

# Asheville Daily Gazette.

Vol II: No. 273.

ASHEVILLE, N. C., SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 26, 1897.

Price 5 Cents.

## HOLIDAY GOODS.

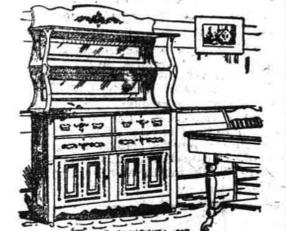
The Christmas shopping and buying is now the order of the day. Very little time left for decision, but there is no need for hesitation about where to buy, because our's is the store to visit for the nicest goods, and last, but not least—bargain prices.

Holiday Specialties are Here in Great Profusion:

- Handkerchiefs, Umbrellas, regular holiday styles;
- Metal Smoking Tables, Metal Picture Frames, Collar and Cuff Boxes, Metal and Dresden Toilet sets,
- Easel and Hand Mirrors, Fancy Garters, Perfumery, "Alexandre" French Kid Gloves, Shaving sets, Manicure sets, Artistic Fancy China and Dresden Ware, Glove and Handkerchief Boxes, Jewelry, Etc.—that's always the last word.

### OESTREICHER & CO.

28 South Main Street.



## Christmas is Here

and now is a good time to get that sideboard. It will be a fine present for your wife, and at such low figures too.

**W. A. BLAIR.**  
Phone 75. 45 Patton Ave.

## SPANIARDS DRIVEN BACK.

Unable to Conquer the Cubans by Sea or Land.

Havana, Dec. 25.—Advices from Manzanilla, Santiago de Cuba province, say that the Spanish squadron, composed of four gunboats and two tugs, have been driven from the mouth of the Cauto river by insurgents under Gen. Garcia.

At the same time 16,000 Spanish soldiers under Generals Pando and Segura, who simultaneously attacked the insurgents by land, have also been compelled to return to Manzanilla.

The gunboat Valasquez was seriously damaged by a torpedo, and the rest of the squadron had to stop firing on account of heavy cannonading from the insurgent forces. All along the lower part of the Cauto patriots had built strong fortifications.

**TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY.**  
Take laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. The genuine has L. B. Q. on each tablet.

**GOOD.**  
established, paying business for sale. For particulars address box 705, city.

Malga Grapes 20c., Raisins 2c. and 12c., Currants 10c., Citron 18c., Dates and Prunes 7 1/2c., Mixed Nuts 12c., Bananas 10c. and 15c. per dozen.—S. H. Chedester, 22 Patton avenue.

## CHRISTMAS DAY'S AWFUL ACCIDENT

### An Explosion of Gunpowder Works Terrible Havoc.

### TWENTY-TWO MEN AND BOYS BURNED AND OTHERWISE BADLY INJURED.

### Fears That Some of Them Will Die and Some Will be Blind.

### Clothing of the Victims Torn into Shreds by the Explosion and Set on Fire—Many Physicians Give Aid—Details of the Catastrophe and Condition of the Injured.

A frightful accident yesterday turned Christmas into a day of suffering and anxiety in many homes and shocked this entire community.

Twenty-two persons were injured, many of them very seriously, by a gunpowder explosion on the hill that rests above the east bank of the French Broad river, just below Smith's bridge.

The accident occurred a little after 11 o'clock in the morning. A number of boys and men assembled near the West End drug store and, purchasing a quantity of gunpowder, crossed the river and ascended the hill where in an open field on the summit for several years there has been the stump of an old army cannon.

The crowd of boys and men, which had swelled to nearly a hundred, got the gun into position and successfully fired one shot, that went echoing over the city.

