The Charlotte Observer.

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PUBLISHERS' ANNOUNCEMENT

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This paper gives correspondents as wide latitude as it thinks public policy permits, but it is in no case responsible for their views. It is much preferred that correspondents sign their names to their articles especially in cases where they attack persons or institutions, though this is not demanded. The editor reserves the right to give the names of correspondents when they are demanded for the purpose of personal satisfaction. To receive consideration a communication must be accompanied by the true name of the correspondent.

MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 1909.

THE INVITATION OF MR. RHODES, AND CERTAIN COMMENTS.

The dispatches in yesterday's paper told us that a large delegation of business and professional men of Birmingham, Ala., called on Mr. Taft at his temporary Augusta home Saturday and invited him to visit their city, the invitation being extended by Mr. Rufus N. Rhodes, the accomplished editor of The Birmingham News, a very delightful speaker, by the way. The text of Mr. Rhodes's address was given and will be received with varying emotions by Southern Democrats. The radical Bryanites will foam at the mouth, the Taft Democrats will chuckle with glee, the near Democrats or assistant Republicans, who vote one way and pray the other, will experience scarcely less delight which a fourth class will raise their eyebrows and say that while Mr. Rhodes was firing in the right general direction he overshot the mark.

"Judge Taft," said Mr. Rhodes, "I am going to take advantage of this opportunity to say to you that if you knew the heart and the head of the men of the South, and particularly of Birmingham, you would know that they regard the result of the last election as a benediction from God Almighty Himself to the people of the South over their own protest. I am a Democrat, most of these gentlemen are Democrats, but we all welcome your advent into the South not only because we have come to love you for your human qualities, for we understand that your sympathies are as broad as the universe, but because you have come here, sir, indicating to us that you want the South once again to hold her place in the councils of the nation. I want to say to you that you will find no more fertile [illegible] for the planting of your seeds of patriotism, independence of thought, independence of political action. You will [illegible] more fertile field in America than [illegible] the representative men of the City of Birmingham, Ala."

You will say this was laying a pretty rank hold, and it was. Mr. Rhodes overstated the case when, in speaking for the hearts and heads of the "men of the South," he declared that "they regard the result of the last election as a benediction from God Almighty Himself to the people of the South over their own protest." That statement of the case needs modification because whole or partial it is not of general application. So also this, no doubt, though it refers to Birmingham alone.

"We all want * * * [illegible] there and, though a [illegible] long Democrat, I am willing to say [illegible] hell as strike off [illegible] does not do the most to [illegible] sources of [illegible] happiness. We [illegible] but we ponder a [illegible] new and the [illegible]

Mr. Rhodes spoke of Taft with deliberation, if [illegible] but we believe [illegible] preted him and the [illegible] for whom [illegible] interpreted [illegible] them. He [illegible]

"Of course [illegible] very eloquent [illegible] dressed to be [illegible] evidence of [illegible] day among [illegible] est hope [illegible] one point of [illegible] that it's [illegible] are as they are [illegible] —a subject of [illegible] discussion a [illegible] action. * * *

"I hope you will [illegible] misunderstood [illegible] misled into [illegible] extreme [illegible] that it is [illegible] pitality on the [illegible] suppose that [illegible] revolution of [illegible] character. What [illegible] tion, which [illegible] pen that the [illegible] representative [illegible] trolling [illegible] it would be [illegible] the benefit of [illegible] that the solidity of [illegible] a number of the [illegible] solid. It is not [illegible] pose, therefore [illegible] part of on [illegible] shall be broken [illegible] hope that there [illegible] South, or a North [illegible] or any sections. [illegible]

This was exceedingly [illegible] the propositions were [illegible] It is difficult to answer or explode this reasoning that in the South, as in the case elsewhere, political subjects should be submitted to discussion and people should vote as they think. Judge Taft clearly has not misunderstood the reason of the large vote he received in the South, nor the cordiality of his reception here. He is not misled into supposing that these manifestations foreshadow an immediate transferrence of the States of this section into the Republican column, but he welcomes them, "not that the South is to take one political complexion or another" but as omens that its people are becoming free in political thought and action. They should therefore hail and welcome this release, for the man who casts his vote under the constraint of a party name abdicates his rights as a free American citizen and is in little better plight as a voter than the negro who has been disfranchised.

