

THE GREENSBORO ATLAS.

VOL. 76.

GREENSBORO, N. C., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1897.

NO. 52.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS.

Dr. W. J. RICHARDSON.

OFFICE: KATZ BUILDING.
RESIDENCE: 615 W. GASTON ST.

Dr. J. E. WYCHE,

DENTIST.

Office in Savings Bank Building.

South Elm Street, Greensboro, N. C.

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Dr. W. H. Wakefield,

Sow of Charlotte, will be in Greensboro at the McAdoo House on Wednesday, January 12th.

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Lowest prices. Wholesale and retail.

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WANTED AGENTS.

"The Confederate Soldier in the Civil War," first published, contains 200 pages of 12 x 18 inches, and over 1,000 large Battle scenes, Portraits, Maps, etc. The greatest and largest book ever published, and the only one that is sold to the Confederate soldier and the Unionist alike. Complete in one volume. Agents wanted every where to sell this book on our new and easy plan. Many of the best and most reliable agents who are at work are making \$100 to \$200 per month. Veterans, Sons and Daughters of Veterans, and others interested are requested to send for a beautiful illustrated descriptive circular (free) and terms to Agents, Address: CONFEDERATE SOLDIER, JOSE PATTERSON CO., Louisville, Ky.

RYAN'S EXECUTION.

THE TRAGIC END OF A CAREER OF CRIME.

The Nerve of the Brutal Wife-Murderer Stands by Him to the Last—Passed Into Eternity Without an Expression of Remorse for His Many Misdeeds—The Condemned Man's Last Hours—Incidents Attending His Ignominious Death.

The career of Robert S. Ryan, stained by the commission of most all the crimes possible against God and his fellow man, was brought to an ignominious close last Thursday by the fulfillment of a just penalty imposed by the courts of the state. His awful fate will stand for all time as a warning to those inclined to likewise disregard the statutes laid down for the protection of human lives, and were it not that some one may be influenced by the dreadful example of his misspent life to turn from paths that will certainly lead to a similar end, all the prominence the newspapers have given his misdeeds and their bitter reward has misdirected and untimely.

R. S. Ryan, or "Sonny Ryan," the latter being the name by which he was best known, was born about forty-one years ago. At an early age he arrayed himself against laws and morals and before he was grown he was unfavorably known if not feared by the law-abiding people in the communities where he lived. Perhaps the fact of his illegitimate birth and separation from the refining influences of parental care had a baneful effect on the development of his character, but in childhood he was accented with a spirit that rebuffed an evil after-life. From a gentleman who knew him all his life we learn that one of Ryan's earliest diversions of a serious nature was that of disturbing religious gatherings, especially camp-meetings. His fondness for evil associations brought on their consequent evil tendencies, and carousing, drinking and gambling escapades followed each other in rapid succession. About twenty years ago Ryan married Miss Eliza A. Jennings and for a time it seemed that he had forsaken his evil ways, but the influence of the faithful wife gradually diminished until it offered no restraint to the impulses which overwhelmed him. The eight children resulting from that union are all living. The making of block-ade whiskey offered glittering possibilities to Ryan's depraved yet resourceful nature. It must be said of him that he was possessed of a natural shrewdness or cunning that made him all the more dangerous as a violator of the law, for he always managed to escape punishment for his misdeeds by the employment of artful resources. Upon Mrs. Ryan mainly fell the burden of supporting the increasing family of children, the unnatural husband and father often occupying the position of an impediment to such efforts rather than an aid. Last spring, during one of Ryan's drunken frenzies he mercifully abused and beat his wife while she was in a condition least calculated to withstand such treatment and fear of punishment at the hands of the law caused him to shake the dust of the city from his feet. That is the last seen of him here until late in the fall, when it was reported he made various incursions to his old haunts under cover of darkness. His influence during his absence was not entirely obliterated, however. Writing to his fifteen-year-old son, who, in common with the other members of the family stood in mortal dread of him, he ordered the boy to steal a bicycle and carry it out south of the city a few miles where he could get it. The bicycle was forthcoming but it failed to meet the requirements of the father and he sent back word that another would have to follow. The second wheel was furnished and out of parts of the two he made up one that seemed to suit him. The finding of the discarded portions of the wheels led to the subsequent recovery of both and their restoration to their owners. The boy was arrested for the thefts but a just judge instead of sentencing him to imprisonment bound him out to his grandfather, Mr. Jennings, until he becomes of age.