A cheer went up at the result, and before the smoke about the cannon had cleared away the men and boys, who at its firing had retreated to a safe distance, rushed back to it and Joseph Finch, a brakeman on the Asheville and Spartanburg branch of the Southern railway, approached the mouth of the gun with a can containing about twenty-five pounds of powder. John Ingle, butcher, shouted to Finch, "Don't put that powder in there yet! Wait till we clean it out," but Finch paid no attention to the warning, and began pouring the powder into the cannon, when there was a burst of flame from its mouth, a terrific roar and a flash that seemed to fill the whole field with fire and smoke. Men and boys were thrown from their feet, driven across the field and rolled down the steep incline of the hill.

### A FRIGHTFUL MOMENT.

A scene of wild confusion followed, after a moment's lull from the stunning effect of the explosion. The field and woods a hundred or more feet away from where the cannon still lay were ablaze, and strewn about the field were more than a score of human bodies, some moving and some lying stiff.

Finch, the man who held the powder keg, lay insensible nearly a hundred feet away, near a fence where he had fallen after his flight through the air. Fragments of clothing were everywhere and many of the injured lay on the ground or staggered about, with blinded eyes, coal black faces and bloodied bodies almost nude.

Some ran about, frantically screaming with pain, the fragments of clothing that hung in shreds about them still burning. One boy twelve years old, was rolling down the hill toward the river his clothing on fire.

None who stood near the cannon escaped injury. That no person was killed outright was most remarkable. Those who had escaped injury hastened to the rescue of their unfortunate companions, tearing and cutting the burning clothing from their bodies or assisting them to walk.

The place where the explosion occurred is known as the Henry field, and many of the injured were conveyed, being led or carried, down the hill to the old residence of Judge Henry at the east end of Smith's bridge.

The scene about this house was soon one to move the stoutest heart to grief. A great crowd, among whom were the relatives and neighbors of the injured men and boys, gathered around the building. Blankets and bedding were carried to the injured and one after another the injured were brought down. Some of them it was impossible for even their nearest relatives to recognize. (But for the white skin of their bodies they resembled negroes; so their blackened were their faces and hands, their features swollen and hair singed to the roots.)

After the first firing of the cannon not a few had been watching the performance of the group on the hilltop. The men of the group on the hillside, who were spectators on the Asheville side of the river, and when the explosion occurred many saw and when the explosion occurred the bodies of the group of smoke arise and the bodies thrown from the hillside, succeeded by a shower of sparks windows in the houses half a mile away. Gay Green, Charles Hart and a mile away. Gay Green, Charles

Wynne and J. M. Young are among those

who witnessed the catastrophe and several persons standing on the bridge, who hastened to the hilltop.

### MEDICAL AID.

The first message for medical aid was probably sent from the cotton factory, though several of those on the Asheville side of the river, who witnessed the disaster and realized its probable consequences, also went immediately for medical aid.

The telephone call from the cotton factory summoned Dr. George Thrash, who arrived at the Henry house promptly. He found Dr. J. A. Watson there, who had just arrived. There were ten of the wounded then in the house. Dr. Thrash came provided with a supply of cloth and cotton bandages, and he and Dr. Watson worked industriously to relieve the suffering. They were reinforced soon by Dr. A. M. Ballard, Dr. Carl V. Reynolds, Dr. George Thrash, Dr. L. B. McBrayer, Dr. E. C. Starnes, Dr. E. B. Glenn, Dr. Woodcock and Dr. H. L. Baird.

A number of the most seriously injured were soon placed in carriages and on wagons and brought to the city where better means of treatment were available. A number were taken to the mission hospital and five were conveyed to the office of Dr. Starnes where their wounds were dressed.

The arrival of the wagons on the public square attracted a large crowd, and as the simple covering of blankets was removed from each of the wounded disclosing the frightful spectacle of the explosion, it is in every instance a horrible sight. Portions of the face, many were astonished that the men were able to walk from the improvised ambulance to the physician's office with the assistance of the physicians. In place of the clothing they had lost blankets covered their bodies. Their bare arms were black and bloody.

