

# THE GIBSON WILL MYSTERY.

The story of the young man who died at Asheville last night after a short illness, and the mystery of his will, which has been the subject of much speculation, is the subject of this article.

The following special from Providence, R. I., appeared in The Observer of yesterday:

"News was received here to-day that Henrietta Cecilia Gibson (nee Wolf), of this city, has won her contest against the estate of her late husband, a millionaire of Cincinnati, and has secured a settlement of \$100,000. The romantic circumstances attending the courtship of Miss Wolf by Gibson and his death-bed marriage to her at Asheville, N. C., aroused wide-spread interest at the time, in 1903, especially as she claimed that he left a brief will bequeathing her estate in just eight words: 'To my dearly beloved wife I give all.' When she was unable to produce the will, Gibson's relatives here contested it and claimed that she was not even entitled to dower rights. She is the daughter of a wealthy Providence real estate man and is now traveling in Europe."

Readers of The Observer will recall this case. The death-bed marriage, the death and the disappearance of the Gibson will at the Battery Park Hotel, at Asheville, make a interesting study.

Young Gibson, sick with tuberculosis, came to Asheville from his home at Cincinnati, hoping that he might check the ravages of the dreaded disease. He had many friends and devoted relatives, and the future was bright with promise for him.

On his arrival in the Land of the Sky he secured a room at the Battery Park Hotel and employed a lung specialist. But the Great White Dragon, with its merciless, relentless grasp, had almost completed its work. Gibson was doomed and his physicians had told him so. It was then that the hopeless invalid's thoughts turned to the Miss Henrietta Cecilia Wolf, the woman whom he loved, had courted and become engaged to. A telegram, calling her to his bed-side, was sent to Providence. As quick as trains could bring her she came to her lover. Fearing that he would never be better, she begged his promise to marry her, but she urged him to wait until he was stronger. But he insisted and his will prevailed. A license was procured, and the ceremony performed.

On that or the following day Gibson sent for a lawyer and a justice of the peace and made a will, bequeathing his estate, valued at more than \$2,000,000, to his wife. Those who witnessed the execution of the will were: Mrs. Gibson, the lawyer, the justice and a clerk named White.

The night following Gibson died. Soon after the young fellow expired, when his body was being prepared for removal, a search was made for the will. Mrs. Gibson had not taken possession of it. The lawyer, who drafted it, and the justice, who had acknowledged it, were sent for, but they declared that the will was left on the little table in the room. It was last seen there by the officers, the widow and the nurse. Mrs. Gibson had accompanied the lawyer and the justice out after the paper was duly drawn and signed. The table on which the will was left stood at some distance from the sick-bed and if Gibson had desired to get it, he could not have done so in his feeble condition. Or, if he had, he could not turn himself in the bed. There being no fire in the room the will could not have been destroyed by accident or design.

Some argued that Gibson had reconsidered his action of several hours before, secured and destroyed the will. This could not have been. Gibson was physically unable to get out of bed and, then, there were no traces of torn paper left in or about the room. A thorough search was made. The trunks of Gibson and his bride were searched in vain. Every person, who had been present when the document was made, made affidavit that he or she knew nothing of the will. Every crevice or crack in the house was examined, but no trace of the paper was found.

## JUDGE COUNCIL NOT WELL.

He is suffering from the effects of the Hamlet Wreck.

Judge W. B. Council, of Hickory, was in the city yesterday. He was on his way to Salisbury to consult his brother, who is a physician, about his health. It will be recalled that Judge Council was severely jolted and shaken up in the Hamlet wreck. At first he did not believe that his injuries amounted to much more than a slight bruise but after reaching home, when the excitement had passed, he realized that he was seriously hurt. His thigh, his back and kidneys are involved. The extent of his trouble is not known. It may require six months or a year for him to entirely recover.

Judge Council has held all of his courts since the accident but has suffered a great deal.

## The Special Schools of the Y. M. C. A. to Begin in October.

The night school conducted by the Young Men's Christian Association for six months in the year for the employed men and boys of the city will open on the 8th of October.

