

WILL ENTERTAIN CHOIR.
 Vanderbilt, Will, as Usual, Give the Singers in His Church a Christmas Reception - To Ask Big Damages Because of Death of Her Husband.

Special to The Observer.
 Asheville, Dec. 19.—The choir of All Souls church, Biltmore, the George W. Vanderbilt church, will again be entertained at Biltmore House this Christmas. Invitations to the tea at Biltmore House were received by the choir from Mrs. Vanderbilt yesterday. The invitations, however, came a week later than usual and prior to their receipt there were rumors that the annual function would be cut out this year on account of the recent difficulty in the choir when one of the members assaulted the choir-master. The choir will be entertained at Biltmore House Christmas afternoon at 4:30 o'clock. It is expected that the annual Christmas tree entertainment for the employees of the estate will be held immediately after this entertainment.

Mrs. Fannie Blair, the widow of the late W. Blair, and administratrix of the estate of Mr. Blair, has instituted suit for damages in Superior Court against E. C. Sawyer, of the Asheville Cycle and Motor Company, and the Blue Ridge Construction Company, of Asheville, on account of the death of her husband.

WAS MISS MARY EARLY.
 Young Lady Killed at Pittsburgh, Pa. Was Formerly a Valued Attendant at the State Hospital.

Special to The Observer.
 Morganton, Dec. 19.—To-day's Observer contains an account of the tragic death of a Miss Barley, at Pittsburgh, Pa. yesterday and gives her home as Morganton, N. C. As soon as the paper was received inquiry was made concerning the young lady and it is found that the name is wrong and should be Miss Mary Early. Miss Early was a valued attendant at the State Hospital here up to six months ago. She resigned and went to the Dixmont Insane Asylum near Pittsburgh. She was very bright, lovable young lady and her friends here are distressed at her untimely end. Her home is in Rutherford county and it is supposed that the body will be sent here for interment.

The young man for whom she purchased the present is not a resident of Morganton, but of another town, and is a traveling salesman. Nothing is known here of the Miss Thompson referred to in the dispatch and it is supposed that she is from another State.

FARMERS FIGHT; ONE SHOT AT.
 A Bullet Crashing Through Window of Crowded Store Causes a Commotion Among Women.

Special to The Observer.
 Fayetteville, Dec. 19.—To-day in a fight on Hay street M. A. Smith, a farmer, struck Mr. Bennett, another farmer, over the head with a .38 Smith and Wesson revolver. Bennett drew a revolver and fired twice at Smith, one ball crashing through the plate glass window of Gorham's book store, and causing a panic.

Smith was thought to be seriously wounded, but both the balls went wide of the mark. Bennett raised his revolver for another shot, but he was disarmed before he could fire.

Events at New Orleans.
 New Orleans, La., Dec. 19.—The feature event at the Fair grounds was the fourth race at one mile. Miss Mazzoni, 11 to 3, caught the betting with St. Harjo, who was the winner, beating La Jeunesse, the 9 to 2 favorite.

First race, 5 furlongs, selling: Blitzer, 15 to 1, won; Sylvia G., 12 to 1, second; Caucus, 30 to 1, third. Time, 1:15.5.

Second race, 5 furlongs, selling: Flanagan, 8 to 1, won; Salsola, 15 to 1, second; Pedigree, 30 to 1, third. Time, 1:12.

Third race, 7 furlongs: Dalaty Blitzer, 8 to 1, won; Gamberino, 1 to 1, second; Deler, 4 to 1, third. Time, 1:30.5.

Fourth race, mile: Miss Mazzoni, 11 to 3, won; St. Harjo, 11 to 5, second; La Jeunesse, 1 to 2, third. Time, 1:44.5.

Fifth race, 6 furlongs, selling: Hawkeye, 3 to 1, won; Eldorado, 40 to 1, second; Denigo, 30 to 1, third. Time, 1:17.4.

Sixth race, mile and a furlong: Anna Day, 4 to 1, won; King of the Valley, 2 to 1, second; Ponzolara, 15 to 1, third. Time, 2:30.

