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Located at the Sign of the "GOLDEN HARP" 25 North Tryon Street

WEEDS BY THE WAYSIDE

The Christmas crowds were on the streets yesterday, not, to be sure, as revelers, torpedo shooters, or cowbell druggers, but intent on the great business of purchasing Christmas presents.

At Kress's ten-cent store and Ivey's miscellaneous trinket mart, one could hardly make his way among the numerous counters for the throngs of women and girls. There appeared to be fifty women for every man bent on Christmas gifts. At Kress's there were two cops.

"What do you stay in here for?" a loafer inquired of one of them.

"To keep people from stealing and picking pockets and to arrest anybody who does," said the cop. "There was a woman here this morning who came in to steal, but she didn't have the nerve. I watched her for half an hour. Many times she picked up things and carried them half way under her coat, then furtively replaced them on the counter. She evidently felt she was being watched, and finally went away without having stolen a thing. Of course there must be lots of stealing present, we don't see."

Mr. David Owens, manager at Ivey's, looked a little weary; perhaps it was the hair scattered about his forehead that gave the effect. Surely his heart was glad at the sight of the money baskets driving back and forth.

"Why do you leave these things out here, David?" the loafer asked, gathering a handful of silver paper cutters, shoe horns, and sundry novelties. "Such deliberate temptations to theft ought to be against the law. Don't you reckon things are stolen from these dozens of counters?"

"I don't reckon, I know," said Mr. Owens. "But by displaying the stuff this way we sell enough more than we would sell otherwise to enable us to lose the stolen goods and figure a profit besides. The seeing of those paper knives suggests them as a good Christmas present to customers who might not think abstractly of a paper knife once a year."

"Do you catch many thieves in the act?"

"Not many. We can't take any chances, but must know that the customer stole the merchandise and must be able to prove it. You can understand why it wouldn't do to hold up a lady, even though you are practically sure you saw her take a silver spoon. If anybody else saw her theft, it would be your word against hers. If she was guilty she would decline to be searched, and if innocent might or might not decline, in either case you would lose the price of the petty things are stolen. It is bad economy to prosecute and waste time over something worth a dime."

"Do you employ spies, who do nothing but watch?"

"Oh, no. We don't keep a sharp lookout. And we, along with every other merchant, know certain people who will steal. We don't watch everybody, but when those people come in, we watch them like hawks. Spies & Harriers, cannot tell whether they lose much or not, without a considerable overhauling, for the presence or absence of a look is the hardest of things to detect, even in a small library."

Houston & Dixon lose some books. They told the loafer an interesting story. They had a \$12-edition of a certain poet, a conspicuously beautiful book. Since it distinguished it from its neighbors, its absence was much noticed. The loafer was only one man, under the circumstances, who could well have stolen it, but they couldn't bring themselves to the belief that he did. So they lay low. Several days later, the young lady, luckily estranged and unpopular in the city, dropped in and began to utter to tell them what a lovely present had come to her in the shape of a handsome edition of the poet in question.

"Who gave it you, my dear?"

"She named the young man whom they couldn't think of as a thief."

"I won't tell you his name," said Mr. Dixon, "for her name is even what poets write it as. They are dead games, you know. The girl is perfectly innocent, and the young man is a capital good fellow."

"Strange thing about his conduct. When we told him next day that the book had disappeared, he peculiarly remarked that that poet must have gone off on a drunk, and every day afterward he would drop in to knock if that drunken bard had found his way home yet. He is doing well now, has no dream that we are on to him, and it would take more than \$12 to induce us to ruin him."

Col. Charlie Moore, at Girard's, was easily interested by the inquiry about shop lifters.

"I never knew a man to steal shoes from us," he said, "but I have caught women at it." (Others, by the way, testified that there are more female than male rogues.) "One day a woman came in and called for a certain kind of dress. She was fastidious, and kept calling for others. I had to go back to the shelves to get them, and as I was coming to try her on another pair she sighed and said she would give up. I couldn't please her, she would come back another time. She was going out of the door with her shopping basket on her arm, when I spoke to her."

