

SOME RANDOM NOTES

BY THOMAS.

There was a man who started business when young with capital consisting of good health, honesty, capacity, energy, and a young woman as his wife possessing common sense in abundance and a stranger to the frivolities of life. He kept her acquainted at all times with every detail of his business. This she appreciated, and of course they succeeded. The years went by and children were born to them of whom they were proud, and the means wherewith to care for them increased daily and their home life illustrated love and happiness. One day the once strong man realized that his health had become impaired and when he should have been in the very prime of life his strength abated and the grasshopper became a burden. He went home to die. For weeks he lingered, faithfully attended by the wife who had been his best friend, and also around him were his children, skilled physicians and personal friends, but they could not keep him here; God willed otherwise and he entered the rest prepared for the weary. The writer was a guest on a Thanksgiving Day at the home of the friend who had been his best friend as he suffered much heard him say:

"Tell me for what have I to be thankful?" "Very much," was my reply. "At 50 years of age you know yourself a successful man and all that you have made has come honestly. The good name that the Bible speaks of, 'to be chosen rather than great riches, is yours. You will leave to the wife, who has been acquainted, best and shared with you every struggle, joy, and sorrow and also a home and competence, the same legacy goes likewise to the children. You have made provision for them and God has blessed you. Then there are your many friends in the business world and the friends who from time to time have gathered about your fire-side. While the shuttles in time's loom have worked to and fro with great rapidity there has been woven for you a righteous character and manhood. Then above all this day you have the right to appropriate the love of Him who says: 'Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out.' Don't you think that you have much for which to be thankful?" He saw it all and answered: "There is much." In a few days he was gone and with hearts of gratitude his family to this time must be thankful for his noble life. And now as we celebrate another Thanksgiving occasion we can be thankful to God that through his mercy even a dying man is not cut off from the thankful habit.

Sitting on my porch Sunday afternoon enjoying a sun bath a friend comes in to enjoy with me the perfect day. Perhaps he does not realize how much comfort the visit brought. When Goldsmith wrote: "And what is friendship but a name?" he was certainly off his base. The fact is he got it frequently. The friendship that follows only wealth or fame is of course not friendship. It is sacrilege to even mention the sacred name in any such connection. The poorest man in this world is not without a friend and for this friendship is a reason for thankfulness. We may not see our friends often, they may be in the same town or far removed, but we know they exist. It is necessary to go up and down the street parading the fact that such a man "is my friend." It is a sacred tie full of sweetness and on which it is a joy to think.

Even poor Jean Valjean, who had no home, and when in his wanderings driven from the dog kennel said: "I'm

not even a dog," lived to see the day when friends had made him one of the greatest of men. And although a character in fiction, the truth is, taught that in this life a helping hand is somewhere ready to be extended, before entering the joy of heaven that costs us nothing to talk about, to the hungry man or the barefooted child. Somewhere there is a friend for these two. The sour, ungrateful, disgruntled and pessimistic have no joy on a Thanksgiving occasion. But we have with us other men and women. Not like those who indulge the happy, thankful habit even if the wind does blow and sometimes contrary.

Some days ago one of The Observer's young men made a nice little story from an incident related by a man who had found the dead bodies of a jaybird and another kind lying close to each other in the woods, and as the bodies were still warm, concluded they had fought each other to death. To find a dead bird in the woods is not unusual. Of course like all living things they must die, but their days are spent in looking for and finding a living and all the time singing their songs of joy and thanksgiving. When they are sick or get ready to die they must take themselves off to some sequestered or unfrequented place and there give up the ghost without making others sorrowful over their inability to sing again, the old song. While life lasts it is one of joy and thanksgiving with the birds. They are not croakers. They do not dispute, but carry gladness everywhere.

It is certainly not pleasant to a man, one feeling that for any cause his life has been a failure. But if really a man he can be thankful for the spirit within him that looks forward to the coming of a better day, that he may enjoy in consequence of his own endeavors and industry. And for the spirit of hope that springs eternal in the human breast he may be thankful and with patience and tranquility dare to face the mighty struggle incident to all our lives and be happy on the way.

Mr. Robert Hoover, of Pineville, loses Home by Fire.

Mr. Robert Hoover, a well-known farmer of Pineville township, lost his home by fire late Friday night. He and his family had retired for the night and were soundly sleeping when the flames broke out in the roof, and when they awoke the top was about ready to fall in. They barely escaped with their lives. Their household and kitchen furniture and the personal effects were destroyed. Among the things lost was \$45 in gold, which Mrs. Hoover had hoarded away in a bureau drawer. In flying from the house Mrs. Hoover ran by the bureau, pulled out a drawer, thinking that she had the one that contained the money, and carried it out, but it developed later that she had taken the wrong one. The house was a two-story frame affair. Mr. Hoover did not carry any insurance.

ASTHMA SUFFERERS SHOULD KNOW THIS

Foley's Honey and Tar has cured many cases of asthma that were considered hopeless. Mrs. Adolph Bueging, 72 West Third St., Davenport, Iowa, writes: "I suffered with a terrible cough, and doctors gave me up to die of Consumption. I was reduced to 30 pounds, when I began taking Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds. Now, after taking 12 bottles, I have more than doubled in weight and am completely cured." Only pure Cough and Cold cure. Guaranteed by R. H. Jordan & Co., Druggists, Dec. and 1100. Trial bottle free.