The following is a list of the instructors and the subjects which they will teach: Prof. J. G. Baird, elementary and advanced arithmetic and algebra; Mr. W. M. Boggs, mechanical drawing; Mr. C. B. Miller, stenography; Mr. Matthew J. O'Neill, penmanship and commercial correspondence; and Mr. C. A. Eastman, wood carving and pattern making. On account of the limited space in the work room the enrollment in this class will be limited to ten.

The boys' preparatory course for employed boys only, which was most successfully taught last year by Mr. T. A. Adams, will be under his instruction this year. This course is to supplement the instruction given in the public schools. It is in no sense to rival the day schools in their work but to make up in some measure to the boys who are compelled to work the education which they would otherwise have obtained in public schools.

## WELL WORTH TRYING.

W. H. Brown, the popular penman at No. 11, Broadway, N. Y., says: "Next to the pen, the best thing I know is Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. I have written them for my family in a special letter. They are a cure for blood-poor, nervous and indigestion. Do not mistake, it is Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, not any other pills." Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are sold by all druggists.

# COL. BYERS IN ROG HEAVEN.

He Has a Call From the Muse and Writes a Ditty—More About Reformed Spelling—A Political Suggestion.

Like Sam Jones' mule, with tail over the dashboard and head among the stars, Col. Edwin Augustus Byers is in high, clever howl-a-days having married him a sweet wife and convinced Andy Carnegie and Teddy Roosevelt that reformed spelling is the thing. As he comes down the pike he is all style and dash, shaking his head and raising his hand.

In talking about the new way of spelling, yesterday, he said:

"Anent the work of the Simplified Spelling Board, which the ultra-conservative are fighting so hard, with the usual stubborn blindness of the tail-end-fair folk of all-ages, the following verse came into my encephalic organ:

"The 'S. S. B.' and Karmayghie  
"Ar teaching us Reform;  
"The papers tell T. Roosevelt  
"And keep our Teddy warm."

"The nu-stile rime will save our time  
"And labor, I confess,  
"But to write hel with just one l  
"Will be a hellvammess."

"The opponents of orthographic reform say that if we finally get to spelling words phonetically we can no longer tell a word's derivation or 'etymology' by its spelling. They say when we spell debt, det, we can tell at a glance that it comes from the Latin debt. Suppose even that this were true. Only one person in a hundred of those who can read know anything about etymology. Agen, the reason we write shoe is that Caxton, our first printer, was a Dutchman or Hollander and so in Hollanderish spells oo, and Caxton, in a moment of absent-mindedness, printed the word with English consonants and Dutch vowels. Agen, a school-ape in Hollanderish, stole, but in English spells nothing. This was another slip of Caxton. The word was once pronounced scole and so spelt in pure Anglo-Saxon. It should be written now skool."

"Why not run Bryan and Roosevelt on the Democratic ticket? As they are not our two greatest Americans, and the two best Democrats left? As Teddy has already bin President, nominate Bryan for President. They would get all the votes except two classes: The plutocrats and Socialists. They would vote respectively for Cleveland or Cannon, and Debs."

A BUSINESS CHANGE.  
A Philadelphia Concern Buys Charlotte Roofing & Paving Company.  
The Charlotte Roofing & Paving Company, of 17 West Fifth street, have been succeeded by the Warren Elmer Company, of Philadelphia, who will conduct the business at the same old spot on a much larger scale.

The Warren Elmer Company has houses in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Pittsburgh and other Northern points. Charlotte is to be the home of the Southern branch of the business. Mr. John Byrd, of Philadelphia, will have charge of the office here. He will arrive here about 10 days from now. In the meantime Mr. P. G. Johnson will have charge here. Mr. W. C. Lovejoy was president of the Charlotte Roofing & Paving Company. He does not know, yet, what he will do. He has many friends in Charlotte who hope that he will remain here.

## The John Brown Pike.

In The New York Sun of recent date Mr. Osmond L. Barringer, of this city, had the following communication:

"To the Editor of The Sun—Sir: The John Brown pikes were of two kinds; one had the straight blade, another was curved like a small scythe and the other style a combination of the two. The idea of this curved blade or hook was that the slave could pull the planter from his horse and then have him at his mercy."