The next we hear of Ryan he stands on the night of December 4th at the gate leading to the house that shelters his wife and children. Disguised as a woman he crouches in the shadows and awaits the coming of one whose identity the lowering clouds and dense mists could not destroy. Presently he came, on an errand to a nearby market, accompanied by a five-year-old son. Within a few feet of the gate she was grasped by an arm that should have been hers to look upon for support and protection. In another instant, with-

out a word to warn the defenseless woman, the assassin's deadly bullet had penetrated her breast. But the story of the carefully planned crime is known to our readers and need not be repeated in detail here. The arrest of the murderer and its attendant sensational features, together with his speedy trial and its pleasing termination, are likewise matters with which the public is thoroughly familiar. All these events, however, lead up to the last chapter in the drama which ended Thursday. On that day Ryan walked to the gallows with a tread as firm as that of any of the eighty or more spectators who had assembled to witness his execution. His demeanor during his imprisonment was not such as to indicate genuine repentance for his foul crime. The indifference with which he regarded his orphaned children, the youngest one a nursing babe, had much to do with our opinion on that point. Not once did he inquire after or ask to see any of them, and his only reference to them was that he had not raised them right, but hoped they would find homes among good people. The ministers of the various churches of the city visited him for the purpose of turning his thoughts to God but they found his heart as adamant. Father Joseph, of St. Agnes church, finally persuaded him to embrace the Catholic faith and received him in that church on Wednesday evening. Thursday morning at 7.30 he administered holy communion and from 9.30 o'clock on was constantly beside the prisoner.

About 9 o'clock Sheriff Hoskins and one of his deputies went to the jail and put the rope and trap in readiness. About an hour later he returned to the jail, accompanied by representatives of the press, and read the death-warrant to Ryan, who heard it with his characteristic indifference, only glancing at the sheriff once or twice while the warrant was being read. Before this party left the cell door two of Ryan's cousins, John O. Morrow and Martin Ryan, were admitted to the upper floor of the jail, in which the prisoner was confined. They shook hands with him but had little to say. Ryan inquired of them if another cousin would be in aid when told he would remarked that they were all the friends he cared to see. Before leaving Sheriff Hoskins asked the prisoner if there was anything he wanted and urged him to retain his composure, if possible, saying that he would return about 11.30 and give him an opportunity for any final preparations he desired to make. Ryan replied that he had none and had no desire to prolong the suspense; that he was ready any time the sheriff was, but would ask that the spectators be admitted a little while beforehand so he could get used to the crowd before walking through it. To Father Joseph's suggestion that the outer wooden door leading to the cell be closed in the meantime Ryan offered a prompt objection. In response to the sheriff's question as to whether or not Ryan wished to say anything on the scaffold the priest assumed the responsibility of saying he did not.

About half past eleven o'clock those holding tickets of admission to the jail were permitted to enter the jail yard and in a few minutes they were ushered up to the second and third floors of the foully-ventilated structure and divided about equally between each. The forty or more prisoners in the jail had previously been bunched in the three cells on the second floor. Over the stairs and a few inches above the level of the third floor stood the trap door on which the prisoner was about to stand. Entering his cell a deputy pinned Ryan's arms from behind and led him to the trap. Father Joseph then read from his ritual the "Recommendation of a Departing Soul," while Sheriff Hoskins proceeded with the customary tying of the prisoner's thumbs. Ryan seemed most interested in the latter and remarked to the sheriff, "Don't get nervous, Joe." The sheriff assured him he was not nervous, and inquired if he had anything to say. To this question came the reply, "No." Stepping upon the trap preparatory to the adjustment of the rope, black cap and the strap about his ankles Ryan was again asked if he had anything to say, but replied as before. Sheriff Hoskins fixed the rope about the prisoner's neck, bade him good-bye, adjusted the cap, and asked him if he wanted to give the word when to spring the trap. Ryan said he did. "Tell me when you are ready," said the sheriff. "Let her go!" promptly replied Ryan in a firm voice, and the next instant his body was swinging gently five and one-half feet below. The fall broke his neck and only one or two slight involuntary muscular movements were noticeable. In twelve minutes he was pronounced dead by County Physician Ledbetter and Dr. Turner. Drs. Michaux, Battle, Fox

