

# The Durham Recorder.

VOL. 76—NO. 36.

DURHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1896.

ESTABLISHED 1820

## All Sorts.

There are said to be forty Methodist parsons in Western Kansas receiving salaries of less than \$150 a year each.

One hundred divorces were granted in three hours by the Chicago courts recently. Chicago does not need to annex South Dakota.

A "grave preacher" in Missouri means one of those exhortors who grunt after every word when fairly under way; on the "my brethren—uh" plan.

Letter-writers in Spain receive about ten cents a page for writing letters; if required to take extra pains, as with the young woman's love letters, they charge 15 cents.

The platinum beds of the Ural mountains are the only ones in the world in which that metal is found in grains. In several places it is found imbedded in the hard serpentine rock, but only in the Ural in grains.

A high board fence is being built around the site of all that is left of the Talmage tabernacle, at Greene and Clinton avenue, Brooklyn. Inside the fence is a mass of broken brick and stone and twisted iron braces.

The largest pine in the north-west was cut recently in Oconto county, Wis. It was seven feet two at the base, and cut six sixteen-foot logs, sealing over 8,500 feet of lumber. Yet it was worth only \$50.

Great Britain is the greatest colonizing nation the world has ever seen. This great nation, whose home dominions are smaller in area than the territory of New Mexico, rules over about 12,000,000 square miles of the earth's surface and over nearly 400,000,000 of its inhabitants. It possesses nearly a fourth part of the earth's land, and about a third part of its inhabitants.

Sir John Lubbock has been experimenting with the appetite of a spider, and comparing its eating capacity with that of a healthy man. He finds that not even the ogres of fairyland were credited with such eating capacity as a man must have if he absorbed the same proportion to his weight in food that a spider does. If a man ate in the spider's proportion he would consume the equivalent of four barrels of fish, a dozen hogs, three sheep and two oxen in a single day.

## The Insanity Dodge.

The difficulty of securing convictions in murder cases will, it is believed, be considerably increased by a recent ruling of the United States supreme court. That tribunal holds that when the plea of insanity is made, the burden of proof of sanity is on the prosecution. "If the whole evidence," says the court, "including that supplied by the legal presumption of sanity, does not exclude beyond reasonable doubt that the hypo thesis of insanity, the prisoner is entitled to an acquittal of the specific offense charged." We have no doubt that this is good law, and if such a doubt existed it would be futile for the word of the court of last resort is the highest law in all inferior courts.

But it does not require special acumen to perceive that this decision is far more likely to be employed in defeating than in promoting the ends of justice. It is an encouragement to the continued and extended use of the plea of insanity which has already been abused, in thousands of cases to the detriment of justice, to the impairment of respect for courts and jury trials, and to the encouragement of irregular methods of meting out punishment to murderers.

There is scarcely a state in the Union where murderers acquitted on the insanity plea are not now at large and attending to their business with no indication of mental disease. Some of them were sent to hospitals for the insane, and there regarded as frauds and speedily discharged. Others went directly from the court house to

their homes and business. These miscarriages of justice were brought about by the testimony of experts. The state did not compete with the defense in the production of that expensive kind of testimony.

Hereafter it will be necessary for legislatures to limit the expert business and for prosecuting officers to take care that the state has an array of experts to override the insanity plea when it is a palpable fraud.

Of course no man who is really a lunatic should be put to death. But society cannot afford to have homicidal lunatics running at large. The laws should provide for their life-long confinement where they can have every proper care.

## The Other Others.

The Spanish commanders in Cuba, who have heretofore shot prisoners, butchered citizens, and destroyed property without fear of reproof, are not finding the situation so lovely and serene since the Cubans have begun a war of reprisal. Instead of burdening the ocean cable with bombastic announcements of glorious victories, they are now sending out tearful lamentations of the brigandlike warfare. Gens. Gomez and Maceo are waging in burning the sugar cane fields to prevent Spain from collecting a revenue from this year's crops. The Cuban worm has turned on its oppressor, and in a struggle for liberty is stinging to death the hand that has so long been plundering it treasures.

War cannot be successfully waged with stuffed clubs and gentle words. Blood must be shed and misery created. The sword and the frebrand are legitimate weapons, and the Cubans are justified in burning property to hasten the end of the conflict. For years Spain has used Cuba as a raiding ground to recuperate her diminishing treasury. The maintenance of her army and her ability to suppress the insurrection depend largely upon the collection of a revenue, and it was a master stroke of warlike strategy on the part of the Cubans to destroy the source of Spain's chief income.

