speaker very much. "I did not know that there was any other kind of Edwardes," said he. "You just come home with me to dinner," Mr. Holland invited. "I married an Edwardes. I didn't think anybody by that name could be ugly." So our friend went. He waited a while in the hall, engaged in light talk. When the lady of the house came in he almost fainted. "Gosh!" he panted. "A beautiful Edwardes!"

Some Pullman conductors—who, by the way, are as good a set of fellows as you will run up with—were talking last night about how much some people suffer from indigestion. One Pullman is 65 degrees. "In passing through my car the other day I heard some passengers saying that the heating arrangements of Pullmans are fierce; that a man may sit in his berth and shiver with his overcoat on till bed-time, and then go to bed and half dissolve with heat. I stopped opposite them and asked if the car was comfortable. 'No, captain,' said one. 'It is too cold in here.' 'All right,' I answered. 'It is now at 65 degrees. But there are not many of you on and I will turn it up to 75, 75 or any temperature you want. I can make it any way in ten minutes.' 'Oh, well,' he decided. 'Let it stay as it is a while and see how it does.' Well, sir, that fellow was puffing hot in a few minutes on nothing but the information I had given him about the temperature. That man's imagination is half of his life."

"Tonawanda, N. Y., where the merry-go-rounds are made, is the town from which Mr. J. A. Lambert hails. Last night at the Central he said he knew a remedy for the distemper of an old hen which makes her want to set whether she has eggs or door knobs or stones for her purpose. 'You take one of those 5-cent Ingersoll watches and put it in for the nest egg. The old hen will come and settle herself upon it comfortably. Presently you will notice a little uneasiness in her. She will shift herself and ruffle her feathers. Later she will reach down and peck at the watch. Her nerves get more and more shaky as that relentless ticking gets onto them, and finally she will fetch a loud squawk and get from there like mad. There will not be any more trouble with that hen, but she will run with her decent eggs and preserve as good a character as any of them.' 'It's the same as the old story of the man tied down in a position where a drop of water will strike his forehead at given intervals; it isn't relieved he will be crazy in no time.'"

Mr. Robert M. Bryant was in the city yesterday on his way home from the Trinity High School. "While I was in the Southern depot," he said, "there came in three negroes with eight gallons of liquor among them. I looked at them with attention and afterwards went out for a few minutes. While I was gone one of them went to the ticket agent and inquired what he should do with a revolver. 'But he said he didn't want a revolver with him.'"

to run. You better make some terms with him. "When I came back the eldest negro sidled up to me and asked if I was a revenge. I told him he was right, and looked as fierce as I could. "Boss, fer glory sake don't you do nothing to us now. We be done 'dred to give you all de eight gallons er liquor wut we fetch hynh." "Oh, no, I objected. 'I am after you and the liquor, too. I can't fool with my boys.' "Oh, bossman," he pleaded. "Please let us go on home now. Please, sah. 'Don't you now, please, sah?' "I'll tell you what I will do. I'll give you a quart of your liquor and let you go. It's Christmas time, and I don't want to be severe on you." "They were overwhelmed with gratitude and called down all sorts of blessings upon me. It was a cheerful quart which they measured out for me, and that's the way I got my Christmas ammunition."

**NORTH CAROLINA DAY.**  
All the Schools of the State Will Join in the Celebration To-Day—The Programme to be Followed.  
The public schools of the county close for the fall term to-day and will reopen the first Monday in January. This day has been selected by Superintendent Joyner in place of October 12th, as was fixed by the General Assembly, for the celebration of North Carolina Day, and all the schools of the State will observe the day according to the programme which has been sent to each by Superintendent Joyner. The programme is in the form of a neatly bound pamphlet and contains matter of value and inspiration. The exercises will be as follows:

