THE LESSON FOR SUNDAY

First Quarter, Lesson XII. Isaiah xxviii, 7-13.

Ephraim occupied a fertile territory, stretching across the heart of Palestine from the Mediterranean to the Jordan. In the midst stood Samaria, the capital, on a commanding eminence. The tropical luxuriance of the valleys hung about it like the bacchanalian garland on the brow of the banqueter. And its exuberance was as evanescent; for its glorious beauty was a fading flower. Destruction was at hand.

The capital, court and people were enslaved to drink. Under its subtle delusion they were in perfect ease. With the proverbial stupidity of the drunkard, they felt perfectly safe, trusting in the mountain fastness of Samaria. With sense of justice blunted by the use of intoxicants, and their basest passions inflamed, they oppressed the poor and crushed the needy. With the insatiable thirst which the use of alcoholic liquors always begets, they kept crying, "Bring and let us drink"—the Samaritan equivalent to our modern bacchanal, "Here's a health to you." (Amosvi, 1.)

But the judgments of God are abroad. The irresistible Assyrian, Shalmaneser, mighty and strong, is God's instrument of wrath. He looks upon Samaria like a peculiarly tempting morsel; like a fig ripe in June, so rare and succulent that one swallows is as soon as it is in his hand; does not even think of laying it aside to preserve it or eat it at his leisure. His coming will be like a tempest of hail, a destroying storm, a flood of waters; figures peculiarly impressive in that latitude, where in an hour the dryest water-course becomes an awful current. This prophecy had its literal fulfillment 721 B. C., in the ninth year of Hosea, king of Israel. The country was ravaged by the Assyrians under Shalmaneser, and Israel deported into the cities of Assyria and Media. (2 Kings xvii, 9-12.)

The prophet now turns from Israel to Judah. He contrasts the imperishable crown and diadem, glorious and beautiful, rewards of piety, on the brow of Judah, the righteous and faithful residue, with the fading garland of voluptuous pleasure on the brow of drunken Ephraim. God shall help Judah's judges on the bench and her warriors at the gate. This has been aptly called a Messianic pendant to the foregoing picture of Samaria's fall.

But Judah, too, is not free from this degrading sin. Even her priests and prophets are infected with it. And the people will not endure the prophet's rebukes. Listen to their drunken scoffing: "Does Isaiah presume to instruct us? Does he take up to be just weaned, that he adopts such a childish way? Here and there, with no set order, and conning his words over, as if we were still in our primers,

"Tzav lat-zav, tzav lat-zav,
Quv laquv, quv laquv."

Ewald says: "We must conceive the abrupt, intentionally short, reiterated, and almost childish words of verse ten, as spoken in mimicry, with a mocking motion of the head, and in a childish stammering tone."

The prophet rejoins: "Ah! if you will not let me teach you, then the Assyrians and Babylonians shall, and their foreign accent will seem more like stammering and twaddle than my instructions." If they had only hearkened to the prophet's voice, they might have found rest from warlike preparations, and that more blessed rest which comes from obedience to Divine precepts.

But the Lord's word was offensive to them from its very simplicity. They rejected it; so, like a drunken man, the nation tottered and stumbled to its ruin.

ANALYSIS AND KEY.

1. Tropical luxuriance of Ephraim.
   Exuberance evanescent — fading flower.
2. Capital, court, populace enslaved to drink.
   Stupidity of the drunkard exemplified.
   Sense of security—poor oppressed.
3. Judgments against Israel.
   Shalmaneser an instrument.
   Samaria ripe to be devoured.
   A tempets of hail—prophecy fulfilled 721 B. C.
4. A Messianic Pendant.
   Under picture of Samaria's fall.
   Faithful residue of Judah.
5. Judah not faultless.
   Prophet's accusation.
   Degrading sin of drunkenness.
6. The charge resented.
   Drunken scoffing.
7. Prophet's rejoinder.
   Foreign accent of invaders.
   More like stammering than prophet's repeated charges.

THE TEACHER'S LANTERN.

The Prophet Isaiah appears in a new role. He is par excellence the temperance reformer of his age. He is the model for every age. He is not intemperate in his attack upon intemperance. Yet for moral earnestness he is not surpassed.

