

The Charlotte Observer.

J. F. CALDWELL, Publisher.

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SUNDAY, MAY 16, 1909.

NORTH CAROLINA MAKES GOOD.

For some time past the muteness of this State's near-singers has depressed all true patriots. North Carolina primary in near-song tell into serious peril, even so stalwart an admirer and champion as The New York Sun losing heart completely.

Both as near-poetry organ and as a North Carolina newspaper, The Observer sought earnestly how it might smite the rock of the State's near-poetical resources and cause celebratory verse to gush forth.

Up to Charlotte the 26th of May To see and hear what Taft will say; Write our fathers did declare That we'd be free, Taft will be there.

Should we not feel very great For this and Taft to visit our State? Raise your banners high in air; Three cheers, boys, we'll see Taft there!

Many from Alamance will be sent To meet our much-loved President Hurrah for Alamance, and Taft so grand! Give him a hearty shake of the hand.

Long may he live in this our land. He who is so stern and grand; Let's go and see with good intent, He is our grand and sailing ship.

Let's lay by business for one day And to Charlotte city speed our way, And go to see with good intent, William Howard Taft, our President.

He's proved it by the word of mouth That he takes an interest in the South. Your politics now lay aside, And spread his fame both far and wide.

And now I trust you'll quickly dress And meet Taft in Charlotte in our best; For prosperous times we've seen and felt Through McKinley, Taft and Roosevelt.

Over these magnificent verses is inscribed for this simple the word "Poem"—as though, forsooth, the poetry were like a picture so poor that the object pictured might not be recognizable unless its name went along with it.

We very much hope that Post Stutts will head the host from his section and, holding before President Taft's delighted eyes one of the banners which he mentions, lead the three cheers which he bespeaks.

We rejoice in the thought that the North Carolina editors and a good part of the South Carolina editors will be here for the Twentieth. Through The Norfolk Landmark, president, we hereby extend pressing invitations to the Round Table and through The Houston Post, walking delegate, to the Paragraphers' Union.

THE DUTY ON TEA.

Senator Tillman's proposed amendment to the tariff bill providing for a duty of ten cents a pound on tea calls forth an expression from The Columbia Record on the subject.

As to the price of tea and the increase thereof, which would follow from the placing of this duty on the article, our Columbia contemporary says:

"Tea retails at from 35 cents to \$1.50 per pound, the most commonly used tea costing the consumer from 50 cents to \$1. The South Carolina tea selling at 50 cents and 60 cents usually. It may be estimated, therefore, that the average price of tea per pound is 50 cents in this country, and to add a tax of ten cents per pound means an increase of 14.23 per cent. in the price to the tea consumer."

A tax of 16.23 per cent. is a heavy one to put on this article; but that is not the greatest hardship. It is the rate at what The Record says is the average price; but we must bear in mind that a great many consumers of tea buy a cheaper article, and they, of course, are among the poorer classes. These persons will be taxed more than the average of 14.23 cents, while those who can afford to buy that which sells above the average price will be taxed much less.

AND THAT REMINDS US. Solemn declarations by the French Chamber of Deputies that the government postal employees could not strike, made at the time the service was completely suspended in the capital and other cities by a strike of the employees, reminds us of a certain incident in Senator Vance's career as a soldier in the Confederate army.

During Vance's captivity of a company, in making his report as officer of the guard on one occasion, he stated that Lieut. So-and-So had been arrested and was then in the guard house. The officer of the day, on reading the report, said: "Why, Captain, you can't put a commissioned officer in the guard house in that way." Vance replied: "Yes, I can. I tell you, you cannot," said the officer. "Well," rejoined the captain, "if you will go down to the guard house and peep in you will see whether I can or not, for the lieutenant is certainly in there."

IN THE MATTER OF THE KETTLE. The Observer having sung it as "Johnny, Put the Kettle On," The Montgomery Advertiser angrily asserts that by rights it is "Molly, Put the Kettle On." But before we can administer chastisement The Washington Herald puts in and commits a worse offense by declaring for "Polly, Put the Kettle On." Comes at the same time The Savannah News and conducts itself in a manner simply outrageous. "As a disinterested outsider," says this disputant, "we may be able to explain how the difference comes about. It is merely a matter of environment. Up in the hill country about Charlotte, when the kettle is put on, the person who does it is required by force of circumstances to keep a shotgun in one hand and his eyes peeled for the 'revenoers,' wherefore it is meet and proper for 'Johnny' to put it on. In Montgomery, however, the kettle is put on for the purpose of brewing tea, wherefore it is 'Molly's' duty to look after it."

