

The Charlotte Observer.

J. F. CALDWELL, Publishers. D. A. TOMPKINS.

Every Day in the Year

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 1908.

A CASE FOR SHERLOCK HOLMES.

In all the history of greed-inspired crimes there have been few more horrible disclosures than those now under way at the late home of Mrs. Bella Guinness, on a farm near Laporte, Ind. There appears to be no doubt that not less than nine persons, nearly all of them lured through matrimonial advertisements, were done to death and buried on the place. Whether Mrs. Guinness herself in the end met a violent death at the hands of an accomplice or other person remains as yet uncertain. On April 28th the Guinness house was burned, and four corpses, supposed to be those of the woman and her three children, were found in the ruins. The body taken for that of Mrs. Guinness was headless, and many people now believe that she is still alive, having substituted the body of another woman for her own as part of a plan to favor her withdrawal from the scene of her crimes and residence in safety far away. At any rate, the investigation begun after the fire disclosed her work as a professional murderess, and the farm has turned out a veritable grave yard of murdered men. Excavation, though handicapped during the past few days by heavy rains, is proceeding actively, and the Associated Press carries full stories day by day of the shocking discoveries.

Mrs. Guinness' record, so far as now known and irrespective of later additions, is surely one of the most remarkable in the annals of crime. A Chicago woman, her first marriage took place in 1883 and thirteen years later the husband died under suspicious circumstances, leaving considerable insurance. Here her first lesson as a murderess is believed to have been learned. In 1890 she bought the Laporte home, removed thither, and about a year later was followed by one Philip Guinness, the two professing to have been married in Wisconsin through a matrimonial agency. In 1904 Guinness died, under circumstances strongly suggesting murder, but no effective steps were taken by the authorities. It was not until very recently that any thorough investigation of the place was undertaken, and this was through the urging of A. K. Heiglein, a South Dakota man whose brother, Andrew, had fallen a victim. The burning of the Guinness home and a pretence of death are increasingly believed to have been devices of Mrs. Guinness to cover her flight when she saw that discovery had become inevitable.

This man Andrew Heiglein had come to Laporte in response to an advertisement by Mrs. Guinness stating that a rich widow desired correspondence with some matrimonially inclined gentleman of means. Suitors must come to see her in person, and she wrote Heiglein suggesting that he bring a considerable sum of money with him—a suggestion which she also made in other cases, with obvious bearing upon her murderous game. Heiglein brought \$2,000, half of which he advanced to Mrs. Guinness, she no doubt getting the rest when he was killed. His body and that of Ole B. Budsberg, of Iowa, Wis., who went to Laporte with \$1,800, have been found and identified. Among the other bodies is that of Jennie Olsen, an adopted daughter, whom Mrs. Guinness professed to have sent to school in California and who is now believed to have been killed because she knew too much. The bodies actually found thus far number nine, and several other suspicious disappearances not yet accounted for may bring the total up to fifteen. Yesterday's dispatches gave a graphic account of the autopsy upon Heiglein's mutilated body with half a handful of the murderer's hair (evidently from a man's head) tightly clutched in the one hand left the deceased. Exactly how many the murdered men are may never be known. The woman was a Norwegian and she found it comparatively easy to lure victims of the same nationality into the deadly net.

Meantime the fate of the professional murderess herself naturally excites the liveliest speculation. The sheriff and prosecuting attorney of the county place little faith in the ruse theory. Even supposing that the woman would not scruple to murder her children, they point to the deposit by her of \$720 in a bank shortly before the catastrophe and to other circumstances pointing the same way because hardly necessary as part of the alleged plan. In fact, they have a theory of their own. Ray Lamphere, a former employe of Mrs. Guinness and a possible accomplice, has been arrested on the charge of murdering the woman and her children. He has not succeeded in accounting for his whereabouts on the night of the fire and there is a considerable prospect that he may be indicted.

