

LOCAL.

See first page for deferred articles and communications.

Mr. S. A. Harris is teaching a class in Penmanship at the School House near Oak Grove Cemetery.

The individual who swapped hats with our devil at the Methodist Church, Wednesday night, is requested to call at the Watchman office and exchange with Dick.

The friends and acquaintances of Dr. John J. Wilson, formerly a practicing physician at Gold Hill, will see in another place a notice of his death and a brief sketch of his life. The doctor made many warm friends in the community where he resided.

Quakers. Mrs. Moon, laboring in Goldboro, reports 100 converts there.

Mrs. Fishie, a blind Quakeress, is conducting, successfully, a revival meeting in Wayne county.

Miss Painter, still holding meetings in the Methodist Church here, has been blessed with over 80 converts.

The nursery men are active. The business must be good. We have had several canvassing the town and county, notably, Franklin Davis & Co., Richmond, Va., and Hoopes Bros. & Thomas, Nashville, Tenn.

ANIMALCULE. A few days ago an itinerant showman exhibited on Main street, at Sets a peep, a small drop of water under a powerful microscope.

Mr. J. W. OVERCASH writes that he was not arrested for embezzlement of P. O. funds, and that our correspondent W. did him injustice in stating the matter in that way.

The short of the matter is Mr. O. fell behind with the government as P. M., and one of his securities caused his arrest in order to save himself from damage.

The Machine Shop and Foundry of the Mass. Meroney is again in full operation. The capacity of this establishment takes a wide range in all kinds of wood, brass and iron work.

THE "HAPPY TRO."—Booe, Payne and Lunn, have launched recklessly into the conclusion of single blessedness—have established a bachelors' hall—do their own cooking, &c. What a fate! For a long time these gentle have been doing their best, plying Cupid's arrows vigorous in all directions, but it seems the girls don't take to 'em like they ought.

Municipal Election.—From present appearances we shall have a large number of candidates for Mayor. It will be seen that two have announced themselves, and rumor adds to the number three or four others.

It is important that a suitable man should fill this office. It is a responsible place, and he who fills it must exert an influence on the social, moral and physical interest of the community either for good or evil, whether he intends it or not; and hence, no citizen with a proper regard for these things can afford to be indifferent on the subject.

Moockville Items. I know we have some friends among our subscribers who will be glad to hear occasionally of our success with our "Narrow Gauge" or "Gauge," as some of our Salisbury friends term it. Well we mean to "Gauge" on until we will be ready to invite our friends to come to see us—and come "by way of Mooreville N. C."—on the iron horse.

The severe cold snap has killed our fruit, and early vegetables look sickly. We have quite an accession to our county in the way of storekeepers. One editor—one ex-president of a college and two doctors of Medicine—in charge of government distilleries. More hereafter.

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Wood Leaves.

The peach crop will be an entire failure, the cold of the 3d and 4th having slain them by the wholesale. The apple crop is seriously injured, but we hope some are not killed. Ice in abundance the morning of the 4th. Good time to lay in a supply of thermometers—about as low as they will get this season.

Enochville Items.

Very cold weather here last week. All the fruit killed, and early wheat is badly hurt.

There is a good deal of Railroad talk here just now. We learn that the last Legislature has amended the charter of the Charlotte and Taylorsville Railroad Company as to allow a road to be built from Mooreville to Wadesboro via Concord. Now, if this road is ever built a better and cheaper route could not be laid out from Mooreville to Concord than by Enochville. The country is level nearly all the way and but one stream to cross, and the distance is not more than 22 miles. This is a high, healthy, clean, sandy place, with good water, equal to the mountains. We have here a good graded school, one church in the village and six others of the various denominations, situated from one to two miles distant; and a prohibitory liquor law extending two miles each way; and if we had the advantages of a railroad, Enochville would be one of the most pleasant places to live in in the State.

Lexington Dots.

The statement published in various papers to the effect that our government, Gen. Leach, fell and broke his leg in Washington City, seems to be a mistake. He sustained only a slight sprain.

The town commissioners have at last taken much needed steps to make our town more ornamental and pleasant, by setting out a number of shade trees on and near Main street.

The March House is full to overflowing, a number of pleasant boarders all the way from the metropolis and other cities of the Empire State, forming part of its inmates. It seems to have a decided advantage of the other hotels.

Silver Hill mine, operated by Mr. J. H. Jones, is producing valuable ore—silver and lead—in quantities that ensure a fortune to its owner, and will, with the other valuable mines of the State, when more fully developed, make North Carolina the California of the Atlantic States.

