

YARNS OF COAL OIL JOHNNY

HAS HAD SPECTACULAR CAREER

Interesting Stories Told of John V. Steele, Famous Throughout the Country. How He Secured His Wealth and How It Slipped Through His Fingers.

Franklin, Pa., Correspondence N. Y. Sun. The serious illness of John V. Steele, famous throughout the United States as Coal Oil Johnny, who lies at his home in Sugar Creek township suffering from bronchial pneumonia, has again revived the stories of his spectacular career as a money spender, during the palmy days of the oil excitement in Oil Creek. Many of these stories are wholly or in part untrue, but Steele admits the true ones were but enough.

John Washington Steele was born at poor parents near Shenandoah, Mercer county, Pa., about 63 years ago, and at an early age he and an older sister had to live with an uncle and an aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Culbertson of Oil Creek, Venango county. After his uncle's death, petroleum was discovered in the neighborhood. Mr. McClintock leased the farm for a good bonus and one-eighth royalty on the oil produced, and soon the widow found herself a rich woman.

But one day in 1883, while trying to hurry the action of the kitchen fire, she was so severely burned that her death resulted within an hour. This is said to have been the first death from a cause which has since been the means of ending the lives of many women.

Johnny was her sole heir. The safe in which Mrs. McClintock hoarded her wealth was opened after her death and the amount found therein has been placed as high as \$500,000. Steele, in his books, says the amount was \$24,500.

Steele was under age, but about a year later he came into full possession of his fortune, and then the fun began. All this time money was rolling in from royalties.

He went to Philadelphia, accompanied by his friend, Seth Sloum, whom he blamed for nearly all his trouble. At Philadelphia they were met by Mr. Wickham, of New York, who offered Steele \$1,200,000 for his farm and paid \$30,000 to bind the bargain.

With all this money in eight Steeles and Sloums started out to do things. Among the first things they did was to visit a tailoring establishment, where he and Sloum selected two suits from the flashiest piece of goods in the shop. When they appeared on the streets in their new clothes, they were arrested by a policeman who thought them insane.

Another adventure was the buying of a race horse. Steele and Sloum entered the horse at the Point Breze races, wagered large sums of money on him, and had the satisfaction of seeing him finish last.

Steele bought a carriage and had his coat of arms, a picture of a flowing oil well, painted on the vehicle, and when he left the city he gave the outfit to his coachman. Steele says this incident has been made much of, but he sees nothing remarkable in it, as he owed the coachman as much as the outfit was worth.

Steele and Sloum spent five months in Philadelphia. The hotel bill of the Girard House alone was \$19,000. It was in Philadelphia that Steele acquired the name of Coal Oil Johnny, which was given to him by a newspaper. Steele fell in with the Skiff & Gaylord minstrels while in Philadelphia, and the two weeks spent with

them dissipated much of his cash. Mr. Wickham declined to take up his option on the Steele farm, as the production of oil had greatly fallen off, and then Johnny came to himself. When he got home he found that not only had the production fallen off greatly, but the farm was buried under an avalanche of judgments, and in 1887 it was sold by the sheriff to George W. Hinckle for \$35,000.

Steele started out to begin life anew. He went to Cleveland, Buffalo, and Kansas City, looking for work. In the latter place he encountered the Skiff & Gaylord minstrels, joined the show and traveled with it through Canada and New England.

While at a New England town he received word from his wife to come home, that he was forgiven, and he lost no time in doing so. He got a place as baggage master at Rouseville. In 1878 he moved to Denison, Ia., where he helped to establish an Episcopal church. From there he went to Lincoln, Neb., and thence to Kearney, Neb., where he worked as station agent of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad.

He was later transferred to Louisville, Neb., and Ashland, Neb., where he remained until the early '90s, when he returned to the oil region. He has since been living on the farm of his father-in-law in Sugar Creek township, which is still in the employ of the Birmingham in Nebraska.

An interesting story is told by John W. Gaylord, a member of Skiff & Gaylord's minstrels, in McLaughlin's "Sketches in Crude Oil." He says: "Johnny saw us perform in Philadelphia, got stuck on the business and bought a one-third interest in the show, Reaching Utica, N. Y., Johnny got the company a supper that cost him \$1,000. He then conceived the idea of traveling by his own train, and accordingly purchased an engine, sleeper and baggage car. Dates for two weeks were cancelled and we went junketing. Johnny footing the bills.

