and Bill and Mury, Martha and Jane, with all the children were sterday, It was the day before Christmas, and they must all es the multitude of things that old Santje had deposited before he tarted on his rounds near the midnight hour last night. There was g, too, on all sides. Parents purchasing, too, on all sides. Parents attanding on the brink of the grim atream of poverty could not let the opportunity pass by. The rich and those who deal in inxuries had found the annual occasion for bestowing gifts of value to friends and relatives. The lugubrious mixed with the laughing and the lubbers from the country touched the garments of the lissome of the city. All day the crowds twisted and turned and jostled and jammed until near the hour of the sun's setting when the streets assumed anmg when the streets assumed an-r appearance. The homogeneous th had surrendered to the young-with their pop-sticks and dyna-cap, and while the country-folk en route to their homes and od close to a rural log-fire, the rites were stopping their ears to awful din of multitudinous noises, se they were out on the streets helpto create the bedlam.

AN ANNUAL SIGHT.

was an annual sight, that of the erning and afternoon of the day sleep late had reached the heart of the city, they found a mass of peo-ple, men, women and children, with men, women and children, with holiday look, the distracted gaze, evangel of universal gladness. Lethe's stream had drowned the unasantries of life; there was no remembrance of care or worry or the vexing things of life. The crowd was down in drenching torrents.

Wearing the holiday look, and there

A BRILLIANT SCEN was no time for discord or tuneless

Down on East Trade street, excluded from the rush as much as was posstood a family of nerroes, the old man and women and three small children. The mother and father carried with them two or three bundles and each of the three offspring was looking pitifully and pleadingly into their faces. The appeal was inaudible, but even the negro-heart understood its meaning. It was for a taste of the few good things that had been bought for the Christmas season. Presently the father answered the unspoken call and he steadily opened small bundle wherein was secreted "reesons." Those who have watched a nest of young birds fling open their mouths at the sound of the flutter of the mother-bird's wings can appre-ciate the scene. The three little ones reached forth their hands, still not speaking a word, and into them was dropped a pinch of raisins, and the

INCIDENTS CONTRASTED.

Not otherwise was an incident on another street where a white couple carried about with them a tiny child, brought to the city to see the wealth of good things of the season. The of good things of the season. The which would stimulate its nerves and look of poverty had pinched itself into answer the demands of its nervous their faces and over their bodies were craving for the unusual. When cast garments scanty and unseemly, the individual demonstrations grew They typified the class of the county's monotonous, strings of caps were citizenship who are engaged in the master-struggle of life, that for the making of bread for themselves and And they stood, too, for the tragedy of that strate of man-kind, who know nothing but work in all the sternness of its necessity. bey carried no large bundles under arms, but they looked at those did in a pardonable spirit To them it was given to be conscious only of the hard things of life, the things that breed mutiny and ak the harmony f the universe. But their only child could not suffer A huge stick of pepint candy was stuck in its mouth, and in its frall and unknowing innot come to the conscious period of its career when the weight of its inheritance would pin its soul to the ground, station a sentinel there and forbid escape. It was sublimely at peace with itself and the world, this child who is among those

damned into the world." Not otherwise, either, was it with many others who spent the day in the city, struggling with the well-todo to get a glimpse of the good things, but standing back when it came to purchasing. The poor country and city lovers were here, right in the heart of the city, with the far-away look of despair plainly engraved on their faces. Love prompted them to urchase remembrances, but there Some seemed to stop their ears and wanted not to hear love's unrelenting whisper; others looked the fact straight in the face, gritted their teeth and tried to endure it; tried t test their powers of endurance: to show themselves men and en ready to fight the cold bare with which they were surnot less than tragic, to see the spirit of the occasion battling for the mastery with the direness of circum-

A KALEIDOSCOPIC VIEW.

less, other fairly laden. Some crept clumsily into wagons, others gracefully into carriages and autos. Some had left their pennies and their nickels quarters had deposited their dollars the guests of the United Commercial Some came from the stores bundleand their tens, and perchance, their hundreds of dollars. Some left obscure cottages, with closed doors and comfortless fires; others left for pain-tlal homes, to trip lightly about on exminster and a wealth of luxury and then to be down on couches draped in all imaginable finery. And all on the side the spectacle was one of joy. day before the birth of Him who Not only children, both boys and came to utter no counterblasts against girls, but men and women were there. prevailing modes of living, to sound for baltle-axe and sword against the incomputability of society, but in humble, daily living to teach the falling rain, at the mercy of the men that in His esteem all men were wind. Shy little sirters who perhaps of equal privilege and equal value and had not ventured up to the city from

It was, withal, an inspiring vision, desperately to the arms of brothers It was, withal, an inspiring vision. To stand on the corners and gase thoughtfully into the faces of the scores and hundreds who passed by vesterday awakened at once the emortions of sympathy and of gladness. A kaleidoscopic view arrayed a strangely incongruous sight, but the rowd, in its totality, lined as a solid mass of men and women and children, was sympathetic with the joy of the occasion, and when weighed pleasure and pathos in the balance, the latter was found wanting.