South River Ripples.

Gardens are in need of rain. Although we have had some very unfavorable weather recently, the fruit is not all killed.

The farmers are busily engaged in planting. Tobacco raisers are preparing for a large crop this year.

"M." doubtless, will hear from South River soon. A necessary engagement prevents us from giving him our views this week. "Bonquets, lasses and no-lasses" are all appreciable.

A boat race on Second Creek is an impossibility, though not for lack of water.

A gentleman in this neighborhood, a few days since, bought a pig and it being quite late when he arrived at home with it. He put it in his smoke house. A barrel of molasses with a stop-cock in the right position for the pig to raise by rubbing against it was raised. The next morning the pig was found wading in molasses.

Our Representative, Mr. H. C. Best, was highly entertained on last Tuesday night by a band of serenaders, accompanied by a large number of the citizens of Franklin township. After a few pieces of well rendered music, Mr. B. was called upon for a speech, which call was answered in a speech of one hour's length, which gave much satisfaction.

The citizens were then invited to partake of the good things that had been prepared, and a few hours' notice, by his hospitable wife, after which they retired to their respective homes.

Gold Hill Locals.

Nothing of special interest has transpired in or near our village for some time past; our people as a general thing are of a quiet disposition; not disposed to disturb rather promote each other's interest. Our peace officers have so little business to transact that they often forget that they are J. P.

The little grave in Liberty Church graveyard is still open to public gaze and censure.

There has been several cases of Diphtheria in and around our village during the past few weeks—none having proven fatal. There is a good many cases of Erysipelas among the adults, and some cases have proven fatal in the aged and infirm.

The wheat crop is looking wonderfully promising, and bids fair for a bountiful harvest. Oats not quite so well, having suffered more from the severe frozes the past winter.

Many of our farmers are planting corn, but from appearances to day we think they will wish that they had waited a week or two and given their ground the second breaking.

Died: On Gold Hill March, the 9th, Mr. Eve Ann Vandloring of Fuercperal Fever Aged 77 years. She left this little child and a husband to mourn her loss.

For the Watchman.

THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION.

Mr. Editor.—In this glorious era, when scientific research and achievement blaze forth with such refulgent grandeur, while the versatile genius of man seems but to toy with the most abstruse problems in order to evolve new discoveries, and render subservient to his will all nature and nature's laws, I am reluctant to call in question any phenomenon, however inconceivable it may first appear to my senses. You remember when Nahab fell his numerous herds on Carmel, and the little Jewish boys drove the indolent ass over the hills of Cana and Gilboa home to his master's barnyard at eventide, or stoned him from his vineyard at noon-day, that the age, though not wiser then than now, was one of miracles; for this same emblem of stupidity, sloth, and trite representative of brass and impudence, was gifted with the power of speech. In these times, you have no counterpart to this extraordinary and supernatural accomplishment, if you except the laborious and prolonged, but eminently successful effort, of "Nimrod, Jr.," in the last Watchman, to fix his exalted status in the animal kingdom, and render it more emphatic and irrefragable by proclaiming it in an endless string of Italics, instead of simply writing his cognomen in three non-eulabistic Roman letters. How a temperance reformer could so effectually evolve, or metamorphose, and still live, is incomprehensible with my idea of the doctrine of metempsychosis; still, I can not doubt.

En passant, I notice that a sort of second edition of Mohammed has emerged from his classic home of Iredell, and although he may have been lying up there for fifteen years, dreaming dreams, seeing visions, consulting familiar spirits, and even having fits, yet, judging from his chorionic style, he will not be able to cope with the irrepressible Arab, in stamping his creed upon the world, or in dictating a book of Koran. *His labor, hoc opis est*, to a woodsman who seems to know no more about poetic literature and dogmatic reasoning than scientists do of the perpetuity of the dog. When I scan carefully his array of crude logic and splenetic jargon, I am inclined to wonder whether he has not already been feasting to excess on some impure meat, deadly weed, or adulterated drink, as a sort of aphid set off to the poisoned nectar on which the enraged Jewess fed the founder of the Moslem faith. If he neither feeds on the seasoned meats, nor drinks manipulated whiskey, he doubtless chews the intoxicating weed. It is said tobacco makes its victim nervous, peevish, sententious, and mean. But I must not! While the arguments of wise men, and the thrusts of big ones, must be met or dodged, there is no time to dally with or listen to the rattle of pop-guns. Another "Iredell's" article would not remain whole until the castigation he has merited and which he may yet receive should it become necessary to winnow the chaff from the wheat. Nimrod, Jr., and Iredell have excited the contempt of temperance people, and the meritment of others, but they have my profound commiseration.