GRIEVOUS ONLY TO ITALY.

Tremendous in all its proportions as is the Italian earthquake disaster, it has thus far had not the slightest apparent effect upon the world's markets and will hardly have much later on. The New York stock market never turned downward for a moment. And yet the destruction of capital, while not remotely proportionate to the destruction of life, was unquestionably large.

The explanation seems to lie in the fact that Italy, especially southern Italy, is outside the world's greater and more active trade currents. Effects of disasters there are, comparatively speaking, almost altogether local. In the end the world as a whole will pay some part of the loss, but the payment will be so indirect and so distant that few could perceive it even if it were large instead of small. There are no great American, British, German or international insurance companies suffering a heavy blow and preparing to dump securities upon the markets wholesale as the only means of raising the cash for which they have become liable. The financial loss, all the heavier upon the afflicted locality on this account, will not be promptly distributed through the civilized world at large. Hence the world's markets show no noticeable effect. From this standpoint the disaster is not comparable with that which the world had to make good little ago when the San Francisco earthquake did its work. It is more nearly like the earthquake disaster at Valparaiso, Chile, which followed upon the heels of San Francisco. The unfortunate people of southern Italy will have few to help them bear their burdens when the work of immediate succor is past. It is well for the financial world that the order of these two disasters in point of time was not otherwise, that the San Francisco earthquake conflagration was behind when a time when business depression seemed a remote contingency and heavy blows could be borne with comparative ease.

Then, too, of course, there is to be considered the fact that no products of any sort which the world can ill do without are involved and that such products as the stricken region is wont to offer will be very little affected from a market standpoint. Palermo, the Sicilian lemon centre, lies on the northwestern coast of the island, over a hundred miles in an air-line from the disaster at the northeastern extremity. There is no reason to believe that other leading exports, including sulphur, will undergo any marked reduction in volume.

The financial loss, as well as the death and suffering, will be confined almost entirely to Italy. This means that the world at large can especially well afford to do what there is especially great need that it should do—render all the early succor possible.

NONE WOULD BE DRIVEN OUT.

The Landmark represents Mr. Enos A. Mills as having said in what it describes as a most interesting address on "The Use of the Forest," delivered in Statesville one evening last week:

"The national government owns [illegible] acres of forest land, nearly all in the West. The passage of the Appalachian forest bill would greatly benefit the South. The government should purchase these lands. It has voluntarily offered to do it more land than it can use. It wants it. But it does not want farm lands and farmers can continue to live and farm in the boundaries of the reserve. In addition to the many other advantages of a forest reserve, it protects the people from the floods of [illegible] It [illegible] and [illegible] in [illegible] and [illegible]

The rights of the land owners are perfectly safeguarded in the forest reserve. It will be interesting to the South to see what position [illegible] will take in the House on this question. If they [illegible] into the hands of people who could not [illegible] the facts as Mr. Mills states them, Mr. Lamb and his [illegible] would have a leg to stand on, but would be laughed out of court by the very people who are now supplicating them in their opposition.

Congress reassembles to-day and the Legislature meets Wednesday. Nothing of importance is expected of Congress not anything out of the ordinary of the Legislature, though the latter will be observed with more care than the former. There are a few things that it could do to advantage but it will be [illegible] in the same [illegible] it will adjourn after what is likely to have been a spiritless session.

Spray opens up better than any other place in the State with a new cotton and woolen mills company incorporated New Year's day and [illegible] one million dollars additional cash capital. This is good enough for a beginning and is the precursor of many [illegible] to come to the State this year.

If it is true, as has been stated, that the railroads operating in North Carolina made more money last year out of the reduced passenger fare than they had ever made before in a similar period out of a higher rate, it is a good joke on those who hoped by reducing rates on them to put them out of business.

"Somebody claims that the first cocktail was made in North Carolina in 1836," says The Richmond News Leader. We never knew before of this claim, but whenever the first cocktail was made in North Carolina everybody knows that the fast one was made last Thursday.

The South's record for new cotton mills in 1908 was about what might have been expected of an after-panic year. Such as it was, however, North Carolina led it by a good wide margin.

