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We are again sending bills to our subscribers. In the aggregate they amount to a very large sum. Many of our subscribers are responding promptly. Others pay no attention to the bills. These latter do not seem to understand that they are under any legal or moral obligation to pay for a newspaper.

## THE FARMERS DON'T WANT IT

Ever since the protective tariff policy was inaugurated the advocates of that policy have been humbugging the farmers by making them believe that protection was beneficial to them by keeping down the importation of farm products from other countries and by giving the farmers "home markets," when the fact is that our importations of the farm products of other countries never amounted to enough to be worth considering as factors in competition. We imported a small quantity of wheat from Canada for seed purposes mainly, some barley for breweries, some Irish potatoes when potatoes happened to be scarce, and perhaps a few other items in small quantities, but never enough to interfere seriously with our farmers, and then only when the home supply was short. Instead of the tariff on these being a benefit to farmers it was an injury to the farmers in the States bordering on Canada, who had to pay the tariff duties on grain, potatoes, etc., which they bought for seed as well as for consumption.

For a good while the farmers were deceived by the representations of the protectionists, but they began at last to see through it, and some of them are showing that they understand it now since the Republicans have gone to work to put up a new tariff job, to raise the duties for the benefit of certain manufacturers, by which they pretend that the farmers will be benefitted.

The first organized expression comes from the State Grange of Pennsylvania, a State which has been radically for protection, and has always given a large majority for it. At the last meeting of this Grange it adopted a series of resolutions in opposition to an increase of tariff duties, to which the following is the preamble, as we find it published in the Richmond *Times:*

"The prices of agricultural products as a whole, and particularly of the great staples, are so reduced as to be often below cost of production, and that in no case do they offer a guarantee of profit. That this situation is not confined to this country, although intensified here by the more liberal mode and higher cost of living of our people; in short, by their progress in education and advancement in civilization. That, unless remedied, this condition must inevitably gravitate downward, until the level of the lower and debased agricultural population of the old world is reached; a condition incompatible with the maintenance of our higher civiliation and even the perpetuity of our free institutions and our self-government. That we recognize a new 'world-condition' arising from the wonderful facilities of transportation by land and sea, which now brings together 'as in a scroll' the very ends of the earth; which outstrips even time itself in disseminating intelligence through all the marts of trade. That we realize that by the introduction of modern automatic machinery the superior efficiency of intelligent agriculturists is in a great degree discounted, and the educated farmers of our land are brought into sharper competition with those who, but for the advantage given by their use of such machinery, could never have become objects of our concern as rivals. That we are aware of the additional menace which threatens us from the approaching competition of the Siberian railroad and the opening by Russia, as the bidder against the world, of the most enormous continuous arable tract on the planet, which, when stocked with the latest farm machinery now manufactured in Continental Europe, will ultimately crowd all cereals and staples to a point lower than ever yet reached."

These Pennsylvania farmers are looking for more and more formidable competition than they ever had, not in the home market, where they do not fear competition, but in the foreign market to which they must look to dispose of the surplus that cannot be disposed of at home, hence they wisely conclude that every restriction put upon trade with those markets will be that much against them instead of a protection in the home market from a competition that they have nothing to fear from.

And they go further and say that an increase of tariff duties will be injurious to them because it will increase the cost of agricultural implements and machinery which they must have to compete with the growing foreign competition in foreign markets whether the prices be high or low. The only way they can successfully cope with that is by producing more cheaply than their foreign competitors can, and the only way they can do that is by the large run of labor-saving machinery, which they should be able to buy at as low a figure as the manufacturer can make it, without any tariff duties tacked on. The manufacturers of agricultural machinery have nothing to fear from foreign manufacturers, for in the construction of this kind of machinery the American manufacturer eclipses the world, and therefore to give him a protective duty is simply to give him a gratuity and unnecessarily impose a tribute on the farmers who use this machinery.

They contend, and consistently contend, that if they are to cope with this foreign competition and the task of coping is to be made more difficult by imposing extra duties, resulting in additional cost of the implements and machinery they buy from American manufacturers, then as an offset they ought to have a bounty on the food stuffs and other farm products that they ship to other countries. That's bringing it down fine, but that is the only way they can have any protection to offset the protection which they must pay for to the manufacturer, and to enable them to hold their own against this foreign competition. An export bounty is as logical as an import protective tariff duty, and the farmer who furnishes three-fourths of the materials for our export trade are quite as much entitled to the favorable consideration of our tariff builders as the manufacturers are who depend mainly upon the home market.

These Pennsylvania farmers are quite right in contending that they are as much entitled to a bounty as the manufacturer is to a protective tariff. And they are showing, too, that they see through the fake of protection to the farmer by imposing a tariff duty on things that are but little imported, and that they understand this business quite as well as the fakirs who are trying to pull the wool over their eyes.