MR. JOHNSON TO PREACH.

Missionary to Japan Will Preach at First Presbyterian Church at Concord—Elks Will Have Christmas Special to The Observer. Concord, Dec. 15.—On Sunday morning at 11 o'clock at the First Presbyterian church, the Rev. Cameron Johnson, missionary to Japan from the Southern Presbyterian Church will preach. In the afternoon at 4:15 he will address a missionary rally, to which all the Sunday schools of the city are invited and at which they will unite. Sunday evening at 7 o'clock he will preach at the McKinley Presbyterian church. On Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock Mr. Johnson will address a union meeting of all the missionary societies of the city, and on Monday and Tuesday evening he will deliver one of his celebrated picture talks on Korea and Japan. Mr. Johnson's stay here will be of delight to the Concord people, who are so much interested in missionary work.

Mr. and Mrs. George T. Ritchie and daughter have arrived from Nevada, and will visit in Cabarrus until next spring, when they will return to their Western home.

Bishop Rothaler, of the Moravian church at Salem, will preach at the First Presbyterian church next Sunday night.

The Southern Express office at this place, now in the King building, will move into the Allison building on the first of January. There will be many other changes during the first week of the new year.

Clerk of the Court M. L. Widenhouse has been quite busy to-day giving out to the old veterans their pension warrants. There are many yet to be delivered.

The ladies of the Forest Hill Methodist church are holding a bazaar in the old McDonald house on North Church street. The fair will continue through to-morrow and to-morrow night.

The Elks are preparing to hold their annual Christmas tree for the poor children of the city. The room in the new Morris building, being prepared for the purpose, has been secured for the event. This order is quite liberal at Christmas times, and makes many glad hearts among the neglected children of the country.

Misses Marguerite Brown and Elizabeth Bingham have returned from St. Mary's at Raleigh, and will remain until after the holidays. It is rumored that a syndicate is being organized for the purchase of all that property lying on the south side of Church street, between the Episcopal church and east depot. The object is to build store-houses and if possible, a few small manufacturing industries. Pants and overalls will be manufactured here within the next few months.

ELKIN PYTHIAN CHIEFS.

Lodge Elects Officers.—Freight Week Delays Train.—Personal Notes. Special to The Observer. Elkin, Dec. 15.—Piedmont Lodge, No. 96, Knights of Pythias, at their regular meeting Thursday night elected the following officers for the ensuing term: J. E. Marion, c. e.; W. W. Cocker-

ham, v. c.; Prof. J. H. Allen, prolator; E. G. Cook, m. of c.; Geo. P. Bailey, m. of w.; J. F. Hendren, k. of r. and s.; W. E. Paul, m. of f.; J. S. Bell, m. of o. c.; E. E. Harris, l. g.; J. S. Roth, o. g. The lodge will have their annual oyster supper and installation of officers on Thursday night, January 3, 1907. The freight train coming west between Siloam and Donahay, and all trains each way were delayed until 11 o'clock last night. Two cars of goods were badly mashed up, but no one was hurt. Capt. H. G. Chatham, wife and children are on a trip this week to Baltimore, Washington and New York, combining business and pleasure. They will return in time for the holiday festivities.—Mrs. Ida Gough, of Birmingham, Ala., arrived here today to spend some time with her sister, Mrs. J. S. Roth, in West Elkin.

WADESBORO'S GALA WEEK.

Great Preparations Made for a Unique and Successful Celebration.—A Trades Parade to be a Feature.—Much Interest in the Carnival Ball. Special to The Observer. Wadesboro, Dec. 15.—Civic pride is stirred even in the hearts of the most unpretentious when the prosperity of our section is considered. Verily, Wadesboro is on a boom. On every hand, material improvements are going up, notable among which are the big Parson & Hardison Wholesale Grocery House, the elegant new quarters of the First National Bank and the mammoth brick livery of the Wadesboro Live Stock Company. The old brick walk many feet in length, while cement walks before principal business houses and residences add to the town's appearance. A bountiful harvest has been gathered and capital and labor are shaking hands in view of the country's prosperity, and recognizing the town's "climatic, educational and business advantages," set out in a proclamation by Mayor J. L. Little, the merchants and business men of Wadesboro have made a new departure and taken clever precedent in inaugurating a festival of three days' rejoicing and celebrating in honor of St. Nicholas. The gala week being Tuesday the 18th, when all the people of the adjoining counties will come together and, in a pageant of divers beautiful and curious floats, meet Santa Claus at the city gates and deliver to him the keys of the town. In this parade business houses will have representative floats: Liles' Busy Corner will show a huge hat of flowers on wheels, Hargrave & Leak Mfg. Co. will have a succession of floats which will cut, fit and finish a skirt while in progress, the Ansonian will illustrate a printing press in operation on the street, while printing and distributing circulars on the way. Various schools of the county will have floats and valuable prizes are offered for every imaginable conceit of fancy. 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