

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.

TO ADVERTISERS.

Hereafter advertisements for the Gazette must be received at the Gazette office before noon, in order to receive publication in the issue of the following morning. An early edition of the Gazette is to be issued to go out on the midnight trains, east and west, and in order that all advertisements may be inserted in this edition which will have a large circulation in addition to that now possessed by the regular edition of the Gazette it will be necessary that advertising copy shall be in the hand of the type setter at an early hour.

CLOSING OUT TOYS.

During this week we will offer many bargains in Toys, Dolls, Wagons, Doll Carriages and all holiday goods. Special price to Christmas trees, etc.

RAY'S CUT RATE BOOK STORE.

Malga Grapes 20c., Raisins 30c. and 12c., Currants 10c., Citron 12c., Dates and Prunes 7 1/2c., Mixed Nuts 12c., Bananas 10c and 15c. per dozen.—S. H. Chedester, 22 Patton avenue.

OPENED FIRE ON GREEK SHIPS

The Turks Violate Their Promise at Prevesa.

Poured a Volley into the Departing Gunboats.

Turkish Troops on the Shore Joined in the Attack.

The Greek Vessels Apparently Damaged.

Military Party in Japan are Eager for Action.

Angered at the Dissolution of the Diet—A Coalition Government With a Vigorous Foreign Policy Likely to be Formed.

Athens, Dec. 28.—The Greek gunboats fired upon by Turkish troops of the fort at Prevesa, on the Gulf of Ambracia, while attempting to leave the gulf on Saturday last, and compelled to return to their anchorages, left to-day, relying upon the promise given by the Porte to the Greek minister that they would be allowed to depart without hindrance.

As the vessels were leaving all the ports at Prevesa opened fire on them, and a number of troops who lined the quay fired repeated volleys at them. The vessels were apparently damaged.

It is presumed that Turkey intends by her action to create a precedent of closing the Gulf of Ambracia.

JAPAN AROUSED.

Kobe, Japan, Dec. 28.—The dissolution of the diet has greatly angered political parties. Probably Marquis Ito and Count Okuma will form a coalition government, which will adopt a vigorous foreign policy.

The military party is eager for action. There is extraordinary activity in the military and naval departments, and a number of warships are assembling at Nagasaki.

THE SALE OF THE C. & W. C.

Important Event in Railway Circles in the South.

New York, Dec. 28.—Thomas F. Ryan today confirmed the report that in conjunction with Gen. Sam Thomas he had sold the Charleston and Western Carolina railroad to Atlantic Coast Line interests. Ryan declined to discuss the price or terms, other than to say that both Thomas and himself were entirely out of the property.

From other sources it was learned that the transfer of the road to the Atlantic Coast Line had been effected and the property will now be merged into that system, thereby increasing its mileage nearly 350 miles.

The acquisition of the Charleston and Western Carolina by the Atlantic Coast Line is a very important event in Southern railway circles, for reason that it will open up a very valuable territory with much business. The present road is the outcome of the absorption of the old Port Royal and Augusta and the Fort Royal and Augusta road, acquired three years ago by Thomas and Ryan.

The road will also form an important feeder for the Atlantic Coast Line, and it may be necessary for the latter to do little building to make direct connections with the property. At present the Atlantic Coast Line reaches the Charleston and Western Carolina at Augusta, over the South Carolina and Georgia from Denmark, S. C., a distance of fifty-seven miles. Under the new arrangements the Atlantic Coast Line will have a terminal at Norfolk, Wilmington, Charleston and Port Royal.

AN INVITATION TO MCKINLEY.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Representative Price to-day extended an invitation to the president to attend the annual encampment of the Union veterans at Rock Island, Ill., next August. The president plans to tour the west about that time, visiting the Omaha exposition. The president assured Mr. Price that he would be glad to attend the encampment and would do so if his official engagements would permit.

I. O. O. F. ELECTION.

Swannanoa Lodge, I. O. O. F., No. 55, elected the following officers last night: N. G., E. B. Stradley; V. G., J. G. Colvin; R. Sec., L. W. Jernstret; P. Sec., H. Cosby; treasurer, J. P. Sawyer; trustees, C. W. Brown, Dr. B. R. Morris and W. A. Allison.

FITZSIMMONS AND CORBETT.

The Former Ready to go into the Ring Again.

Chicago, Dec. 28.—Julian, speaking for Fitzsimmons said this morning: "Fitz will fight again. He and I came to that agreement a few nights ago, and he has left everything to my absolute control. He said to me, 'You take entire control and I'll do exactly as you say, and leave the whole affair to your discretion.' I shall insist that Corbett fight Maher before I talk any kind of fight with him, and in due course of time, when McCoy has done what I think will entitle him to any consideration I shall make arrangements for a fight."