## MINOR MENTION.

"When thieves fall out honest people get their dues" had another illustration in the break of the steel rail pool which put rails down at a drop from $26 to $18 a ton, with some offerings as low as $15.50. As a result orders have been placed by railroads for an aggregate of 800,000 tons and the rail makers were glad to take the orders at $18 a ton or less. How these combinations of the steel rail and other steel and iron manufacturers have affected the railroads of the country and imposed an outrageous tribute upon them which affected not only them but the country at large, is shown by the following, which we clip from the New York *World:*

"On Monday the price of steel rails in Chicago was quoted at $26 a ton. Since then the quarrel among the members of the steel pool has culminated in open rupture, and the corner they have so long held on the market has been broken. Yesterday the telegraphed quotation for rails in Chicago was $18 a ton—a drop of more than 30 per cent.

"The lowest annual production of steel rails reported by the Government in ten years was 1,017,000 tons in 1894. On this total the $8 a ton representing the fall on the callapse of the corner would make $8,136 000 as corner profits in the worst year of the decade. On the highest production reported by the Government since 1886—that of 2,197,000 tons in 1887—the corner profit at this rate would amount to $17,576,000, while for the 14 758,000 tons reported as the production of the decade the total corner profit would be $118,064 000 over and above the profit from competition in an uncornered market. This is on steel rails only, exclusive of iron. It is also on the home product only, and does not include the higher prices which the combination has forced American consumers to pay on foreign rails through a tariff levied to support the home corner.

"As the annual average prices reported by the Treasury for the decade have ranged from $24 to $37 a ton, there is reason to believe that, large as these figures are, the corner profit at the expense of legitimate business has been larger. And when we remember that no longer ago than 1880 this same monopoly held the average price of rails for the year up to $67 a ton, it becomes possible to realize how the country has been robbed right and left under the system which makes such corners possible.

"Yet these people who are now making steel rails so cheap that they can undersell Europe are joining in the demand for a Dingleyized tariff and higher protection!"

* * *

It is estimated that the present famine in India will affect 70,000,000 of people before it ends. Seventy millions of people are a good many to be provided for wholly or partially, especially when the food has to be transported long distances and by sea. Unfortunately for these starving millions there are few who take any interest in them. England being most directly interested other European Governments do not consider any business of theirs and consequently there is no organized movement outside of England for the relief of the suffering and very little there considering the deplorable condition of the suffering and the number that are daily dying of starvation and of diseases superinduced by starvation. As an illustration of the ravages of these famines in densely populated Asia, it is stated that the deaths from famine and diseases caused by it, as a result of the crop failure in Northern Asia in 1877-78, numbered 9,000,000. In India, between 1875 and 1878, 5,500,000 people died, and it is thought that as many may die from the present famine, which extends over a vast area of country containing more inhabitants than there are in the United States. The completion of the trans-Siberian Railroad will be a godsend to these Eastern countries, for it will open up a large food producing territory from which supplies may be speedily drawn when such calamities come upon them.

* * *

Ambassador Bayard has since his residence in London achieved distinction as a tribute payer to the English people, never omitting an opportunity to pay high eulogy to the English character and to remind his English hearers that they and the American people are blood of the same blood, bone of the same bone, and flesh of the same flesh, notwithstanding the fact that there is no people on the face of the earth, with the possible exception of the Irish, that England has less use for. Some of this might do very well as an exhibition of liberality and Ministerial courtesy, but Ambassador Bayard carried it so far as to incur the criticism of being more English than American. But Gen. Pat Collins, of Boston, our Consul General at London, doesn't believe in that kind of soft-solder, and was blunt enough to talk in this style at a recent banquet in London:

"You have so much time at your disposal as to be able to devote much of it to the regulation of the affairs of other countries. You hold your meetings, appoint your committees and denounce negro lynchings in America; yet you kill more negroes monthly in Africa than we have done in all our history."

This broad-gauged Americanism might probably have shocked the suave Bayard if he had been at that banquet, but it doesn't seem to have riled his English friends very much, for they doubtless realized its truth, and appreciated the candor that gave it utterance in their presence.

It is said that President Cleveland contemplates a tour of the world, and will be accompanied by several members of his official family. He should by all means take Secretary Thurber with him. Thurber would be quite handy in keeping away people he didn't want to see.

Hon. Wash. Hesing is so anxious that he says he would give his right arm to be Mayor of Chicago. But what use would Wash's right arm be to anybody but Wash? If he wants to be Mayor of Chicago let him put up dollars; they will do that kind of business better than sawed off arms

The New York *Commercial Advertiser* (Republican) rises to remark that "the fierce quarrel of the bosses in Ohio to secure a United States Senatorship is unparalleled in American politics. It is a shameless spectacle." It is for a fact, a decidedly spectacular business.

The city of London, with an area of 688 square miles, has a population of 4,433,018; the Greater New York, with an area of 359 square miles, has a population of 3,294,865, and Paris, with an area of 172 square miles, a population of 2,511,955.

Bourke Cockran says he wants from this administration nothing either for himself or his friends. Bourke jumped his friends when he boosted McKinley, the reward for which he had probably received in advance.

Hon. Bourke Cockran has sailed for Europe. The country must scuffle and get along as well without him as it can. But we have Mark Hanna still with us.

## DEATH OF MR. A. R. MAYER

A Brother-in-Law of Mr. A. Weill, of this City, Dies in Philadelphia.