The plaint of the Spaniards and the devastation that follows the wake of the Cubans are sure precursors of Cuban success, and with or without the moral support of the rest of the world the Cubans are destined to become an independent people. An observer graphically describes the work of the insurgents when he says: "The entire province seems to be on fire since the passage of the Cuban army. Great clouds of smoke roll up from the burning cane fields; giant tongues of flame can be seen leaping skyward, and a dull roar comes from our left." But destruction is the legitimate result of war, and of a conflict that will eventually drive the Spanish army from Cuba.

It is reported that President Cleveland hesitated between recommending Cuban recognition and the position he took on the Venezuelan question when drafting his famous message to congress. To his astute mind the one involved a complication with Spain and the other a diplomatic controversy with England. Both would have strained the capacity of the state department to carry on the necessary correspondence, and in contemplating the mental picture of this burden of business the Cubans were turned to the wall. But that is no reason why congress shall not recognize Cuba. Her patriots are making a glorious struggle, and in the name of freedom and human rights their cause should be given official recognition by our national legislative body.

The woman who "hates notoriety" when she doesn't get it.

The same person emerging from the rubber blanket at a face-steaming establishment.

The woman who sends "bargain" Christmas presents receiving "bargain" Christmas presents.

## Mr. Brice's Duty

William E. Curtis in Chicago Record, says: It is proper that the attention of the world should at this time be called to the fact that Calvin S. Stewart Brice, a senator of the United States, was once decorated by the president of Venezuela by instruction of the federal council of that republic with the distinguished order of El Busto del Libertador, which is the highest honor Venezuela can bestow upon persons for exalted merit, for services rendered to humanity or for the promotion of civilization. The insignia of this order is a gold medal of elliptical form, fifty-four millimeters at its greatest diameter and fifty at its lesser. On the obverse it bears the effigy of Simon Bolivar, in dead gold relief upon a burnished ground, surrounded by a blue border, which bears on the upper part the words "Simon Bolivar," and on the lower part an olive branch, both set in jewels. On the reverse it bears the coat of arms of the United States of Venezuela in relief. Mr. Brice is entitled to wear the jewel suspended from a ribbon across the shoulder from left to right. The ribbon must be 102 millimeters in width, with a rosette thereon twenty-eight millimeters in diameter. Both the ribbon and rosette must be composed of the Venezuelan colors—gold, blue, and red, which, by the harmonize very nicely with Mr. Brice's hair.

It would add greatly to the dignity and distinguished appearance of Mr. Brice, and at the same time would be an appropriate acknowledgment of the honor conferred upon him by Venezuela, if he should wear this decoration in the senate during the progress of the debates upon the boundary disputes.

## Market Report

Clapp & Co's weekly letter says the youthful year always scorns the folly of its father yesterday and flaunts the callow wisdom of the motherly tomorrow from which its hours are daily born. The higher destiny is always more certain when necessity forgets the weapons of the conquests. When to threaten war means to revive patriotism, and to fear financial disorder means that better method is to be the new master, we can welcome slight troubles in order to secure the more ruinful peace.

Straws.—The average of National bank earnings last three years appears about one half those of previous three years. Fourteen Southern states have built nearly 700 miles of railway in 1895, Texas and Florida leading. Total construction U. S. about 1,428.4 miles, against 1,760 last year. Equipment building was active. Pig iron production for 1895 (one month estimated) 9,387,639 tons, against 6,657,388 the previous year, and 9,202,703 for the banner year of 1890. The treasury and banks hold about two thirds of all the greenbacks outstanding. The people hold the silver certificates, which the United States treasurer says are payable only in silver. Almost one-fourth of our imports in 1895 were crude wool, sugar, coffee, silk, rubber and hides. Twenty-two per cent imports came from the United Kingdom, nearly \$50,000,000 worth being woolen goods. Great Britain bought 45 per cent of all our exports, 70 per cent of the exports being agricultural products. Production of American wool declined 10 per cent and price 40 per cent since 1892. Interstate commerce commission preliminary report for the year ending June 30, 1895, covers 650 roads, operating 164,529.38 miles, whose gross earnings were \$1,003,022,853, and net earnings \$325,355,218, including other income total was \$358,412,461. Fixed charges, dividends, etc., were \$399,487,491, leaving a deficit of \$31,075,030. The commission will test the legality of the new railway president's agreement in the United States court.

## Modern Warfare

We are hearing a great deal nowadays of the horrors of war in the light of the wonderful advances that have been made in the construction of military weapons. One can seldom take up a newspaper without finding some learned dissertation on the death-dealing qualities of modern arms, the wholesale destruction to be expected of high explosives, and so on. Scientific gentlemen wag their heads mournfully as they point out the homicidal possibilities of the latter-day rifle compared with the spears and short swords of Grecian times, or even the matchlock of the sixteenth century. We are told that the battles of Alexander, of Attila, of Scipio, and of Caesar were mere child's play compared with those which would occur today in case of war. The outlook is so tragic, indeed, that it would take a stout heart to contemplate a resort to actual hostilities.