"Wait a minute," said I.

"She waited in the half open door, and there was not a sign of guilt about her."

"I like that basket," said I. "It's a pretty one. Will you let me look at it?"

FOUND DEAD IN BED.

Mr. L. B. Ellis Passes Away—Was General Lee's Last Courier—The Funeral To-Morrow Afternoon.

Mr. L. B. Ellis, a well-known Confederate veteran of the city, was found dead in bed at his home at No. 805 North Graham street, yesterday morning. His death was discovered about 8 o'clock, when his wife went to call him. Mr. Ellis had suffered a stroke of apoplexy several months ago and had been in declining health for several months, but was not feeling any worse than usual when he retired the previous night and his death was a great shock to his family. Mr. Ellis was 66 years old and is survived by a wife and four sons.

Mr. Ellis had been a member of Company A 39th battalion of Virginia Cavalry during the civil war. He was the last courier used by General Robert E. Lee before the surrender at Appomattox and was by the side of his chief at the time of the surrender.

The funeral services will be conducted at the residence to-morrow afternoon at 3 o'clock by Rev. Dr. H. H. Hulten, pastor of the First Baptist church. The pall-bearers will be members of the Mecklenburg camp of Confederate veterans.

SOCIAL

Mr. and Mrs. L. T. Wilson will leave this morning for Danville, Va., to spend a few days with relatives.

Cards reading as follows have been received in the city:

Rev. and Mrs. Christopher Columbus Haymore request the honor of your presence at the marriage of their niece

Miss Grace Galloway and

Mr. William Albion Dunn

Wednesday, the ninth of January at high noon

at the First Baptist Church Mount Airy, North Carolina.

Miss Galloway is one of Mr. Airy's most attractive young ladies. She spent several days in Charlotte at the time of the Brown-Galloway wedding and has visited here since. Mr. Dunn is a graduate of Wake Forest College and is a rising young attorney of Scotland Neck.

The following invitations were received in the city yesterday:

Mrs. Charles Jones Watkins requests the honor of your presence at the marriage of her daughter Alice, Elizabeth

Mr. Talcott Wait Brewer on the afternoon of Tuesday, January at the eighth

at three o'clock

One hundred and seventeen Main Street

Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

At home

after February the first

Raleigh, North Carolina.

Miss Watkins is well-known in Charlotte where she has frequently visited. Mr. Brewer is a progressive young business man of Raleigh.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Mayhew, of Cedarville, arrived here last night and are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Sheppard. Mrs. Mayhew is a sister of Mr. Sheppard.

Miss Sadie McGregor, of Philadelphia, is a guest at the home of Mrs. J. T. Chalmers, on Elizabeth avenue.

Miss Eva Chalmers arrived in the city yesterday from South Carolina to spend the holidays with her mother, Mrs. J. T. Chalmers, on Elizabeth avenue.

Sylvester Sasser Found Guilty.

Sylvania, Ga., Dec. 22.—The jury in the Sylvester Sasser case brought in a verdict of guilty with a recommendation for mercy at 6 o'clock this morning. This was the second trial of Sasser for the murder of M. L. Parker, of Woodcliff, some two years ago. Both verdicts were the same. Sasser had been in jail in Savannah for many months previous to his trial.

THE CHRISTMAS OBSERVER.

The Charlotte Observer and Asheville Citizen issued special Christmas editions Sunday. They were both corkers.—Reidsville Review.

The Charlotte Observer's Sunday issue was a hummer and in keeping with the enterprise of that always in-the-leads newspaper.—Littleton Times-Herald.

The Charlotte Observer does so many big things that we failed to comment upon its big Christmas issue of last Sunday. It was a very creditable production, indeed.—Winston-Salem Journal.

The Charlotte Observer issued its Christmas edition last Sunday, and as Colonel Fairbrother used to say, "it was a hummer with horns." There were in all 56 pages, filled with choice reading. It was a great edition.—Chapel Hill News.

