

PUBLISHER'S ANNOUNCEMENT.

THE MORNING STAR, the oldest daily newspaper in North Carolina, is published on a Monday \$3.00 a year, \$1.00 for six months, \$1.50 for three months, delivered to city subscribers at the rate of 5 cents per copy for any day of the week.

The Morning Star.

BY WILLIAM H. BERNARD.

WILMINGTON, N. C.

TUESDAY MORNING, Dec. 19, 1899.

A BLESSING IN DISGUISE.

What appear sometimes to be afflictions to people turn out to be blessings, and it sometimes happens that these apparent afflictions are necessary to teach people what to do and how to do it.

A FOOL PLAY.

When Messrs. Grosvenor, Dalzell and Dolliver put up that little job in the House of Representatives Saturday to make it appear that because no Democrat had offered a 16 to 1 amendment to the currency bill they had abandoned the silver issue, they doubtless thought they were doing a smart thing, but they were playing a fool game, all the same.

WALKING INTO TRAPS.

It is somewhat remarkable that in the reverses the British armies have met with in South Africa, the generals have confessed that they were trapped by the Boers. White was trapped when he made his first sortie from Ladysmith; Gatsere was trapped when he met with his defeat; Mathuen was trapped when he was confronted by unexpected numbers and had to retreat, and, last, Gen. Buller, the man who boasted that he would wind up the business in sixty days, and eat his Christmas dinner in Pretoria, was trapped, and lost more men than any of the others.

WARM WIRELETS.

The Methodist Conference of Mississippi passed a resolution appealing to the House of Representatives not to seat Congressman Roberts of Utah. Ex-Mayor Patrick J. Gleason, of Long Island, has filed a petition in bankruptcy, with liabilities of \$226,894, assets \$9,988.

FOUND DEAD IN BED.

Capt. Arthur Barnes, of North Carolina, Assistant Doorkeeper of the Senate, died at his home in Washington, D. C., December 18. He was 65 years old.

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MR. LENTZ MAKES SOME POINTS.

We are not a very ardent admirer of Mr. Lentz, of Ohio. He lacks balance, and in his fervor is given to saying things that it were better left unsaid. But he made some good points in his speech in the House Saturday, although much of it was irrelevant to the subject under discussion.

But he struck a rock bottom truth when he charged that the effect of the currency bill before the House would be to establish a bank trust, which would have absolute monopoly of the paper currency of the country, and which it could contract or expand at pleasure, regardless of the demands of business or of the necessities of the people.

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CURRENT COMMENT.

Several of the British officers in Natal are having plucked from their brows the laurels that they won in other African wars. The trouble is that they are fighting white men now, whereas they were fighting black or brown before.

And now we are to hang or shoot the guerrillas we capture in Luzon, "for the sake of the deterrent effect such action will have." How exactly we are following the footsteps of Spain in our treatment of the possibly unwise, but undoubtedly patriotic, Filipinos.

Another effort is to be made in Congress requiring publication of the pension roll. Every really deserving pensioner should endorse the measure, for publicity would do more than anything to make the pension roll what it should be, a roll of honor, by exposing unworthy pensioners, whose presence on the lists tends to discredit the whole body.

Four pence per day will be deducted from each private in the British army now afield who has a wife, and one penny a day in addition will be taken for every child of such married soldiers in order to provide for the support of those whom that "absent-minded beggar," Tommy Atkins, has left at home.

This is a measure never resorted to by the Office unless the absence of the troops from their homes is expected to be prolonged. The easy confidence with which the British authorities entered upon the Boer war, as exemplified by the boast attributed to General Buller that he would eat his Christmas dinner in Pretoria, has evidently given way to a feeling that the pending struggle will be one of the hardest in which the British army has ever been engaged.

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A MYSTERIOUS MURDER.

Tragedy in Solly County, North Carolina—Surrey Simpson Killed by Sarah Wallace.

By Telegram to the Morning Star. RALPH, N. C., Dec. 18.—There is now being investigated at Dobson, the county seat of Swain county, North Carolina one of the most mysterious murders ever committed in North Carolina.

About the middle of November a Mrs. Sarah Wallace came to Dobson and reported that she had on the night previous shot and killed Sol Simpson. Simpson is a man who had served a term in the penitentiary for stealing whiskey and was considered a general nuisance. Many hoped her report was true, but no one cared to investigate, and not being able to make her story believed, she returned home and was away to surrender to the authorities, some one came with a wagon and removed the dead body that she had left lying in front of her door.