It is said that Mrs. Fitzsimmons has withdrawn her opposition to her husband's fighting again.

Cincinnati, Dec. 28.—Corbett said to-night "Fitz is afraid to fight me and won't if he can help it. I don't intend to fight Maher before Fitz. I shall see Fitz in Chicago and if I don't get a match with him by next summer I will retire permanently from the ring."

NEW GRACE POSTMASTER.

John Masters Appointed to Succeed Major Way.

John Masters has been appointed postmaster at Grace to take the place of Maj. C. B. Way, who has held the office for many years. This is purely a political appointment, made upon the recommendation of Representative Richmond Pearson.

While the people of the Beaverdam locality have no personal objection to the new appointee, it is feared by some that the present location of the office, which is central and convenient to patrons, will be moved to another point not so convenient. Major Way's house, where the office is now located, is situated at the forks of the road, one leading down and the other up the creek. However, it is not yet known where the office will be located under the new administration.

THREATENED RICH MEN

A NORTH CAROLINA NEGRO'S ESCAPE IN NEW YORK.

Sent Letters to W. H. Vanderbilt and Others Demanding Money—Now in the Work House.

New York, Dec. 28.—G. W. Harris, a North Carolina negro, sent threatening letters to several rich men here. He was arrested last night. W. H. Vanderbilt, Chas. B. Rouse, Mr. Vilas, of the Fifth Avenue hotel, John Wanamaker and others received these letters from Harris.

That to Mr. Vanderbilt said: "We are now about 1,700 in number and have decided that we must have a few cents apiece for Christmas," and asked for \$50.00. If this amount was not sent to the address which was subpoenaed, the letter said that Mr. Vanderbilt would regret it. Letters to others hinted they would be killed if they didn't disgorge.

Going to the address given detectives found the colored man Harris possessed of several similar letters ready for sending. He acknowledged that he and seven other West End men some time ago formed an association called the "Help Ourselves Society," for the purpose of forcing money from rich men. If the money was not forthcoming it was planned to hold-up or kidnap the victims.

At Harris' arraignment in court to-day no one appeared to prosecute him. He was committed to the work house as a vagrant.

NEW OFFICERS J. O. U. A. M.

The following officers have been elected for the Jr. O. U. A. M., No. 6:

Councilor, Marcus Erwin; vice-councilor, J. W. C. Deake; recording secretary, Archie Nichols; assistant recording secretary, F. A. Walton; financial secretary, S. S. Pope; treasurer, B. H. Cosby; conductor, A. D. Stoner; warden, F. M. Snyder; inside sentinel, J. H. Brown; outside sentinel, W. M. May; trustee, J. W. C. Deake; representatives to state Council for three years, T. H. Lindsey; alternate, E. C. Featherston.

The new officers will be installed next Monday evening by Deputy State Councilor W. C. McConnell.

The state Council will meet in Salisbury in February. The representatives from No. 6 are R. C. Bollinger, S. S. Pope and T. H. Lindsey.

PRESERVING THE COUNTY RECORDS.

Since Solicitor Jones' report in regard to the want of facilities for keeping the county records and papers, some much needed improvements have been made, and many others are needed.

It is impossible for the clerk to keep the proper care of the important documents stored in his office without adequate means to do so. And it is to be hoped that the county commissioners will continue to make additions to the office, both for the convenience of the clerk and the public. The records of the clerk's office are the most valuable of any in the county and no expense should be spared to provide safe and convenient places for their keeping.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS.

The following real estate transfers have been recorded:
Henry M. Brown and James R. Monroe to George W. Pack, lot on Pearson's drive \$150.00
Lucia B. Campbell to Mabel Rutledge, lot on Turner street 200.00

ATTORNEYS MUST BE ON HAND.

Judge Ewart has announced that he will not allow jail cases to be delayed on account of the absence of counsel. The object of this ruling is to require prompt attendance by members of the bar and save the county unnecessary expense.

GAGE'S OFFER TO RESIGN

Not Much Disturbed by Attacks Made on Him.

McKinley Treated the Criticisms Lightly.

Apparently a Happy Family Under the Gold Standard.

\$5,000 Telegraphed to Lee for Cuban Sufferers.