This terrible affair has, of course, recalled similar cases on record before it and likewise served as a lesson to the idiots who answer matrimonial advertisements, but the... as yet only half-explained spectacle of depravity and diabolical ingenuity keeps the reader's attention to itself. How were so many murders committed during a period of years and no one any the wiser? Sherlock Holmes might supply an answer in short order if the immortal literary detective could be put on the case in person, and his illustrious predecessors, Dupin and Secord, might do the same. Here, indeed, is a mystery after Sherlock's own heart and one which Dr. Watson would delight to chronicle. Sherlock would probably be inclined by his experience in "The Adventure of the Norwood Builder" to agree with those who believe Mrs. Guinness will survive. In that case, it may be remembered, no murder at all had been committed but a malevolent old man sought to make it appear that he had been murdered by a young fellow upon whose mother he sought revenge. Accordingly he arranged a pretended murder in his own house, making the circumstances point unmistakably to his victim, and led the police to believe that his body had been burned in a bonfire just outside. In fact, he was cunningly hidden in the house preparatory to an intended disappearance for good when the redoubtable Sherlock—who would have been misled along with the police had not the scondrel over-refined his scheme by using, as an after-thought, an accidental impression of the prisoner's thumb in sealing-wax to leave a bloody thumbprint on the wall—finally smoked him out. Maybe Sir Conan can be persuaded to send Sherlock and Dr. Watson over, or, at least, to give us the benefit of an expert opinion by the former for his present retirement in Sussex. The Laporte mystery clamors for a solution and Sherlock is the boy to solve anything not absolutely insoluble.

STUNG!

Of course The Observer does not expect justice from that portion of the press which is jealous of its increasing reputation as the patron of science and invention, and hence is not surprised in the least at this ill-natured outburst from The Statepaper of Columbia. "We notice that The Charlotte Observer is beginning to talk about the Wright brothers, the aeronauts, in a familiar, home-like sort of way—which, we take it, is preliminary to the accustomed North Carolina way of appropriating the Ohioans to the Old North State. In a few days, we may be sure, The Observer will have fixed definitely upon their birthplace.

You understand what's the matter, don't you, reader? It is just this: that throughout the years in which The Observer has been reiterating its scientific opinion that we will fly, The Statepaper has sat back and jibed and ridiculed it, saying, Behold a crank and a dreamer. But wisdom is justified of her children. The dream has been realized and The Statepaper, which hates The Observer because it has been vindicated, just as it hates it because Andrew Jackson was born in North Carolina, changes the subject from the flying machine, to the birthplace of its inventors, with which we are not concerned at all. It is not our fault that The Statepaper doesn't know anything about science. It would be better for it, though, if it would try to conceal its chagrin and not make a spectacle of itself by disagreeable references because of The Observer's vindication.

Senator Tillman repudiates utterly the statement concerning Mr. Cleveland imputed to him within the past few days. The Observer had so little confidence in the alleged statement from him which it printed Sunday that it telegraphed promptly to its Columbia correspondent for confirmation or denial of it with the result, as readers of Monday's paper will recall, that the correspondent reiterated and strengthened it. As a matter of course Senator Tillman has been misunderstood—a fact to be regretted. It is proper to add that Mr. Kohn is not the Columbia correspondent of The Observer and if he sent to another paper a story similar to ours we are not aware of it.

Representative Heflin, of Alabama, has learned by bitter experience that a self-appointed policeman's lot is not a happy one. He has paid \$2,500 damages to the innocent bystander, the white man, whom he shot while policing Pennsylvania avenue, and is now indicted on three counts for this wild shot and for his assault on the negro on the Washington street car. If he learns better behavior from his expensive experience the lesson will be worth the money.

The Statesville Landmark has the courage of its unbelief. It refuses to "concord with The Observer that reverend is the word in Ireland" but is "willing to leave it to a hand primary, or to have it voted on in a separate box on the day of the prohibition election." Either of these propositions is fair but if the matter is submitted to the voters at the polls we shall have to insist that reverend have its share of the poll-holders.

