

THE WORK BEING DONE.
The other day I stood up on one of those mountains and watched the work which was going on below. There was nothing about me but the giant mountains, the soft blue bow above, the clouds near at hand and far down the mountain side the gangs of men working away like so many ants. Such an experience is calculated to introspection and is calculated to make one feel his own insignificance. Suddenly I observed all of the men draw away from their work and the next second I saw a great cloud of rock, sand and smoke shoot up into the air. A considerable time elapsed before I heard the sound, it seemed to me like an hour, and then I heard a dull thud like that of far-off thunder. The noise reverberated through the mountains for several minutes, echoing and reaching as the waves of sound struck the sides of the different mountains. It reminded me of Washington Irving's sublime description of a thunder storm in the Catskill mountains of New York, which appears in Rip Van Winkle.

The completion of this South and Western line through North Carolina will mean much to the State. It will result in cheaper coal and fuel for the manufacturing enterprise and in reduced freight rates on other commodities. The mere fact that another railroad stretches across the State will have its effect upon the commercial life of the section.

The line from East Kentucky to the Atlantic seaboard. Neither terminus has yet been officially decided upon. The line will run from Marion to Boston, where it will connect with the seaboard and then pass on probably to Spartanburg, S. C. Mr. George L. Carter, of Johnston City, Tenn., is president of the South and Western Railroad and is in close touch with all of the construction work.

HERE'S GOOD ADVICE.
O. S. Henderson, one of the best known merchants of Charlotte, N. C., says: "If you are ever troubled with piles, apply Buckner's Anus Balm. It cured me of them for good. It was used by me for several years ago. It is guaranteed for every case of hemorrhoids. It is at all drug stores."

THE EVENING GUIDANCE.
The theme of an appropriate sermon was preached yesterday evening by Rev. Dr. W. W. Pritchard, pastor of the First Presbyterian church to a large and attentive congregation. "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing, and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father's will?" was the text of the discourse, which is a summary of the heart and spirit of God's wisdom and nature the power to care for every living thing. Dr. Pritchard compared the observance of the principles of the life between the Buddhists and Christians, declaring that it was held more sacred by the former. The oriental mind attributed a sacred relation existing between the meekest insect and divinity. He showed how the cruel and hard facts of the physical universe went to disprove that God could care for every living thing, how the laws of nature had no compunctions as to the saving of a life, the sparing of a life, the perishing with the lowly and the unworthy, and in his conclusion he showed how man was led to believe that the doctrine of watchful Providence was a fallacy.

"It is because God was regarded as nothing more than a finite being, with the limits and bounds of a finite man, whereas He is infinite in His wisdom and all-loving and all-powerful in His dealings with men," said he.

The sermon was replete with messages of comfort and was stimulating at the closing of the year.

THEATRE PARTY.
Manager J. L. Crovo to Entertain Career Boys at the Academy of Music—"The Counterfeiters" to Be Presented.

The career boys of The Observer and The Chronicle are fortunate and popular. They are "the recipients of many social attentions." Only last week they were wined and dined in sumptuous style by The Observer Company. To-night for the second time they will be the guests of Manager J. L. Crovo at a theatre party to be given at the Academy of Music. The play to be presented is "The Counterfeiters." The company is said to be a good one and the keys of the building will be given them and nothing left undone to assure them a pleasant and enjoyable evening. Invitations have been issued to all and no "regrets" have been received. It is safe therefore to predict that the establishment will be fully represented and that a full vote can be polled by Manager Crovo for any job he wishes.

Leap Year Being Awaited With Interest.
Leap year will be upon us in two short days more. There is a feeling of expectancy in the air already. Men who are yet in the state of single loneliness and misery, though far advanced in life, are skipping about the streets with an apprehensive look, peering here and there anon and gazing askance at the bold eyed maiden who perchance approaches. Most of these cases arise out of vanity, it is stated in justice to all parties concerned. The danger is not nearly so acute as the bachelors would have you believe, although this is not to be understood as discounting the reality of the existence of the possibility that things may become interesting for somebody. That the foregoing is a roundabout statement is freely conceded, but the situation is one which must needs be handled with extreme delicacy.