The Ninth District of Virginia Now as Dry as a Bone.
 Roanoke, Va., Dec. 19.—Pocahontas, the only party in the ninth Congressional district of Virginia, where whiskey is legally sold, voted out the saloon in a local option election today by a majority of 19 votes. Women paraded the streets and pleaded with voters to cast their ballots for the "dry" ticket. There is talk of the election being declared null and void on account of the statute providing that no local option election shall be held within 30 days of any other regular election.

Infantry Private a Suicide.
 Oswego, N. Y., Dec. 19.—George L. Patterson, a private in Company I, Twenty-third Infantry, U. S. A., stationed at Fort Ontario, committed suicide today in the guardhouse, where he had been confined upon a charge of having been absent without leave. He was shot by a guard. Patterson enlisted at the Jamestown Exposition and is said to have had a home in Chicago.

NEWS FROM CONCORD.
 Exercises to Be Held at Pitts and Wincoff Schoolhouses - Miss Jennie Hendren Convalescing.

Special to The Observer.
 Concord, Dec. 19.—Appropriate school exercises will be held at Pitts schoolhouse to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock, when the Junior Order of United American Mechanics will present to the school an American flag and a Holy Bible, in the customary manner, which is interesting and instructive. At 3 o'clock to-morrow afternoon a similar program has been arranged for at the Wincoff schoolhouse in the 4 townships. These exercises are held at various places throughout the county. Mr. M. B. Stickle will make one of the presentations and the superintendent of instruction, Prof. C. E. Boger, will accept the flag and Bible on behalf of the school.

Miss Jessie Hendren, cashier at the Dayvaunt Company store, has been quite sick for several days at the house of Rev. S. N. Watson, where she boards. Her condition this morning is very greatly improved, however, and it is thought she will be able to resume work to-morrow.

DYNAMITE SCATTERS HAVOC.
 Terrible Explosion at Palermo, in Military Magazine, Kills 25 and Injures Many Others.

Palermo, Sicily, Dec. 19.—A terrific explosion occurred this evening in the military powder magazine, where a large quantity of dynamite was stored and was followed by a number of smaller explosions, the whole town being badly shaken and the people thrown into a panic. Almost immediately flames shot high in the air and spread to the ruins of houses that had fallen, adding greatly to the people's terror. It is estimated that about 25 persons were killed and a hundred others injured. Troops were ordered out to aid the firemen in clearing away the wreckage and succoring the wounded.

Several houses that stood above the magazine partially collapsed and their destruction was completed by the fire. One of these was an emigrants' lodging house and a number of emigrants were killed.

Prominent Tennessean Dead.
 Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 19.—Van Leer Polk, grand nephew of former President Polk, and a member of one of the most distinguished families of this State, died suddenly here late today, the result of an attack of heart disease.

At the time of his death Mr. Polk was engaged in newspaper work, being attached to The News-Schmitzer, of Memphis, in an editorial capacity. During the last Democratic national administration he served as consul general at Calcutta.

Recruiting Station in New Orleans.
 Washington, Dec. 19.—The Navy Department has decided to establish a recruiting station in New Orleans, La., and to-day ordered Lieutenant E. L. Bass to that city to take charge of the new station.

MAKES THE LIVER LIVELY.
 Orino Laxative Fruit Syrup gives permanent relief in cases of habitual constipation as it stimulates the liver and restores the natural action of the bowels without irritating these organs like pills or ordinary cathartics. Does not nauseate or grip and is mild and pleasant to take. Remember the name Orino and refuse substitutes. R. H. Jordan & Co.

THE COMMERCIAL NATIONAL BANK
 of Charlotte, N. C.
 CAPITAL, SURPLUS AND PROFITS, \$811,539.98

Statement	Previous	
December	August 1908	
Deposits	\$1,122,000.00	\$1,127,642.22
Loans	1,821,922.17	1,821,428.79
Cash and in Banks	487,856.12	358,222.07
Gross Assets	2,724,840.91	2,558,471.37

We solicit your business. New accounts welcomed.
 R. A. Dunn, Pres. W. E. Holt, V. P.
 A. G. Breniser, Cash. A. T. Summey, Asst. Cash.