"At Erie we had a \$500 supper; and so it went. It was here that Johnny bought his first hack. After a short drive he presented it to the driver. Our dates were cancelled and Johnny indemnified us for our loss. He paid all salaries, estimated the probable business receipts upon the basis of packed houses and paid that also to the treasurer.

"In Chicago he gave another exhibition of his eccentric traits. He leased the Academy of Music for the season and he did a big business. Finally he proposed a big benefit for Skiff & Gaylord and sent over to rent the Crosby Opera House, then the finest in the country.

"The manager sent back this insolent reply: 'We don't rent our house for an infernal nigger show.' Johnny got warm under the collar. He went down to their office in Root & Cady's music store.

"What will you take for you house and sell it outright?" he asked Mr. Root. "I don't want to sell."

"I'll give a liberal price. Money is no use to me." "Then Johnny pulled out a roll from his valise, counted out \$200,000 and asked Mr. Root if that was an object. Mr. Root was thunderstruck.

"If you are that kind of a man you can have the house for a benefit free of charge."

"The benefit was a big success. The receipts were \$45,000 and more were turned away than could gain admission. Next day Johnny hunted up one of the finest carriage horses in the city and gave it to Mr. Root for the courtesy extended.

"Oh, Johnny was a prince with his money. I have seen him spend as high as \$100,000 in a day. That was the

time he rented the Conrad Hotel in Philadelphia and wanted to buy the Girard House. He sent to the Continental and politely said to the clerk: "Will you kindly tell the proprietor that Mr. Steele wishes to see him?" "No, sir," said the clerk, "the landlord is busy."

"Johnny suggested that he could make it pay the clerk to accommodate him. The clerk became dindalful and Johnny tossed the bell boy a \$20 gold piece with the request. The result was an interview with the landlord.

"Johnny claimed that he had been ill-treated and requested the dismissal of the clerk. The proprietor refused, and Johnny offered to buy the hotel. The man said he couldn't sell, because he wasn't the entire owner.

"A bargain was made to lease it for one day for \$3,000. The cash was paid over and Johnny installed as landlord. He made me bell boy, while Sloum officiated as clerk.

"The doors were thrown open, and every guest in the house had his fill of wine and edibles free of charge. A huge placard was posted in front of the hotel, 'Open House To-day, Every thing Free. All are Welcome.' It was a merry lark. The whole city seemed to catch on and the house was full.

"When John thought he had had enough fun he turned the hostility over to the landlord, who reinstated his odious clerk. Here was a howl. Johnny was frantic with rage. He went over to the Girard House and tried to buy it. He arranged with the proprietor to buck the Continental, by making the prices so low that everybody would come there. The Continental did mighty little business as long as that arrangement lasted.

"The oil country historians have recorded many fanciful things told about Coal Oil Johnny. It is related that after the death of Mr. McClintock, who had little faith in the banks of her neighborhood, a hoard of \$200,000 was found in her home. William Blackstone, who had been appointed the guardian, is said to have handed Steele \$300,000 in a lump sum, and it was then that the Philadelphia trip was decided upon.

Drillers Strike Underground River. St. Catherine's correspondence Buffalo News.

The residents of Holdman county living at Nelles Corners, near Cayuga, are in a state of excitement over the discovery of an underground river about 500 feet down.

The river was struck on a farm at Nelles Corners by some men who were drilling for natural gas. The drill had gone down 500 feet when it suddenly took a drop of 30 feet. Upon the drill being taken out, it was marked by 20 feet of water. The men were able to hear the rumble of the water as it rushed along under the earth. Some of the water was pumped out, and some small fishes came to the surface. The water had the taste of lake water. The men could not tell which way the river was running.

The general impression about the neighborhood is that the river is an underground channel connecting two of the great lakes. All the bored wells around Nelles Corners have given out, probably being drained by the river under the earth.

Beware of the man who uses perfumery. He's either silly or in love.

It's a dry one, but one has no occasion to raise an umbrella.

Ask any "JAP" that you may see, "Why the Car, with Bear behind," had to climb a tree.

The Yanks, God bless the Yanks, says he.

They gave us Rocky Mountain Tea. R. H. Jordan & Co.

NORTH CAROLINA SOCIETY

SHELBY.