* * * *

Drunkenness is usually insolent. It was ribald and abusive toward the prophet. But this did not deter him. He warded off the sneer with a terrible denunciation.

* * * *

Canaan was the bridge between Syria and Egypt. The world-powers of that age coveted it. Possession of it was a strategic necessity. It could be used either as a thoroughfare or a buffer. But the Israelites might have held the country against all comers. Its mountainous character was a natural defense. Horses and chariots (the artillery of the ancients) could not be used there.

* * * *

* * * *

But drunkenness was the real foe both to the northern and southern kingdoms. It led to their overthrow. They were "overcome of wine" literally "wine-smitten". They were hit as with a hammer, stricken to the earth. Israel never rose again, and Judah a mere shadow of former grandeur.

* * * *

The luxurious refinement of the kingdom of Israel and its crimson-clothed nobles as described by Amos, makes one think of the palaces and villas of Pompeii as they have been brought to light by extensive excavations—"summer and winter houses, ivory palaces, gardens, vineyards, fig-orchards, olive-yards, melody of viols, beds of ivory, fragrant ointments and wine by the bowlful" is the prophet's inventory. This cultivation of aesthetic efforts for eye and ear and palate is not in itself reprehensible. But a halt must be called when the beneficent Giver is forgotten in the greedy enjoyment of the gift. And the proportion of life must be maintained. To lose that proportion, even in perfectly innocent things, is to be intemperate. Intemperance of any kind tends to lower the moral tone. Intemperance persisted in ends in total loss of moral tone. The Man becomes the Thing. This is in a sense the unforgivable sin. For the human is the temple of the Divine, and when the temple is ruined the Divine must make His exit.

In our day, as in Isaiah's, some priests and prophets err in vision, through drink or other forms of intemperance. But discrimination must be made between the genuine and the professional priests and prophets. There is a spurious officialism which counts for nothing in the cure of souls.

* * * *

There are ninety texts in the Old Testament which refer to the sin of drunkenness, and many more in the New Testament. The Bible is a red lantern swung across the path of youth.

Every one is under the highest obligation to cast the full weight of his influence everywhere and always against this evil.

NO RAILROAD SHOPS.

Wilson Has Opportunity to Procure Big Machine Shop—Talk of a Merger—Insurance & Realty Company Chartered With Capital of $25,000—Mr. J. T. Corbett Appointed on Police Force.

Special to The Observer.

Wilson, March 22.—The Business Men's Association, of Wilson, met in the courthouse last night and several important subjects were considered. President Oettinger reported that Mr. Haynes, of the Norfolk & Southern Railroad, met with the railroad shop committee of the association and stated that inasmuch as his company already had shops located at Norfolk and Newbern, he did not think wilson a suitable location for additional shops.

Mr. Doane Herring stated that Mr. E. C. Sasses, of Spencer, desired to build a large machine shop here if Wilson capital could be interested. A committee was appointed to look into the matter. A plant to cost $40,000 is contemplated. A committee was also appointed to correspond with parties regarding the erection of a knitting mill in Wilson.

Messrs. D. S. Boykin and C. E. Blount were appointed a committee to consult with the tobacco board of trade and citizens generally as to the advisability of the Business Men's Association and the board of trade merging into and forming a chamber of commerce.

The Wilson Insurance and Realty Company has been chartered with a capital of $25,000, and will take over the insurance agencies of Stronach & Daughtridge and George W. Staunton & Company.—S. W. Venable & Company have sold their agency to David Woodard.

Mr. J. T. Corbett has been appointed a policeman to fill the vacancy caused by death of Mr. Mr. T. J. Bridgers.

OBSERVED ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

Feast of Ireland's Patron Saint Celebrated by the Students of St. Mary's College.

Special to The Observer.

Belmont, March 22.—The feast of Ireland's patron saint was duly celebrated by the students of St. Mary's College, on March 18. The exercises began with a street parade to the station. Returning to the college the ranks formed in front of the main entrance and an entertaining programme was rendered. Chief Marshal James P. Bligh, of McKeesport, Pa., called the meeting to order and after stating the object of the celebration, introduced the orator of the day, James F. Gallagher. This gentleman delivered an address on "Erin's Faded Glory," a beautiful composition appropriate to the occasion, in masterly style.