The New York World has just celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of its ownership by Joseph Pulitzer. It is a great newspaper and Mr. Pulitzer, now blind, is a great newspaper publisher. Our best wishes go out to both.

The crop outlook as seen by the government continues highly favorable—a circumstance which should be given much weight in reckoning the prospective business situation.

It is a rare day now that Secretary Taft does not bage State or two and there is an increasing probability that the Chicago affair will be a one-halot performance.

The Morally Stunted have been allowed getting at it but they have the "moral forces" going, in this neck of the woods.

"Brethren of the press, the commencement season is on us!"—Winston-Salem Journal.

Don't mention it!

SESSION OF ODD FELLOWS

(Continued from Page 1).

rich fruit for his kingdom. In the words of Loton. "Mourn not for the dead whose lives depart. They have nobly borne their part. For victorious golden crowns they wear, Reserved for every faithful heart. They rest with glory wrapped around, Immortal on the scroll of fame; Their works, their praises, shall sound, Their name—everlasting name."

They will live on in the hearts of the orphan charges resting now beneath the roof of the home so generously provided by our noble order. Build another as a monument to the memory of Brother Jacob, and let it bear his true name. And let me plead with you to place in a corner of the sick, until such time as we are able to build an infirmary. To know Brother Jacob, with all his many, noble traits, was to love him. To follow in his footsteps and the degree is one which is conferred on all present. We have those present who have worked well and long for the good of the order, some who have attended many sessions, and some who have attended for the first time. We welcome you all as the representatives of one grand, noble order, working together for the alleviation of suffering and distress and the elevation of human character.

Our Rebekah branch is yet a weak leaning on the stronger member, the subordinate lodge; but by untiring zeal we hope to gain strength. From the following statistics we have gained some, and each year we grow more rapidly. Much of this growth in western North Carolina is due to the zeal of our brethren, Past-Grand Master L. B. McBrayer, Past-Grand Patriarch L. W. Jeanette, Past Grand R. L. Woodard and our veteran Rebekah worker, Grand Secretary B. H. Woodell.

STRENGTH OF REBEKAHS.

Up to January 1st, 1907, we had only one Rebekah Lodge west of Raleigh—Rosaline No. 22, of Charlotte. During 1903 and the early part of 1904, there was one organized at Juno, Buncombe county, and another at Salisbury, and thus we have grown until now we have more than half the lodges and considerably more than half the membership west of the Blue Ridge and further north, west of Greensboro. We had only four Rebekah Lodges in good standing in 1902, out of eight in the state, while now we have thirty lodges with 1,100 members. We will have a new lodge in the near future, which will increase the number of the subordinate lodges into more prominence; she is attractive, if retiring in her nature, and only needs more earnest men and women to work in behalf of a dream that ere many fleeting years shall have passed, this fair daughter will become strong and form a Rebekah Assembly, and will stand with heart and hands not only able and willing to aid and abet any movement of the Grand Lodge in which she is needed.

With a total of 600,000 Rebekahs in the United States, I am sorry we can claim no more than a dictation. And when we look at what our sisters in other States are doing, we are sufficed with shame for our slowness. There are three orphan homes in the United States, which are really in charge of the Rebekahs. The Rebekah Assembly of New Jersey controls the Odd Fellows Orphans' Home of that State, and it is in a flourishing condition. The Rebekahs of Texas pay the salary of the music teacher and furnish the sheet music used by the pupils at their home. The Rebekahs are the leaders in, and are almost wholly responsible for the establishment of the home of the orphan, which is valued at \$12,000. In Minnesota the Rebekahs not only help maintain the home, but two sisters are on the board of trustees.

WHAT THE REBEKAHS ARE DOING.