When The Savannah News strikes Charlotte next Wednesday or Thursday—and the whole bunch must surely come—we shall cause tea to be made the limit of its refreshment. Further than this we decline all controversy where the other parties thereto show themselves so incredibly mean.

Savannah dispatches indicate that under the Sherman anti-trust law one set of trust officials, the naval stores men, will get its due at last. True, nobody is in jail yet, but an effort to evade sentences so clearly deserved will be attended with no little difficulty.

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CHARLESTON'S HARBOR.

The Charleston Evening Post says that the Charleston chamber of commerce has put itself formally on record as favoring a movement to improve the harbor.

This is a great surprise to us. We did not know that anything, in the opinion of the people of Charleston, was needed in the way of improving their harbor. That they should admit and that one of the papers of the city should publish to the world the fact of improvement in the harbor being much desired—which means needed—is astonishing. It is something new for the Charlestonians to admit that their harbor is not of sufficient depth for all the needs of commerce.

Before the eastern district judge's appointment had been made it was stated in some quarters that the Southern Railway and J. P. Morgan would control the President's actions in naming the judge, and also that whoever he appointed would keep on hand a supply of ready-made injunctions for the benefit of railroads.

During his terms of office as Governor General of the Philippines and Secretary of War Mr. Taft was able to do so much in the way of pacifying the Filipinos and bringing about better conditions in our far eastern possessions it would seem that as President he might settle the matter of which the Porto Ricans complain in a manner satisfactory to both sides.

The column of sprightly squibs to which The Durham Herald treats its readers every morning has made itself conspicuously by its absence for the last two or three mornings. We had supposed Brother Joe King was taking his annual fishing frolic "down east," but, instead, as it turns out, he is tied up on the jury in a murder case. We hope it will be a short trial.

The Greenville, S. C. News, after giving its readers a paper six days in the week for 35 years, announces that it will shortly change to a daily paper, which means an issue every day in the year. Patrons of The News evidently know a good thing when they see it and want as much of it as they can get.

It is very gratifying to learn that Charlotte may get for next year the Southern Baptist Convention, now meeting in Louisville. Charlotte's arguments are strong and will, we hope, prevail.

"No. It does not take a real vacancy to bring out the candidates. The prospect of there being one is enough to start them going."—Greenville Reflector.

The truth of this statement was sufficiently demonstrated during Judge Purnell's last illness.

If Mr. Bryan carries out his plans for another world tour he will be at least a little more careful than on the former occasion about what he says on returning home.

It is human nature that the man with the biggest income should kick the hardest against paying a tax on it.

ASHEVILLIANS COMING. The Mountain City to Be Well Represented on the 20th.

A large number of Ashevilleians will go to Charlotte May 20 for the big Mecklenburg celebration which begins on that day. The star attraction is the coming of President Taft, whose presence in Charlotte will be the first presidential visit to a similar celebration.

Let Both Claim Him. Milwaukee, Wis., Journal. A Michigan man died because his town went dry and he was not able to get his daily quart of whiskey. Should he be regarded as a martyr to the liquor cause or as a horrible example.

There is no man in the world who was ever at the history institute. J. B. Johnson, Laurinburg, N. C.

MR. HOLT AND DEFUNCT BANK.

Mr. J. Allen Holt Disclaims Any Connection Whatever With the Defunct City National Bank of Greensboro, Having Sold Out His Stock in 1907.

The article from Greensboro published in your paper on the 11th of May with reference to the action brought by the receiver of the City National Bank against the former directors of the bank does me an injustice, and ordinarily I would await the trial of the case, and the introduction of the testimony for my vindication, notwithstanding the publication referred to, but the report in the newspaper is calculated to injure my reputation, and in order to avoid this, I can only wish to state a few facts, which I trust should be made public without delay.

"Prof. J. Allen Holt, Oak Ridge, N. C." "Dear sir: The broker whom I referred to you was C. P. Bowles, of Wilmington. I have been offering your stock, however, at \$1.25, and a day or so ago had an offer of \$3,000 for your twenty-five shares, and so if you will send the stock to the City National Bank, I will deliver the same, collect the money, and make such disposition of it as you may direct.

"W. S. THOMPSON." Upon receipt of this letter I endorsed and sent by mail the stock with directions that he deliver it to the purchaser, collect the money, pay a note for \$2,000 which I owed the City National Bank, and send me a cashier's check for the remainder of the proceeds of the sale of my stock.