The Christmas edition of The Charlotte Observer last Sunday was a hummer. It had 56 pages chock full of excellent reading matter and advertisements. It displayed the enterprise of that paper, the foremost daily of the State.—Weekly Tar Heel.

When a North Carolina town gets large enough to print such a paper that it is a sure sign that the town is growing and prospering. The Observer is easily one of the best papers in the State and is as good as any in the South. It is progressive, keeps up with the times and is prosperous. We are glad to note that North Carolinians have such a paper to support. Long live The Observer.—Rockingham Anglo-Saxon.

The big Christmas number of The Charlotte Observer is a credit to North Carolina journalism. Such productions are rarely seen outside metropolitan journalism, and the output suggests a big paper and a big plant.—Kinston Free Press.

Our friend Caldwell always "does himself proud" in the management of The Charlotte Observer, but last Sunday he completely eclipsed his own record.—Danville Bee.

The Charlotte, N. C. Observer is not only one of the brightest and newest of Southern newspapers, but it is one of the best edited and beside is a bundle of energy and enterprise. Its Christmas edition was made up of pages chock full of business that showed its city to be made up of the liveliest and most progressive set of business men to be found anywhere in the country in a city of like size. Charlotte had only 18,500 by the Federal census, but The Observer stands for a city of 50,000 or more.—Chattanooga Times.

BRIEFS

A Few Minor Happenings in and About the City.

—There has been a good advance sale of seats for Harry Bulger who will appear in "The Man From Now" at the Academy to-morrow night.

—Master Cornell Clanton, the 12-year-old son of Mr. W. S. Clanton, had the misfortune to fall from his pony yesterday and sustain a broken arm.

—Mr. Louis N. Hunter, who has been connected with The Evening Chronicle for some time, has accepted a position with Mullen's Pharmacy, which will open for business at the corner of Trade and Mint streets January 1.

—Much to the gratification of the Christmas shopper, the small boy has been lying low up to date. The horns and cow bells will make their appearance on the streets to-morrow, however, and at 6 o'clock to-morrow evening hundreds of torpedo sticks will go into commission. And then there will be no cessation during the waking hours until Wednesday.

A Fire in Dilworth.

A fire was discovered in the house of Mr. C. B. Bryant, on the Boulevard, Dilworth, yesterday afternoon about 5 o'clock and but for the prompt assistance rendered by the fire department would have destroyed or greatly damaged the residence. The fire had caught from the furnace in the basement and was getting well under way when discovered. Fire Chief W. S. Orr, with a hand chemical extinguisher, arrived within a few minutes and promptly checked and extinguished the blaze.

PERSONAL

The Movement of a Number of People, Visitors and Others.

Mr. E. R. Harty, of New York, is in the city for the holidays.

Dr. J. E. Shearer, of Davidson, was a Charlotte visitor yesterday.

Mr. E. C. Fenimore, who was cashier of the local office of the New York Life Insurance Company, will spend Christmas with the family of Dr. I. W. Faison. It will be recalled that he came near dying here with appendicitis, but rallied and went to his home in Columbus, Ohio, where he now lives.

Mr. William Rodman and Mr. Nat Rodman have returned from Chapel Hill and Oak Ridge, respectively. They are spending the holidays with their parents, Col. and Mrs. W. B. Rodman.

Mr. Ebon L. Hearne has gone to Albemarle, where he will spend the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Hearne.

A CITIZEN ENTERS PROTEST.

Declares That the Service on Southern is Abominable—Late Trains and Incorrect Quotations on Bulletin Board—Should be Remedied by Law.