Correspondence of The Observer. Shelby, Feb. 18.—A delightful informal bowling party and supper was given in honor of Miss Amos Willis and Miss Annie Jennings Monday evening. The couples bowling were Mr. J. W. Washburn and Miss Ray Suttle, Mr. Arthur Iugie and Miss Marie Wray and Miss Ora Eskridge, Mr. Sought Wray and Miss Annie Jennings, Mr. O. M. Mull and Miss Fannie Ramsaur, of Lenoire; Mr. Cephe Blanton and Miss Amos Willis, Mr. Forest Eskridge and Miss Lollie May Doggett, Mr. Irvin and Miss Pearl Lattimore, Mr. Marshall McBrayer and Miss Selma Eskridge, Miss Amos Willis and Mr. Marshall McBrayer made the highest score.

Miss Elva Wray, who has inherited from her father that gracious hospitality and perfectness in entertaining, was hostess at a beautiful and original Valentine party Wednesday evening. The home inside was a scene of love and dining room the mantle and parlors were festooned with lovely draperies of red hearts. Red and white was carried out with beautiful effect. The music was given by the Subliminal Self, by Dr. G. A. Coggeshall. "Some Recent Achievements of Science, (Evolution)," by Mr. F. C. Toepelman, "Uses and Abuses of Some Common English Words and Terms," by Mr. G. Butler. The next meeting will be at the home of Col. Henry Perry. The secretary of the club is in receipt of a recent letter from Governor Glenn cordially accepting honorary membership in the club. The Governor is the first honorary member to be elected. He was recently here under the auspices of the club and was tendered a banquet at Mossesburg Hotel.

HENDERSON. Correspondence of The Observer. Henderson, Feb. 16.—The Contemporary Club has elected the following officers for the current year: President, Dr. G. A. Coggeshall; secretary, Mr. J. A. Moore; vice president, Rev. J. D. Larkins; treasurer, Dr. John Hill Tucker.

The programme for the year has been provided and will contain many interesting and valuable features. The next three papers promise to be of unusual interest, being as follows: "Physical Phenomena of the Subliminal Self," by Dr. G. A. Coggeshall; "Some Recent Achievements of Science, (Evolution)," by Mr. F. C. Toepelman; "Uses and Abuses of Some Common English Words and Terms," by Mr. G. Butler. The next meeting will be at the home of Col. Henry Perry. The secretary of the club is in receipt of a recent letter from Governor Glenn cordially accepting honorary membership in the club. The Governor is the first honorary member to be elected. He was recently here under the auspices of the club and was tendered a banquet at Mossesburg Hotel.

Raper-McMillan. Correspondence of The Observer. Henderson, Feb. 16.—"Castalia," the attractive country home of Mr. and Mrs. John McMillan, of Vance county, was the scene of a very pretty wedding yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock, when Miss Margaret McMillan and Mr. George S. Raper were united in marriage by the bride's pastor, Rev. J. H. Henderlite. About 75 guests were present to witness the event and the rooms were most tastefully decorated with evergreens and beautiful winter leaves and potted plants. The bride is the daughter of Mr. John McMillan, a highly esteemed planter, and is one of the most popular and gifted young ladies of the county. The groom is the son of the Rev. Mr. Raper, of the M. P. church, who assisted in the marriage, and is a young man of many attractive qualities, enjoying in large measure the esteem of his numerous friends. Mr. and Mrs. Raper were the recipients of many presents and begin their new life with the most cordial congratulations and good wishes of a large circle of friends.

CARTHAGE. Correspondence of The Observer. Carthage, Feb. 16.—One of the most interesting social events celebrated recently in Carthage was a Valentine party given by Miss Margaret Melver, Lennie Graevs and Katie McKelthen Wednesday evening at the residence of Judge James D. Melver from 8:30 to 10:30 o'clock. The guests were received in the hall by Misses Graevs and McKelthen and in the parlor by Miss Melver. Among the amusements of the evening the most enjoyed perhaps was the game

of hearts. Each guest was given a small red bag containing five hearts, with directions to ask questions of each other and the one answering directly "yes" or "no" forfeited a heart to the questioner, the object being to secure the greatest number of hearts. Twenty minutes was allowed in this contest, which was very lively, humorous and spirited, as it called for unusual skill both in question and repartee. Then came the composite pictures. These were wrapped in small red, white and blue papers and hidden in the parlor. The young people were required to find these hidden packages and, taking one of all three colors, take therefrom the parts of the picture and paste them upon paper, upon which were drawn hearts, cupid and other appropriate designs, so as to form one composite whole. This was indeed a happy hit and its results were many ridiculous and comical figures and peals of heartless laughter.