The Mutual's New Series
 January 1st, opening day, but you can take shares now. At all times this is the best place for your earnings, but during panics, hard times or great stringency in the money market, if your debts are due the Mutual you can't be "called" or forced to sacrifice your property on a dull, dead or moneyless market. Many an honest man meets his Waterloo during such times, or, if he gets accommodation at all, it comes high. The B. & L. borrower sits back and smiles. He has only to pay his weekly dues, while the other man searches the market with a fine-tooth comb for relief at any price. Other institutions sometimes can't escape destruction during these storms, but organizations like the Mutual are as solid as the earth.
 E. L. KEESLER, Treasurer.
 Phone 344. 25 S. Tryon St.

Beautiful Homes For Sale
 2-room house, E. Boulevard, Dilworth, lot 75x150, two baths, home comparatively new and in excellent condition. \$6,000
 2-room house, Parke Avenue, Dilworth, all modern conveniences, lot 50x150. Owner left the city and anxious for quick sale. \$4,000
 2-room house, Elizabeth Avenue, all modern, large lot, shady side of street; fine location. \$4,700
 2-room house, N. College Street, close in, all modern, corner lot. \$4,700

J. E. Murphy & Company
 43 N. Tryon. Phone 812.

Elizabeth Home For Sale
 Large lot, elegant house, with every modern convenience, including system of hot water heat.
The Charlotte Realty Co.
 A. G. Craig, Secretary.
 18 East Trade Street.

Wood Fibre Wall Plaster, "Hard Clinch."
THE BUILDERS FRIEND
 Freezing does not hurt; natural shrinkage will not crack it; water does not make it fall off; hard as stone. Write for booklet. Manufactured by
CHARLOTTE PLASTER CO.
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THE BEST
 When you have us to do your ELECTRIC work you may be sure of THE BEST. All our work guaranteed and no job too small for our prompt attention. Phone 470 for the best and quickest service.
BRADSHAW ELECTRIC COMPANY
 No. 15 South Church St.

MONEY LOST
 If you fail to carry INSURANCE
 We write Fire, Accident, Health, Liability and Steam Boiler INSURANCE.
CAROLINA REALTY CO.,
 W. D. WILKINSON, Manager.
 R. E. LEE, Secretary. J. E. LONG, Sales Agent.
 48 North Tryon St. Phone 603.

COSY COTTAGE FOR SALE
\$1,350.00
 New 4-room cottage, near Elizabeth College; lot 50x140. Can arrange easy terms. See us at once.
Brown & Company.
 Phone 535. 203 N. Tryon St.

THE WEATHER.
 Washington, Dec. 19.—Forecast: Virginia, fair Friday; Saturday increasing cloudiness with snow or rain in extreme northwest portion; light variable winds becoming northeast and fresh. North Carolina and South Carolina, fair Friday; Saturday increasing cloudiness with snow or rain in mountain districts; fresh northeast winds. Georgia, fair Friday; Saturday rain; fresh northeast to east winds. East Florida, fair Friday and Saturday; except rain Saturday in north portion; increasing northwest winds. West Florida, partly cloudy Friday; Saturday rain and warmer; fresh northeast winds. Louisiana, cloudy Friday; Saturday rain in afternoon or at night; Sunday rain and warmer; increasing east winds. Alabama and Mississippi, cloudy Friday; Saturday fair in north, rain and warmer in south portion, fresh east winds increasing. Kentucky, cloudy Friday; Saturday rain, warmer; increasing east winds. Tennessee, fair Friday; Saturday probably rain. West Virginia, fair Friday and Saturday. West Texas, fair Friday; Saturday rain.

LOCAL OFFICE U. S. WEATHER BUREAU.
 Charlotte, Dec. 19.—(Sunrise 7:25 a. m.; sunset 5:14 p. m.)
 HIGHEST TEMPERATURE (in degrees) 45
 Lowest temperature 22
 Mean temperature 33
 Deficiency for the day 1
 Accumulated deficiency for month 47
 Accumulated excess for year 30
 PRECIPITATION (in inches) 0
 Total for the month 2.11
 Accumulated excess for month 3.71
 Total for the year 52.39
 Accumulated deficiency for year 18.2
 Prevailing wind direction N.
 W. J. BENNETT, Observer.