Gesperately to the arms of brothers as small, who elbowed their way through the crowd to where the ladies were handing out the generous and well-filled paper bags. Hugging these to their bosoms they were bowed out the opposite side of the building.

Cotton Receipts.

Thirty-one bales of cotton were received yesterday at the local platform. The prevailing price paid was it cents. The agures registered for

tice to Our Custo

ight not to know it. Never in

ought not to know it. Never in years has Charlotte experienced such a night as fell to the lot of the city on yester eve. An inch was given the botsterously inclined and they took a mile with impunity. The result was one unbroken avalanche of deafening noise for hours.

Long before 8 o'clock the first boom-booming of the pop-sticks permitted by the city for a limited period began. At first this was intermittent, here, there, younder, usually at a distance from the pedestrians, no two reports coming from the same immediate vicinity. As the minutes passed the reports increased rapidly in number and in volume, until when the clock struck 8 the fact was signaled by a concerted volley of shots. From that moment until midnight there was not a second of relief for the ears of the pedestrian who ventured forth from behind closed and protecting doors, though even these protected but in a degree. Scores of small boys from 15 and 18 all the way down armed themselves with the sticks and caps and went with the sticks and caps and went out upon the warpath. These, howgrown people, whites, negroes, Italians and Syrians, who marched up and down carrying thunder in their hands and exclamations in their

wake. Rising in deep, sonorous majesty above the clatter of the distant con-cussions rose ver and anon the boom of a giant cracker, fired by some spirit of the time of foy and the daring fellow in violation of the law-Apprehension in such cases of course, was practically impossible. One might have as well tried to stop the rainfall had it been coming

> A BRILLIANT SCENE. was a riotous, yet brilliant spec tacle. The city had practically thrown aside work, or did so soon, realizing its accomplishment to be an impossibility. The streets were thronged with the holiday multitudes of people at play. Horses pranced to the music of the battery which faced them, women darted hither and thither in laughing groups as boldly as the men, others stopped their ears desperately with their fingers, especially if they were fortunate enough in time to espy the dasigning individual preparing to make the world recognize his existence in what was the most tangible and satisfying way. Bright, dazzling sizzlers were lit and carried in the hands of the lawful rioters lending to the scene color and light. Auto-mobiles, afraid of nothing, with their glaring headlights flashing flerce defiance in the faces of the enemies of peace and quiet, dashed up and down the thoroughfares, cintributing generously to the general hubbub and to the general activity.

BOOMS AND BANGS. Since the crowd was out for excitement, nothing but climaxes would appeare its insatiable thirst for that placed on street car tracks, surreptitiously, of course, and in answer to the street car's rush and clang as it swept swiftly down upon and over the hidden dynamite, up there went to the such a thunderous broadside as if rector, Rev. Harris Mallinckrodt, pre-Admiral Evans' squadron of death

dealers had opened a furious bombardment upon the coast of Japan. Even this soon ceased to satisfy. and a score of small boys assembled congregated and banded themselves together. In one solid mass they marched down past The Observer office and with a clamor which everything else to shame brought down the dynamics caps on the sidethe child appeared satisfied, walk in unison, putting William Gorrell, who stoo dat his post in lobby of the Manufacturers' Club, to

MUCH KICKING.

Not to admit that last night's celebration was productive of pro-fanity would be to chronicle un-truthfully the story of the night. Many people was could have stood the noise otherwise did not relish the spectacle of negroes paralling the streets exploding the dynamite the faces of white people and ladies. There was no help for such as this, however, except to resent it personally.

Although those with the explosives appeared to enjoy themselves hugely, they were practically all who appeared to be doing so. In fact, the racket drove many almost distracted "I'd hate to be examined by a lunacy commission to-night," exclaimed one ordinarily well balanced individual.
"I wouldn't make 20 points toward a decree of sanity." Dozens and scores echoed the sentiments in words almost identical.

with which they were sur-It was a sight pathetic and may therefore be looked for to-day and to-night.

CHILDREN THEIR GUESTS.

United Commercial Travelers Present Hundreds of Children and Others

Travelers in the basement of the city Some left ob- hall. Fruit and candles were there given to every one who would, and in behalf of the little ones at home Boys there were barefoot, girls with out hats, their tangled hair wet with the mill settlements for months clung

11 cents. The figures registered for the same day last year are zeroes. The receipts resterday brought the total amount of cotton marketed this dall just 100 above the number of the same period last year.