Mr. W. R. Cleary, in a few timely and witty remarks, then presented the prize in the hearts contest to Mr. Joe Womble. After the presentation of the prize a salad course was served, followed by punch, the bowl in the hall being gracefully presided over by Misses Allie Graevs and Mary Underwood. Music was rendered during the evening by each of the fair hostesses and contributed much to the joy of the occasion. The young men are truly appreciative of the honor done them by their fair entertainers, who possess not only beauty of face and figure but combine as well with their other graces of character the happy faculty of making others enjoy to the fullest extent any occasion over which they preside. The evening was one of genuine pleasure and mirth and is present felt that it was good to have been there.

Bryan-Jenkins. Correspondence of The Observer. Henderson, Feb. 16.—The home of Mr. and Mrs. William Jenkins was the scene of a very pretty marriage ceremony yesterday afternoon at 10 o'clock in the presence of a large assemblage of relatives and friends that gathered to witness this interesting and notable event in Henderson social life. The marriage was performed in the parlor, which was most beautifully decorated with evergreens and potted plants for the occasion. Little Misses Davis and Margaret Bryan, the latter the sister of the groom, acted as flower girls, and Masters Edward Manning and Louis Harris were ribbon boys. The maid of honor was Miss Eloise Bacon, a cousin of the bride, and Mr. Sam Bobbett, of Youngsville, was best man. Mr. Henry Jennings and Mr. Livius Jacobson, brother and cousin of the bride, were attendants. The ceremony was performed by Rev. J. H. Henderlite, of the Presbyterian church, a prayer book that had belonged to the grandmother of the bride being used.

After the ceremony an elegant luncheon was served to about 80 guests, and the bride's cake was cut, the ring falling to the lot of Mr. S. S. Parham, the money to Miss Williams, of Oxford, and the thimble to the best man. The bride and groom left for a Southern tour. Mrs. Bryan is one of the best known and most popular young ladies of Henderson, being very widely and prominently connected. The groom is the very

successful manager of the Parham Supply Company's branch establishment at Youngsville, where Mr. and Mrs. Bryan will make their future home. The young couple were the recipients of hearty congratulations and good wishes while the parlor was attested the warm esteem and affection in which they are held.

Church-Amos. Correspondence of The Observer. Henderson, Feb. 16.—At the home of the bride's father, Mr. James Amos, Miss Myrtle Amos was united in marriage to Mr. Charles B. Church yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock by Rev. J. H. Henderlite. The rooms were filled with the numerous assemblage of relatives and friends of the contracting parties. The marriage was very quiet and no formal invitations were sent out. There were no attendants. The bride is one of the very attractive young ladies of Henderson, being possessed of unusual charm and a most sweet and winsome character. She is the daughter of Mr. James Amos, a prominent farmer and the very efficient chairman of the board of county commissioners. Mr. Church is the agent of the Seaboard Railway at Greystone, where he is also engaged in the mercantile business, and is a young business man of decided enterprise and success. Mr. and Mrs. Church left for an extended Southern tour that will embrace points of interest in Florida and also include a trip to Cuba. They will make their home at Greystone.

WINSTON-SALEM. Correspondence of The Observer. Winston-Salem, Feb. 15.—Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock Winston-Salem Society had the great pleasure of entertaining at Carnegie library, the other clubs of the city, the occasion being Rejoice Day, the day towards which Sorosis has long looked forward. The program was very beautifully and appropriately decorated. Reception in blue and white. The guests were seated. Miss Adelaide Fries, president of Sorosis, Mrs. Lindsay Patterson, president of the Embroidery Club, Mrs. A. H. Eller, president of the Round Dogen Club, Mrs. M. Rogers, president of the Monday Afternoon Book club, Mesdames Henry Bond, W. A. Whitaker, T. G. Cozart, R. D. Jewett and Mesdames Annie Wheeler and Minnie C. Miller. The very appropriate motto for the evening was taken from Shakespeare, "You are very welcome to our home. It must be shown in other ways than words; therefore I sent this breathing courtesy."

Miss Fries, in a few words, welcomed the clubs and introduced those who were to be the evening's programme. Mrs. Lindsay Patterson, in a very bright and witty poem, extolled the merits of the needle. This representative of the Monday Afternoon Book club read Miss Steele Dickson's most beautifully written and carefully prepared article on "The Growing Importance of Fiction." Mrs. W. A. Whitaker, the Round Dogen's representative, handled well "Noted Men of Fiction." Miss Annie Wheeler gave a most interesting sketch of North Carolina's famous statesmen, "Nathaniel Macon." Here Mrs. R. D. Jewett rendered most delightfully an original poem which evinced decided talent, both from an eloquent standpoint as well as beauty of thought, thus introducing Sorosis representative on this occasion, Mrs. T. G. Cozart, "Illustrious Women of France" furnished the theme for her very fine paper.