and others were present and made brief examinations of the remains, which were carried down into the jail yard and placed in a coffin for burial. Before their removal by some of the dead man's relatives Father Joseph read the burial service and recited a prayer for the repose of his soul. The young priest was more visibly affected than anyone who witnessed the scene. A majority of the spectators were, of course, drawn there through curiosity, but had they made a special effort they could hardly have exhibited less feeling than did the prisoner in the presence of his awful fate. The latter's display of nerve, if nerve it may be called, was remarkable. Those who pined his arms and feet say that not a tremor traversed his body during the ordeal. Truly he was an adept at self-possession.

Outside the jail yard a crowd of perhaps five hundred people had gathered, but there was no disorder. Not a word of sympathy in Ryan's behalf was uttered.

The remains were taken several miles south of the city for burial.

The vindication of the human law is complete. Since 1870 there have been but five other executions in this county. In that year Sheriff Stafford hanged Bill Parker, a white man. In 1890 Sheriff Hoskins hanged Elijah Moore, colored, for the murder of Laura Hiatt, a degraded colored woman. In 1892 Sheriff Cook hanged Charles Blackburn, a colored wife-murderer, and in 1893 Charles Reynolds, white, and Jack Headen, colored, for the murder of Salathiel Swain, an old gentleman living near Pleasant Garden.

One Minute Cough Cure cures quickly. That's what you want! Howard Gardner.

Big Time at the Academy.
Wednesday and Thursday nights of this week the new orchestra recently organized under Prof. Brockmann's leadership will hold a sociable carnival at the Academy of Music. The orchestra will furnish music, besides which there will be a special program on Wednesday night and a cake walk on Thursday night. Everybody that can will attend in costume or full dress and a gay time is expected. Admission 25 cents. Proceeds to pay for new instruments.

—One of Greensboro's fairest daughters, Miss Beatie Alford, daughter of the late Dr. Alford, is to be married this evening at 6 o'clock at the home of her mother, Mrs. Matilda Alford, on South Davis street. The fortunate young gentleman who will claim her as a bride is Mr. H. E. Ballance, of Baltimore. Dr. Weaver's to officiate. There are to be no guests except relatives and connections of the families. Mr. Ballance's parents and several other relatives arrived this morning to attend the marriage. The happy couple will take the southbound train for Atlanta, St. Augustine and other southern points. They will make their home in Greensboro. Mr. Ballance travels for the Emerson Drug Co., of Baltimore.

Almond Cream Lotion will cure chapped hands and lips. Every bottle guaranteed. For sale by Howard Gardner, druggist.

—An attempt was made to burglarize the clothing store of C. M. Vanatory & Co. last Saturday night. Boxes and crates were piled to the level of a second story window at the rear but the window was locked and evidently offered more of an obstacle to the plans of the burglar or burglars than was anticipated, as the job was abandoned. It happens that there is a bedroom on the second floor of the building and the gentleman who sleeps there is prepared to give a "reception" to burglars on short notice. The failure to effect an entrance Saturday night was a blessing in disguise to some one, for it is safe to say there would have been a funeral in the fraternity of crooks had it been otherwise. While the firm may feel gratified at the desire to secure their goods at any hazard they would much rather supply the trade during business hours, when the facilities for making selections are best. And then they won't be bothered by coroner's investigations and the like.

When wear begins to exceed repair in your body you are going to fall sick. The signs of it are: loss of flesh, paleness, weakness, nervousness, etc. The repair needed is food. You think you eat enough, and yet you feel that you wear out more tissue, energy, nerve-force, than your food makes for you. The difficulty is that you do no digest enough. And this is so serious it is worth sitting down seriously to think about. If you can't digest what you eat, take a few doses of Shaker Digestive Cordial. The effect of it will be to increase your flesh and make you feel stronger. You won't fall sick. Proof that it is in control of your repair apparatus. It's easy enough to test this for yourself. Take a few bottles of Shaker Digestive Cordial. Sold by druggists at 10 cents to \$1 per bottle.