We venture to say, however, that the number of killed and wounded in proportion to the number engaged in conflict has been steadily dwindling for centuries. In ancient wars where men battled hand to hand the casualties were naturally much more numerous than they could possibly be today where armies fight at long range and where maneuvering and strategy figure so prominently in the equation. Just as a street encounter is more dangerous to the parties concerned than a duel conducted under the formalities of the code, so was the ancient struggle of man to man more sanguinary than the modern battle is. Then it was practically impossible to tell which side had the advantage until one or the other was annihilated. Now, one carries a certain position and the battle ends. When Attila, in the fifth century, encountered the combined forces of Aetius, the Roman general, and Theodoric, the king of the Visigoths, on the Catalunian Plain the dead actually left upon the field numbered between 250,000 and 300,000, although the total number engaged has not been estimated at more than 500,000. A thousand years later, at Agincourt, where ten thousand Englishmen, under Henry V, met a French army variously estimated as numbering from 20,000 to 40,000, ten thousand of the French and two thousand of the English were slain outright. Do we have such results nowadays except occasionally and very rarely in the case of small bodies encountering each other under phenomenal circumstances? What do we hear from the latest sanguinary and desperate battle in Cuba, where 850 Spanish troops battled terribly for hours against an overwhelming force of the insurgents? Fifteen Spanish killed and sixty wounded? What did we hear from England's great campaigns in Africa and Asia, within the past few years? One, two or sometimes eleven Englishmen wounded.

It is our belief that with a few more improvements in firearms and the general machinery of war, battles will be decided like jack pots, with a show of hands.

The congress has passed a new bond bill. All of the democrats, all the populists and forty-seven republicans, voted against it. It has yet to run the gauntlet of the senate. Some old fogies cannot see the sense of increasing our debt without putting more money in circulation, or understand why paper money of the government, payable on demand, is not as good as its forty year promise.

The sixteen-year-old stage ingenue off the stage.

## Their Greatest Effort

While the percolations of the Havana censor's office continue to announce brilliant Spanish victories and crushing defeats of the insurgents, the latter keep right on moving toward Havana. They are nearing the capital in three columns and are said to be nearly in sight of it. Their actions betoken the intention of making an attack upon the city, and though this may appear almost too daring an undertaking, considering the odds they have to contend with, yet the very audacity of the effort may insure its success.

It is impossible to believe that so shrewd a strategist as Gen. Gomez has proved himself, and his able coadjutor, Gen. Maceo, should have pushed forward in this way without leaving their rear well covered. The forces they carry with them, therefore, while probably composed of the best-equipped troops of the patriot army, do not leave the country back of them so denuded of defenders as to make it possible for the Spaniards to either undertake its resubjugation or hurry forward to fall upon Gomez and Maceo from the rear. The assumption is warranted, therefore, that the campaign of these leaders of the insurgents has been carefully planned and that the brilliant results that have so far attended their movements will not be lacking in the present instance.

The Cuban patriots are making a magnificent fight. Spain has sent against them her best troops, armed and equipped with everything for most effective warfare. Spanish warships surround the island and have sought to cut off all communication between the insurgents and the outer world and have failed to do so. In spite of ships and troops and millions of money the Spaniards have steadily lost ground, and the insurgents have as steadily pushed forward. The battle for freedom bids fair to end soon with Cubans in control of Cuba.

## Prominent People

Senator Sherman, one of eleven children to begin with, is said to be thirty seven times an uncle and granduncle to sixty-three children.

William Burbank, an 83-year-old resident of Thompsonville, Conn., was fatally injured recently while coasting down a hill in that place.

Paron Heckeren, who, under the name of d'Antes, killed the Russian poet, Puslkin, in a duel in 1837, has just died at the age of 84 at Sulz, in Alsace.

Keir Hardie has been giving his views about America. He stated that if he had to start life again in the coal pits as a boy he would prefer England to the United States.

The Critic says that only two men in the world possess a book worm—Bernard Quaritch, the famous London collector, and F. S. Gorham, of James Pott & Co., the theological booksellers and publishers.

The Czar is reported to have said to somebody who commented on the sex of his baby: "The Czarina and I are rejoiced to have a daughter. The child is ours, and ours only; a son would have belonged to all Russia."

A man living near Norway, Ga., stored a lot of cartridges in a stove. A woman started a fire in the stove one day last week, and the cartridges exploded, destroying the sight of one eye and otherwise injuring her.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report

# Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

## Prepared to Fight with Talk.

Secretary Lamont has enlivened the current discussion and flurry about a possible war with Great Britain by a decidedly humorous contribution. What he wrote had no immediate reference to the pending difficulty, and it was written "in dead earnest," no doubt, but that is just where the fun comes in. Speaking of our undefended coasts and the work projected for defenses, the Secretary says, "it will require seventy years to complete the emplacements, platforms, etc.," and further, "the gun factory is capable of producing in ten years the armament required by the present projects."

