

The Carolina Watchman.

VOL. XV.—THIRD SERIES.

SALISBURY, N. C., SEPTEMBER 25, 1884.

NO 50

MISCELLANEOUS.

An Old Man's Insanity.

Tragedy at a Breakfast Table.

BOONTON, N. J., Sept. 12.—It was a few minutes before 8 o'clock this morning when the right venerable William W. Messer came into the dining room of the Briggs cottage, in Boonton Park—a pleasant, three-story house, which he had rented for the season, and in which he lived with his wife and daughter Mary, a woman 20 years of age. Always careless of his attire, Mr. Messer was clothed only in a white shirt, duck trousers, and an alpaca coat of shiny black. His long white hair, of which he was very proud, fell in tangled masses below his collarless neck. His wife and daughter had just sat down to breakfast when he appeared. The old man was very eccentric, and ate out of a tin can. He had not written a word. As he sat down in a low rocking chair at one end of a massive, ornate sideboard, taking up fully a third of the space in the small room, he drew from his pocket a heavy seven-shot revolver, 38 calibre.

"Papa," said the daughter, "put up that pistol or I will leave the room."

"Leave and be damned," said the old man who had an ungovernable temper, of which he had lost almost entire control with advancing years—he had only a short time before celebrated his seventy-fourth birthday.

Miss Messer rose to her feet, and three steps took her into the front sitting room. As she crossed the threshold the gray haired man raised his weapon and fired. Mary fell backward on the crimson carpet, and screaming with pain, turned and half-rose. Her mother, a large, portly woman, had risen to her feet, and was looking with terrified eyes at her husband. Seeming to reason with himself in an instant, he again raised the pistol and fired two shots at her. She ran into front room, closed the door, and sank into a chair. A moment later a fourth shot was heard. The old man had put the pistol to his right temple and pulled the trigger. The ball passed through his head, splattering the papered wall with tiny specks of red. He fell forward dead, his white locks resting against the closed door, his shoulders in a pool of blood, and the pistol by his right hand.

The wounds of Mrs. and Miss Messer are fatal. Both mother and daughter are spoken of in the highest terms by their neighbors. Of Messer's eccentricities many strange stories are told.

He Made a Little.

Detroit Free Press.

"Der clothing peensness," he replied, as he wiped his face with a red handkerchief and set down on a \$2 trunk at the door, "vvas vhat you might call blayed out. It vvas hard scratching to make a tollar."

"But people wear clothes all the time."

"Oxactly, but peoples haf changed a good deal. Some folks vvas all for style, and dey go to a tailor to get it. Odder peoples puy ready made clothing, but so many of us vvas in der peensness dot it vvas hard sledding. Eafery mans who come into my blace expects to beat me down. Eafery man look der goots all oafar for cotton, and it vvas hard to deceive him."

"What do you ask for that tweed suit?"

"Vvhiell, my first price on dot suit vvas \$14. After I talk for ten minutes I drop to \$12. If der customer pegs to pull out cotton filers I make der price \$10, at vvhich I put my hand on my heart and assure him dot I lose oafar ten tollar."

"But if he doesn't take it?"

"Vvhiell, I go out and my wife sells it to him for \$9 as a great favor. Der vvas no more brofit in tweed suits. I haf to pay \$4 in Rochester."

"I suppose you make up on trunks and satchel?"

"Make opp! Why, man, it vvas dot part of der peensness vvat ruins me! Look here! Here vvas a trunk mit a patent lock and all conveniences dot I ask \$4 for. If I don't get so much I drop to \$3. If der shentleman says he vvhil look around a leettle, I tell him to take it along \$2, but it vvas nooch a loss dot my childrea cry all night long."

"They must cost you nearly that."

"Vvhiell, I haf an uncle who made der wood work, a brudder who put on der lock, a sister who papers der inside, and my fadder screws on der hinges, and by sweeping out my own store I vvas able to puy dot trunk for sixty cents."

"Do you ever let a customer go out without buying?"

"Vvhiell, I doan't remember of sooch a calamity. If I can't sell him, my

wife comes in und tries it. If she can't sell him, her sister comes in und speaks like an angel. Sometimes a man vvas sharp as steel. He vvas an \$18 suit for 12. He knows dat we haf to sacrifice, because our stock vvas too large, und he hangs off und peats around, und I finally close der bargain und assure him dot I leaf for County House to-morrow."

"And you lose—"

"Vvhiell, dot suit cost me \$5.25 in Rochester!"

"I guess you'll pull through."