President Thinks That Liberal Contributions Will do Much to Hasten the Restoration of Peace on the Island.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Despite vigorous denials made to-day to the report that Secretary Gage last week offered his resignation from the cabinet it is believed to be true. It is said the resignation was offered because of attacks on Gage's financial policy by Wolcott, Hansborough and other western silver republicans, Gage telling the president that if his attitude was embarrassing to the administration he desired to step out.

McKinley promptly assured the secretary that his resignation was not desired and treated lightly the criticisms that led to the proposition.

It is known that Mr. Gage did not offer his resignation very seriously, and is not greatly disturbed by the attacks which have been made upon him on account of his remarks to the house banking and currency committee on bi-metallicism and the gold standard. Mr. Gage is not averse to having the fact of his offer known.

The Relief for Cuba.

Washington, Dec. 28.—President McKinley is showing the greatest personal interest in the success of the appeal issued by Secretary Sherman for contributions to relieve the distress among the suffering people of Cuba. At to-day's meeting of the cabinet he spoke feelingly on the subject. Only two contributions have come to the department. Several gentlemen who wish their identity concealed contributed \$5,000, and \$5,000 came from an Ohio friend of Secretary Sherman. Five thousand was sent by telegraph to Lee to-day.

President McKinley is hopeful that the people will make a hearty response to the appeal. He has an idea that liberal contributions will have a marked effect on the perturbed state of affairs in Cuba, and do much to hasten the restoration of peace.

GLADSTONE'S BIRTHDAY.

London, Dec. 28.—Tomorrow is William E. Gladstone's eighty-eighth birthday. His admirers are showering congratulations upon him. He is spending the winter at Cannes.



WILLIAM E. GLADSTONE.

in the southern part of France. Replying to a Christmas greeting from the National Liberal club, Gladstone says his health has been greatly benefited by his stay at Cannes.

HE WHO

Sells poor goods "sells" his customers. A thing low in price is not necessarily a bargain. You can't get a first-class article at a second-hand price. A "dear" utensil may be cheapest and dearest priced. Take Stranky-Steel enameled Ware; costs a bit more, but see how it wears! How pure, how clean, how sweet always! It is a thing of beauty and a joy for years. Imported especially for us; the genuine sold in this city only by Boyce & Rich.

MARRIAGE LICENSES.

License has been issued for the marriage of Richard Leubetter and Ester Jones.

ROOMS ROBBED.

Will Anderson and Others Arrested and Placed in Jail.

Saturday evening Mr. W. S. Connelly, train dispatcher, and a Mr. C. G. King of the same office who have rooms in the Paragon building, upon returning to their quarters found that they had been pillaged and that several suits of clothes, a dress suit and case, an overcoat, and numerous other articles of wearing apparel were missing. The police authorities were notified and J. W. McMahon, detective for the Southern railroad was put on the track, and found that the grip had been expressed to Spartaburg.

Will Anderson who had been lying around the building from which the things had been stolen was suspected, and as he did not confess either the freight or passenger train at Elmore, it was thought that he had started to foot it. All points on the line were wired to and Anderson was caught in Hendersonville yesterday, sporting the clothes in great style. He was brought to Asheville in the afternoon, and placed in jail.

Once he made a clean breast of the whole affair and implicated, Lucius Snowden, Dr. W. D. Hilliard's office boy, and John Cooky the janitor. Warrants were sworn out and Captain Fitzpatrick and policeman Jarvis arrested both parties and in default of bond they were committed to jail, to await a hearing before Justice VanGilder today at 10 o'clock.

CRIMINAL COURT

THE IVY WHITE-CAPPING CASE CONCLUDED.

Able Arguments by Counsel on Both Sides—Case in the Hands of the Jury.

Argument in the Ivy white capping case was begun in the criminal court yesterday morning. James M. Gudger, Jr., made the opening speech for the defendants, consuming about one hour. The defence relied upon was an alibi and the speaker analyzed the testimony of the many witnesses thoroughly, and made a strong and impressive presentation of his side of the case.

The state being entitled to the concluding argument, Mr. Gudger was followed by Locke Craig, who devoted an hour and a half to the discussion of the facts adduced by the evidence. Mr. Craig's denunciation of the boy McMahan who turned state's evidence, was scathing and his speech throughout was strong and pointed. Solicitor McCall closed the argument, and it was said by members of the bar that his effort was the best they had heard him make. He took up the testimony in systematic order and covered every inch of the ground. His defence of McMahan was exceptionally good, concluding that he was corroborated by every fact shown, and that all the defendants were guilty.

Judge Ewart began his charge to the jury at 4 o'clock. No exceptions were taken to the charge, it being plain, full and impartial. The jury was put in charge of an officer.

