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NOTICE.—We will be pleased to publish any communications from any person relative to the good of the people; but any communication relative to personal matters or tending to bring about a controversy will not be tolerated.—Ed's.

THE READINGS OF PROF. HARTLEY.

This gentleman gave two readings in one of the Halls of the University, during his recent visit. He was a favorite before, and has added much to his enviable reputation by his last recitations.

Prof. Hartley's claims to the admiration due a first-class reader, are above all controversy. His impersonations are, almost always, good; sometimes, masterly.

Mr. Hartley's readings will always be most welcome at Chapel Hill; and we unhesitatingly commend him to those communities that he may favor with a professional visit.

CHAPEL HILL IS GROWING.

Slowly, quietly, yet constantly, the village has been growing in numbers for the last three years. In 1875 there were many vacant houses here; and, those who desired a place would consider, "which shall I take?"

UP, HILL!

The last University Magazine gives a short poem from the pen of Theo. H. Hill. When we saw his name, we hoped to find that he had crept out of his provoking retirement and thrown another sparkling tribute to the Muses upon the bosom of the literary world.

Persons desiring to subscribe to a first-class paper would do well to try the LEDGER. We hope to improve the paper very much after the Christmas holidays.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL.

"The festivals of the Christian church resolve themselves into three grand divisions, in each of which there is one great festival bearing a peculiar relation to others of the same class, as their common centre. These great festivals are Christmas, Easter and Whitsunday.

The 25th of December was accepted as the day of the nativity in the 4th century. The festival itself is said to have been established by Pope Telesphorus early in the 2nd century. At first it was not observed on the 25th of December or any other fixed day; but was a movable day of commemoration.

The Germans have long made Christmas "the children's festival." Formerly, in England, the season was protracted from Christmas eve to "twelfth night" or Jan. 6; indeed, in some respects to Feb. 2nd.

"The favorite and first dish on Christmas day was a souse'd boar's head, which was borne to the principal table with great state and solemnity, upon a silver platter with minstralsye."

Let our untiring students beware how they expose themselves during the holiday, and be careful not to provoke ferocious wild beasts by reading Greek at such a time. The old heathern Druids are the fathers of the customs of hanging the mistletoe and holly in houses and churches.

Notwithstanding all the abuses of this great festival, it is to be cherished by all the wise and good-hearted. It tells of the birth of the world's Redeemer—"glad tidings of great joy." It breathes a blessing over all ranks and in

almost all homes. It relaxes the strained nerves of the anxious and the selfish, and infuses the spirit of beautiful charity into all hearts. It brings back the aroma of youth to the withered realms of age; unveils the hidden beauties and blisses of life to the thoughtful toilers in middle years; and inspires childhood and youth with a mystic, glorious pleasure that lingers through life with an Elysian charm.

LUCY MAYNARD LEACH.

On last Saturday evening Prof. Hartley gave his audience an impressive recitation of "An Inaugural Ode," taken from a volume of poems recently published from the pen of Mrs. Leach, of Johnston county, N. C. The piece was written to celebrate the triumph of Gov. Vance, in his late election.

By the way, ought not the literary people in North Carolina to give more regard and encouragement to the modest little book which Mrs. Leach has written? The title of it is "Scattered Leaves."

But we do not purpose a review of the volume at this time. We wish only to call attention to it, and ask for its proper regard.

Mrs. Leach is a daughter of the late Rev. R. C. Maynard, and the widow of the late Dr. Leach, of Johnston county. The price of "Scattered Leaves" is \$1. It can be obtained in Raleigh.

WELL DONE, BOYS!

The first session of the University year closes this week. Being an outsider, we feel that it is proper for us to express our opinion of the general appearance of things in the venerable institution. We are delighted to be able to state that the young gentlemen who make up the present body of students have won just compliments by their general good bearing.

A MORAL HEROINE.

Do you know Miss Patsy Self? She is an afflicted old woman who lives near this village. Her aged sister is also an invalid. Verily they need more than they have or get. Well, when the news was circulated about the yellow fever sufferers and a time appointed to take up a collection for them, poor old Miss Patsy gathered up seven eggs—it was all she had to give—and tottering to town, gave them as her contribution.