"As Mr. Townsend says, there were 600 of these pikes, and, to show the fate of war, they were shipped to Salisbury, N. C., to be used in guarding the Federal prison. After the war they were stored in an old warehouse and were gradually given away or sold as curios and disposed of in other ways until there is none of them left. The writer has two of each style and values them most highly."

"In this connection attention might be called to the fact that Governor Joe Brown, of Georgia, also engaged in the pike business, and manufactured a patent pike with an eighteen inch sliding blade, which could be withdrawn into the wood and the handle thus used for a tent pole. There are a number of this kind in existence that are hardly rusty."

## PENN LOOK BEFORE YOU BUY!

If a sufferer from rheumatism you cannot make a mistake by buying PENN. RHEUMATISM CURE.

Large bottles, liquid, \$1; tablets, 50c. At all druggists.

## WE ARE READY

Whenever you're ready to take a look at the new models in

## FALL SUITS

we're ready to show you. We don't hesitate to say that we have outstepped ourselves this season, for we are showing the finest assortment of MEN'S SUITS we have ever offered our trade.

Come in and take a look at the new styles and fabrics. You'll be interested, surely. It is far better to come here and get the top notch of style than to be a few notches below it.

SUITS AT \$12.50, \$15.00, \$18.00 up to \$30.00.

## YORKE BROS. & ROGERS

CLOTHES AND HATTERS.

## TO PUSH SALES OF WATER.

Mr. N. J. Sherrill Will Improve the Sossaman Springs Property.

The N. J. Sherrill Mineral Springs Company, owner of the Sossaman Mineral Springs, in Cabarrus county, has issued a leaflet, telling of virtues of Sherrill's mineral water. Charlotte is the home of the concern that will push this famous water. Mr. N. J. Sherrill is the promoter of the enterprise.

# A TINY NEGRO MAKES A TERRIBLE DECLARATION AS HE HURRIES THROUGH THE STREETS.

As the sidewalks were teeming with people and the streets bustling with delivery wagons Saturday night a tiny negro, riding a bicycle and carrying a bushel basket on his back, came flying down West Seventh street to North Tryon. His shrill whistle was heard for blocks, as he dashed recklessly across Church, giving warning as he went. Just before he came into Tryon a large, lofty moving van, drawn by two big horses and driven by a hefty negro man, turned in Seventh, meeting him. The little darkey was going so fast that he could not check his stead of steel. So he shouted "Hay there, nigger, (to the driver of the van) get out my way. I'm rough ter-night! Rough as pig iron! I'll run over you in a minute!"

He scooted around between the wagon wheels and the curb of the sidewalk and kept going. He was delivering stuff for a grocery store.

We are leaders and originators, not imitators nor followers.

## THE GREAT ARTISTIC STIEFF PIANO!

is to-day the marvel of the present piano age. It was never an experiment. Its artistic standard began the day it was conceived, and now, as in the past, the nearest perfect piano produced.

## WE HAVE NEW PIANOS

of different makes, as low as \$200.00, on easy terms. If you are only able to buy a low-priced piano don't you think the selection of these grades by Mr. Stieff, who has been manufacturing pianos for over half a century, means much to you?

is a dollar made. We have a large and well selected stock of Blank Books that we can save you money on. We have all kinds of special Ruled Blank Books in stock and can meet your demands on the spot.

## Houston-Dixon & CO.

Books, Stationery and Art.

## Chas. M. Stieff.

Southern Warehouse, 5 West Trade Street, CHARLOTTE, N. C. C. H. WILMOTH, Manager.

## EVERY HOUSEHOLD SHOULD HAVE COMFORTABLE ROCKERS

AND THE PERSON WITH THE MOST MODEST PURSE CAN BUY ROCKERS HERE.

We have on display over 150 different styles in Rockers to select from, at the lowest possible prices for this class of goods; to be sold at prices ranging from \$1.00 to \$20.00.

Special values this week in our "Comfort" (nurse or sewing) Rockers; \$3.00, \$2.50 and \$4.50.