To-day the case against the Indian doctor, Walker Hill, charged with slander of a grand jury, is set for trial.

The grand jury will re-convene next Monday.

CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT.

A Delightful Affair Last Evening at the First Baptist Church

At least fifteen hundred persons were present last night to witness the charming Christmas entertainment given in the First Baptist church by the Baptist Sunday school.

The doorway, galleries and aisles were packed and for over two hours the expectant audience was well entertained.

The program was quite an elaborate one, and was, in every respect carried out most successfully, reflecting much credit upon the management.

The first number on the program was a march through the different aisles by the smaller children of the school, the little girls all dressed in white.

Then came the piano solo by little seven-year-old Nellie Dickey, and it was greeted with great applause.

The infant class, each member bearing a banner with "Christmas Greeting" came forth and sang with much enthusiasm. The ribbon drill came next and was one of the prettiest features of the evening. Mr. Rowatt's class generously donated money enough to buy a barrel of flour which will be given to the poor of the church.

The scene representing a country kitchen in the early morning was presented by Mrs. Marshall's class, and was a tableau rarely realistic. The churning and various occupations were as natural as life.

Mr. McIntyre's class was represented by a recitation and a beautiful banner, borne by the class, upon which was displayed the motto, "Christmas and no Drink!"

"Off to the Klondike," portrayed by Mr. Stone's class, was out of the general run, and was highly applauded. It represented the men as they appeared prepared to go to the gold fields. A few numbers later they appeared with ragged clothes and showing the results of their supposed journey and labors. Shovels, picks, pots and pans, had they, but no gold, having at Bryan's advice, exchanged it for silver.

His was turned over to Dr. Felix in the time of \$7.71.

Mrs. Yarboro's class of temperance soldier boys, dressed in their little blue uniforms and carrying banners bearing different devices, had each a verse to recite, and the baby boy, the tiniest little fellow of all, came forth upon the rostrum and recited nicely his little verse.

Mr. J. N. Morgan's class presented to the superintendent a beautiful gold pin.

The recitation and the drill by the little girls of Miss Patterson's class, was exceptionally good, and showed the thorough training of the children.

A country wedding, together with the counting class, was a novel and truly realistic scene. Dr. A. Joe Broughon's class

MILL MOVEMENT SOUTHWARD

Rhode Island Firm to Establish Plant at Nashville.

Instructors to Educate Colored Employees.

Change Necessitated by Condition of Cotton Manufacturing.

Another Massachusetts Mill Cuts Its Wage Scale.

More than Fifteen Hundred Hands Affected by a Ten Per Cent. Reduction—The Situation on Fall River.

Providence, R. I., Dec. 28.—The British Hosiery company at Thornton, R. I., is making preparations to remove a part of its business south. A plant will be established at Nashville, Tenn., and a number of operatives from Thornton will soon leave for that state, where they will be used as instructors to new and inexperienced southern colored employes.

The management of the hosiery mills assert that the southern plant will be used for cotton goods, and that the change is necessitated by the present condition of cotton manufacturing. This concern recently had much trouble with its employes and decided upon a lock-out, which was enforced for a day, when an agreement was reached.

Salem Mass., Dec. 28.—Notices were posted at the Naumkeag Steam Cotton mills this morning announcing a cut of 10 per cent. for all operatives. Over fifteen hundred hands are affected.

Fall River, Dec. 28.—The conference committee of the operatives was in session to-night. It will probably decide upon a course of action to be taken. The manufacturers have refused a compromise. They refused the proposition to postpone the reduction until March and last night rejected the proposition to make the reduction 5 1/2 per cent. and to hold a conference in March.

The operatives must accept the reduction of 11-9 per cent, which takes effect next Monday or strike. It is thought they will accept under protest and work until March then, if the condition of trade warrants, return to the old schedule and if it is refused will strike. The men are in no condition financially to strike now.

The operatives after a protracted conference to-night decided not to strike.

MRS. E WEST DEAD.

Mrs. West, wife of Squire E. West, died at her home near Leicester about 5 o'clock last evening. Mrs. West was the mother of Capt. R. F. Lee's first wife and was well known in the county. She has a son and other relatives living in Idaho, who were telegraphed for last night, and the body will be embalmed and kept until their arrival. Mrs. West was about sixty years of age. The interment will be at the family burial ground near Leicester.

We wish to take this opportunity of

thanking the public for their many kind expressions and also for making our openings such a brilliant success. We wish to apologize for not having our stock in better shape, but the extra, 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 of 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.

(Continued on Eighth Page.)