"Bill Bailey" Jailed.
Bob Harris, alias "Bill Bailey," a boy of tender years, with entirely too many aliases for his age, is in a cell at the police station and is satisfied. No occupant of these weird cages within recent weeks has displayed a more amiable disposition than Bill. He has taken his blanket and made of it a wig, in which he rocks and sings and talks joyfully to the other prisoners. The boy is not locked up on any serious charge. He conducted himself disorderly Saturday morning with a few of his pals and the officers put him behind the bars until he could be tried, which will be this morning. Bill seems not to care how long he makes in there his home.

Miss Penfield at First Presbyterian Church.
The congregation of the First Presbyterian church was delighted yesterday at both morning and evening services with the singing of Miss May Penfield, of New York, who gave a recital Friday night at the Selwyn and remained over to assist in the singing at the First church. Miss Penfield sang "The Publican" at the morning service, and last night she sang several songs after the regular exercises. She has a voice of rare sweetness of tone and fine range.

Play at O'Donoghue Hall To-Night.
An interesting event will be the presentation to-night at O'Donoghue Hall of the two-act comedy drama, "Before and After." The entertainment is for a worthy cause, the benefit of the Mercy General Hospital. The latter is one of the city's best hospitals and deserves the best of support. The play will be worth the while in itself. Refreshments will be served in the evening. An admission of 25 cents for adults and 15 cents for children will be charged.

A Dreary Sunday.
Yesterday in Charlotte was far from being all that could be desired. It was almost a counterpart of the Sunday which preceded it, except that the volume of water which fell was less than on the earlier date. In the morning conditions were tolerable and many people ventured out to church, but in the afternoon the drizzling rain increased in profusion and, all in all, it was a good day and a good night to stay indoors.

A Poor House Candidate.
Jordan Durham, a very old negro, has been in the police station for ten days or more, awaiting the arrival of the keeper of the poor house, to which he has been consigned. He is dying gradually, the rattle of the last agony being audible in his breathing. Frequent messages have been sent to the poor house officials, but the old negro was still in a cell last night.

Archdeacon Jefferies Preaches.
Archdeacon William F. Jefferies preached a forceful sermon at St. Peter's Episcopal church yesterday morning. The passing of the old year and the opening of the new, and the visions naturally arising therefrom, supplied the theme of the discourse, which was not only a most interesting but a most inspiring one. The music that of the Christmas service, was altogether delightful.

Widow Lady Writes to Her Step-Son to Come and Support Her, and He Came, But Left Saturday Night With Her Watch and Ring.
Augustus Christophersen, a young man of uncommon name, but apparently common character, is wanted by local police officials for making way with a watch and ring belonging to his step-mother, who has been deserted by him and left to struggle for herself in the city. The old lady, who is a Mrs. Thompson, was left a widow three weeks ago in Wilmington, and she came here immediately after the death of her husband. This boy was then in New York and she wrote him to come and stay with her, and assist her in making a living.

Christophersen arrived a few days ago and loafed around until Saturday night, when he gathered the old lady's watch, which is a sort of heirloom, and also her ring, and left for parts unknown. It is believed that he has returned to New York. Chief Carleton wants to get on his track and will make the effort to locate him in the North, there being a slight clue as to where he may be found there.

Many Meetings Scheduled For the Queen City During Year 1908.
If indications at the present date count for anything, the year of 1908 will be notable in Charlotte's annals for the number and the size of the conventions entertained. If not another were secured than those already stated, this would be true in a notable degree, while there is splendid prospect that the list will be much augmented in length and pretentiousness. Among those gatherings which will in all probability be secured are the two State political conventions, the Democratic and the Republican State teachers' Assembly. These meetings begin in early spring and will continue until late in the fall. They will bring to Charlotte many thousands of the best citizens of the Old North State and will do it as well as themselves much good.

Few Business Changes.
The number of business changes which have been announced to go into effect with the opening of the new year in Charlotte are noticeably less numerous than usual. This may be interpreted, it is believed, hopefully, the inference being that the majority of the concerns are harmoniously constituted and prosperous.