J. Clinton Allard, of Richmond, Va., followed with a splendid tribue to the bravery and loyalty of the sons and daughters of old Ireland.

The meeting concluded with a stirring address by the Rev. Rector, Fr. Eugene, O. S. B., on the duties and responsibilities of the hour; how it is encumbant upon the present generation not only to praise but to emulate the glorious deeds of their ancestors.

A very pleasing feature of the celebration was a moving picture entertainment given in the dramatic hall in the evening.

A "NERVY" HOLD-UP.

Highwaymen Run Up on a Game Man From Ohio—Christian Church to Erect Handsome Edifice of Worship at South Carolina's Capital.

Observer Bureau,
1209 Main Street,
Columbia, S. C., March 22.

A "nervy" hold-up of a plucky Ohio man by two negro highwaymen occurred at an early hour this morning almost directly under an arc light as the victim was walking through Assembly street toward the Union station from the City Hotel on Main street. The victim was M. M. Hamelreth, an attorney of Long Run, Ohio, who had stopped here on his way from Florida and Georgia, where he had been on business for three months. After asking Hamelreth for a match, one negro collared and threw him to the ground, while the other not only rifled his pockets, in which he found $37 in cash, but stole Hamelreth's coat, cap and shoes.

This morning the treachery of a negro woman resulted in the arrest of a negro named Sam Wilson, who was caught wearing Hamelreth's coat and cap. There was evidence that Hamelreth put up a game fight at the time he was held up and he chased the negroes out of sight after they let him up. When Hamelreth confronted Wilson at the police station he immediately identified him and quickly attacked him. The police interferred. The police think they have the other negro located, and will arrest him shortly.

There have been over a score of such hold-ups in this city within the year, but practically all of them have been done by white men, though on several occasions negroes have found easy victims, the police department being in a disorganized condition.

Columbia is to have a handsome new Christian Church building of brick, the first of the kind to be erected in this State under the centennial movement of the organization, which has set out to raise $10,000,000 by 1909, when the centennial celebration will be held in Rittsburg. The announcement to this effect was made to-day by Mr. W. R. Warren, secretary of the general movement, who was here to-day on this business. Just what the new building is to cost has not yet been determined. The Christian Church people here have a house of worship at the corner of Pickens and Washington streets, and it is steadily increasing in membership. The denomination is strongest in Charleston, however, where many influential people are members. The Christian Church has 30 congregations and about 1,800 members in this State.

Three small dwellings and a small store, all frame structures, occupied by negroes, with one exception, were destroyed by fire on Blossom street this afternoon. The fire started in Tom Scott's kitchen. The South Carolina Cotton Oil Company's plant was threatened, the firemen saving it with difficulty.

MEANS MUCH TO GASTONIA.

A Business Change in Which the Business Interests of Our Hustling Sister City are Concerned.

Special to The Observer.

Gastonia, March 22.—A deal has just been consummated by the terms of which the J. A. Glenn Company will, on April 1st, become the Shuford Company. The business will be continued as before. Mr. J. M. Shuford of Dallas, and Mr. J. R. Shuford, of Spencer Mountain, will be the principal stockholders in the new firm and will conduct the business, the former being secretary and treasurer and the latter one of the directors. The other directors of the company are Messrs. C. I. Laftin, C. B. Armstrong and J. A. Glenn. Messrs. J. A. Glenn and C. M. Glenn retire from the management to devote their time to the Southern Securities & Trust Co. A meeting of the stockholders of the new company was held yesterday for the selection of officers and directors, all of whom were chosen with the exception of president, which office will be filled at an early date.

The general merchandise store of J. M. Shuford & Co. at Dallas will be continued as before. Mr. Shuford will also continue his office as county treasurer at his present quarters in the Bank of Dallas and people will be served there as usual. Mr. J. R. Shuford, who has been connected with the management of the store of the Spencer Mountain Mills, has severed his connection there and will reside in Gastonia.