Many persons from Asheville visited the scene of the explosion during the day. The cannon lay half buried in the ground and all around it over the entire field were strewn burnt fragments of clothing—pockets from vests, arms from coats, pieces of shirt bosoms, cloth from pantaloons, torn stockings, flannel underwear, portions of one nearly new suit of clothes full of holes and ragged from burns. The field adjoining had been burned over and some of the trees showed the effect of the flames. It is stated that several of the injured had money, watches or revolvers in their pockets that are now missing, though some of the valuables may have been found by persons who will return them.

### FOUND HIS SON.

A sensation was caused after the field had been cleared of the injured, by the information that Claude McAbee, a boy, was missing, that one of the spectators had seen him blown "high into the air" and into the adjacent field, that had afterwards been on fire. No trace of him could be found. His nearly frantic father and others searched every spot of the charred field and grove, and fears were expressed that he had been cremated. Later word was brought to Mr. McAbee that the lad was at Blunmore, which proved true. Though very contradictory stories are told of the force and effect of the explosion, it is doubtful if any of the men were "blown high into the air," the force of the explosion being lateral—driving the men along the ground and throwing them prostrate. Their clothing, though in many instances it was torn from their bodies, protected the flesh from being burned except in cases where the cloth took fire.

### THE INJURED.

**JOSEPH FINCH**, age 27, Rector street, train brakeman, married, one child; very seriously injured, recovery doubtful. Blown 100 feet, unconscious when found; severe burns face and hands, thumb shattered, probably the worst case.

**EDWARD MILLER**, age 17, Hill street, injuries serious. Ends of several fingers blown off; ankle either dislocated or fractured; hair completely singed, out on hip bone; face cut and burned; may lose one eye.

**RICHARD ALDRICH**, age 15, Jefferson drive; face and eyes badly burned; cut on chin, intense suffering.

**CHARLES BLAWNEY**, age 23, Patton avenue; driver for Dr. George A. McBrayer; badly burned about face, hands, elbows and knees. May lose left eye; no limbs broken.

**HAY MATON**, age 12, West Haywood street; injuries serious, hemorrhage from nose and mouth; face, limbs and arms badly burned.

**JOHN POWELL**, age 20, West Haywood street, watchmaker; serious injuries, face and hands badly burned; may lose one eye, hair singed.

**BUCK TRIVETT**, age 12, Depot street; injuries serious, face disfigured, number of gashes on nose and cheek; hemorrhage from nose.

**D. BENNETT**, age 20, Buttrick street;

injuries very serious; may lose both eyes; hands and face badly burned.

**BARTON MEANS**, seriously hurt; right side face mangled, right hand badly burned; eye severely injured.

**JOHN ENGLE**, age 30, Depot street, married, family butcher for Redford at depot. One of the most seriously injured; dislocation right shoulder joint, two gashes right side of head above ear, cut in forehead; severely burned on arms, face, hands, body and eyes.

**CLARENCE LINDFORD**, age 24, Depot street; injuries serious; left thumb mutilated, eye badly burned, eye-brows and eye-lashes scorched, limbs badly burned.

**JAMES WARREN**, age 16, Depot street; badly burned about eyes, hands and face; arm seriously injured; may lose one eye.

**EUGENE WYNN**, age 16, West Haywood street; injuries serious; burned principally in face; ear severely blistered; may lose one eye.

**J. E. HAMPTON**, age 38, Spring street; face and hands burned; injuries not serious.

**VERNON SENTELL**, age 12, near old depot; injuries serious; face, arms and body badly burned; number of gashes; eyes seriously injured.