"I hope so. You see, I lif oop stairs to save house rent, I keep no clerk to embezzle from me. I use some kerosene to save gas. My rent vvas low because I vvas a good tenant. I haf aunts und uncles und brudders in der clothing und trunk peensness. I vvas acquainted mit Vanderbit und Gould. I puy vven its vvas hard times. I discount my own paper. All dis vvas verry favorable for my peensness, and it vvas dose reasons dot makes me offer you a complete suit of dot French broad cloth for \$22. I assure you dot it vvas der greatest bargain in der world."

"And that suit cost you—"

"Seven dollars in Rochester, but if you pay \$14 fare to Rochester and back, lose two days und vvas out \$4 for hotel bill how much you make, eh? You must think of dose things."

The Agricultural Don't.

Don't settle down to the belief that red clover won't grow on the farm. Try it.

Don't believe that berries and the larger fruits are not wholesome in the family but save health and obtain pleasure cheaply by planting all that will grow.

Don't fix the fence partly to-day with a promise to do it better next week. That time does not come until damage to be regretted has been done.

Don't be content with half a crop when a little more labor will bring a full one.

Don't try to get something out of nothing.

Don't wait too much on the weather.

Don't go off dissatisfied because you don't get rich by farming in a year or two.

Don't discourage your children by constant complaints about your farm business.

Don't buy a farm tool until you know just how you can pay for it.

Don't go fishing as long as the axe and hoe need sharpening.

Don't forget that if you waste no time in attending to them, your crops will grow nights and Sundays.

Don't abolish farm accounts, but make each cultivated field pay something above expenses annually.

Don't forget that a very few acres in fruit will often pay all the expenses of an average family.

Don't use "cuss words" with any expectation of making them mend broken harness.—*Southern Cultivator.*

Facts and Figures.

The following condensed statement of the material progress of the South we clip from the trade issue of the New Orleans Times. It shows: "From 1876 to 1883 the assessed wealth of twelve Southern States increased \$640,707,028, an average of \$160,176,757 per annum. The assessed value of these States in 1874, compared with 1883, is as follows:—"

Alabama,	\$177,000,000	\$155,126,118
Arkansas,	156,500,000	133,179,377
Florida,	69,500,000	55,249,311
Georgia,	315,575,000	323,115,000
Kentucky,	401,250,000	374,554,973
Louisiana,	208,000,000	202,738,862
Mississippi,	137,629,094	126,754,927
N. Carolina,	225,200,000	301,821,287
S. Carolina,	150,511,889	145,483,619
Tennessee,	237,968,877	226,637,073
Texas,	580,000,000	527,500,000
Virginia,	340,000,000	320,000,000

Total, \$2,987,834,861 \$2,788,115,883

The increase of wealth during the year has been \$205,718,978 as compared with an increase for the four preceding years of \$160,176,757, showing continued improvement. No section of the country can make a better showing than this. Within this time these States have all been under Democratic administration and their prosperity is due in the main to the wise and honest management of their affairs.—*Charlotte Observer.*

LONGEVITY OF THE SEXES.—Some interesting researches have recently been made by the director of the bureau of statistics at Vienna to determine the comparative longevity of men and women, and ascertain the causes of any difference that may appear. He finds that out of 103,831 individuals who have passed the age of ninety years, 70,308 are women, while only 42,523 are men. In Italy he finds 241 alleged centenarian women, and but 141 men of that age. The fact that of children who reach the age of ten years there are more females who seem to be well established, and that the disproportion in numbers grows greater as the years of their life advance is equally certain. The number of male births exceeds the female by 4 per cent.

Farm Life.

It is a common complaint that the farm and farm-life are not appreciated by our people. We long for the more elegant pursuits, or the ways and fashions of the town. But the farmer has the most sane and natural occupation and ought to find life sweeter if less highly seasoned, than any other. He alone, strictly speaking, has a home. How can a man take root and thrive without land? He writes his history upon his field. How many ties, how many resources he has! His friendship with his cattle, his team, his dog and his trees; the satisfaction in his growing crops, in his improved fields; his intimacy with Nature, bird and beast, and with the quickening elemental forces; his co-operation with the cloud, the seasons, heat, wind, rain and frost. Nothing will take the various social distempers which the city and artificial life breed out of a man like farming—like direct and loving contact with the soil. It draws out the poison. It humbles him, teaches him patience and reverence, and restores the proper tone to his system.

Cling to the farm, make much of it, put yourself in it, bestow your heart and your brain upon it, so that it shall savor of you and radiate your virtue after your day's work is done.—*Scribner's Monthly.*

Eating Fruit.