"The trains on the Southern have been late enough for the past several months," declared a well-known citizen to an Observer reporter yesterday, "but within the past ten days, during the holiday traffic, the service has been nothing short of abominable. I went down to the station last night to meet a friend who was coming in on No. 12 from the South. The train was due at 6:40 o'clock. In order to be on time I went down a little early. No. 12 was marked up 20 minutes late. Aware of the time, I thought nothing of this and took my seat in the waiting room. At 6:00 o'clock I drifted back to the corner where the bulletin board was located to see what the matter with my train. It was then posted 50 minutes late. I sat this out and then looked again. It was then one hour and 30 minutes late. I gave you my word that I walked around that station for six hours, waiting for that blasted train to come. At no time did the bulletin board indicate that its arrival was more than an hour off and everyone was left to guess for fear that the train might come. No. 12 came in about 12:40, or six hours behind time. Of all mad folks you should have seen that crowd which were kept waiting for that train those six long hours."

"What I don't understand is why the road will post incorrect quotations when it knows that they are wrong. With exclusive control of the wires there is never a moment when the officials do not know where the several trains are. No. 12 last night was way down in the Carolinas when the man marked it up 30 minutes late. There should be a public cry raised for enforcing the law as to the posting of trains."

TO MAKE AUTOMOBILES.

Understood at High Point That McGraw and Vanbrunt Will Establish Factory to Make Automobiles—Will be Unique Distinction.

Special to The Observer.

High Point, Dec. 22.—Your correspondent is reliably informed that automobiles will be made in High Point at an early date. Messrs. McGraw and Vanbrunt, who lately purchased the High Point Machine Works, are the promoters. The first to be constructed will be of the kind known as "commercial trucks," and the first one will be completed sometime in February.

The type of machine to be manufactured is to convey the goods of factories which do not have spur tracks. It is the intention of the company eventually to manufacture automobiles of all kinds. High Point will be the only city in the South manufacturing automobiles.

JOHN SHORT TO ENTERTAIN.

Will Have a Shooting Match at His Store Christmas.

It takes more than ordinary mortals to down John Short, the cripple merchant in the forks of the Statesville and the Delta roads. He is as full of lives as a cat. On Christmas day, from 8 o'clock in the morning until late in the afternoon, John will conduct an annual shooting match near his place of business. In his invitation Col. Short says: "Come one! Come all! Christmas day! We are going to shoot for pigs, calves, turkeys, chickens and everything but older. Come prepared to have a good time."

The shooting match is a popular holiday pastime in many communities. John Short brought it to Charlotte from Union county.

BANK AT LILESVILLE.

Charter for Financial Institution is Secured and Organization Effected—Paid-In Capital, \$10,000.

By Bell Telephone to The Observer.

Lilesville, Dec. 22.—The Bank of Lilesville has been organized here, with a paid-in capital of \$10,000. Following are the directors: Messrs. E. P. Liles, J. S. Alexander, H. J. Wall, J. E. Kerr, J. L. Wyatt, J. A. Lindsey, T. C. Cox, J. W. Boggan, A. P. Liles.

The directors have elected J. S. Alexander president, and H. J. Wall, vice president and finally settling the organization of the bank. The bank will be ready for business in 60 days, in which time a brick building will be erected for the purpose.

ALL HIS HORSES HOODED.

The mere fact that a horse is owned by Mr. Joe Klouse is ample assurance that the animal will do stunts in the running away line. A few weeks ago one of Mr. Klouse's horses after running away regularly every week for several months, broke his neck. The successor of the deceased beast of burden had behaved all right until yesterday, when he driver struck it with a whip for something. At this the horse kicked and one hind foot being caught and held from the ground by the shaft, became frightened and began a rapid side-step out West Trade street, over turning a fruit stand and finally upsetting a wagon and being thrown on his back.

THE CRITTETON HOME.

The Crittenton Home asks a share in your gifts this Christmas.

A little thought will carry the lesson of good will to men to hearts which need it. All sorts of gifts are needed and would be most acceptable.

THE BOARD OF MANAGERS.

A Card.

To the Editor of The Observer:

I desire through your paper to thank Chief W. S. Orr, of the city fire department and his assistants for the prompt service rendered in extinguishing the fire that threatened to destroy my residence.

C. B. BRYANT.

NEGRO KILLS ANOTHER AT LAURINBURG.