During the year 1908 the Rebekahs of Ohio put in their home the entire machinery and equipment for a \$10,000 laundry plant, and this year they expect to equip a bakery. The L. O. O. F. Home of Oklahoma is valued at \$22,000. The Rebekahs are levying a per capita tax of \$1 a year upon each sister for this purpose. The Rebekahs of Tennessee are establishing a department of domestic science and art at their home, and the president of the assembly is ex-officio a member of the board of trustees. The Rebekahs of Texas pay the salary of the music teacher and furnish the sheet music used by the pupils at their home. The Rebekahs are the leaders in, and are almost wholly responsible for the establishment of the home of the orphan, which is valued at \$12,000. In Minnesota the Rebekahs not only help maintain the home, but two sisters are on the board of trustees.

THE THREE LINKS.

Let us consider the word that is represented by the first letter in the three links: Friendship—I once thought that friendship meant happiness; I have learned that it means discipline. Seek to be a friend, and you will find the ideal that is in our friend's mind; we inevitably come short of it; let us not give up friendship, though we have found this true. To have a true friend is to have one of the best gifts life can bring; and a friendly life is to have a solemn and tender education of soul from day to day. A friend gives us confidence to live in the broadest sense and outdo ourselves. A friend remembers us when we forget ourselves; he takes loving heed of our health, our work, our aims and our plans.

A friend may praise us and we are not embarrassed. He may rebuke us and we are not angry. He takes a great soul to live in a sphere of friendship, a man or a woman of steadfast and loving spirit. They must forgive much, forbear much, and forget much. It only costs time, affection, strength, patience and love, and sometimes a man must even lay down his life for his friend. There is no true friendship without self-abnegation and self-sacrifice. Having true friends, let us pray that neither life, nor death, misunderstandings, distance nor doubt may ever come between us. Let us be patient, kind and self-possessed in friendship and always true to our friends.

Love—representing the second link of this great brotherhood—is of divine origin, coming direct from God to man, filled with all His divine greatness and splendor. True friendship is the first link of the grand triad, and it is from their altars ascend an incense that makes life, happiness and heaven our end.

Again we welcome you. Mr. Perrin Busbee, grand master, responded feelingly to the addresses of welcome and spoke of the work the lodge had to do in this season. He said he hoped the people would not mistake the members who hostess tally so that they could not attend to their duties. He said he thought there was a strong probability of such a calamity. He thanked the speakers for the pleasure and honor they had rendered for their hospitality, which he said was bounded as follows: North, Aurora borealis; south, procession of the equinoxes; east, the dawn of civilization; west, the day of judgment.

THE DINGEE & CONRAD COMPANY.

of West Grove, Pa., to set out 75,000 Rose Bushes East of the City—Charlotte Offers Unexcelled Advantages in the Way of Soil and Climate. Mr. P. J. Lynch, general manager of the Dingee & Conrad Company, of West Grove, Pa., to set out 75,000 Rose Bushes East of the City—Charlotte Offers Unexcelled Advantages in the Way of Soil and Climate. Mr. P. J. Lynch, general manager of the Dingee & Conrad Company, of West Grove, Pa., to set out 75,000 Rose Bushes East of the City—Charlotte Offers Unexcelled Advantages in the Way of Soil and Climate.

A BIG ROSE GARDEN.

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T. P. A. ELECTS OFFICERS.

Mr. T. Edgar Harvey Made President of the T. P. A. Delegates to the State Convention in Wilmington. At a meeting yesterday afternoon of the local Post C. of the Travelers' Protective Association, the following-named officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, T. Edgar Harvey; vice presidents, T. W. Wade, first; B. D. Springs, second; J. P. Woodall, third; W. A. Watson, fourth; J. H. Howell, fifth; secretary, W. T. Cooney; treasurer, Walter Scott; chaplain, Rev. Dr. W. M. Kincaid; surgeon, Dr. C. H. C. Mills; directors, Messrs. C. A. Williams, P. P. Zimmerman, Luke Seawell, P. O. Landis, G. McNelly, H. W. Eddy and J. G. Barron. Mr. J. W. Andrews was made chairman of the committee on railroads; Mr. C. B. Bryant, press; J. Frank Wilkes, hotel; John M. Pat, legislative; P. C. Chatham, sick and relief; C. M. Scott, good roads; Norman H. Johnson, attorney.

