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THE MORNING STAR.

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LOCAL DOTS.

The steamer *Hurt* cleared from Fayetteville for Wilmington at 10 A. M. yesterday.

The Norwegian barque *Mari* and Russian barque *Nora* arrived yesterday to Messrs. Heide & Co., for cargoes of naval stores.

Portions of East Wilmington are now said to be teeming with robins. The sportsmen will soon be wading their way thither.

Next Sunday is St. Patrick's day. Monday following will be celebrated this year as the holiday. It will also be "city primary day."

To-night the ladies of Fifth Street M. E. Church are thinking of giving an entertainment at the old Fifth Ward hotel and ladder hall.

The STAR regrets to hear that the tube rose conservatory of Mr. H. E. Newbury, at Magnolia, was destroyed by fire last Saturday, involving a loss of about \$900.

Wilmington was visited by a veritable downpour of rain early yesterday morning, about one and a half inches having been recorded during the twelve hours. Wind of a thirty mile velocity followed.

The branch of the North Carolina Sorosis in this city is agitating the matter of a public library for Wilmington. A tea will shortly be given, at which each guest is expected to bring a book for the beginning of the library.

Mr. William Melvin, for many years Sunday watchman for the old C. F. & Y. V. railroad and the A. C. L. at Fayetteville, died at his home Sunday, after an illness of several days. He leaves a widow and two sons.

Fifteen delegates are expected from Spangler, N. C., to the State Y. M. C. A. Convention here next week. Spencer sent a good delegation of firemen to Wilmington upon the occasion of the Inter-State Tournament last year.

The blue bird, which has not made its appearance in this climate since the great freeze of 1893, is said to have come again this season. The Fayetteville Observer of yesterday afternoon says that several were seen on Haymount yesterday morning.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Munroe & Kelley—Useful.
A. D. Brown—Spring goods.
W. E. Perdue—For Alderman.
Masonic—Meeting St. John's Lodge.
Jas. T. Riley & Co.—Agricultural lime.
N. F. Parker—Ten cent discount.

BUSINESS LOCALS.

Lost—Setter dog.

Notice—"Bunch of Red Roses."

ENTERPRISING CHURCH SOCIETY.

Has an Enthusiastic Business Meeting and Social Session Last Evening.

The N. S. S. Society of Fifth Street M. E. church held an enthusiastic meeting last evening in the lecture room of the building, at which the semiannual election of officers took place, as follows:

President—Mr. Harry McGirt.
Vice President—Miss May Landen.
Secretary and Treasurer—Mr. D. K. LeGwin.

Musical Director—Mr. J. W. Fleet.
Organist—Miss Madge Howell.

A supervision committee of young ladies, with Mr. M. Marsburn as chairman, were appointed as follows: Misses Sudie Williams, Geneva Mann, Etta Craig, Kate Sholar, Edna Field, Ella B. Donlan and Mrs. Annie Bowen.

After the business meeting a delightful social session was enjoyed, at which a spread of delightful refreshments was served.

The society decided to give later a "peanut party," which promises to be both novel and interesting.

AN IMPUDENT STRANGER.

Not a little excitement was created on Front street near the Postoffice late yesterday afternoon by the impudence and subsequent rebuke of a travelling man, who had been more or less intoxicated at his hotel in the city for the past two or three days. Several young ladies, well known in Wilmington, were crossing the street when the stranger approached them and impudently addressed a remark to them concerning a street car which was just then passing and approaching as if to help them across the street.

Mr. S. P. Collier, who was near, snatched the young man by the coat collar and Mr. Robert N. Harris, who was standing in the street door of Kerchner & Harris and saw the excitement of the ladies, ran into the street and administered a blow which felled the impudent young man to the pavement. Although a larger man than Mr. Harris, the stranger would have been administered a more severe thrashing had not some bystanders at length made him desist.

Cassell Lookout Tower.

At the U. S. Army Engineers' office yesterday morning bids were opened for furnishing 1,100 long tons of broken stone and 81 long tons of granite stone, to be used in construction of the lookout tower at Fort Caswell. The bidders and their respective proposals were as follows: W. B. Bonal & Co., of Hamlet, \$1.85 and \$2.00; Newark Contracting Company, of Camblyonia, S. C., \$1.90 and \$3.01; Brandywine Granite Company, of Wilmington, Del., \$2.24 and \$3.86; Thos. Woodroffe & Sons, of Mount Airy, \$3.02 for both grades. The two first bids were for delivery at Southport, and the last for delivery at Caswell. The proposals will be forwarded to Washington, D. C.