A NEAR-POET'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

In the world of near-literature the year 1909 will see few more notable events than that which Andrew Jackson Andrews, Richmond's poet laureate, has just brought to pass. This well-known writer makes the public his debtor with "A Sketch of the Boyhood Days of Andrew J. Andrews, of Gloucester County, Virginia, and His Experience as a Soldier in the Late War Between the States. Written by Himself. To Which Are Added Selected Poems by the Author." Mr. Andrews has not favored The Observer with a copy—perhaps he cherishes a momentary grudge because the inconsistency between his exhortations and his court record in the matter of water-wagoning was recently pointed out from this quarter, but to The New York Sun he has been more kind. Through The Sun we learn that the poet ascribes the honor of his birth to Cappahoosic Wharf, Va., the memorable event taking place on August 19th, 1842. Here are some masterly lines entitled "Where I Was Born."

"In Gloucester county, on the old York River,
There is where my heart is turning ever,
Near Cappahoosic, where I was born,
Early on one August morn,
Cappahoosic is the place
To cook your victuals and wash your face
The best the market can afford
Is placed upon the teeming board.
Way down on the old York River,
There is where my heart is turning ever

"A land of oysters and of fishes,
A land of apples and of milk and peaches,
A land of mosquitoes and of snakes,
A land of flowers and of grapes,
A land of snowstorms and of blizzards,
A land of scorpions and of lizards,
A land of 'possums and of minks,
A land of quail and of bobolinks,
A land of proud aristocrats,
A land of squirrels and of gray eyed cats,
A land of horses and of mules,
A land of colored public schools,
A land of churches and of stores,
A land of pine trees and of crows,
A land of cornbakes and of fritters,
A land of whiskey and of tansey bitters,
Way down on the old York River,
There is where my heart is turning ever

"The people with good things stuff their craw,
They fish and hunt and practise law,
Their favorite drink is the good mint julep
Their favorite flower the beautiful tulip,
Their honeysuckle is very sweet
But the lily of the valley is hard to beat,
The roads are narrow and very sandy,
With horse and buggy we'll find quite handy,
Way down on the old York River,
There is where my heart is turning ever
So it is to the place where I was born,
1842, on the 19th of August morn."

"Cappahoosic has certainly had more done for it than ever Wordsworth did for the English lake country or Byron did for half of romantic Europe. Cappahoosic's poetic child modestly lets his burst of song drop down into prose when revealing further autobiographical details. It appears that he was educated at Cappahoosic Military Academy, served in the Gloucester Invincible Blues and the Richmond Howitzers, invaded Pennsylvania, was a prisoner of war at Fort Delaware and Fort Lookout, commanded his old battery, was prevented by sickness from active service again until General Lee's surrender. After the war he became a merchant, also the father of two pairs of twins. Later still began those literary activities which have made him justly famous.

Among the various "Selected Poems" of the volume we admire none more than a fine quatrain in honor of Representative John Lamb, of the Richmond district:

"Virginia had a noble son,
His character was white as snow,
Wherever sweet Virginia went
This Lamb was sure to go."

If Mr. Lamb forgets the name and address of this panegyrist in his next seed distribution, let him be poetically anathema.

We cease from further comment upon the Andrews volume lest a rising jealousy in behalf of North Carolina find vent. Richmond's and Virginia's most eminent poet-lord has added greatly to his already great laurels.

In dismissing from office Yuan Shi-Kai, grand councillor and commander-in-chief of the Chinese forces, for having rheumatism in the leg, the imperial edict concludes: "Thus our clemency towards him is manifested." It was clever. He might have been beheaded.

Thoughtful people of the religious world will read with interest a sermon preached by Rev. E. R. Laybourn, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Durham, a week ago yesterday, which is printed on another page of this paper.

With its current issue The Tradesman, of Chattanooga, changes from a bi-weekly to a weekly. It is one of the best industrial publications anywhere and its more frequent appearance will add to an already great usefulness.

From time to time there arises the need to use on history the eraser and the pen of re-writing. We had supposed that Edgar Allan Poe was born in Boston as surely as Andrew Jackson was born in North Carolina.

If they don't church Mr. Rufus N. Rhodes, editor of The Birmingham News, for his utterances Saturday, we shall want to know the reason why.