PUBLISHERS NEXT WEEK.

Programme of the Southern Publishers' Association, Which Meets Here Tuesday and Wednesday of Next Week. The local committee of entertainment for the Southern Publishers' Association, which consists of Messrs. W. C. Dowd, J. P. Caldwell and John R. Ross, has completed its programme. The headquarters will be made at the Selwyn Hotel and the committee plans to give the delegates a pleasant time while they are in the city. The programme is as follows:

TUESDAY, MAY 12TH.

9 a. m.—Business meeting. Address of welcome in behalf of the city, T. B. Franklin, mayor. Welcome on behalf of the Greater Charlotte Club, E. R. Preston, president. Welcome on behalf of the press, J. P. Caldwell. 10 a. m.—Adjournment. 12 p. m.—Trolley ride, starting from Selwyn Hotel, stopping at ball park at 2:30 p. m., to witness a Carolina League game between Charlotte and Greenville, completing the ride after conclusion of the game. 3 p. m.—Smoker at Southern Manufacturers' Club rooms.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13TH.

10 a. m.—Business session. 1 p. m.—Adjournment. 4 p. m.—Automobile ride over 25 miles or more of the macadam roads of Mecklenburg county, with stop for lunch at the dairy farm of Edgar H. Moore, proprietor of the Selwyn, three miles south of the city. 8 p. m.—Annual banquet, Selwyn Hotel.

And His Name's Dennis.

Reddville Review. The people have sized Kitchin up.

Keep Pure LIQUOR MORPHINE

PRINCIPLES BEFORE THE MAN.

To so Arrange It as to Nominate the Men Before the Convention Meets at Denver Un-Democratic—Build the Platform and Then Set the Man on It—Stand by Principles Without the Least Wavering. To the Editor of The Observer: I was greatly gratified to see in your account of the convention of 1888 that my father figured somewhat conspicuously in its deliberations, being on the committee on permanent organization and addressing the convention also.

There was more that pleased me in that report, because of its bearing on our present time. It appears that those Democrats, so recent at the feet of the great teachers of the principles of the party, refused to proceed to the naming of any man till the platform was drafted and passed upon. They were not so hurried that they did not even adjourn and wait for the report of the committee before they proceeded to any other business.

Mr. Holden voiced the same sentiment in his editorial endorsing the action of the convention that had refused to honor him with its nomination. He is quoted as saying: "Men die and pass away like the dew of the morning; but principles co-exist with time and must be maintained without regard to men." That sounds like true Democracy to me. And is thoroughly in keeping with some things I have wanted to say in columns of your excellent paper for some time.

Our State Democratic conventions have so often kept back the platform till so late, that few of the delegates even hear it reported and fewer still know anything about its articles of faith, till they read it in the papers after its presumed formal ratification. This ought not to be true. A confession of faith ought to be as nearly the expression of the whole convention as possible.

Now we are about to be confronted with a much worse condition than that even, for many of our unthinking friends of the cause are desiring to know anything about its articles of faith, till they read it in the papers after its presumed formal ratification. This ought not to be true. A confession of faith ought to be as nearly the expression of the whole convention as possible.

If the Book is right in saying "in the multitude of counsel is safety," then in the name of the Epok, and in the name of true and unadulterated Democracy, let the wise counselors of the convention take over the man and the platform before the man is named to stand upon it.