Now, anybody can see how easy it is for us to go to war. All we have to do is to request John Bull most politely to wait till we are good and ready, and stay in his corner, as it were, until we cry "time." Ten years is not so very long in the life of a nation and in that time we shall have guns enough. If the British, however, want to give us a fair show, they will have to hold up three score and ten years. By that time we shall have our coast defenses in ship shape order, so that British guns can't make much of an impression, and we shall also have guns enough to give Johnny a warm reception. If he wouldn't do us a little favor like that, he would be a "real mean fellow." There, now!

Speaking seriously, what a farce it is for us to go around waiting for somebody to knock it off. There is not a nation in Europe that is not better equipped for war than the United States is with all its wealth and all its resources. How easy it is to take stock of what we have to fight with. We have no coast defenses, and will have to wait seventy years to get them in proper shape. We have modern small arms enough for an army of less than 15,000 men. In case of a sudden emergency, militia and volunteers would have to get along with old-fashioned arms. And there is the whole shooting match.

Of course, there will be no war. The common sense of the American people and of the English people will prevent it. But if it were to be war, where would it be at?

## Preaches Disagree.

A disagreement has arisen in the First Presbyterian church of Washington, between the Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage and the assistant pastor, Rev. Adolus Allen, over which a special meeting of the Washington presbytery will be called. When Dr. Talmage came to the church recently it was arranged that he should preach Sunday evenings, while Dr. Sutherland, with whom he was made co-pastor, should alternate in the pulpit Sunday morning with Mr. Allen, the assistant pastor. The church has been crowded on Sunday evenings since Dr. Talmage began to preach, and there is a demand that he should hold the pulpit twice on Sundays. Offers have also come from other churches for Dr. Talmage's service on Sunday mornings. He has announced to the elders that he desires to preach twice each Sunday; that he is able to do so, and the pressure on him seems a providential call. The elders have the same opinion. Mr. Allen, however, stands upon his rights, which are defined by the contract and by church probity, and declines to yield the pulpit. Consequently the presbytery will be called upon to decide the question.

## Another Suit.

We are first to announce that a suit was begun yesterday in the Superior court of Guilford county by Margeret Cobb and Peter Cobb, stockholders in the North Carolina Railroad Company, to invalidate the lease. Schenck & Schenck are the attorneys. This will be a lively suit before it ends. It is contended that even if the North Carolina railroad had the right to lease the road it could only be done by a unanimous vote of the stockholders. Greensboro Patriot.

When you see a man elevated to a position of high importance more puffed up by his personal prominence than subdued by a sense of his responsibility, you may put it down that a little man has been exalted beyond both his abilities and his merits, and sooner or later he will make it manifest to the public.—Ashesville Citizen.

## Was Quickly Ended.

After all, there seems to have been a real battle between the Boers and the invaders of the Transvaal under Jameson, and the prospects are that the routing of the Jameson crowd will end the whole matter, and that there will be no bad blood between European states on account of it.

It is really amusing to read of the excited cabinet meetings and diplomatic cabling and formal note sending in regard to this little tempest in a teapot. It was plainly evident from the beginning that the British government was in no way responsible for or cognizant of the movement, and that only shadow or reason for criticism was that the South Africa company, supposed to be back of Jameson, held its charter from the government.

It is alleged that Jameson had resigned his position in the company and organized the movement entirely independent of the corporation, but this looks decidedly fishy. That being the fact, the only method by which the British government can purge itself of all responsibility will be by revoking the charter of a company which, in the remotest way, could connive at trouble which might call for the intervention of troops from several European countries.

The revoking of the charter would doubtless have some effect on South African stocks in general, which have been exploited far into the region of fictitious values, but the danger of any serious panic at this time is apparently past. The bulls and bears of the London Exchange who were rampant yesterday have become comparatively calm, and "Kaffirs," which are somewhat depressed, may still be expected to go booming.

## A Peculiar Grippe."

Wednesday evening Mr. John R. Terrell had friends at a New Year's dinner, which he gave. On Thursday morning at 3 o'clock, five of the persons who partook of the dinner were taken violently ill. Those who were made ill, were Mr. Terrell and sister, Mr. Robert P. Dixon, Mr. George McCullers and the cook.

As to the cause of the illness, the doctors disagree. Two physicians say that as many of the sick have the grip. A third physician has not been able to diagnose his case. The others are accredited with eating something which was not adapted to the human system. Authorities always differ, but it is a strange coincidence that the five persons above mentioned were taken ill at the same hour of the night with intense pain and similar symptoms.—Press-Visitor.