The gift was small—but, in the Ledger of the Skies, it made a grand record on the credit column!

The LEDGER will suspend publication after this issue until January 4, 1879. We do this in order to give our employes an opportunity to enjoy the Christmas holidays. In the name of all connected with the LEDGER, we wish the people of our country, and especially those of North Carolina, "a merry Christmas and a happy New Year."

We have one or two communications that should have appeared in this issue, but were crowded out.

UNIVERSITY ITEMS.

Farewell forever to 1878, with its College duties, pleasures and troubles.

There is a future Governor of the State at the University, but whom it is, we would not like to predict.

The chief amusement Christmas to those who remain here, will be: Bandy, hunting and running owls, (of which there are a great number) out of the trees in the Campus.

The Di. Society has lost a distinguished member in the death of Maj. Seaton Gales, and Phi. Society in the death of Hon. B. F. Moore. One by one they pass away and their places are filled by others.

Another year will soon be past and gone. The University has obtained a firmer footing and now ranks "first in the foremost line." May the lapse of time bring her increased blessings, and may she be a source of wisdom whose beams shall irradiate the whole land o'er which the Eagle casts his piercing gaze.

Winter, with all its severity and loneliness has come. Nearly all of the boys have left, and those who have not will soon follow. The last examination was on Thursday. Only 25 or 30 students will remain during Christmas.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER.

The week of prayer has become a fixed institution among many of the Protestant denominations in the South as well as in the North. The following is the schedule of subjects agreed upon by the Evangelical Alliance, which has the arrangements in charge. For Sunday, Jan. 5th, as a subject for the pulpit, "Christian Union;" Monday, Jan. 6th, Thanksgiving for the blessings of the year past, and prayer for their continuance; Tuesday, Jan. 7th, Prayer for the Church of Christ, its ministers, its growth in grace and its enlargement; Wednesday, Jan. 8th, Christian education, the family, the young, colleges, seminaries of learning, Sunday and other schools, Christian associations of young men and women; Thursday, Jan. 9th, for nations, rulers and people, for peace and religious liberty on earth; Friday, Jan. 10th, the press, for a blessing on publishers, editors and authors, the cause of temperance and other social reforms; Saturday, Jan. 11th, home and foreign missions, and the conversion of the world. On Sunday evening, Jan. 12th, public union prayer meetings will be held for prayer and praise.

SUDDEN DEATH.

On Saturday afternoon, a young man entered the saloon of Alex. Pleasant, complaining of being very sick. He said that he had walked down the railroad track, and had been attacked with a violent chill. Mr. Pleasant took care of him, and finding that his condition was becoming worse, sent for Dr. Strudwick. Subsequently Dr. Wilson was called in. Towards morning, he was better, but subsequently became more ill, and died at 11, a. m. on Sunday. His name was James Sikes, a native of Wake, his father living not far from Forestville. For two years past he has been working at Holts "Granite" Factory. He was about 22 years of age.

His remains were taken charge of by the town authorities, and decently interred.

In Chesterfield county, Va., on Monday last, a young colored girl retired rather precipitately from dinner, at which a rabbit pie had been served, and when found, shortly after, in an adjoining room, was extended at full length in a chair, and was entirely lifeless. A doctor was nevertheless, summoned, who pronounced her death due to disease of her heart; but as the body was being made ready for burial, it was discovered that her throat had been cut by a sharp rabbit bone, which protruded clear through the skull.

The population of Durham, N. C., is claimed to be 4,000.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Wilmington Review: On Saturday afternoon about 4:30 o'clock, just after the Southern bound passenger train had left Enfield and gotten under full headway, a man stepped on the track about ten feet ahead of the engine. He was knocked over in the ditch and the train was promptly stopped, when to the surprise of every one, he was found to be alive and not hurt beyond a severe jarring. The man, who was white and drunk, gave his name as Parker. Had he been sober, no doubt he would never have known what struck him.