**RICHARD COOK**, age 17; face and hands terribly burned; gashes in legs.

**JAMES SWANEY**, age 17, Okaldale avenue; burned on face and neck; not serious.

**B. L. GOWAN**, age 23; market clerk near old depot; badly burned about eyes and face.

**HENRY MCINTYRE**, age 17, West Asheville; face burned, hand sprained.

**GEORGE BARN**, age 18, West Haywood street; left eye blistered.

**BEVERLY TRENHOLM**, age 16, West Asheville; neck, face and eyes burned; not serious.

**EDWARD EVANS**, age 17, South Main street; face bruised and burned.

Among the other boys in the party who were near the scene of the explosion and some of whom received slight burns and blisters, were Ernest Elmore, Joseph Stewart, Vernon Hawkins, Ralph Harkins, Joseph Barrett, Frank Frazer and Burt Morris.

### BEFORE THE ACCIDENT.

All the morning there had been a number of men and boys in and about the stores near Buttrick's old machine shop, popping fire-crackers, laughing, joking and having a generally good time. About 10 o'clock the number began to increase and quite a crowd had congregated in the West End Rack store owned by Joe Suddeth.

Some mention was made of firing the old cannon which had been used upon similar occasions for years. Finally fifteen or twenty of the boys agreed to club together and buy a can of powder, and have a regular cannonading. The necessary amount was raised and a twenty-five-pound keg was purchased. Then the boys proceeded to the hill to enjoy their sport. In the meantime the crowd kept getting larger until they reached the top of the hill, when there must have been nearly a hundred in all.

### FROM INTERVIEWS.

Shortly after the accident a Gazette reporter interviewed four or five of the badly wounded men. In the main details their statements are about the same. Most of them at the time of the accident were too much shocked, blinded by the explosion and busy putting out the fire on their garviced clothing to be able to give an accurate account of the distances they were blown. All those who were immediately around the gun were hurled some distance, and a few are said to have been hurled into the air.

Burton Gowen, who was standing a few feet to the side of the cannon and who was badly burned, says he remembers a tremendous flash, and the next he knew he was picking himself up forty or fifty feet away, and trying to put out the fire in his clothing. He was able to walk and in his clothes and to walk to the hospital.

One little fellow was sure he saw a man blow high over his head.

The statements of those who saw the blow-up from a distance differ in many points. Two men who were watching the proceedings from Smith's bridge, say the men were blown away from the cannon along the surface of the ground, while several others strenuously affirm that the bodies were hurled high into the air.

Will Bruton, colored man, who was a hundred rods away at the time of the accident, says the men were hurled in all directions, many of them twenty-five and thirty yards. Charles Wynn, who was an eye-witness, affirms that many were lifted high into the air and deposited on all sides.

None of those who were around the cannon can give better description than those who saw it from a distance, and many of them are able to tell us nothing that took place after the explosion.

### TREATMENT.

The first work of the physicians upon their arrival was to administer hyperdermic injections to allay the suffering of their patients. To those who seemed to be in a stage of collapse, the excitement of the explosion, whiskey was given. Pills were next applied to the skin to prevent exposure to air and cotton bandages were placed on the wounds.

Although the physicians carried a quantity of bandages with them the supply was soon exhausted and bed linen was used.

The body was next securely rolled in a blanket in order to prevent exposure and the head and face bandaged.

The patients were removed by being placed either on a cot or upon bedding in a straw-covered wagon.

There were a large number of wagons at the scene of the disaster sent by kind friends.

The hospital threw open its doors and had prepared for receiving fifteen of the patients, though the families of many of the wounded ones preferred to have their relatives with them and only three young men, Vernon Sentell, Buck Trivett and Charles Barwood, through the earnest solicitation of the physicians, were taken to the hospital. Vernon Sentell and Buck Trivett are very lads, each being twelve years of age. Both of these boys displayed considerable nerve during their suffering, though their injuries are so serious that it was necessary last night to administer an anesthetic to allay the intense pain; and the physicians did not attempt to dress the wounds of little Vernon, but have postponed it until this morning, when it will be necessary to administer chloroform.

Vernon's wounds are similar to those of the other boys, severe burns upon the face, hands and knees, with the exception that

he has a number of cuts and gashes upon his leg which are supposed to have been made by flying pieces of tin.