Mr. Fred C. Smith, Jr., of Burling-on, spent last night in the city, stop-ing at the Central,



CHURCH SERVICES TO-DAY.

Christmas to Be Observed at Sev-eral Churches—The Order of Exercises.

Christmas was ushered in at St. Peter's Catholic church on the stroke of the clock at midnight with solemn high mass celebrated by Rev. Father Joseph, the pastor, assisted by Rev. Fathers Wilkibald and Gallagher, of Belmont. Low masses will be said at 6, 8, 9:30 and 10 o'clock and another solemn high mass at 10:30 o'clock, at which Rev. Father Joseph will deliver the sermon. After this mass there will be benediction.

'At St. Peter's Episcopal church Mr. Henry F. Anderson, organist, and a vested choir of 35 voices, will render the following programme at the Christmas service: Prejude, "March of the Magi King,"

Processional Hymn, Adeste Fidelis. Venite and Benedictus, Cathedrai Psalter.
Te Deum, Westbury.
Hymn, "O Little Town of Bethlehein."
Anthem, "There Were Shepherds."

Communion Service, Eyre. Recessional, "Hark the Herald Angels

Postlude, March, Lizst. Holy communion will be celebrated at 7:30 oclock. The morning/prayer listening and nerve-racked heavens and sermon will be at 11 o'clock, the

> siding. At St. Mark's Lutheran church, Christmas meetings at daybreak-6:30 o'clock, with an offering to speed the "Good Zidings." At 7:15 p. m. the Sunday school will celebrate the glad festival in a service of song and offerings of "good-will." The public is cordially invited to these

TRAINS 39 AND 40 TO GO.

Official Notice Has Been Given of the Discontinuance of These Two Trains Between Washington and Atlanta. Much to the discomfort of the tray-

eling public, official notification has

been received here of the discontinuance of trains Nos. 39 and 40, after the first of the year, a meeting having termine this matter. It all comes icy of retrenchment, as it is commonsome inconoclastic licks at the hands The curtailment is effective on pracically all the lines of the Southern, but particularly on the branch lines. A number of discontinuances have been ordered on short lines, connecting cities with points on the main line. Col. R. W. Hunt has just announced that two trains are to go off January

5th between Greenville and Columbia, S. C., which will not be received with much joy by the folks who travel this line. It is said that the total reduction over the entire Southern system will amount to 3,000 miles daily. All this was agreed upon at a meeting held in Washington December 19th of all the transportation managers of the General Manager Ackert system. stated at the meeting that the neces sity for reduction of operating trains came about through a decrease in the earning ability of the road. He did not think the discontinuances would materially affect the traveling public.

WILL GIVE RECITAL

Mr. Don Richardson, Mr. H. Lee Ven-ance and Mr. Karl von Lawrens to Give Recital in Winston, at Home of Mrs. R. J. Reynolds, next Tues-

Mr. Don Richardson, of this city, violinist, assisted by Mr. H. Lee Venance, cornetist, and Mr. Karl von Lawrenz, painist, will give a recital December 31st, at the home of Mrs. R. J. Reynolds, in Winston-Salem. The occasion will be one of the most brilliant and elaborate entertainments of the State's applied again. The proof the State's social season. The pro-gramme is as follows: Overture—"Light Cavalry" (trio)......

· Trio,

Mr. Frank R. Harty has gone to

Recipe for Delicious Golden Glory Doughnuts 1 egg, 1 cup sugar, 1 cup sweet milk, 1 tablespoon Golden Glory Cooking Oil, 1-2 nutmeg, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 heaping teaspoon baking powder, 1 quart flour (or as much as may be necessary for proper consistency). Sift salt and baking powder with the flour. Roll out the dough and cut with a tin doughnut cutter. Use a deep frying pan nearly full of Golden Glory Cooking Oil. Get the oil hot enough to brown a bread crumb in five seconds. Carefully drop the doughnuts in and do not overcrowd the pan. They will soon float. Turn them over as soon as possible. When brown take up with a fork and lay on folded cloth or blank white paper to, absorb the adhering oil. Sprinkle with powdered sugar. powdered sugar.
BRANNON CARBONATING CO.

SMOKE CAUSED ALARM.