"On October 14, 1907, I received a letter as follows: 'Greensboro, N. C., Oct. 14, 1907. 'Prof. J. Allen Holt, Oak Ridge, N. C.' 'Dear sir: In accordance with your letter to Mr. Thompson I beg to enclose you cancelled note for \$2,000 and 500 shares of Oak Ridge stock which we have to sell. We have charged your account \$4 past due interest. I also enclose check for \$1,000, being balance for sale of your stock. We are sorry to lose you as one of our directors and stockholders, and hope that we will continue to share in your good will and business. Yours very truly, 'LEE H. BATTLE.'"

This ended my connection with the City National Bank until after its failure in March, 1908, when the receiver sought to hold me liable for an assessment on account of the stock I had sold in October, 1907.

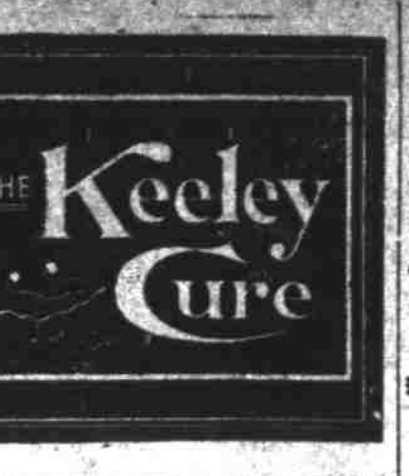
"Since I ceased to be connected with the bank as a stockholder and officer I have not had access to its books, and cannot say of my own knowledge what an examination of them would disclose. I venture to predict, however, that the books do not tend to show that the \$2,000 which was paid to me for my stock was because of the sale of this stock by me to the bank. The letters above referred to show the only knowledge that I had with reference to this transaction, and if anything wrong was done in connection with it I was not a party to it, and had no reason to suspect it, and did not suspect it.

Subsequent to the sale of my stock a dividend was paid by the City National Bank to its stockholders on the first day of January, 1908, and none of that money came to me or was offered to me.

I have been sued by the receiver of the City National Bank for the assessment on this stock, and have filed an answer thereto, substantially setting out these facts, and am resisting payment upon the ground that I am neither in fact, law or morals liable.

The present suit brought by the receiver to hold the directors liable for losses sustained by the bank by reason of acts of commission or omission by the directors makes it necessary for me to defend that suit also if it is pressed against me, and this I feel able to do, but must in the meantime protect myself against any misleading charges and erroneous insinuations.

J. ALLEN HOLT, Oak Ridge, May 14, 1909. Wedding Month in Germany. Birmingham Age-Herald. In Germany the month of April is the chosen time for weddings. One must, however, be careful to select a lucky day for the event. The lucky days, so say those who know, are the second, fourth, twelfth and twenty-second.



THE REAL MARK TWAIN.

Dr. Archibald Henderson Writes Entertainingly of His Personal Association With the Great Humorist.

In another part of to-day's issue will be found one of the most delightful articles The Observer has been privileged to print in some time. It is entitled "The Real Mark Twain," and is from the pen of Dr. Archibald Henderson, of the State University. In it Dr. Henderson gives a near view of the great humorist from personal association and treats his subject most entertainingly.

Dr. Archibald Henderson is regarded by many competent authorities as the South's leading critic of literature. His articles appear in leading magazines in America, Europe and the Scandinavian countries. Certain of his essays have recently been reviewed at length in such foreign publications as "Bühne und Welt," Berlin; "Comedie," Paris; "Review of Reviews," London; "M. A. P.," (Mainly About People), London. He has recently published essays in France, Belgium, and Germany; and his most recent publications in this country are: "The Career of Bernard Shaw," The Arena, January, 1909; "The Philosophy of Bernard Shaw," The Atlantic Monthly, February, 1909; "The Evolution of Dramatic Technique," North American Review, March, 1909; "Mark Twain," Harper's Magazine, May, 1909.

Dr. Henderson's essays have called forth expressions of high commendation from such distinguished authorities as Prof. William James, of Harvard; Mr. Gilbert K. Chesterton, Herr Von Wollman, Baron Rinehard von Willebrand, Monsier Auguste Hamon, Prof. Wm. Lyon Phelps, of Yale University, etc. In speaking of Dr. Henderson's appreciation of him, Maurice Maeterlinck the great Belgian genius, wrote: "Your appreciation is one of the most subtle, most penetrating, and best informed in our whole modern movement, that it has been my pleasure to see," a most remarkable tribute.

"Of the 'Important Books' to be published by Houghton, Mifflin Company this year, the leading announcement reads: "George Bernard Shaw: The Man and His Work," by Archibald Henderson. An unusual and arresting book, written with the active assistance of Mr. Shaw and with a characteristic preface by him.