One of the best evidences that the American people of this generation live better than their fathers did is found in the steady and rapid growth of the trade in tropical fruits. It is not many years since the great majority of people scarcely knew what a banana was, and considered oranges and lemons as luxuries to be afforded only in sickness or on great occasions. Now, not only these but other tropical fruits are bought and eaten almost as generally and freely as apples, and consumption of melons, peaches, pears, plums and berries is on the same universal and extensive scale. This is a change which tends not only to gratify the taste but to promote health, which is the foundation of human happiness and is of advantage to everybody. There is little danger that any community will spend too much money for ripe and sound fruit.—*Manchester (N. H.) Mercury.*

A Rifle's Long Shot.

Melvina Butler, a young woman of 24, while busy in the kitchen of her home, No. 308 Meridian street, East Boston, just before 9 o'clock this afternoon, was shot and almost instantly killed in what at first appeared to be a most unaccountable way. She was leaning over the stove when a bullet came crashing through the window and struck her squarely in the left breast. She leaped in the air and then fell to the floor, and a few seconds afterward died. It was ascertained that the shot was fired by a sentry at the Charleston Navy Yard, a mile away.

CHANGING OUR FARMING WHYS.—* * * We, in this immediate section, are rapidly getting out of the cotton groove. Rice, oats and corn are becoming a factor in our agricultural prosperity much greater than is by many supposed. Above here the tobacco crop is taking the lead of all other crops, and in some sections of the State wheat-growing is attaining a decided foothold, and the making of hay is beginning to dawn upon us and will in no distant day take rank with any of the productions of the State.—*Newbern Journal.*

THE DIETARY LAW OF THE JEWS.—As always, the Jews of Toulon and Marseilles have escaped the ravages of the cholera. Of the Jewish community of 4,000 souls in Marseilles, only seven have been seized with this disease. Two of these seven were life long invalids; another ninety-seven years of age, and two others had not observed the Jewish law. The *American Hebrew*, of New York, ascribes this comparative immunity to the dietary laws of Judaism, and lifts up its voice against "the unclean official feeding things of land and sea," which Christian epicures prize so highly.

A CORPSE OF STONE.—Mr. Alsa Mitchell, of this county, died last week. His wife died about six years ago and was buried on the plantation. Mr. Mitchell requested to be buried at Bell's church, and desired his wife's body to be exhumed and placed beside his, and when they dug into her grave her body was found to be as firm and solid as a rock, having become petrified. Her features were not shrunken and her face was as full as a healthy live person's. Her dress looked as natural and perfect as when she was first buried. It is a remarkable case of petrification.—*Chatham Record.*

Children as an Exhibit.

Mr. David Ker, writing to the *Sugar Bowl* suggests that the school children of New Iberia, be brought to the Exposition, he says:

If we are to be judged by the world under that edict which says "By their fruits shall ye know them," we could not offer to the world any higher evidence of our civilization and public spirit than the scores of well behaved and healthy children who are receiving education free of charge, at our public schools. But, besides our desire to show to the world our healthy and intelligent children, we should embrace this golden opportunity for letting the rising generation see, at one view, all the world and its products. Who knows that there is not, amongst the children of Iberia, a future Humboldt, or Rubens, a future Edison, or Eads, or Pasteur, a future De Steal, or Hemans, or George Sands, whose ambition and future usefulness will have been inspired by the remembrance of what he or she had seen at the World's Exposition, at New Orleans, in 1885? A chance to see what the world has done and is doing may stimulate our children to exert themselves for the attainment of some worthy object not before thought of.

THINK OF SUCH SWEETNESS AND CRUELTY.—The Elizabeth City Falcon says that you may travel for miles in a tolerably thickly settled portion of Tyrrell county, and every house you see has a yard full of bee-hives—from twenty-five to two hundred. The way the people there manage it the bees are not the slightest expense beyond getting a rude box or section of a hollow tree for a hive. The improved hive and the glass boxes for honey are not used. Yet we are told by these people that each hive nets them about four and a half dollars. When the honey is taken every bee in the hive is killed. All that is necessary is to set up beehives. The whole country is full of bees.

A Paid Orator.

The *Fayetteville Sun* says that President Gray of the Cape Fear & Yadkin Valley Railroad, in company with Hon. Geo. M. Rose, went on business to Bennettsville, South Carolina, and stopped at Shoe Heel. The band serenaded them and called on Col. Gray for a speech. The Colonel responded by saying that he was no speaker but that Mr. Rose was employed by him to do his talking; whereupon Mr. Rose made a talk in which he reviewed the works of Col. Gray, lauding him in swelling eulogy throughout. This brought President Gray to his feet in explanation, that Mr. Rose was not employed to make that kind of speech.

