

Yesterday when hundreds of men and women were on their way to church to hear their favorite preachers, Jim Whit, the little, burn-haired, wrinkled-faced, prematurely old harness maker, cursed at religion from behind the bars of a cell at the police station, where he had been cast on Saturday night for being drunk.

"Yes, I do not believe that there is any hell," shouted the harness maker. "When a man dies he becomes like a log; that is unless he goes to heaven. I am ready to die and wish somebody would kill me."

"Then you believe in a heaven, Mr. Whit?" asked the reporter.

"Yes, sir, that I do, but not in a hell."

In the cells across the aisle were four darkies, all of whom took fright at what the rampant little Anglo-Saxon said, and one more daring than his fellows, asked: "You say that you want to die and that you do not believe in a hell, why not kill yourself and end it all?"

"I have no desire to commit suicide but I would welcome death at the hands of another. I see no use in prolonging the game."

Jimmie was much out of order from the after effects of dope. He was not vicious but bitter and wild but eloquent withal.

SLIM CROWDS THIS SUMMER.

Attendance at Commencements This Year Smaller Than Usual—The Jamestown Exposition the Cause.

Months ago it was predicted that the attendance upon the several college commencements this year would be woefully slim. This prophecy was verified last week at Wake Forest, for the attendance at commencement there was the smallest in decades, the numbers being hardly sufficient to fill the auditorium, where the exercises were held. Heretofore standing room has always been at a premium and unless one arrived a half-hour before the appointed time seats could not be had for love or money. It has always been the custom for hundreds and hundreds to be turned away, the overflow frequently being equal in numbers to the throngs which filled the hall. This year, the attendance was at least 50 per cent. less than that of last year or the year previous.

The reason for this is that the great majority of those who intended to take in the commencement this year later decided to go to Jamestown to see the sights of the exposition. It is estimated that at least 1,000 people were thus kept away. The most of these looked at it this way, that one could attend a commencement any year, but an exposition did not come so near but once in a life time.

The Davidson, University, Trinity, A. & M., and Guilford commencements are slated for this week or next. It is predicted that the attendance at all of them will likewise be smaller than usual. For the same reason, it is believed that the throngs flocking to the coast and mountains this summer will not be so large as formerly.

Surveying Line to Salisbury.

A Charlotte citizen who travels frequently told an Observer man yesterday that the Southern Power Company was surveying a line from China Grove to Salisbury. This is interesting. It is well-known that a number of Salisbury people have asked the Charlotte company to figure on the rate of power for their town and that it had contracts for China Grove, but no one dreamed that the Southern would beat the Whitney concern to the capital of Rowan. It is believed here that the local company is making the survey from Salisbury just for the sake of knowing for itself what it would cost to go on the few remaining miles.

Constipation steals the iron which should be absorbed away from the bowels, spoils your blood and complexion, causes anemias and disease. Regulate your bowels with Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea and keep well. 25 cents, Tea or Tablets. R. H. Jordan & Co.

COMMENCEMENT.

Began Yesterday With a sermon by Rev. Dr. Partridge—Exercises Promise the Week.

Commencement week at Biddle began Sunday, May 26th, with an annual sermon before the Christian Association society, preached by the Rev. Pardee, D. D., of the West Presbyterian church, Va. His discourse was "Show thyself a man." He discussed in a clear and most captivating manner, the most captivating man, in an alumnus of the school and a most pleasing and speaker. Though only 46 he has already given 25 sermons to the Presbyterian church and as one of the ablest in the Church and Biddle is proud of his record. The main features of the programme will be interesting, will be inspiring, the address the students brief and the addresses by invited worth hearing.

Invitation is extended to go and witness the address to the entrancing of the skillful direction of Cochrane, of the city.

May 31st: 9 A. M.—Annual chess contest; 8:30 p. m., exercises of the normal school in the chapel. Annual address by Ward, A. B., Abbeville.