By Bell Telephone to The Observer.

Laurinburg, Dec. 22.—Joe Dupps, colored, shot and killed Andy Campbell, another negro, to-night at 9 o'clock. The shooting took place in the negro settlement of Laurinburg. Blind tiger liquor was the cause, but, further than this, no precise details are known. The men were at Dupps's house. The slayer was arrested and is in jail.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

Mr. W. E. Bull has sold a small tract of land, including a residence, in Churchland township, to Mr. T. T. Tovepugh. The consideration was \$500.

Mr. W. C. Crosby has sold a lot at Eastside to Mr. M. Stephenson, receiving \$425 for it.

Mr. J. B. McCall has purchased two adjoining tracts of land in Clear Creek township containing 110 acres from Mr. Rufus J. Wentz, paying \$1,500 for it.

"Idle Comments" Exhausted.

The first edition of "Idle Comments," the Erwin Avery book, has been exhausted in Trinity College, N. C., sold by the Stone & Barringer Company yesterday. The proceeds from the sale of the book was used for establishing an Erwin Avery Memorial scholarship in Trinity College. Mr. Avery's alma mater. It is understood that the publishers of the book will shortly advertise for the handling of a second edition of the book.

LOCAL COTTON FIGURES.

The receipts at the city cotton platform recently have been unusually small, owing to the small price being paid for the staple. The receipts for the week ending yesterday were only 214 bales, against 423 for the corresponding week of last year.

The receipts yesterday were 30 bales and the highest price paid for the staple was 9.15 cents a pound. The receipts for the corresponding date of last year, when the best price was 11.50 cents a pound, were 23 bales.

NEEDS FROM BULLET WOUNDED.

Mr. John Whisenant, of Hickory, Succumbs to Wound Inflicted by Policeman Harrison's Bullet—Harrison Vindicated.

Special to The Observer.

Morganton, Dec. 22.—Mr. John Whisenant, of Hickory, the man who was shot by Policeman Harrison last night, died at Grace Hospital this morning, at 7 o'clock. At the inquest before Coroner Nelson this morning it was found that Whisenant came to his death by a gunshot wound inflicted by Policeman Harrison, in self-defense, while in discharge of his official duty. The deceased was a young man, 22 years of age. His friends were notified last night, and his father came this morning, and took charge of the body.

The tragedy was greatly deplored by the entire community, and by no one more than Policeman Harrison. Whisenant's companion Ingie, who was with him at the time of the shooting, and who shot Policeman Harrison, is still at large.

POISONED BY SON.

Antiseptic Tablets Put in Glass of Water in Which Medicine Had Been Left to Dissolve Causes Death of Roanoke Woman.

Roanoke, Va., Dec. 22.—Mrs. Kate Obenchain, the young wife of J. E. Obenchain, a Norfolk and Western engineer, died early to-day of convulsions from poison administered unknowingly by her three-year-old son. Mrs. Obenchain last night put some medicine in a glass of water to dissolve and left the room for a moment. During her absence the child put a quantity of antiseptic tablets in the glass and when the woman returned she drank the potion. Physicians who were summoned declared the poison was sufficient to kill 60 men.

Mr. Cy. Q. Lemmonds, of Union County.

Special to The Observer.

Monroe, Dec. 22.—Mr. Cy. Q. Lemmonds, died at 8 o'clock this morning at his home in Goose Creek township, Union county. He was 71 years old. Mr. Lemmonds was a most interesting and, formerly at least, quite a widely known one. He was a graduate of Davidson College, and was a member of the Legislature before the civil war. He attracted much attention by his strong views in favor of secession and his speeches. Since the war his life has been spent here in Union county.

Mrs. Mary Matthews to be Interred at Reidsville.

Reidsville, Dec. 22.—The remains of Mrs. Mary Matthews, relict of the late Dr. F. M. Matthews, who died in Hickory yesterday, reached here this afternoon and will be interred at Greenwood Cemetery to-morrow. The particulars of her death have not been learned here.

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