NON-FLUCTUATING GUARANTEED FIRST MORTGAGES.
 The safest investments in the world are first mortgage Guaranteed Real Estate loans. They bear a per cent. semi-annual interest and can be secured at any time - in nearly any amount through this company. Write for booklet.
NORTH CAROLINA TRUST CO.,
 Greensboro, N. C.
 Capital, \$125,000.
 E. P. Wharton, Pres.
 David White, Sec. and Treas.

THE COMMERCIAL NATIONAL BANK
 of Charlotte, N. C.
 CAPITAL, SURPLUS AND PROFITS, \$811,539.98

In the Right Ward and a Good Buy
 New 5-room cottage, located in Fourth Ward. All modern conveniences. Less than one-half block from car line. Owner wishes to make quick sale and will make a special price. Apply at office.

SOUTHERN REAL ESTATE LOAN & TRUST COMPANY
 Capital \$75,000. Surplus \$100,000.
 President, W. S. ALEXANDER. Vice President, R. A. DUNN.
 Secretary and Treasurer, A. MORRIS McDONALD.

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 Secretary and Treasurer, A. MORRIS McDONALD.

First National Bank
 CHARLOTTE, N. C.
 ORGANIZED 1886
 Capital \$300,000.00
 Surplus and Profits 240,000.00
 Assets 1,900,000.00
 Your business respectfully solicited.
 Every courtesy and accommodation extended consistent with sound banking.
 H. M. VICTOR, Cashier.

The Merchants & Farmers National Bank
 OF CHARLOTTE, N. C.
 Capital, \$200,000.00 Surplus, \$100,000.00
 The officers of this bank will be pleased to meet or correspond with those who contemplate making changes or opening new accounts.
FOUR PER CENT. PAID ON SAVINGS AND TIME DEPOSITS.
 Officers: Geo. E. Wilson, President. Jno. B. Ross, Vice President. W. C. Wilkinson, Cashier.

Southern Loan & Savings Bank
 This Bank offers you unequalled facilities for your SAVINGS BUSINESS, as its attention is devoted EXCLUSIVELY TO SAVINGS ACCOUNTS.
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 OFFICERS: JNO. M. SCOTT, Pres. W. S. ALEXANDER, Vice Pres. W. L. JENKINS, Cashier.

The Charlotte National Bank
 CHARLOTTE, N. C.
 The chief concern of the officers and directors of this bank is the welfare of its depositors and the security of their deposits. The Charlotte National Bank was founded by men of means, integrity and successful business experience, and its enviable record has given it a reputation for solidity that extends far beyond Mecklenburg county and North Carolina. If you want absolute safety, it is here. We solicit your business.
 R. D. HEATH, President. JNO. M. SCOTT, Vice President. W. H. TWITTY, Cashier.

Charlotte Trust Co.
 Capital \$125,000.00
 Savings Department pays 4 per cent. compounded.
 January First Begins New Quarter.
 J. H. LITTLE, President. C. M. PATTERSON, Vice Pres. L. R. HAGOOD, Cashier.

FOR 1908
 We invite consultation or correspondence from Firms, Individuals or Corporations who contemplate making changes or additions to their banking connections.
THE AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY.
 T. S. FRANKLIN, V. Pres. W. S. LEE, V. Pres. W. H. WOOD, Treas. J. E. DAVIS, Asst. Treas.

High Grade Bank Stocks and Bonds
Subject to Sale We Offer
 20 American National Bank of Asheville
 20 Battery Park National
 20 Commercial National, Charlotte
 20 First National, Charlotte
 20 Wachovia Loan & Trust Co., Winston, ex. div.
 20 People's National, Winston
 20 Citizens National, Gaston
 20 First National, Gaston
 20 City National, Greensboro
 20 1st Nat'l National, High Point
 20 2nd Nat'l National, High Point
 20 3rd Nat'l National, High Point
 20 4th Nat'l National, High Point
 20 5th Nat'l National, High Point
 20 6th Nat'l National, High Point
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Christmas Huyler's
 We have a big shipment coming in. Give us your order now. Don't wait. You can't do without Huyler's for Christmas.
R. H. JORDAN & CO.
 "WE NEVER CLOSE"
NURSES' REGISTER

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 Ring the "Bell" 587
 When you want Fire Insurance Information or a good earthly home by the month or lease, or a business office for 1908 at \$5.00 to \$10.00 a month.
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 Piedmont Bldg. Phone 587, 545.