Let us send men to Denver to confer together, to write a platform at least, and to remove the doubt from the minds of the party as to the principles of a party that stands for the best that is in us; for our eternal desires to promote the well-being of the whole people; and that they as the properly accredited representatives of the party may pronounce against injustice and inequity that tends to evil. And when all the planks of that so-called platform are rightly shaped and fitted together and built into a perfect structure for the upholding of human liberty and equal rights before the law, let them turn to the business of naming a man suited to the great exigencies of the time, and suited by all means to that platform, to stand him upon it, that he may get under it and about may feel that they are not carrying a man merely, but principles to victory; that they may know, there shall be administered in the land equal and exact justice without fear or favor!

If Bryan shall prove to be the man, after they have come to the consideration of the man—the mere man—then I shall say well and good.

But if the party is really and truly in a hurry, and more to be considered than any man, let its doctrine be the pronouncements of the party and not the dictum of any one man.

If we think principle the main thing let us stand by principle, without variation of the shadow of turning; if principle is not the main thing to consider, then let us be honest enough to say so; and let the opposition and the world know that we have degenereated to hero worship!

Oh, wait! you laugh and say, Mr. Bryan doesn't pretend to be a hero. What is he, then? A dictator? That would seem to fit him about as well as it does Mr. Roosevelt. And Mr. Bryan has been saying almost as much for the last six months. He accuses Mr. Roosevelt of stealing his thunder. And I am heartily glad he did steal it; then that thunder and the big stick have made all the discomfort of the Republican camp, under the tolling eyes of the dictator, and the Democrats may so find a way of escape.

Surely if an untruncated delegation to Denver shall give us such promise, let us send it untruncated by all means. S. E. WILLIAMS, JR. Lexington, May 8th.

He Always Makes Good. Salisbury Evening Post. For all sins of omission and commission as they affected Salisbury we forgive The Charlotte Observer since its handsome treatment of the Maine monument dedication. It put on the job one of its brightest young men—Mr. H. W. Vincent—and he made more than good of a fine opportunity.

Now Wouldn't It, Thought? Durham Herald. It is all right for one side to wage the campaign on Sunday but it would be turbid if the other side should think of such a thing.

The Little-Long Co.

Elaborate Showing of Parasols

Our buyer is now in the great markets, where he has been for the past week getting the newest things and buying lots of merchandise at prices that are lower than have been for a time. These goods are coming in daily. Yesterday we received a large shipment Ladies', Misses' and Children's Parasols and Umbrellas.

A Sweller Line Parasols Has not been seen in a time here. Children's Parasols, all colors to suit the buyer and at 25c., 50c., 75c. and \$1.00 each

Ladies Parasols Any shade or combination of colors, from \$1.00 to \$5.00

Close Roll Umbrellas If you want a beauty, get one of these close roll umbrellas, different colors and handles to match silk in color. Prices... \$4.00 and \$5.00 The Browns with a Brown Suit will look swell.

Centmeri Silk Gloves No Glove is better than this and we believe it will outwear most any other, and they are just as cheap—in all colors and the White and Black. Prices 75c. to the 16-button at \$1.50

Interesting to Husband and Wife Our big cut price sale of Ladies' high class, smartly tailored Suits should and does interest stacks of good shoppers. Everybody knows our Coat Suits are up to the minute in snap and style and that when they get one at Little-Long's "it is right." Now, when you can get one of these swell garments at a big a discount as we are now offering it's interesting to both husband and wife. Only a small charge for alterations on these specials.

Our Millinery Swell, smart, exclusive Hats are what you get at Little-Long's. The reason of our doing the biggest Millinery business in our history is, evidence that our milliners are on to their business.

Merry Widow Sailors New ones in nearly every day. Every color imaginable—Tan, Brown, Copenhagen Blue, Gray, Black, White, etc. Trimmed from... 75c. to \$1.00 Untrimmed Merry Widows... 75c. to \$2.00 Cheap Trimmed Hats, Sailors, etc., at Tryon street store.

The Little-Long Co.