Raleigh Observer: Last Wednesday night, C. T. Thomas, of Chatham county, when bringing some meat to this market, was accidentally shot with a pistol by a companion named Gaston Johnson. They had gone into camp some thirteen miles west of this city, and it was Johnson's time to watch the meat, which had been placed on the ground, on poles, to prevent its becoming sour. During his watch, a couple of dogs approached the meat, and Johnson endeavored to fire at them, but the pistol snapped, and when attempting to remedy the evil, it suddenly exploded, sending a ball into Thomas' leg about the region of the calf. Thomas does not appear to be seriously hurt, but the ball had not been found at last accounts.

Wilmington Review: A most cold-blooded and brutal murder was committed on the plantation of Mr. J. A. Evans, in Brunswick county, about twelve miles from this city, and we are pleased to state that the murderers have been arrested and lodged in the Smithville jail. Mr. Evans has had a man by the name of McDuffie, formerly of Pender county, employed as a wood-cutter for some time past. On Monday about sundown, Mr. Evans saw two colored men by the name of Davis, who are brothers, pass his house, going in the direction of McDuffie's cottage. They were armed with guns and passed Mr. Evans' on a run. They called McDuffie out, a-keed him if he had said "so and so," and then shot him. On their way to McDuffie's house, they told a colored man that they were going to kill McDuffie if he said "so and so" about them. The Davis brothers were captured about eleven o'clock on Monday night at Elevers' Bluff.

Statesville Landmark: About four years ago a venerable and much esteemed citizen of Alexander county gave origin to the report that a Catamount or North American Tiger inhabited the cliffs of Davis' Mountain, near Bethel Church. He also stated, with great earnestness, that this or some kindred animal was visiting his flock of sheep and geese, and that the track of the largest was about the size of a Newfoundland dog. All speculation and conjecture in reference to the correctness of Mr. Davis' statement was settled on Friday morning of week before last, by the chasing with hounds and shooting of a large animal, supposed to be a North American Tiger. Mr. W. C. Linney was out on the cliff early that morning and very soon an old well trained hound commenced crying, when the hunter perceived an animal closely pursued by the dogs, capering from rock to rock over the cliffs, the animal being larger than the largest dog. These dogs (two) caught him once, but soon released their hold. After running about two hours through the cliffs and thickets, it stepped at the edge of a projecting rock, where it was shot and killed by Mr. W. C. Linney.

Raleigh News: Sunday morning Prof. Powell, a colored barber, was at some trouble starting a fire in his shop. Thinking to hasten the ignition of the coal he took a gallon can of kerosene, and turning it up, poured part of the contents in the stove. He then put the can down on the floor, near by. A match had fallen on the floor, and he stepped on this. In an instant it ignited, setting fire to some oil drops on the floor, and then exploding the can, filling the shop with flames. The Professor was in his dressing gown which was covered with the flaming oil. He rushed out into the street, and yelled fire at the top of his lungs. Attracted by his cries and seeing his awful predicament, a crowd gathered. One of these, Mr. Greason, with a pocket-knife boldly cut away the burning clothes, until hardly a rag remained. The unfortunate man was taken into his shop, when it was found that the lower part of both legs as well as of a portion of his back, was badly burned. He was carried home and a doctor dressed the wounds. But despite all the care of the physicians the injuries were so serious as to baffle either relief or cure, and the suffering of the poor man was intense. But death at length interposed and at 8:30 p. m. yesterday the injured man died. Powell was a native of Wilmington, but came here some two years ago and opened a shop.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

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In order to close our stock as rapidly as possible, we shall offer our entire stock of Merchandise for 30 days, for Cash, at prices never reached before in this market. We have a nice assortment of

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Pay Up Old Scores.

We tender our thanks to our friends who have stood by us so faithfully and paid us so promptly. And would remind those indebted to us that we are greatly in need of the money. We have waited long and patiently with some of you, and we know that times are hard, and that the prices for produce are low, and it may be that you can't pay all at one time. Come and see us. We will allow you liberal prices and deal liberally with you. Our inability to call on you but increases your obligation to call and see us and pay what you can.

Very respectfully,
LONG & NORWOOD
Chapel Hill, N. C., Dec. 7, 1878.

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