Not in a Thousand Years.

Petersburg Index-Appeal.

The esteemed Charlotte Observer is requested to bear in mind, and to keep the fact on tap, that January 1st, 1909, occurred on Friday. Otherwise a hundred years hence it may rush into print with the confident assertion that it occurred on Wednesday. "Where's he that died o' Wednesday? What place on earth hath he?"

Hunters Slaughter Rabbits.

Salisbury Post, 2d.

Messrs. Ney and Bernard Rouseche spent yesterday with Mr. John Clarke, on his 700-acre farm on the Catawba river, about eight miles west of Statesville. For about six hours they indulged in a rabbit hunt, and in this short time killed 103 cotton-tails.

A TRUE LOVE AT 78.

In these days when matrimonial and domestic squabbles and troubles fill so many columns of the newspapers, it is well to have an occasional reminder that the average American man and wife do faithfully love and cleave to each other and that the average American family is the home of peace and affection.

The verses below may tend to this end. They explain themselves and were composed and read on an appropriate occasion by an average unassuming, intelligent and well-to-do American citizen, living in a Southern State, at the age of 78. While prepared several months ago, they have not before been published.

"NEARING THE GOLDEN WEDDING"

In the fullness of my manhood,
My sweetheart came out of the air,
And ravished my heart with her loveliness
For she was wondrous fair.

Her beauty and grace possessed me,
The joy and light of my life,
And the Heavenly Father blessed me,
For she became my wife.

I clave to her with my whole soul,
I shared my heart with no other,
And, Oh, how great was my glory!
When she became a mother.

The lovely matron grew older,
There stole o'er her a silver sheen,
'Twas the rays of light from heaven
Most glorious ever seen.

Her children's children are with her,
She clasps them to her breast,
And father and children together,
Arise and call her blest.
O, Mater, Beatissima!
Divinest, Sweetest, Best!

STATE LEGISLATION.

Five General Assemblies in the New England States Will Convene During the Coming Week and Five New Governors Will Be Inaugurated—Important Recommendations to Be Made to the Law-Making Bodies.

Boston, Jan. 3.—It is anticipated that the coming session of the Legislatures of five New England States, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut will be particularly interesting this year as the incoming Governors in each State will recommend uniform legislation in the matter of forestry, fisheries and automobiles. All five Legislatures will convene during the coming week, and five new Governors will be inaugurated.

The most important matters to come before the Maine Legislature are expected to be those of taxation and various phases of the prohibitory law.

The bill for direct nomination at the State primaries is expected to be the leading issue before the Massachusetts Legislature this year. Many amendments will be offered to the present liquor law, and the labor leaders will probably ask for picketing and anti-injunction bills.

The most important measures upon which the Rhode Island Assembly will be asked to act are the election of judges, the bill providing for the re-apportionment of the State, the granting of the veto power to the Governor and that of giving the cities and towns the right to vote annually on the license question. The bill for the election of United States Senators by a direct vote will also be taken up.

MRS. ERB AGAIN TO-DAY.

Woman Accused of Killing Her Husband Will Again Be a Witness in Her Own Behalf.

Media, Pa., Jan. 3.—The trial of Mrs. M. Florence Erb and her sister, Mrs. Catherine M. Beizel, for the murder of the former's husband, Captain J. Clayton Erb, on October 6th, will be resumed here to-morrow morning when it is expected that more details will be added to the story of the Erb family troubles that led up to the tragedy.

Mrs. Erb, whose story of the treatment she received at the hands of her husband, was the feature of yesterday's proceedings will go on the witness stand to-morrow when court opens. District Attorney McDade, who did not spare her in cross-examination Saturday, will continue to quiz the widow. Mrs. Catherine Beizl, the sister who shot Captain Erb, and who, it is contended, did so in self-defense, will follow Mrs. Erb and tell her version of the alleged attack of Captain Erb upon his wife.

Pennsylvania to Elect Two Senators.

Harrisburg, Pa., Jan. 3.—With two United States Senators to elect and much important legislation to consider, the coming session of the Pennsylvania Legislature promises to be one of unusual interest. The Republican party has a large working majority in both bodies.