"More Anon" continues his tame sermon in that same strain referred to in my last article; and of all the ridiculous assumptions, erroneous conclusions, and reckless assertions, I ever listened to, coming from one whose feelings are distinguished by an impressive intelligence and culture, I think his excel. He assumes that he has "shown the license sale and use of intoxicating liquor to be financially ruinous, a great moral and social evil, the cause of a large part of the crime of the land; and further, that society has the perfect right to rid itself of such social evils, and prohibit such occupations as are injurious to the welfare of the community." I protest that there is more in his assumptions than what he has shown. I admit that whisky drinking is an evil, but, at the risk of being charged with advocating the bar-room, I deny that the sale of it is, when authorized by law. So long as it is made men will drink it, and it is far better to let the sale of it be controlled by law and confined to the hands of men whose interest it will be to conform in a great measure to the wishes and prejudices of society, than to have its sale carried on by sneak-thieves, blockaded-runners, and wholly irresponsible and graceless vagabonds; which would be the result of withholding license and closing up the bar-rooms. I understand from reliable sources that the good people of Salem and Winston, where prohibition has been tried for years, are seriously thinking of licensing bar-rooms as a means of checking or abating drunkenness. Here the opposite course is talked of by experimenters and busybodies. It has not been shown that the sale or use of liquor is financially ruinous. On the contrary, just as every other article of commerce, it is a commodity of trade, and a factor of wealth. It is not the prime cause of a large part of the crime of the land. To affirm it, is to deny that sin is innate in the human heart: To affirm it, is to declare that liquor is the cause of original sin. Who is prepared to make such statements? David, the man after God's own heart, declared he was conceived in sin, and the greatest of all the Apostles, the peerless logician, the wisest of his age, solemnly asserted that there was no good thing in him—in the flesh. I have not the space requisite to enter into a dissertation to show the origin or cause of crime; but a single observation which all well posted people have noticed, will serve to refute the assertion that crime originates in, or is intensified by, whisky.

Be sure prohibition is not the great whisky drinking countries of the globe. In Spain there is comparatively no whisky drunk; neither is there in Turkey. Yet where will you find more crime, and that of a more atrocious character, than is perpetrated in those two last named countries? And so, if you will carefully observe, it is every where. You need not go out of our own country to find that where local option laws prevail, and self-righteous totalitarians rule, crime is more frequent and of a more heinous character. There the devilish ingenuity of innate sin seems to be called into requisition to invent ways and means to clothe crime in its most revolting and hateful garb. Furthermore, the United States, England and France, the great liquor drinking countries, are the most prosperous and happy nations on earth. They are the nations that are the most temperance leaders to deny these statements.

More Anon says moral suasion, the influence of the pulpit, and the gentle offices of the gospel, as a remedial means in the mitigation of the evils of whisky drinking are objectionable. First, because whisky dealers and habitual whisky drinkers will not go to church, and will not allow themselves to be approached on the subject of their occupation or habits. The prayer is of none effect. It has no power to satisfy the yearnings of the guilty heart for divine mercy or favor. It has no power to bring in the erring children of men to the fold of the Lamb of God. Worship through prayer is a delusion and a snare. Is not this the logical deduction from

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More Anon's premises. He tells us in substance that the gentle influences of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ are not capable of reaching men and effecting their actions, unless they will of their own volition, go to church. To believe such a doctrine is to upset the main pillar in the Christian faith. All things may be accomplished by prayer and faith, or the writer has been justly and fully misled in the teachings of the New Testament Scriptures. The prayer of a righteous man availeth much, says the good book. The Savior said, looking forward to the time when He would have perfected his ministry and atonement—"Hereafter ye shall ask me nothing, but whatsoever ye ask the Father in my name, He will do it." "Whatsoever ye ask the Father in my name, I will do it." The author of the Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation says: "When the supplication is for spiritual blessings upon another individual, two minds are blessed by the answer, the individual prayed for, and the individual who prays." Is not this an incentive sufficient to make the Christian pray for his fellow's good? But the power of prayer is too generally admitted and has been too frequently demonstrated, to allow of any one's being misled by More Anon's strange logic. And I do not hesitate to assert my belief that such religious meetings as that which has been in progress at the M. E. Church in this place of late, will do more good in one week to mitigate the evils of whisky drinking in the community than the ranting of all the temperance fanatics and in motion place missionaries, "Whatsoever ye ask the Father in my name, I will do it." 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