- Prayer—My Country, 'Tis of Thee—Rev. B. F. Smith, D. D.
- 2. Reading—The Huguenot Settlements and De Graffenreid's Colony—Charles L. Coon.
- 3. Reading—Notes on Bath and Pamlico—W. J. Peeler.
- 4. Declaration—Carolina, Our Pride—Thomas W. Harrington.
- 5. Recitation—On Hatteras Bar—Henry Jerome Stockard.
- 6. Reading—The City Rebellion—Thomas M. Pittman.
- 7. Recitation—October—John Charles McNeill.
- 8. Reading—The Tuscarora War—S. A. Ashe.
- 9. Reading—Death of John Lawson—John W. Moore.
- 10. Reading—Early Southern Cities—L. Coon.
- 11. Declaration—The Volunteers—Dr. Alexander Gaston.
- 12. Reading—Washington and His Early Inhabitants—Lida Tunstall Robinson.
- 13. Declaration—Judge Gaston to Young Men—William Gaston.
- 14. Reading—Early Education in the Albemarle and Pamlico Sections—Eugene C. Brooks.
- 15. Recitation—Great Men Carolina—Pattie Williams Stockard.
- 16. Reading—Mattamuskeet Lake—S. S. Mann.
- 17. Recitation—How Freedom Came—Benjamin Sledd.
- 18. Declaration—Fighting in Eastern North Carolina—W. L. Arendell.
- 19. Reading—Trucking—R. D. W. Connor.
- 20. Reading—Shipping in Colonial and Ante-Bellum Times—Lida T. Robinson.
- 21. Some Short Colonial Biographies—J. Bryan Grimes.
- 22. Questions.
- 23. Song—The Old North State—William Gaston.

THE MATRIMONIAL STAMPEDE.

An Excellent Season for Hymen—Trains Transporting Crowds of Honeymooners—Thirteen Marriages Reported in Yesterday's Observer—Eight More Precious Days of the Leap Year Privilege.  
Let the philosophers undertake to decide whether leap year has any significance in regard to the great activity of the matrimonial market. Readers of the papers will have been impressed with the great number of marriages reported from all parts of our beloved State since the fall season set in. Nor are all the marriages, by any means, reported. The train people say they have had honeymooners until it is past talking about. And the business is growing more crowded as the year of privilege draws to its close. Yesterday's Observer gave accounts of thirteen—alas!—marriages. Deputy Register of Deeds B. R. Powell, who is himself a chronic bachelor, issued Wednesday thirteen—alas!—licenses. Let us pooh-pooh the unlucky number and eschew superstition. There is some reason why we may do so, for, of the thirteen weddings yesterday reported, only seven, the perfect number, were celebrated in Mecklenburg.

Now, a long pull and a strong pull and a pull all together! There are only eight more days of privilege, and the bachelors are floating a defiant flag, giving bachelor lawyers' dinners, and so on. It is up to the ladies. Publishers of the matrimonial market.

CIGARS FOR CHRISTMAS.

We have all the popular brands of Cigars in all size boxes:  
5c. Goods.  
CINCO MARTINEZ C. H. S.  
EL HUMBOLT MEXICAN GENTLEMAN  
ROIGS LA GACETA LA ZUMA  
CUESTA REY ARISTOCRAT  
CAPADURO PORTUANDO  
10c. Goods.  
ROBT. BURNS LEW WALLACE  
PRINCE DEGALES  
CORTEZ CUESTA REY ROIGS  
OXFORDS GATO  
**GEM RESTAURANT.**  
E. F. CRESWELL, Mgr.

12 O'clock

At 12 o'clock next Saturday night some three of our customers will hold the winning numbers for our Big Prize. We give cash coupons for the purchases made in December, if goods are paid for before drawing takes place. Our stock is complete, as we have filled all vacancies in our immense stock. Will be pleased to show you our line of holiday goods.  
**Garibaldi & Bruns.**  
Watches, Diamonds, Chron. Cut Glass, Silver and Gold Jewelry of Every Description.

**Christmas Gifts of Southern Hardware Co.'s Store.**  
FOR BOYS—Tricycles, Steel Wagons, Jack-Knives and Leggins.  
FOR GIRLS—Scissors, Pen Knives, Nut Picks and Craeks.  
FOR LADIES—Lace, Embroidery and Manicure Scissors, Shears, etc.  
FOR MEN—Razors, Cutlery of all kinds, Lap Robes, etc.  
FOR THE HOUSEKEEPER—Coal Vases, Carving Sets, Bird Cages, Triple Plate Flat-ware.  
FOR THE SPORTSMAN—Remington Single and Double, Guns, Rifles and Revolvers.  
FOR EVERYBODY—Anything to be found in a Hardware store.  
**SOUTHERN HARDWARE CO., 41 WEST TRADE STREET.**

**RARE PRICE ADVANTAGE**  
In Bath Robes and Smoking Jackets.  
Special Sale To-Day and Saturday  
Some are marked a quarter less and some at a third less than the regular price. An inspection of these goods will reveal the extraordinary worth of every garment.  
**THE TATE-BROWN CO.**

lic policy favors the marriage state. Uncle Sam smiles upon it, and he and Santa Claus, the two most venerable men alive, may meet at Christmas and chuckle together over the good work done.