Trivett has a large gash cut in his nose, also one in his cheek, both of which were carefully sewed last evening. He had a hemorrhage from the nose and mouth, which the physicians in attendance thought might be produced from concussion of the brain, though this could not be determined until a reaction sets in.

"It is impossible to tell the extent of the injuries," said one of the physicians to a Gazette reporter last evening, "until the nervous shock wears off and the period of relaxation commences, which will be from twelve to forty-eight hours."

### BRYAN'S VISIT IN MEXICO.

San Antonio, Dec. 25.—William Jennings Bryan writes to Hon. H. F. Olson that he is receiving a great deal of attention from the Mexican people, and will conclude his tour in a bout ten days. He will stop off here on his way home and deliver an address in which it is expected he will give his impressions on the condition of Mexico under silver.

### ONE BODY FROM THE COLISEUM.

Chicago, Dec. 25.—One body burned almost beyond recognition, was taken from the ruins of the Coliseum to-day. It was that of N. H. Johnson, a carpenter. None of the others reported missing were burned, all escaping safely. President Dickinson said to-day that the Coliseum would not be rebuilt.

### INDEMNITY DEMANDED OF SPAIN.

Madrid, Dec. 25.—It is stated that the United States has demanded \$8,000,000 dollars indemnity for damages to American traders in Cuba.

### KILLED BY A NEGRO.

Charleston, S. C., Dec. 25.—M. A. Lorenz, a white restaurant manager, was shot with a rifle and instantly killed to-night by an unknown negro, who fled. He has not been captured. The murdered man's five-year-old child was the only witness.

### MURDER AT A CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL.

Columbia, S. C., Dec. 25.—At a Christmas festival at Double Spring church to-day moonshiners were out in force, and whiskey flowed freely. An old feud existed between Charles Speed and Samuel Wilbanks. Pistols were drawn by both. Speed was shot dead. There was a panic among the children.

### BIG NAVAL FLEET.

The Most Formidable That has Assembled in the Gulf of Mexico.

Washington, Dec. 25.—The navy department was informed to-day of the departure of the cruiser Montgomery from Pensacola. It is presumed it has gone in search of an alleged filibusterer or to prevent the sailing of an expedition for Cuba.

The monitor Terror arrived to-day at Norfolk, and is ready to sail for Key West, where she will meet other vessels comprising the North Atlantic squadron, and join in the projected cruise in waters in that vicinity.

This fleet will be the most formidable that has visited the Gulf of Mexico since the rebellion.

### CHRISTMAS DAY FIRES.

Two Large Buildings Burned in Chicago—The Work of Robbers.

Chicago, Dec. 25.—For the third time, fire destroyed the building of the Quadrangle club at Chicago university this morning. The cause is unknown. The firemen were hurriedly brought under control they had gutted the building. The cause of the fire is unknown. The loss is \$50,000.

The six-story brick building, 183 Fifth avenue, was destroyed by fire this morning. The cause is unknown. The firemen were hurriedly brought under control they had gutted the building. The cause of the fire is unknown. The loss is \$125,000.

By a ruse of starting a fire and causing a panic in a crowded store of Rothschild & Co., yesterday, two men tried to execute a plan for robbing the store bank, which contained \$700,000 at that time. The plot was frustrated only by the timely action of Miss Amelia Grodzinsky, one of the employees, who put out the fire, receiving severe burns. She alarmed the clerks in the bank. It is suspected that other fires were robbers' work, which may account for last night's Coliseum blaze as well.

### CHRISTMAS IN NEW YORK.

The Holiday Celebrated With Enthusiasm.

New York, Dec. 25.—The seasonable weather brought a generally merry Christmas to Greater New York. The charitable institutions, newspapers and theatrical managers furnished feasts and entertainments to thousands of poor, both here and in Brooklyn. The magistrates were especially lenient toward the usual holiday crop of minor offenders, and turkey dinners in all the prisons smoothed the usual rigid lines of the law's proverbial sternness. Well attended services in the churches, and crowds of merry-makers on the streets were only a few of the many signs that the greater holiday was being celebrated everywhere with gusto.