The body had been secreted and so far no trace of it has been found, though diligent search has now been made. Some four days ago the father of the murdered man, not hearing anything from his missing son and having heard these reports, had warrants sworn out, with the result that Mrs. Wallace is now in jail and the search for the missing corpse goes on. It seems now that she implicated a man of some standing and that while she was away to surrender to the authorities, some one came with a wagon and removed the dead body that she had left lying in front of her door.

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RECEIPTS OF NAVAL STORES AND COTTON YESTERDAY.

W. & W. Railroad—473 bales cotton, 10 casks spirits turpentine, 53 barrels tar, 1 barrel crude turpentine. W. C. & A. Railroad—119 bales cotton, 7 casks spirits turpentine, 6 barrels rosin, 150 barrels tar, 80 barrels crude turpentine.

A. & Y. Railroad—77 bales cotton, 14 casks spirits turpentine, 103 barrels rosin. W. & N. Railroad—154 bales cotton, 10 casks spirits turpentine, 8 barrels rosin.

CRUDE TURPENTINE—Market firm at 48 cents per gallon for machine made casks and 48 cents per gallon for country casks. ROSIN—Market firm at \$1.10 per barrel for strained and \$1.15 for good strained.

TAR—Market quiet at \$1.25 per barrel of 280 lbs. CRUDE TURPENTINE—Market firm at \$1.60 per barrel for hard, \$2.80 for dip and — for virgin. Quotations same day last year.

Spirits turpentine firm at 40¢/59¢; rosin, nothing doing. Fat. Br. at \$1.30, crude turpentine firm at \$1.80, \$2.30, \$2.80. RECEIPTS.

Spirits turpentine 54, Rosin 242, Cotton 577, Crude turpentine 577. Receipts same day last year—27 casks spirits turpentine, 1,090 bbls rosin, 716 bbls tar, 71 bbls crude turpentine.

COTTON.

Market steady on a basis of 7/4c per pound for middling. Quotations: Ordinary 4 1/8-16 cts 7/4c, Good middling 4 1/8-16 cts 7/4c, Middling 4 1/8-16 cts 7/4c, Good middling 4 1/8-16 cts 7/4c.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

PEANUTS—North Carolina—Prime 85c, Extra prime, 90c per bushel of 56 pounds, fancy, 1.05c. Virginia—Prime, 55c; extra prime, 60c; fancy, 65c.

COGNAC—Firm: 52 to 62 1/2 cents per bushel for white. WOODHULL—Lowland (side-water) 90¢/110¢; upland, 65¢/80¢. Quotations on a basis of 45 pounds to the bushel.

C. BACON—Steady; hams 10 to 11c per cask; shoulders, 7 to 8c; sides, 7 to 8c. SHINGLES—Per thousand, five-inch hearts and sap, \$2.35 to \$2.55; New York Central, 12c; Eastern, \$5.50 to \$5.75.

TIMBER—Market steady at \$3.50 to 9.00 per M.

FINANCIAL MARKETS.

NEW YORK, December 18.—Money on call, 1 1/2 per cent; sterling, ranging from 8 to 12 1/2 per cent. Silver coin closing bid and asked, at 80¢/40¢ per cent. Prime mercantile paper 5 1/2 to 6 per cent.

STERLING EXCHANGE—New York, 121; London, 119 1/2; Liverpool, 119 1/2; Bombay, 119 1/2; Calcutta, 119 1/2; Hong Kong, 119 1/2; Shanghai, 119 1/2; Yokohama, 119 1/2; Manila, 119 1/2; Cebu, 119 1/2; Singapore, 119 1/2; Batavia, 119 1/2; Surabaya, 119 1/2; Medan, 119 1/2; Palembang, 119 1/2; Sumatra, 119 1/2; Java, 119 1/2; Celebes, 119 1/2; Moluccas, 119 1/2; East Indies, 119 1/2; West Indies, 119 1/2; Central America, 119 1/2; South America, 119 1/2; Africa, 119 1/2; Asia, 119 1/2; Europe, 119 1/2; Australia, 119 1/2; Oceania, 119 1/2; Antarctica, 119 1/2; Arctic, 119 1/2; Subarctic, 119 1/2; Subantarctic, 119 1/2; Subtropical, 119 1/2; Tropical, 119 1/2; Subtropical, 119 1