Every woman is a puzzle, and it's a waste of time when you guess the answer. Next to a hypocrite, a lazy man is the most unsatisfactory specimen of his sex.

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CHARLOTTE'S MAMMOTH SALE

Never before in the history of Charlotte merchandising, has any sale attracted as much attention as the sale that is now on at our stores. The entire stock (and it is new) of the Clothing, Shoes and Gent's Furnishings Departments of the J. G. Hood Co. we offer to the public at 40 cents on the dollar. The occasion of so much stir is caused by the immense values offered at this sale. Remember the sales last until Feb. 28th, but we do not know how long the stock will last. Hurry if you want goods cheap.

Look! Look! Look! This Tells The Story.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Men's Suits. Hood's price was \$6.50. Our price... \$2.45. Men's Suits. Hood's price was \$8.00. Our price... \$3.20. Men's Fine Suits. Hood's price was \$10.00. Our price... \$4.00. Men's Fine Suits. Hood's price was \$11.50. Our price... \$4.60. Men's Fine Suits. Hood's price was \$15.00. Our price... \$6.00. Men's Fine Suits. Hood's price was \$18.00. Our price... \$7.20.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Overcoats and Storm Coats, and Coats and Vests. Men's Overcoats. Hood's price \$8.50. Our price... \$3.40. Men's Fine Overcoats. Hood's price \$10.00. Our price... \$4.00. Men's Fine Overcoats. Hood's price \$13.50. Our price... \$5.40. Men's Fine Overcoats. Hood's price \$18.50. Our price... \$7.40. Odd Coats and Vests. Hood's price was \$3.50. Our price... \$1.40. Odd Coats and Vests. Hood's price was \$2.50. Our price... \$1.00. Odd Coats. Hood's price was \$4.00. Our price... \$1.60. Men's Waterproof Duck Coats. Hood's price \$8. Sale price... \$3.20. Men's Waterproof Duck Coats. Hood's price \$3.50. Sale price... \$1.40. Men's Waterproof Duck Coats. Hood's price \$2.00. Sale price... \$0.80. Men's Duck Coats. Hood's price \$1.50. Sale price... \$0.60. Men's Vests. Hood's price 75c to \$2.00. Sale price... 10 to 87c.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Ladies' and Gent's Furnishings. Men's White Bib Overalls. Hood's price \$1.00. Sale price... 50c. Men's Working Shirts. Hood's price 75c. Sale price... 30c. Men's Handkerchiefs. Hood's price 10c. Sale price... 4c. Men's Handkerchiefs, 4-ply, colors. Hood's price 10c. Sale price... 4c. Ladies' Black Hose. Former price 15c. Sale price... 7c. Men's Fleece-lined Underwear. Hood's price 50c. Sale price... 25c. Ladies' Knit Underwear. Former price 50c. Sale price... 19c. Men's Suspenders. Hood's price 15c. Sale price... 6c. Ladies' White Handkerchiefs. Former price 10c. Sale price... 4c. Men's Dress Shirts. Hood's price 50c. Sale price... 20c. Men's Black Hose. Hood's price 10c. Sale price... 4c. Men's Suspenders. Hood's price 25c. Sale price... 10c. Men's Linen Handkerchiefs. Hood's price 15c. Sale price... 7c.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Ladies' Knit Underwear. Former price 75c. Sale price... 30c. Men's Dress Shirts, Lion Brand. Hood's price \$1. Sale price... 40c. Men's Fancy Hose. Hood's price 15c. Sale price... 7c. Men's Handkerchiefs. Former price 10c. Sale price... 4c. Men's Handkerchiefs, 4-ply, colors. Hood's price 10c. Sale price... 4c. Men's Drill Drawers. Hood's price 25c. Sale price... 14c. Boys' Fleece-lined Underwear. Hood's price 35c. Sale price... 15c. Men's Fine Sweaters. Hood's price \$1.00. Sale price... 33c. Men's fine Ties. Hood's price 25c. Sale price... 10c.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Ladies' Men's, Boys' and Children's Shoes. Men's Shoes. Hood's price \$1.50. Sale price... 84c. Men's Shoes. Hood's price \$2.00. Sale price... 1.12. Men's Shoes. Hood's price \$2.50. Sale price... 1.40. Men's Shoes. Hood's price \$3.00. Sale price... 1.68. Men's Shoes. Hood's price \$3.50. Sale price... 