Gastonia has much to gain by the change in this business, as she will lose none of those connected with the former management, but will gain as citizens two of the county's most popular and widely known business men. The town is to be congratulated on securing the Messrs. Shuford, and they will be welcomed to our town and community.

NO SURPRISE OCCASIONED.

Removal of Revenue Office From Asheville to Statesville Suits Democrats Very Well.

Special to The Observer.

Asheville, March 22.—The news that the international revenue office located here is to be moved to Statesville upon the order of Commissioner Yerkes came as no surprise to the people of this city. It has been rumored for several weeks that the office would not be here long. In fact it was believed several months ago when an Asheville committee visited Washington, D. C., and had the assurance that the office would remain here that sooner or later a way would be found and an excuse made for its removal further east. Asked this afternoon just when the office would be moved Collector Brown said that he had not yet received formal and official notification for the removal of the office, and that in the absence of this notification had nothing to say. It is learned, however, that the office will be moved as soon as possible.

Collector Brown seemed pleased with the action of Yerkes in ordering the office moved to the collector's home town. Democrats this afternoon appeared indifferent to the matter. Several who expressed themselves on the subject left the impression that they did not care. It is claimed by the Democrats that the removal of the office from the tenth congressional district means a good deal for them politically.

WEEK OF PRAYER.

Roller Skate Craze on at High Point—Dr. S. W. Tucker to Maintain Offides—Evidence That the Youthful Season of the Year is at Hand.

Special to The Observer.

High Point, March 22.—One of the best observed occasions among the Christian women of the city is in the services every afternoon marking the week of prayer and self-denial. These meetings are being held in the First Baptist church.

The roller skate craze has become so pronounced in High Point that the board of aldermen has been obliged to go into special law-making against the practice. Children over 14 are forbidden sidewalk privileges and the younger ones have been restricted in the range of their movements on wheels.

Dr. S. W. Tucker will maintain offices in the Elwood Hotel, in High Point, for 3 days of each week for the practice of osteopathy. Dr. Tucker comes from Grensboro, and has already won name and recognition there and in Durham, where he also lived for a while. He is a graduate of the Southern College of Osteopathy at Franklin, Ky., and is also a native of that State.

Millinery openings, ball games, fishing and other spring-fever tokens are in evidence all about the city, along with pear, peach and cherry blooms. A number of outings are being planned for Easter.

The Alaska Packers' Association have liberated from their hatcheries in Alaska, up to 1906, over three hundred and fifty-one million (351,000,000) young salmon. Their Fortmann hatchery is the largest in the world.

"Preventics" will promptly check a cold or the Grippe when taken early or at the "sneeze stage." Preventics cure seated colds as well. Preventics are little candy cold cure tablets, and Dr. Shoop, Racine, Wis., will gladly mail you samples and a book on Colds free, if you will write him. The samples prove their merit. Check early Colds, with Preventics and stop Pneumonia. Sold in 5c. and 25c. boxes by Burwell-Dunn Retail Store.

RECORD FOR JUNIOR ORDER.

Semi-Annual Convention Sunday School Association — Municipal Campaign Taking on Interest — Guilford College Graded School Closes To-Morrow.

Special to The Observer.

Greensboro, March 22.—The semi-annual convention of the Guilford County Sunday School Association was held here to-day, there being three sessions — morning, afternoon and evening. There was a good attendance of delegates, officers were elected for the ensuing year, and delegates were selected to represent the county at the State convention to be held at Reidsville week after next. The reports were very encouraging. Among those who made addresses were: Rev. J. D. Williams, Eli Reece, President L. L. Hobbs, Rev. Melton Clark, E. P. Wharton, L. F. Johnson, N. B. Broughton and Dr. W. T. Whitsett. The reports were very encouraging and showed that the interdenominational work is gaining the county.

The municipal campaign is warming up somewhat. It is said that Judge Thomas J. Shaw is being prevailed upon by friends to enter the race for mayor. The other candidates for the nomination before the Democratic primaries are E. J. Stafford, Alderman Leon J. Brandt and Mayor Thomas J. Murphy. It is now about five weeks to the primaries and six weeks until the election. So far there are no announced candidates for aldermen.