GUILFORD COUNTY EXHIBIT.

Beginning December 1st, 1896, and Ending December 1st, 1897.

| INCOME AS PER LIST OF TAXABLES FOR 1896. | | |
|---|-----------------|--|
| 419,388 acres of land | Val. | \$2,326,870 @ 23% on \$100 \$ 5,506 92 |
| 2,116 town lots | 1,945,617 | do. 4,604 62 |
| 4,143 horses | 141,541 | do. 334 98 |
| 1,697 mules | 65,387 | do. 154 75 |
| 31 jacks and jennettes | 1,295 | do. 2 92 |
| 42 goats | 48 | do. 11 11 |
| 10,470 cattle | 72,394 | do. 171 33 |
| 12,455 hogs | 25,932 | do. 61 37 |
| 4,420 sheep | 4,355 | do. 10 39 |
| Farming utensils | 74,889 | do. 21 38 |
| Tools of mechanics | 9,036 | do. 261 16 |
| Household and kitchen furniture | 153,022 | do. 362 16 |
| Provisions | 28,003 | do. 66 37 |
| Fireships | 2,681 | do. 6 35 |
| Libraries | 8,797 | do. 20 82 |
| Scientific instruments | 4,742 | do. 11 22 |
| Money on hand | 136,164 | do. 322 25 |
| Solvent credits | 516,096 | do. 1,221 43 |
| Shares in incorporated companies | 13,725 | do. 32 48 |
| Other personal property | 566,210 | do. 1,339 55 |
| Bank and B. & L. stock | 277,107 | do. 656 82 |
| R. R. prop., Pullman Car Co. and W. U. Tel. Co. | 949,431 | do. 2,246 99 |
| Income taxes | 6,123 1/2 of 1% | 256 00 |
| Marriage licenses, 25¢ at \$1 each | | 2,882 99 |
| Schedule B | | 1,888 00 |
| Poll tax, 4,230 at 40 cents each | | \$ 22,188 87 |
| Total amount | | \$1,109 44 |
| Less 5% commission to Sheriff | | 665 66 |
| Less 3% commission to Treasurer | | |
| Total net income | | \$ 1,775 10 |