There is apparently little doubt of the election of Boise Penrose, of Philadelphia, to succeed himself in the United States Senate, or of George T. Oliver, of Allegheny, to fill the unexpired term of Philander C. Knox, who will resign to become Secretary of State under President-elect Taft. Penrose is opposed by anti-organization Republicans, whose candidate is State Treasurer Sheetz.

Wilson Farmers Holding Their Cotton.

Wilson Times, 2d.

One of our leading cotton merchants informed us to-day that only about 60 per cent. of the usual amount of cotton, some 8,000 bales, has been marketed here to date. Wilson handled last year 14,000 bales and up to this time last season had sold 10,000 bales. The farmers are holding for higher prices, nearly every one having some cotton on hand. The difference represents $100,000 in money and partially explains the tightness of money in these parts. With the exception of 1904 there is more cotton held this year than ever before within the recollection of the trade.

Father John's Followers Grieve Over His Demise.

Cronstadt, Jan. 3.—The body of Father John of Constadt was transferred to-day to Saint Andrews Cathedral through streets lined with mourners. At the funeral service and during the period when the body lay in State there were scenes of hysterical grief among the thousands of the dead priest's followers, numbers of whom, unable to afford sleighs, had walked five miles over hummocky ice from Oranienbaum and waited for ten hours in the cold to attend the service.

Detective Ashburn Still on Barbee Case.

Durham Herald, 2d.

The appearance of Mr. J. W. Ashburn, the rather talkative still worker in the Reuben Barbee case, yesterday brought a revived interest in the matter. It is said that there is being offered more testimony for the grand jury that meets next week.

Where the Rub Comes.

Durham Herald.

Congress would not mind finding out all that the President knows about it if the rest of us did not have to find it out, too.

NORTH STATE'S NEW POETESS.

An Admirer of Virginia's Bard Admits Her Near-Greatness, But Remains Wedded to Its Idol.

New York Sun.

October 25th, 1774, fifty-one women tea drinkers met at the house of Mrs. Elizabeth King, and after many heroic speeches resolved to prefer liberty to taxed tea; and the taboo wasn't taken off until the Revolution was over. According to The Charlotte Observer, whose motives in the matter are not beyond suspicion, since it is trying to match the Tar Heel poets against the incomparable Andrew Jackson Andrews, of Richmond, a memorial tablet "was placed in a wall of the rotunda of the capitol" October 25th, 1908, "showing a large tea urn, the house where the tea party was held, etc.," and at a tea party a poem was read, a part of which The Observer now publishes. It is suspicious, to say the least, that this poem did not appear until after we had placed the bard of Cappahoosic too high for rivalry. For the benefit of students we republish some passages of this lay, reserving our opinion as to its origin, date and authenticity. Accepting it for what it pretends to be, compared with the known works of Andrews it is but the squash pipe reed to the concert of the spheres:

"In 1778, the summer month of June,
The 17th day, Penelope
Raised first her infant tune.

"Thomas Barker was a lawyer
Of repute and ability.
And a grand woman did he wed
When he married Penelope."

This has the wonted North Carolina domestic accent and movement, which, however, are easy to imitate. But the meeting begins:

"Mrs. Barker called a meeting
To abandon drinking tea;
The picture of the party
Is here for all to see.

"In the house of Elizabeth King
This political body met,
Of ladies numbering fifty-one,
An independent set.

"They draw a constitution
Worthy of a Judge,
They'd drink no tea, they'd give it up!
Without a pang or grudge."

The pedestrian muse always. Nothing of the majestic, far fanning pinions, the wild rush, the glow and glory of Andrew Jackson Andrews:

"Mrs. Barker was the leader
Of the Revolution band
Of women which antedated
Old Boston's noble stand.

"The men to arms! The guns went,
The British entered Edenton;
They found no quarter and no men,
Only women's frowns.

"They sought for booty and wide
For cattle and for steed,
Anything to satisfy
England's tyrants' greed.

"They boldly took her horses
And to her coach did hitch,
But Penelope espied them
And, as mad as any witch,
She snatched a keen-edged blade;
And with a slash she cut
The traces like a man.

"Her coach was white,
Emblazoned with arms,
In which the fair Penelope
Had graced with many charms."