June 2d: 11 A. M.—Baccalaureate at the Seventh Presbyterian church, Charleston. David Brown, D. D., B. C.

June 3d: 8:30 P. M.—Contest. Six members of class will compete in oratorical prize medal.

June 4th: 10:30 A. M.—Monday exercises; 4:30 p. m. Alumni address in the chapel, by Rev. W. A. Cotton Plant, Ark.

June 5th: 10:00 A. M.—by representatives of theology; 11:30 a. m., from before the university, R. Shaw, D. D., pastor of the Presbyterian church, 2:30 p. m., the graduating of the school of arts and presenting diplomas and announcing degrees.

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THIS IS TRUE ECONOMY.

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Latta Park Auditorium to Open Next Week.

The time is drawing nigh for the opening of the theatrical season at Latta Park. The first attraction of the Will A. Peters Stock Company will be given next Monday night. Several of the members of the cast have already arrived. The rest will come in early this week. Colonel Peters states that the company this season is far in advance of that of any previous year. He is enthusiastic as to the prospects for a most prosperous summer.

Old Time Song Service Repeated.

To a house filled with people the "old time song service" was repeated at Brevard Street Methodist church last night. The service was led by Mr. C. W. Sikas, with the exception of opening prayer and benediction, and consisted entirely of old-time songs taken from the Methodist hymn book, without note or comment of any kind.

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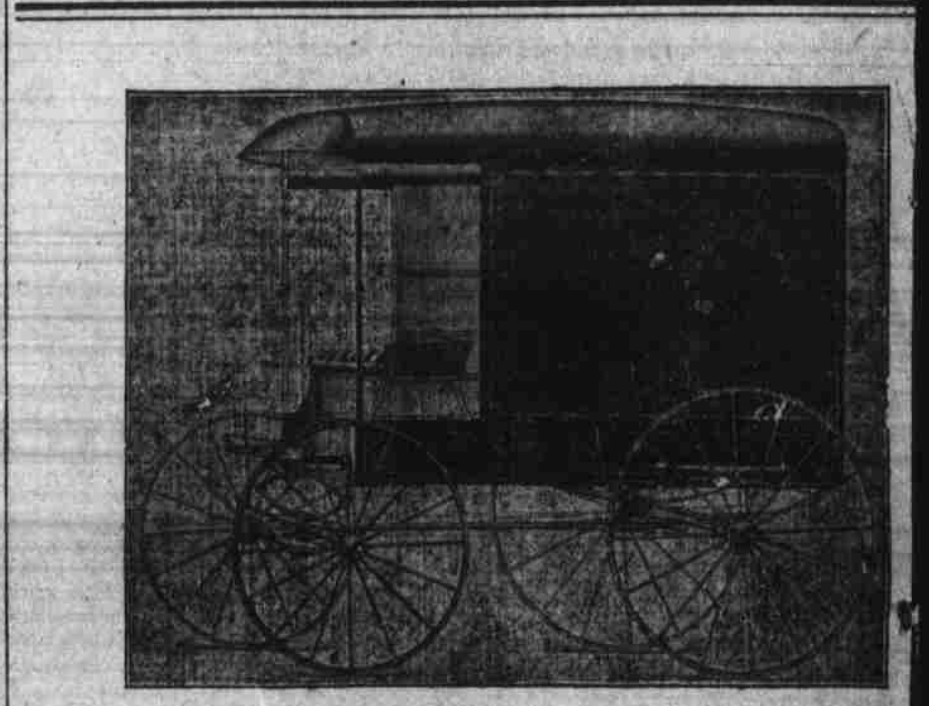
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Big Values in Library Tables

We have just received a large shipment of Library Tables and we are offering some big values in Weathered Oak and Mahogany Tables.

Weathered Oak Library Tables \$7.50, \$9.00, \$12.50, \$14.00, \$16.50, \$18.50, \$22.50 and \$30.00.

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