See our new fall stock of Mission Chairs and Rockers. All prices, \$4.00 to \$18.50.

New goods arriving daily, and we are offering big bargains in every department. We will be pleased to show you through our store, whether you buy or not.

W. T. McCOY, South Tryon Street.

## Mrs. Joe Person's Remedy

CURES BLOOD DISEASES

21 YEARS ON THE MARKET. A GOOD RECORD.

MRS. JOE PERSON CHARLOTTE, N. C.

## How Much Time Have You?

There's only twenty-four hours in each day. Only a fraction of that can be given to any one thing. How important it is to the busy business man to have practical, time-saving, labor-eliminating office appliances.

We carry the most complete line of office appliances in the Carolinas.

We sell everything for every office. Write for catalogue.

Stone & Barringer Co. Office Outfitters.

# OSTERMOOR MATTRESS

BUILT NOT STUFFED

GUARANTEED NOT TO MAT OR PACK

See our big stock of Ostermoor Mattresses, prices - \$15 and \$17.50

Special lot of Fine Felt Mattresses at bargain prices. Only 20 or 30

Mattresses in the lot. Come and get a bargain.

\$12.50 Felt Mattress for This Sale Only \$8.50

\$10.00 " " " " " \$7.50

No such bargains ever offered before. These bargains will go quickly

PARKER-GARDNER COMPANY

## MEN'S, BOYS' AND CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

The very kind you have been wanting. Clothes made of the very best material, made to fit and guaranteed in every detail.

A line that can't be duplicated in Charlotte. Now its time for Fall Clothes, and when buying why not buy the kind you want—the kind that makes you feel dressed just right.

MELLON'S CLOTHES ARE WHAT YOU WANT.

Ed Mellon Company

LEADING CLOTHIERS

## FASHIONABLE CLOTHES

They are entirely "different" from all other ready-to-wear garments—expressly designed for those men who want to wear clothes that bear not the slightest trace of "ready-madeism" in their cut, fabric, finish or fit. In fact, "EFF-EFF" CLOTHES are the custom-tailors' only real competitor, equaling their product in every detail, but minus one-half their cost, the annoyance of fitting, waiting—and possible disappointment.

Your early selection of a Fall Suit is advised while the style and fabric assortment is complete. The smartness of the styles, the excellence of the fabrics and the beauty of the needlework will convince you at a glance that you never saw such values.

"EFF-EFF" AUTUMN STUIS

\$15 to \$35

THE LONG-TATE CLOTHING COMPANY

Goods Sent on Approval Returnable at Our Expense

## WE ARE READY

Whenever you're ready to take a look at the new models in

## FALL SUITS

we're ready to show you. We don't hesitate to say that we have outstepped ourselves this season, for we are showing the finest assortment of MEN'S SUITS we have ever offered our trade.

Come in and take a look at the new styles and fabrics. You'll be interested, surely. It is far better to come here and get the top notch of style than to be a few notches below it.

SUITS AT \$12.50, \$15.00, \$18.00 up to \$30.00.

## YORKE BROS. & ROGERS

CLOTHES AND HATTERS.

## THE GIBSON WILL MYSTERY.

The story of the young man who died at Asheville last night after a short illness, and the mystery of his will, which has been the subject of much speculation, is the subject of this article.

The following special from Providence, R. I., appeared in The Observer of yesterday:

"News was received here to-day that Henrietta Cecilia Gibson (nee Wolf), of this city, has won her contest against the estate of her late husband, a millionaire of Cincinnati, and has secured a settlement of \$100,000. The romantic circumstances attending the courtship of Miss Wolf by Gibson and his death-bed marriage to her at Asheville, N. C., aroused wide-spread interest at the time, in 1903, especially as she claimed that he left a brief will bequeathing her estate in just eight words: 'To my dearly beloved wife I give all.' When she was unable to produce the will, Gibson's relatives here contested it and claimed that she was not even entitled to dower rights. She is the daughter of a wealthy Providence real estate man and is now traveling in Europe."

Readers of The Observer will recall this case. The death-bed marriage, the death and the disappearance of the Gibson will at the Battery Park Hotel, at Asheville, make a interesting study.