Lively Time on the Streets Yesterday Afternoon—Much Ado About Nothing. An innocent switch engine, playing

dutifully its part in the tangled skein of life and with no thought beyond that, was the cause of much commotion yesterday afternoon close to the hour o' 5. It was pulled up under the shed of the Elba Manufacturing mony with the season when the limits Company. A nervous person saw volumes of smoke pouring forth from under the shed. "Aha," thought he straightway, "a fire." And forthwith he hasted him to the nearest telephone and called for No. 10. "Hello," exclaimed a deep bass voice at the ren-dezvous of the city's fire fighters. The alarm was quickly given and in a moment the big bell on the city hall was booming forth the tidings. Out dashed the fire department, van and rear, lately been held in Washington to de- forward rushed the Christmas crowd pellmell, crowding upon each other's about through the adoption on the heels and shoving wildly to see the part of the Southern officials of a pol- wagons and horses disappear in a cloud of dust, while on every doorstep people ly called, the railroad having received counted mentally to ascertain the box locality of the supposed conflagration. of the Legislatures of Southern States. The firemen soon reached the scene and "the tragedy of a day was over." "Fire out," tolled the bell again and the tides of humanity resumed their accustomed ebbing and flowing.

> MRS. MARGARET DAVIS DEAD. Death Comes After III Health of Many Months—Funeral Yesterday Afternoon.

> After a period of ill health extending over several months, Mrs. Mar-garet Brewster Davis, widow of the late Mr. Fred S. Davis, died yesterday morning shortly after 9 o'clock. The funeral services were conducted from the residence of her son, Mr. B. S. Davis, yesterday afternoon. Afterwards the remains were carried

> to Pittsboro to be laid to rest beside those of her husband. Besides Mr. B. S. Davis, other children of Mrs. Davis are: Mrs. Edell Southerland and Mrs.
> Annie Rogerson, of this city.
> and Mr. William B. Davis,
> of Atlanta, Ga.

> Mrs. Davis was a consecrated Christian lady, and all who knew her christian Edy, and all who knew her sorrow over her death. She was a member of the Episcopal church, and the services yesterday afternoon were conducted by Rev. Francis Osborne. The pall-bearens were: Mesars. Frank Ferris, B. D. Springs, Howard B. Sterrett, J. H. Emery, Addison Arnold and Heriot Clark-

> Watch Fob For Mr. Hooper, The white employes of the Buford Hotel yesterday afternoon made Mr. C. E. Hooper, one of the proprietors and the manager of the hotel, a present of an elegant watch fob. This was, of course, as a token of esteam. Mr. Hooper is very popular with his employes as well as with the trade.

A REAL WONDERLAND. strange natural formations, is a verital wonderland. At Mound City, in the how of Mrs. E. D. Clapp, a wonderful car of healing has lately occurred. Her so seemed near death with lung and throuse irouble. Exhausting coughing apella ocurred every five minutes," writes Mr Clapp, "when I begun giving Dr. King New Discovery, the great medicine, the saved his life and completely cured him Guaranteed for coughs and colds, throuse him to the problem of all druggists. It

As to Santa.
"Despite the blare of trumpets, the boom of crackers, and the tooting of horns," said a philosopher, "I never fully realized that the Christmas season was upon us until the newspaper discussion about whether we shall tell the tootsy-wootsles who Santa Claus mony with the season when the jinkle of the reindeer's bells is heard. I had almost forgotten that there was such a thing as Santa

Don't Delay

Order Your. Christmas Piano From STIEFF

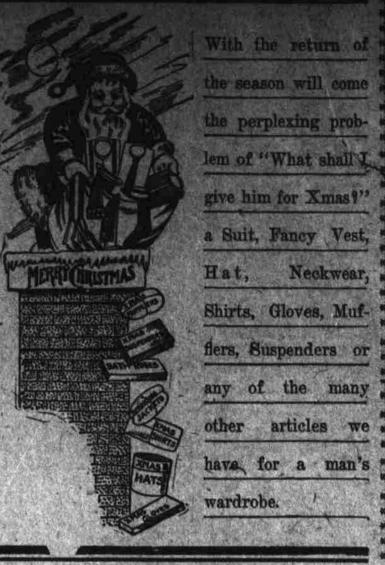
To-Day

Chas. M. Stieff

Self-Player Pianos.

Southern Wareroom: 5 West Trade St., CHARLOTTE, N. C.

C. H. WILMOTH, Mgr.



‡ Long-Tate Clothing Co.

With grateful appreciation of your patronage during

the year now drawing to a close, we extend to our friends, one and all, wishes for a joyous Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

McCOY The Home Furnisher. -

REAL CHRISTMAS CHEER

will prevail at this hotel, in addition to the characteristic cheer and hospitality which are inseparably linked with Clegg management. If you are looking for a hotel where things are a little bit better and cosler than common, just stop here the next time.

CLEGG

GREENSBORO, N. C.



THE HOLIDAYS ARE NOT SO FAR OFF

That you can afford to put off much longer the filling of your Christmas needs. In fact, if you are wise, you will not put it off at all.

You Can Choose Your

FURNITURE

better now than you can later on. The variety is more complete now and prices are as low as they will ever be. Buy now and we'll de-liver whenever you are Yea

Store will be open until 8:30 for the convenience of our patrons.

Lubin Furniture Company