A few minor casualties brought sadness into some homes. Joanna Reiss and William Gotschewer dropped dead while decorating trees. Lawrence McCarthy, a watchman, was found frozen to death in a rowboat in the Narrows. Fireman Jas. F. Coleman, driving an engine to a trivial fire, was upset and crushed to death while his little family awaited his promised return to dinner.

J. H. Law announces that he will keep his store open every night this week until 10 o'clock.

## DERISION CAST ON HENRY'S TRIP

### While Going to China to Strike at England.

### He Stops to Beg for Coal at British Stations.

### Wales Snubbed Him When He Went to England.

### And the Queen Left Henry to Shift For Himself.

### The Prince Narrowly Missed Seeing Evidence at a Theatre of British Hatred for the Germans and Hearing Ridicule of his "Consecrated" Brother.

(Special Cable to The Sun. By Telegraph to The Gazette.)

London, Dec. 25.—German Prince Henry's mission to China, which was never regarded very seriously by the British public has become more than ever the object of derision here since the Deutschland and Gefion entered Spithhead to beg for coal, at almost the outset of their long voyage. If Germany's "malled band" is ultimately to hit the British in the face this seems a trifle ludicrous.

Henry will have to go cap in hand to half a dozen British coaling stations before he reaches striking ground. He will have to take British coal at Gibraltar, Malta, Port Said, Aden, Colombo, Singapore and Hong Kong.

It develops that Henry's second object in his visit to England was to convey to the queen from the kaiser a long letter wherein he begged to make his own advances. Therefore Henry wrote or telegraphed his uncle notifying him that he wanted a train whereby to travel to London, and virtually invited himself to dinner at Marlborough.

William had involved Henry, who naturally took the side of his "consecrated" brother. The quarrel had become disagreeably complicated, various royal and imperial ladies taking a hand. The queen declined to interfere and left Henry to his own shifts. He was not to be frightened out of his excursion to China, and proceeded to complain that he was driven to this hazy course by the policy of the British government.

While at Osborne the prince expressed a wish to see his Uncle Wales. Arriving at London he found only the secretary of the German embassy waiting, and reaching the embassy was handed a note which was a refusal to meet him, for though the prince's primary object in going to London was undoubtedly to see Wales, he left the next day without having seen a member of the latter's family. Wales dined at home that evening and his only subsequent engagement was a visit to the Duke of York's theatre. The managers of the theatres invariably circulate the announcement of a official or official engagement, but on this occasion Wales forbade the theatre to notify the newspapers, and Manager Pemberton had to destroy the customary notices.

Henry stayed at the German embassy to the last hour. Later he attended the Imperial variety theatre. Uncle and nephew were therefore enjoying themselves within a few hundred yards of each other.

Had Henry's visit been a short time earlier he would have been the bait where-in the appearances of the German flag were greeted with howls of hatred, and if he had crossed Leicester square to the Alhambra he might that night have heard the comic singer ridicule his "consecrated" brother and his own mission, amid thunderous applause. Where he spent the remainder of the night is unknown. He returned to Portsmouth the next day, and rejoined his ship unrecognized by the reporters or officials.

We wish to take this opportunity of thanking the public for their many kind expressions and also for making our business such a brilliant success. We wish to apologize for not having our stock in better shape, but the new, unexpected rush just at this time, both in town and from catalogue orders, made it impossible for us to be better prepared.

We have endeavored this year to put on the market our usual high grade goods, at prices much lower than ever before, and we can safely say that we are now selling goods as low if not lower than any other jewelry house in the country, who handle a high class of goods.

**ARTHUR M. FIELD,**  
Leading Jeweler, Cor. Church St. and Patton avenue, Asheville, N. C.