**Bank Closing Notice.**  
Monday, December 26th, being a national holiday, all the banks of the city will be closed.  
**COMMERCIAL NATIONAL BANK, MERCHANTS AND FARMERS' NATIONAL BANK, FIRST NATIONAL BANK, CHARLOTTE NATIONAL BANK, SOUTHERN STATES TRUST CO., SOUTHERN LOAN AND SAVINGS BANK.**

**STIEFF'S Christmas Gift**

Rev. Father Francis, Mr. W. C. Dowd, editor of The Evening News, and Mr. Geo. Crater, business manager of The Observer, will see that all numbers are placed in a box and the first taken out by a child blindfolded gives the holder of original an upright piano. Books containing numbers will be placed in safe at 6 o'clock and no one allowed in office until after contest is decided. Prof. Richardson's famous orchestra has been engaged to give one of their fine programmes at 8 o'clock.

**Stieff,**  
Manufacturer of the piano with the Sweet Tone  
SOUTHERN WAREHOUSES: 211-212 North Tryon street, Charlotte, N. C.  
**G. H. WILMOTH, Mgr.**

**Everything**  
In Jewelry, Cut Glass, Silver-ware, etc., for Holiday Gifts.  
NEW STORE, NEW GOODS  
No trouble to show Goods. The most complete line in North Carolina.  
**THE PALM MOUNTAIN COMP'Y**  
No. 5, N. Tryon Street.  
Phone 277. Send us your mail orders

**WANT A REAL HANDSOME SUIT**  
For Little Money?  
The last days of the holidays good values will be offered in Men's Suits. \* \* \*  
No better time ever presented itself to buy an Overcoat.  
**LONG-TATE CLOTHING CO**  
GOODS SENT ON APPROVAL. EXPRESS CHARGES PAID ONE WAY

**STERLING SILVER**  
Infant Sets, Ceullloid Infant Sets, Sterling Silver Traveling Cases, Ebony Traveling Cases, Military Brushes, Powder Boxes, Powder Puffs, Sterling Silver Novelties, Sterling Silver Manicure Pieces, Sterling Silver Glove Openers, Exquisite Perfumes, Nail Brushes, Hand Brushes, Hair Brushes, Cheap, Cheap, Cheap, and at **BRANNON'S**

**FINEST CHRISTMAS GIFTS**  
For gifts, we suggest the following articles in Furniture, which are displayed here in enormous assortment at positively the lowest prices these high-grade goods ever sold for in Charlotte.  
CHINA CLOSETS, SIDEBOARDS, EXTENSION TABLES, DINNER SETS, FANCY ROCKERS, LEATHER ROCKERS, BOOK CASES, MUSIC CABINETS, CHEVAL MIRROR, CHIFFONNIERS, COUCHES, RUGS, ART SQUARES  
LIBRARY TABLES, CENTER TABLES, MORRIS CHAIRS, LEATHER ROCKERS, FANCY ROCKERS, LADIES' DESKS, BOOK CASES, MUSIC CABINETS, CHEVAL MIRROR, CHIFFONNIERS, COUCHES, RUGS, ART SQUARES  
**W. T. McCOY, 201 S. Tryon St.**

**BEAUTIFUL AND SERVICEABLE**  
**HOLIDAY GIFTS**  
Are here in endless variety. Nothing so acceptable as some piece of Furniture to make home beautiful and attractive.  
BEDROOM SUITS, PARLOR SUITS, ROCKERS, COUCHES, LEATHER CHAIRS, HALL RACKS, CHINA CLOSETS, BOOKCASES, SIDEBOARDS, EXTENSION TABLES, CARPETS, RUGS,  
MORRIS CHAIRS, CELLERETS, COSTUMERS, JARDINIER STANDS, LADIES' DESKS, GILT MIRRORS, CHIFFONNIERS, MUSIC CABINETS, LIBRARY TABLES, PARLOR TABLES, LAMPS.  
Do not fail to see the bargains we offer.  
**Parker-Gardner Co**

**JUST THE GIFT FOR A MAN OR BOY**  
**IS HERE**  
Our store is crowded daily with eager, anxious, gift hunters. Holiday shoppers have learned to recognize **Mellon's** as the foremost establishment to choose gifts for men and boys. \* \* \*  
Hundreds of desirable, handsome presents in apparel. Come here during these last holidays and you'll find exactly the gift you ought to present your friend or relative. \* \* \*  
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Mail Orders Have Attention Same Day Received.