Young Gibson, sick with tuberculosis, came to Asheville from his home at Cincinnati, hoping that he might check the ravages of the dreaded disease. He had many friends and devoted relatives, and the future was bright with promise for him.

On his arrival in the Land of the Sky he secured a room at the Battery Park Hotel and employed a lung specialist. But the Great White Dragon, with its merciless, relentless grasp, had almost completed its work. Gibson was doomed and his physicians had told him so. It was then that the hopeless invalid's thoughts turned to the Miss Henrietta Cecilia Wolf, the woman whom he loved, had courted and become engaged to. A telegram, calling her to his bed-side, was sent to Providence. As quick as trains could bring her she came to her lover. Fearing that he would never be better, she begged his promise to marry her, but she urged him to wait until he was stronger. But he insisted and his will prevailed. A license was procured, and the ceremony performed.

On that or the following day Gibson sent for a lawyer and a justice of the peace and made a will, bequeathing his estate, valued at more than \$2,000,000, to his wife. Those who witnessed the execution of the will were: Mrs. Gibson, the lawyer, the justice and a clerk named White.

The night following Gibson died. Soon after the young fellow expired, when his body was being prepared for removal, a search was made for the will. Mrs. Gibson had not taken possession of it. The lawyer, who drafted it, and the justice, who had acknowledged it, were sent for, but they declared that the will was left on the little table in the room. It was last seen there by the officers, the widow and the nurse. Mrs. Gibson had accompanied the lawyer and the justice out after the paper was duly drawn and signed. The table on which the will was left stood at some distance from the sick-bed and if Gibson had desired to get it, he could not have done so in his feeble condition. Or, if he had, he could not turn himself in the bed. There being no fire in the room the will could not have been destroyed by accident or design.

Some argued that Gibson had reconsidered his action of several hours before, secured and destroyed the will. This could not have been. Gibson was physically unable to get out of bed and, then, there were no traces of torn paper left in or about the room. A thorough search was made. The trunks of Gibson and his bride were searched in vain. Every person, who had been present when the document was made, made affidavit that he or she knew nothing of the will. Every crevice or crack in the house was examined, but no trace of the paper was found.

## JUDGE COUNCIL NOT WELL.

He is suffering from the effects of the Hamlet Wreck.

Judge W. B. Council, of Hickory, was in the city yesterday. He was on his way to Salisbury to consult his brother, who is a physician, about his health. It will be recalled that Judge Council was severely jolted and shaken up in the Hamlet wreck. At first he did not believe that his injuries amounted to much more than a slight bruise but after reaching home, when the excitement had passed, he realized that he was seriously hurt. His thigh, his back and kidneys are involved. The extent of his trouble is not known. It may require six months or a year for him to entirely recover.

Judge Council has held all of his courts since the accident but has suffered a great deal.

## The Special Schools of the Y. M. C. A. to Begin in October.

The night school conducted by the Young Men's Christian Association for six months in the year for the employed men and boys of the city will open on the 8th of October.

The following is a list of the instructors and the subjects which they will teach: Prof. J. G. Baird, elementary and advanced arithmetic and algebra; Mr. W. M. Boggs, mechanical drawing; Mr. C. B. Miller, stenography; Mr. Matthew J. O'Neill, penmanship and commercial correspondence; and Mr. C. A. Eastman, wood carving and pattern making. On account of the limited space in the work room the enrollment in this class will be limited to ten.

The boys' preparatory course for employed boys only, which was most successfully taught last year by Mr. T. A. Adams, will be under his instruction this year. This course is to supplement the instruction given in the public schools. It is in no sense to rival the day schools in their work but to make up in some measure to the boys who are compelled to work the education which they would otherwise have obtained in public schools.

## WELL WORTH TRYING.

W. H. Brown, the popular penman at No. 11, Broadway, N. Y., says: "Next to the pen, the best thing I know is Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. I have written them for my family in a special letter. They are a cure for blood-poor, nervous and indigestion. Do not mistake, it is Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, not any other pills." Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are sold by all druggists.