A man who was in Pekin when the racket with the boxers began, gave a claim for \$30,000 damages, \$10,000 each for the shock to the nerves of himself and two daughters. Minister Conger has not yet got in any claim for the fifty pounds of flesh he lost during the siege.

There was a discrepancy of \$1 between the account of the City Comptroller of Philadelphia, which it took the force of auditors a week to discover, but they did it. It cost the treasury of the U. S. once about \$10,000 to locate a misplaced three

CRIMINAL MATTERS.

March Term of Eastern District Court for New Hanover convened Yesterday.

JUDGE BRYAN'S ABLE CHARGE

Large Number of Cases Disposed of Yesterday—Proceedings Were Without Special Interest During the Session—Fred Stewart's Case.

The March term of the Eastern District Criminal Court, Judge E. K. Bryan presiding, convened yesterday morning at 10 o'clock. Solicitor Rodolph Duffy, Clerk W. R. French, Sheriff F. H. Stedman and all other court officers were in attendance.

Barring the fact that it was the first court held here by Judge Bryan and the matter of his very comprehensive and able charge to the grand jury, the day's proceedings were devoid of special interest though a very large number of items on the docket were disposed of. Sheriff Stedman returned the list of those drawn for service on the jury of which Messrs. W. R. Barkdale, M. F. Croom, J. V. Guley and George A. Warren were exonerated.

The following grand jury was sworn with Mr. Schulken as foreman and Mr. C. M. Harris as officer in charge: A. E. Heath, E. F. Lewis, J. H. Harper, W. P. Woodcock, Thomas Lawther, W. V. Hudson, J. D. Bender, T. W. Meares, G. W. Rodgers, J. L. Hines, W. S. Craig, C. H. Schulken, J. J. Hawkins, E. L. Davis, William Lunsden, C. A. Turley and T. J. Torpy.

With these excused and the above named on the grand jury there were left only four persons on the petit jury and the complement was made up from bystanders in the courtroom.

Judge Bryan impressed both the bar and laity alike with his judicial bearing, and his explicit and very able statement of the law to the grand jurors.

The charge consumed nearly an hour and dealt with all the important violations of the criminal law. The grand jury at once began work in dead earnest and sent up more than the usual number of bills during the day. An adjournment was had about noon until 3 P. M. and the afternoon session continued until 6 o'clock in the evening.

It has been agreed to have the week's sessions begin at 9.45 o'clock each morning and continue until 6 o'clock in the evening, with a two hours' recess for dinner at 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

The following cases were disposed of yesterday:

Alex. McIntire, assault and battery with deadly weapon; defendant fined \$10 and costs; paid cost and recognized for fine until May term.

G. W. Davis, assault and battery with deadly weapon; bill waived and submitted; judgment suspended on payment of cost.

Wm. Robinson, submitted to larceny; defendant sentenced to one year on the public roads.

Oscar Joseph, larceny; guilty; case left open.

Lillian Miller, concealed weapons; guilty; left open.

Mariah Williams, larceny; judgment suspended on payment of cost.

Martha Pierce, larceny; not guilty.

Albert Howe, larceny; plead guilty; case left open.

Thos. Addison, larceny; plead guilty and case left open for judgment.

The following cases were disposed of yesterday:

Business Men's Basket Ball Team Broke Its Good Record.

For the first time since its organization, the business men's basket ball team was defeated last night at the City Hall and the members of the young men's team, which was victorious, are very jubilant over their triumph. The score stood 36 to 27. The teams were composed of the following:

Business Men—DuRant, Scott, Boney, McGeechey and Little. Substitute, Hawes.

Young Men—Davis, E. Y.; Davis, L.; Sweeney, Hopkins and Gore.

The following acted as officials—N. M. Weitzel, referee; Davis and Delano, scorers; Williford, timekeeper; J. H. LeGwin, scorer.

The next game in the cup series will be played by the Naval Reserves and business men Friday night.

A New River Steamboat.

A correspondent of the STAR writing from Point Caswell, March 9th, gives an account of the launching at that place on Friday of the new steamboat *J. A. Whitlock*, reference to the building of which was recently made in the STAR. The new steamer has just been launched by W. W. Sherman, the veteran boat builder of the Cape Fear, and was brought down to the city Saturday to have her machinery installed. She is owned by Capt. Ellis Sherman and will be placed in commission on Town Creek and Long Creek. The launching took place Friday at noon at Point Caswell and the new boat was christened by Mr. Ed. Sutton, who broke the customary champagne bottle on her bow stem.

The *Whitlock* is the eleventh steamboat built at Point Caswell; that there is no place in the State where so many river steamers have been built since the war.

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