"Antedated old Boston's noble stand" is chronology a little scratched, but much may be forgiven to good intentions. And now good-by to Penelope:

"But like the fragrant flowers,
All things sweet must fade,
She died leaving a record
Of glory she had made."

"We are there with the goods," cries The Observer proudly. Some folks are easily satisfied and have to be. The golden lines of Andrews outshine unspeakably those poor tinsels ornaments. Hear once more the glorious tea song:

"The Maria Teresa,
May heaven bless her!
The Spaniards built her
But the Yankees kilt-er."

We defy all the singers, genuine or invented, of North Carolina to come within megaphone hailing of the supreme son of song.

SURRY STILLS DESTROYED.

Saw Mill Whistle Warns the Operators and They Escape, But the Officers Destroy Their Plants.

Greensboro Record, 2d.

Revenue Officers J. H. C. Norman, E. A. Aiken and W. W. Harkins have just returned from a raiding expedition in Surry county, where they captured three large blockade distillery outfits in the region of Round Peak mountain in Surry county.

Not having any deputy marshal along none of the blockaders was arrested, but warrants will be issued for them. At one big still of 120 gallon capacity, the revenuers had to pass a saw mill, about a mile from the place they were bound for. This mill, as soon as they were out of sight, gave several blasts from its steam whistle, clearly notifying the owners of the blockade outfit that the revenuers were coming. The officers were much amused at this old-fashioned sign language, and of course found the operators of the still absent, but the worm was such a big one it had been impossible for the moonshiners to "tote" it off, so it was destroyed and a large quantity of beer poured on the ground. The owners live in about a hundred yards from the outfit, they say, and they will have no trouble in getting them.

Mr. J. C. Angier Visits President-Elect Taft.

Durham Sun.

Mr. J. C. Angier has gone to Augusta, Ga., to meet President-elect Taft. Mr. Angier was one of the original Taft men in this county and led the fight that ousted the Cannon supporters in the county convention, or rather started the ball rolling that did oust them later at the State convention. He has gone to see the new President on some matters of business—possibly something of the political order.

That is Right.

Houston Post, 1st.

One week from to-day, the country will celebrate the ninety-fourth anniversary of the great battle of New Orleans so gallantly won by General Andrew Jackson, a native of North Carolina.

Deacon!

Charleston News and Courier:

To Womankind: Would that all the world were a forest, and all trees festooned with mistletoe!

Taking Chances.

Durham Herald.

The fellow who really wants it for medicine is taking chances if he drinks the kind of stuff he can get.

WANTED—At once, a woman of experience, to have charge of kitchen in student hotel. Must be of good health, capable and industrious. Good wages. Apply to Prof. J. Allen Holt, Oak Ridge, N. C.

The Little-Long Co.
DEPARTMENT STORES—CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Great After-Xmas Sale of High-Class Clothing and Gents' Furnishings for Men and Young Men

To-morrow we inaugurate what promises to be the greatest value-giving event in our history. Owing to our stocks being larger than usual for this time of the year—due to having purchased heavier than in previous years—we find it necessary to cut prices without a thought of what these goods are worth.

The fact that our stock is made up principally of the finest specimens of high-grade wearing apparels should be sufficient attraction to bring you here without delay. In point of style, material, tailoring and finish our goods stand second to none; in fact, they are the very embodiment of style in every detail.

Men's Fancy Suits in new patterns, worth $15.00. Special.... .....$10.00

Just received a new lot Men's Worsted Suits, nicely tailored in the latest style, worth $20.00; for. $15.00

Men's Overcoats at .....$7.50 to $22.50

Here also is a chance for supplying those Furnishing Goods which you need. We must reduce our stock at once and it is certainly to your interest to see our matchless offering in Gloves, Shirts, Mufflers, Bath Robes.

All Fancy Handle Umbrellas, Bath Robes, Silk Mufflers Silk Suspenders and Arm Bands at 1-4 off.

Wool Gloves, all colors.....25c. to 50c.

Auto Gloves from.....$1.00 to $3.00

Bear Skin Gloves at.....$1.00 and $2.00

Men's and Ladies' Mufflers in Whites and Grays, at .....$2.00 to $3.00

The Little-Long Co.
DEPARTMENT STORES—CHARLOTTE, N. C.