Mr. S. T. Lewis, of Greenville, S. C., was a Charlotte visitor yesterday.

Stolen Valuables and Left.
The deceased is survived by his mother, Mrs. Joseph L. Plessy, two brothers, Dr. G. W. and Hon. Charles P. Plessy, of Augusta, Ga.; two sisters, Mrs. W. T. Bradley, of Abbeville, S. C., and Miss Nellie Plessy, his wife and three small children.

Mr. Plessy was also an uncle of Mr. E. P. Wideman, city editor of The Evening Chronicle.

Evening Clothes
If you wish to appear at your best, let your Dress Suit be identified with The Tate-Brown label.
It insures a garment as perfect as human skill can devise it. Made to order in the tailoring department on the second floor, or ready-to-wear at from \$50.00 to \$65.00
The Tate-Brown Co.

BEAUTIFUL RUGS
This is what every one exclaims about our this season's Rugs. They are certainly gathered in here with great care. Our buyer went carefully through the lines of the best rug makers in this country and we bought only the pick of their productions.
Also a large stock of larger and smaller Rugs. We offer the best bargains on this market.
Parker - Gardner Co.
Largest Dealers in the State.

Special Sale
OF
HANDSOME FURNITURE
Previous to taking account of our stock, we are closing out many of our choicest pieces of carefully selected furniture at most attractive prices.
This sale affords an opportunity for our friends that they should not fail to avail themselves of. Call and see this assortment.

PROTECTION



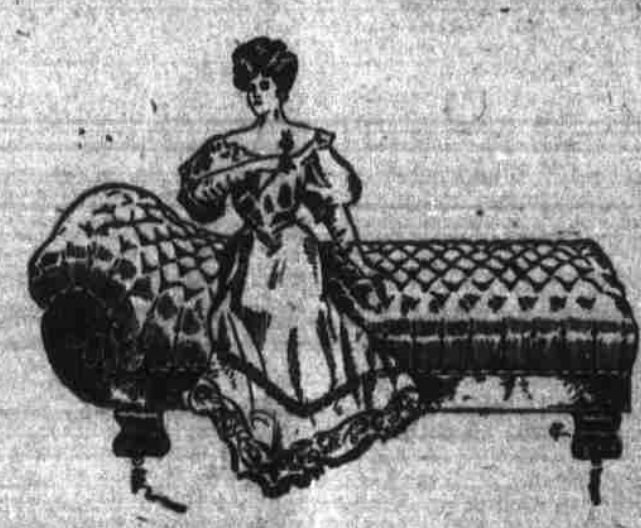

from bad weather (and there's lots of it coming to us now) is absolutely necessary to good health. Why go all winter through the rain and wet and be unhappy when you can get such wonderful value in the Raincoats we are offering now! We are selling lots of them, and lots of our Combination Coats as well, coats that are waterproof and look as good as the best tailored overcoats made. Let us prove it.

Mail Orders Filled on Day of Receipt.
Ed. Mellon Co.
Remember Mellon's Clothes Fit.

THE WINNING NUMBERS
For the Cash prizes amounting to **\$100.00**
Will be decided Tuesday afternoon, **31st.**
In the meantime get your drugs from us and further information about prizes
ENGLISH-M'LARTY CO.
We are Over The Holiday
trade now and are ready to get down to the regular routine of everyday business. While our "holiday" trade has been very satisfactory, we are by no means left with a lot of "hard stock" of odds and ends, but on the other hand we are prepared to supply all your wants from a
Complete Stock of New Goods at Attractive Prices
A GOOD RULE to begin the New Year with—buy a piece of furniture until you have seen
Lubin Furniture Company.

The Artistic Stieff Piano
is used exclusively in homes where art and musical refinement are cultivated to the highest degree. Only artistic standard sold direct from factory to home.
Chas. M. Stieff
Manufacturers of the Artistic Stieff, Shaw and Siles Self-Playing Pianos.
Southern Wareroom:
5 West Trade St.,
CHARLOTTE, N. C.
O. H. WILMOTH, Mgr.

W. T. McCoy
The Home Furnisher.

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