1.96. Ladies' Shoes. Hood's price \$1.25. Sale price... 59c. Ladies' Shoes. Hood's price \$1.75. Sale price... 82c. Ladies' Shoes. Hood's price \$2.25. Sale price... 1.10. Ladies' Shoes. Hood's price \$3.00. Sale price... 1.44. Ladies' Shoes. Hood's price \$3.50. Sale price... 1.72. Boys' Shoes. Hood's price \$1.25. Sale price... 84c. Boys' Shoes. Hood's price \$1.75. Sale price... 1.10. Babies' Shoes. Hood's price 25c. Sale price... 10c.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Men's and Boys' Pants. Men's Pants. Hood's price was \$1.00. Our price... 39c. Men's Pants. Hood's price was \$1.50. Our price... 59c. Men's Pants. Hood's price was \$2.25. Our price... \$1.24. Men's Pants. Hood's price was \$3.50. Our price... \$1.69. Men's Pants. Hood's price was \$4.00. Our price... \$1.95. Men's Pants. Hood's price was \$5.00. Our price... \$2.45. Boys' Knee Pants. Hood's price was 50c. Our price... 19c. Boys' Knee Pants. Hood's price was 75c. Our price... 28c.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Gingham, Prints and Muslins. Apron Checks. Former price 5 1/2c. Sale price... 2c. Apron Checks. Former price 8c. Sale price... 3c. Solid and Fancy Gingham. Former price 8c. Sale price... 3c. Chambrays, all colors. Former price 10c. Sale price... 4c. Prints. Former price 5c. Sale price... 2c. Prints. Former price 6c. Sale price... 2c. Bleached Muslin. Former price 7 1/2c. Sale price... 3c. Fine Muslin. Former price 9 1/2c. Sale price... 3 1/2c.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Table Linen. Table Linen. Former price 35c. Sale price... 14c. Table Linen. Former price 50c. Sale price... 20c. Table Linen. Former price 75c. Sale price... 30c.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Men's and Boys' Hats and Caps. Men's Hats. Hood's price 50c. Sale price... 19c. Men's Caps. Hood's price 25c. Sale price... 10c.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Dress Goods Department. 50-inch Storm Serge. Former price \$1.25. Sale price... 79c. 50-inch Henrietta, 42-inch Danish Cloth, 50-inch Green Serge, 48-inch Dotted, Black, Brown and Invaluable Flaid Brilliantene. Former price \$1.25. Sale price... 79c. 44-inch Grey Panama Cloth. Former price 85c. Sale price... 66c. 50-inch Red and Green Brilliantene, 36-inch Check Suitings. Former price 75c. Sale price... 47c. 38-inch Green, Grey, Black and Dotted Flannels, 26-inch Fancy Suitings. Former price 60c. Sale price... 37c. Serges and Flannels in Fancy and Plain colors. Former price 35c. Sale price... 14c. Fancy Suitings in Fancy and Plain colors. Former price 50c. Sale price... 20c.

A WORD TO THE PUBLIC Having purchased the entire stock of Clothing, Shoes and Gent's Furnishings of J. G. Hood Co. cheap, we have decided to sell it cheap. We are well known to the people of Charlotte than ever before known, and you will not be disappointed. How unsatisfactory the English language becomes when one is enthusiastic and is honest in his belief; how cold and calculating the words hang upon the readers' lips when they simply show the truth in its most bare-face manner. Such is the condition that will exist in this sale. It is easy—very easy—to say things, but to back them up as we will do is unusual, but there is a reason for it, and it is appreciated by good, honest, economical people, who know the power of value and the weight of our reputation, that stands back of every purchase that leaves this store. It is natural for you to have a slight doubt about it at first—we know that; but when you learn the truth of the matter, then all doubts vanish, because The Miller Dry Goods Co. and Clothing Co. proprietors stand back of every claim.

All Goods Marked in Plain Figures—One Price to All. Miller Dry Goods Company 39 East Trade St. Miller Clothing Company 38 East Trade St. Car Fare Paid Purchasers of \$10 or Over. W. C. JACKSON, Manager of Sale.