| EXPENDITURES. | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| COUNTY HOME ACCOUNT—1897. | |
| Alexander William work | \$ 9 10 |
| Andrews Wm carpenter work on home | 24 00 |
| Andrews Sam'l on Henry Jones | 1 00 |
| Balentine E pork | 12 00 |
| Benbow W E one shirt | 4 00 |
| Bowman James M work | 12 00 |
| Bowman W H pork | 6 00 |
| Boston Edwards | 7 00 |
| Barker John goods | 41 25 |
| Bori Charles smith work | 4 25 |
| Russ - see laborer | 57 65 |
| Bass Charles | 16 46 |
| Bass Hinton ditching &c | 36 00 |
| Bennett J R paper | 12 00 |
| Bennett J R lumber | 12 00 |
| Caldebaugh E M & Bro goods | 1 85 |
| Cunningham Bros coal | 3 25 |
| Christerson J R & Bro goods | 14 43 |
| Coble Julius pork | 15 24 |
| Greensboro S & B Co lumber &c | 4 45 |
| Cotton Charles moving house | 20 00 |
| Caldwell Moses on pauper | 50 00 |
| Dunsey D W goods | 18 30 |
| Dennis W pork | 13 00 |
| Donnell C A pork | 11 28 |
| Donnell J D do | 39 76 |
| Smith W H shoes | 12 00 |
| Dempey Wm harvesting | 2 25 |
| Fryar R R pork | 17 64 |
| Wick H H heavy paper | 14 86 |
| Gordon Howard drugs and med | 15 00 |
| Holton C E do | 18 90 |
| Holt, Mike | 3 50 |
| Hendrix J & Co goods | 3 50 |
| Holt Henry | 10 00 |
| Ham Wm on Emily Hiatt | 10 50 |
| Harris J H repairs on harness &c | 14 26 |
| Houston Jesse on pauper | 6 25 |
| Hunt J H pork | 15 50 |
| Ingle John tucks | 9 00 |
| Ingle Samuel do | 10 00 |
| Johnson & Dorset goods | 32 75 |
| Johnson W & Co goods | 17 20 |
| Jordan B F pork | 11 64 |
| Jessup L A harvesting | 2 00 |
| Dan Valley Mills supplies | 5 00 |
| Kirkpatrick B A brick | 9 00 |
| Kirkman W T & Co goods | 12 56 |
| Wick H H heavy paper | 14 86 |
| Landreth C E goods | 62 07 |
| Landreth J W | 1 60 |
| Loman G S corn | 12 00 |
| McLean Ann services | 9 00 |
| Mitchell S S guano | 25 10 |
| Murray Alphonso beef | 2 94 |
| McDowell J E do | 50 00 |
| McDowell J E do | 1 00 |
| Mendenhall S H & Co shoes | 32 90 |
| Matthews F A on pauper | 1 50 |
| Mendenhall A goods | 1 50 |
| Osborn Daniel serving notice | 1 75 |
| Pugh & Andrews goods | 15 00 |
| Rankin J H pork | 7 20 |
| Richardson Dr W J med serv | 116 00 |
| Russell Mary labor | 9 00 |
| Stanley Theodore pork | 15 24 |
| Stewart Curry | 30 00 |
| Sample Brown Mer Co goods | 92 00 |
| Smith Jud bottoming chairs | 1 30 |
| Smith John B on pauper | 19 50 |
| Southern Ry Co freight | 2 56 |
| Stratford W O lime | 2 30 |
| Deeks Dr W C med att | 1 88 |
| Tatum & Taylor livery | 1 00 |
| Voss A S supt services | 37 50 |
| Vandenberg J H do | 34 00 |
| Workman & Chrismon goods | 8 76 |
| Wray John | 12 40 |
| Watlington Barney work on machine | 12 50 |
| Walker W B | 19 75 |
| Wharton J W lime | 3 45 |
| Walker W B | 2 30 |
| Wakenfield H W Co goods | 59 82 |
| Yates Wm work | 2 75 |
| Total | \$1,841 33 |

| ROADS AND BRIDGES. | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Armfield N S | \$ 1 00 |
| Amick A G repairing | 5 50 |
| Beson C S do | 4 00 |
| Vanston W E do | 17 20 |
| Burton J C building and mending | 271 71 |
| Burton J C repairs | 15 75 |
| Pease Fear Mfg Co lumber | 10 05 |
| Daniel Hdw Co nails | 6 00 |
| Eagle Furniture | 20 96 |
| Edgerton J H repairs | 6 00 |
| Harris J H lumber | 1 08 |
| Farlow & Spencer lumber | 19 76 |
| Gordon R P repairs | 1 50 |
| Greensboro S & B Co | 6 00 |
| Gilmer J H rebuilding | 8 97 |
| Guilford Lumber Co lumber | 3 19 |
| Morgan C H | 3 00 |
| High Point Hdw Co | 12 50 |
| High Point Enterprise print'g notices | 10 75 |
| Hodgin W C | 6 00 |
| Hodgin W C repairs | 6 00 |
| Johnson J H | 37 58 |
| Little John | 1 50 |
| Shover William | 314 70 |
| Lee J H | 4 75 |
| Moore J H | 6 00 |
| Moore J H | 7 80 |
| Pemona Terra Cotta Co pipe for roads | 208 87 |
| Ponton W M | 2 00 |
| Reese & Bain lumber | 178 95 |
| Rankin A C repairs on bridge | 25 00 |
| Ragsdale & Smith | 71 00 |
| Schofield J H | 1 85 |
| Shaw Lumber Co lumber | 24 17 |
| Stafford D L | 3 50 |
| Spence T O | 7 12 |
| Wharton J M & Co | 7 30 |
| Walker P G W | 19 86 |
| Wakenfield Hdw Co | 30 00 |
| Wharton C W | 2 50 |