A good business man has been tracing a circle of debts to illustrate the present scarcity of money. A merchant owes a bank; a farmer owes a merchant; another farmer owes the first farmer; a tenant owes the second farmer. Well, these are in his personal acquaintance. Now if the tenant (upon whose success a good deal of money depends) were to fail, the failure would in all probability be felt all the way back to the banker. It is a somewhat treacherous complication.

The commission appointed by the President to make a special study of the international and trade relations existing between the United States and the Central and South American States, and report thereon, consists of Geo. H. Sharpe, of New York; Thos. C. Reynolds, of Mississippi; Solon O. Thatcher, of Kansas; Secretary, Henry L. Thomas, of the District of Columbia. The commissioners will receive 7,000 a year.

Mr. Butler, the venerable host of the famous Salem hotel, died last week, in a green old age—beloved by many a summer wanderer and all his acquaintances. He was born in 1800, at Bethania, N. C. He came to Salem at the age of thirteen to learn the hatter's trade. About 1823, he was employed at the Salem Hotel, with which, at varying intervals, in one way or other, he was connected till the close of his life.

A HINT OF EDITORIAL FUN.—The two bare-headed dudes, whose capers on the streets were noticed last week, came into the office on Friday morning each armed with a cowhide, with the avowed purpose of cowhiding the editor, but an ink paddle did the work for them and they got down the steps faster than they came up.—*Monroe Enquirer.*

An old farmer who wrote to an editor asking how to get rid of moles, received the reply: "Plough them out," answered back, "Can't do it. It's on my girl's nose."

A set of gold teaspoons and desert-knives bearing the monogram and coat-of-arms of Napoleon I., are in the possession of the wife Capt. J. B. Johnson, of Pine Bluff, Ark. These articles were presented by Napoleon to Mme. Murat, and descended to her granddaughter, Mme. Stef. of Tallahassee, Fla., who, finding herself in reduced circumstances at the close of the war, was compelled to sell them, and they were purchased by Capt. Johnson for \$200.

Jay Gould says that the Southern States are increasing their products beyond all precedent. Cotton manufacturing is being established in all directions, and in Florida manufacturing of furniture, etc., are numerous; things they used to depend on the North for exclusively, they now make for themselves.

The South possesses in her varied and valuable woods the basis of enormous future wealth. The manufacture of cabinet woods and furniture in the South can be made one of her leading industries, as the material is almost unlimited and the water power for factories abundant.—*Southern Lumberman.*

The cholera still prevails with fearful mortality in Italy and in certain districts of France. On the 15th 733 fresh cases and 270 deaths within the last 24 hours were reported in Italy.

POLITICAL.

A Nice Set, Truly.

Negroes and white men in county convention at Raleigh, and a general quarrel between them, when police have to be called in to preserve peace. And that is the crowd that want to get possession of the government of North Carolina. Any decent white man who favors and co-operates with such a crowd ought to be ashamed of himself. White men and negroes accuse each other of being bribed and bought, and yet they are the fellows who want to take the offices from decent, white tax-payers! The notorious negro, James H. Harris, was nominated as one of the Republican candidates for the House in Wake.—*Char. Home.*

In several of the Republican county conventions held this year the proceedings have been almost as scandalous as were those of the convention in Wake. * * * They cannot govern themselves and yet they want to govern the white people of a great State.—*Statewide Lardmark.*

The Enthusiasm for Clay.

Cor. Atlanta Constitution.

I asked Dr. Miller if the enthusiasm for Blaine at the Chicago convention equalled the feeling for Clay to whom he has been compared. "No," he replied; "nothing I think will ever equal that. When Clay was beaten, there were men who went crazy from grief, and men who died of grief. I remember one story that was very touching. A printer, who was a defamer, was deeply interested in Clay's election. He could not speak or hurrah of course, but he attended every meeting. His earnestness was such that he was at length selected to carry the flag in all processions and parades. When it was fully settled that Clay was defeated this young fellow was missing. He was found some days afterwards, in the woods dead, with his flag wrapped about his body. This incident is typical of the terrible, tragic earnestness of that campaign."

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PARSONS' PURGATIVE PILLS

And will completely change the blood in the entire system in three months. Any person who will take 3 Pills each night from 1 to 12 weeks, may be restored to sound health, if such a thing be possible. For Female Complaints these Pills have no equal. Physicians use them for the cure of LIVER and KIDNEY diseases. Sold everywhere, or sent by mail for 25c. in stamps. Circulars free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.

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Dec. 20, 1883.—1017

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Notice To Creditors!

All persons having claims against the estate of J. N. Dobbins, dec'd, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 10th day of 1885, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

J. F. ROBINSON, Adm'r of J. N. Dobbins, estate.

July 7th, 1884.