One of the largest initiations of new members that is chronicled in the annals of the Junior Order of the United American Mechanics here last night wher 81 members were initiated into Greensboro Council, No. 18. There was a big attendance of members and the event was greatly enjoyed. A social session followed the meeting and refreshments were served.

The graded school at Guilford College will close with an entertainment to-morrow. The exercises in the morning will be given by the children of the school and in the afternoon Professor M. C. S. Noble, of the faculty of the State University, will make an address to the students in the chapel of Guilford College. A landscape gardener has been secured and he will improve the campus of the High School.

CONDITIONS ARE IMPROVING.

The New Master of Trains is Putting a Move on Things.

Special to The Observer.

Yorkville, March, 22. Conditions continue to improve at this place so far as freight conditions on the Southern Railway are concerned, and are in better shape to-day than they have been in months. Less than a week ago there were about 75 loaded cars on the side tracks here consigned to various individuals, firms and corporations of the town, and yesterday there were only 14. In addition to handling this number, perhaps half as many more came in during the time indicated, been unloaded and removed. There has been no material improvement in the operation of No. 113, the afternoon train that brings mail from the lower section of the State to Yorkville. It is equally as uncertain as to time of arrival as is No. 80 on the Atlantic Coast Line in reaching Florence. Wednesday it arrived about one hour late, while on yesterday it lacked about 3 hours of making its advertised schedule. But it is believed now that there will soon be a decided and permanent improvement in the operation of this as well as all other trains on the Marion and Kingville Division. This belief is based on the fact that the management made a ten-strike less then a week ago in the selection of a master of trains.

The new official is not old in years, being less than 35, but he is old in experience, having come up from the ranks, and knows all the ins and outs of the important work placed in his charge, and will certainly make good if unduly hampered by circumstances beyond his control or that of the Division Superintendent, Mr. J. H. Herne. The new master of trains is Captain Will A. Graham, who previous to his recent promotion was one of the popular and efficient passenger conductors on the division, where he has been for several years. Since Captain Graham assumed control of the movement of trains he has engaged in clearing the side tracks at Rock Hill, Yorkville and Blacksburg of the freight cars with which they have been congested for the past three or four months.

TO HAVE ELECTRIC POWER.

Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson Impressed With Statesville's Progress—Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Gunn Will Move to the Palmetto State—Another Manufactory to be Started.

Special to The Observer.

Statesville, March, 22.—New Enterprises are constantly being established in Statesville. The advent of electric power, which will be furnished Statesville by the Southern Power Company after June 1, will help wonderfully in this direction. Plans for other important manufacturing enterprises are under way and, when the electrice power is once available, numerous small industries will be set going.

Hon. and Mrs. Adlai E. Stevenson, who have been visiting their daughter, Mrs. Martin D. Hardin, in Charlotte, stopped over in Statesville yesterday morning by request of friends and, on account of delayed trains, remained until this morning, when they left for their home in Illinois. While here Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson were guests of Mr. E. G. Gilmer, proprietor of Hotel Iredell, and during the day Mr. Gilmer and Mr. T. J. Allison, a relative of Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson, drove them over the city. Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson have visited Statesville a number of times in the past, and Mr. Stevenson said that he was gratified to see the many improvements and wonderful progress of the town. He was impressed especially with the new courthouse and the Loan & Trust Building and the handsome Confederate monument.

Mr. Stevenson is of Iredell stock, and is related to many Iredell people, who are glad to see him again. He made a speech here while he was a candidate for Vice President on the ticket with Grover Cleveland and visited Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Allison while he was Vice President. He is a favorite of the Iredell people, regardless of politics.

Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Gunn, who have been living in Statesville for several years, have decided to make Greenville, S. C., their home and with Miss Ina Gunn left to-day for South Carolina. Mr. Gunn will engage in the grocery business in Greenville and will also handle real estate. He is having a handsome residence built there. Mr. and Mrs. Gunn are good people for a town and, although we regret very much their going away, we can recommend them to the South Carolina town. Mr. Gunn has sold port of his large amount of property in Statesville and vicinity recently, but we trust that he will retain part of his interests here.