Dr. Henderson has recently paid Mark Twain a visit at his beautiful new home, "Stormfield," at Redding, Conn. He has recently received a request from the leading German review, The Deutsche Revue, to prepare an appreciation of Mark Twain for the German reading public. Dr. Henderson was paid a signal and almost unprecedented tribute in the publication of his authorized appreciation of Mark Twain in Harper's Magazine; for it is virtually unheard of for the magazine to publish an essay about any living man.

It Means Wanton Impositions and Untoward Conditions. Courier Journal.

Our old friend of West Tennessee is mistaken in his theory that prohibition prohibits. He is mistaken in his theory that wicked husbands and bad fathers may be turned into good husbands and good fathers by act of Assembly. The attempt to do it entails wanton impositions to begin with and forecasts untoward conditions to end with; sacrificing the freedom of the people without elevating the morals of the people. The better way and the sufficient way, is to close the evil places where the community is united enough to close them and to keep them closed, each the pudge of its own excise arrangements, leaving every individual free to develop up his own lines of conscience and conduct already fixed by the government. It is doing too much in restraint of men. Something must be left to moral agencies. Force impelled by clericalism and hystericalism, equally undiscriminating and despotic, never yet has advanced a good, but always in the end, surely comes the irremediable wrong.

Should Be Working the Roads. Greensboro Record.

The report comes from Jamestown that Representative Gordon, of that place, received a letter recently not to come to a certain place; if he did he would be killed. This was because of his action in passing Gullford's road law. Anonymous letter writers are proverbially the greatest cowards on earth. We should judge that Dr. Gordon is not the least bit apprehensive. One of these fellows might slip up behind him in the dark and hit him with a stick, but we doubt it.

Where Alexander Failed. Washington Star.

"Alexander the Great conquered the entire world." "Yes," answered Mr. Dustin Stax, "he conquered it; but some of us moderns could have shown him a thing or two about making it pay dividends."

To Whom the Compliment? Charleston News and Courier.

The opinion of a writer in The New York World that "Mr. Bryan is not a successful politician" is erroneous. If Mr. Bryan lived in South Carolina, where the primary election decides the contest, he would be invincible to anybody except Senator Tillman.

And the Senator Knows It. Milwaukee, Wis., Journal.

Yes, tariff agitation is bad for business, and it is especially bad for that kind of business which Senator Aldrich is trying to pull off.

And a Pull With the Divorce Court. Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser.

That Indiana woman who lately married her tenth husband must have unusual attractiveness or possesses an effective way of lassoing the men.

SMASHES ALL RECORDS. As an all-round laxative tonic and health-builder no other pills can compare with Dr. King's New Life Pills. They tend and regulate stomach, liver and kidneys, purify the blood, strengthen the nerves; cure Constipation, Dyspepsia, Biliousness, Headache, Chills and Malaria. Try them. So. at all druggists.

The Little-Long Department Stores, Charlotte, N.C. Trade Street. Ladies.

For Monday's selling we want to demonstrate that our prices are the lowest, our values the highest, our service far better than can be secured elsewhere. This is the heaviest Millinery season by a percentage we have had. Our Popular Millinery Department in Tryon street store is doing a phenomenal business, and there's a reason for it.

On Monday we place on sale several lots of Trimmed Hats That Cannot Fail to Please. The prices are exceedingly low at \$1.25, \$1.98, \$2.49, \$3.00.

Our trimmers will take great pride in making a hat please you at a much lower figure than you can make it yourself.

Sailors Are the Fashion. We have mushroom shapes, large and small crowns, the widest brims. 50c. to \$1.00.

Men's Straw Hats. Very fine quality—new shapes: Regular \$3.00 Hats, special at \$2.50; \$2.50 Hats, special at \$2.00; \$2.00 Hats, special at \$1.00.

Toilet Goods Department. For Monday's selling. Supply your guest's needs: Lana Oil Soap, best made, 3 cakes; Fine Glycerine Soaps, 3 cakes; Large cakes of Buttermilk and Oatmeal Soaps; Mennen's celebrated Talcum, 2 boxes; Eastman's Talcum, full pound boxes.

Hand Brushes, special at \$1.00. A full line of Hudnut's Toilet Preparations. The best of these goods sells them—they need no further comment.

China Department. Beginning Monday, we will place on sale a number of Austrian China Dinner Sets of elegant design and quality. The decoration is a very rare rose garland. At the price it is a bargain indeed, \$13.40 for a set of pieces—easily worth \$20.00.

The Little-Long Department Stores, Charlotte, N.C. Tryon Street. House Furnishings.