Another manufacturing industry is to be added to Statesville's already large list. The new concern will manufacture kitchen safes and tables and will have a capital stock of $20,000, most of which has been subscribed. Messrs. H. Clarke, R. B. McLaughlin and C. R. Johnson are the promoters of the new enterprise. Mr. Johnson, who has been connected with the Imeprial Furniture Manufacturing Company for several years will be secretary and treasurer of the new concern. The plant will be located near that of the North State Veneer Company.

ARGO, ARGO, ARGO, ARGO, ARGO, ARGO, ARGO, ARGO ARGO, ARGO.

Argo Red Salmon is sold in one-pound TALL cans, because only the TALL cans are filled by machinery. Flat and one-half pound cans are filled by hand. Hand work in factories is crude and antiquated.

FOOD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

The Minnesota Dairy and Food Commission's analysis shows that Kennedy's Laxative Honey and Tar and Bee's Laxative Honey and Tar contained opiates and croton oil. Opiates are poisons and croton oil is a violent poisonous purgative. Refuse to accept any but Foley's Honey and Tar in a yellow package. Foley's Honey and Tar contains no opiates or dangerous drugs and is the best cough and cold cure.

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the most cleansing, fragrant, healthful, pleasant after-taste dentifrice is

Meade & Baker's Carbolic Mouth Wash

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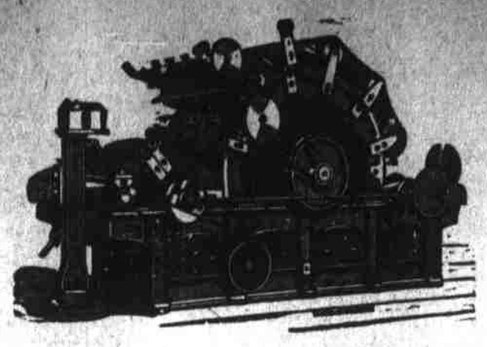

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'Phone 376.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

The County Commissioners of Rockingham county, North Carolina, invite sealed proposals for the erection and completion of a new county court house at Wentworth, N. C., according to the plans and specifications prepared by Architects Frank P. Milburn & Co., Washington, D. C. Said plans and specifications will be on file on and after March 18th, 1907, with the register of deeds and at the architects' office. All contractors are requested to file their bids on or before 12 o'clock noon, April 1st, 1907, with the register of deeds. Each contractor shall file with his bid a certificate check for $500, on some well-known bank, made payable to the chairman of board of county commissioners of Rockingham county as evidence of good faith on their part, and if their bid is accepted that they will at once enter into contract and give an acceptable guarantee company's bond in the sum of 50 per cent. of their contract price for the faithful performance of the contract.

Contractors will be paid 80 per cent. as the work progresses.

The commissioners reserve the right to reject any or all bids.

C. H. DALTON,
Chairman Board of County Commissioners of Rockingham County, N. C.

N & W Ry. Norfolk & Western

Through Trains Daily, Charlotte to Roanoke, Va.

Schedule in effect Nov. 25, 1906.

*11:00 am	Lv Charlotte, So. Ry	Ar 5:00 pm	
2:15 am	Ar Winston, So. Ry.	Lv 2:25 pm	
2:50 pm	Lv Winston, N. & W.	Ar 2:00 pm	
4:00 pm	Lv Martinsville,	Lv 11:45 am	
6:25 pm	Lv Rocky Mount,	Lv 10:25 am	
7:25 pm	Ar Roanoke,	Lv 9:20 am	

*Daily.

Connect at Roanoke via Shenandoah Valley Route for Natural Bridge, Luray, Hagerstown, and all points in Pennsylvania and New York Pullman sleeper Roanoke and Philadelphia.

Through coach, Charlotte and Roanoke.

Additional train leaves Winston 7:30 a. m., daily except Sunday, for Southwest, Virginia and Shenandoah Valley points.

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W. B. BEVILL, Gen'l. Pass. Agent.
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For table, medicinal or cooking purposes, we are offering the very best values in pure liquors and imported cordials, at remarkably low prices.
The demand for case lots of high-grade whiskies, has forced me to put up a number of 4-quart cases; notably among these, are
Yadkin River, 6 year old corn, $2.50
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Largest Mail Order House in the South
L. Lazarus, Lynchburg, Va.