Mr. A. R. Mayer, of Spartanburg, S.C., but formerly of Wilmington, died in Philadelphia on Thursday night last of heart disease at the age of sixty-two.

He was a brother-in-law of Mr. A. Weill, of this city, and lived here from 1854 to 1865, being bookkeeper for the firm of Weill & Anathan. He was a member of the German Volunteers, enlisting for the war at its beginning in 1861. After the war he opened up a business in Charlotte under the firm name of A. Weill & Co. Afterwards he was for many years the trusted travelling man for Wittkowsky & Rintels, of Charlotte.

Several years ago he established a business in Spartanburg, S. C., where he has lived since.

Mr. Mayer was never married. The only member of his immediate family surviving him is a sister, Mrs. Jaco Greenbaum, who resides in San Francisco. His oldest sister, Mrs. A. Weill, died eleven years ago. The deceased leaves many friends and relatives in this city to mourn his loss.

The remains will arrive over the Atlantic Coast Line at 9 30 to-morrow morning, and the funeral will be conducted from the depot to Oakdale cemetery.

# THE WEEKLY STAR.

VOL. XXVIII. WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1897. NO. 17

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

BILLS INTRODUCED, PASSED AND TABLED.

Bill to Protect the Oyster Industry Passed the House—To Protect the Lives of Railway Passengers Tabled—Death of Jas. H. Holt.

[*Special Star Telegram.*]

RALEIGH, February 18.—The following bills were introduced in the House. To protect fish in Trent river; to tax cigarettes fifteen cents a package; to declare ordained ministers and magistrates public officers; to protect deer and turkeys in Pender; amend the charter of Lumberton; the bill to repeal the charter of the Goldsboro & Morehead Railway was indefinitely postponed.

The bill to provide for and promote the oyster industry in the State passed all readings.

The following assistant enrolling clerks, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor and Speaker, were announced and the appointments confirmed: H. F Jones, A. Y. Miller, J. C. Maxwell, A. S. Byrd, A. C. Lehman, F. B. Wimah, A. Spruill, D. V. Carroll.

Bills passed: To allow Brunswick county to levy special tax; to incorporate the Commonwealth Insurance Company of Wilmington; to repeal the act allowing counties to vote 20 cents per $100 for public schools so for as Pender county is concerned; for the relief of ex-Treasurer Durant, of Brunswick; to amend the Code so a petitioner may elect to file his petition in the Superior Court of the county where the indictment was found upon which conviction took place, or in the county wherein he is an actual and *bona fide* resident at the time of filing his petition, which application shall be heard before the judge at the term; providing in actions brought by heirs at law or minor children to plead statute of limitation in case executor or administrator failed to make plea for them; to allow Sunday trains to carry express matter of all kinds; to allow magistrates, notaries, clerks of Superior and Inferior Courts power to take and certify acknowledgment of all grantors and private examination of married women (Onslow excepted); to incorporate Dreadnot H. & L. company, Kinston; to give the Western Criminal Court civil jurisdiction and to allow special courts.

Bills introduced, to appropriate $1 000 annually to Lindley Training School at Asheville.

By Sutton, bill to protect public water supplies by requiring all companies selling water to take precautions to protect supply from contamination and that in cases where supply comes from lakes or streams not over fifteen miles long sanitary inspection shall be made weekly or oftener if board of health advises, failure to do this being punishable by $25 fine; to provide for paving of streets around the Capitol Square.

The bill to protect the lives of railway passengers was tabled.

In the Senate a bill authorizing Richmond county to issue bonds passed. A bill was introduced to make a picket fence four feet high lawful fence; to establish a Normal School in Robeson county; to incorporate the town of Dudley, Wayne county.

Jas. H. Holt, largest cotton manufacturer in the State, died this morning suddenly.

Under advice of Lieutenant Governor Reynolds, the locks to the drawers of the Enrolling Clerk's office were picked this morning. Swinson retained W. C. Douglas as counsel, and acting under his advice will likely push the matter in the courts.

## NORMAL SCHOOL.

Entertainment Given by the Students at Greensboro to the Legislative Committee.

[*Star Correspondence.*]

GREENSBORO, N. C., Feb. 18.—The Normal School was the scene of a most interesting and edifying entertainment on the evening of February 12th. The occasion was the "County Fair," given by the student body to the visiting committee from the Legislature.

The Fair opened with a chorus representing the three departments of the school—Business, Domestic Science and Normal. Each department received much applause, but the cooks in their dainty white caps and aprons seemed to win the hearts of the gentlemen present.

Immediately following this the presentation of the counties began, and none was more happily represented than our own New Hanover. A bevy of charming sailor girls, bearing banners and various products, made the hall resound with the rollicking chorus "A Sailor's Wife a Sailor's Star Should Be."

After the presentation of the counties a Legislative scene was given. In this supposed General Assembly of the State of North Carolina there were thirty-five young ladies, gowned as august Senators and Legislators. Miss McCaull, of Guilford, presided as president of the Senate, and a bill was introduced and carried appropriating annually $100,000 to the State Normal and Industrial School. Some very good points were made in the discussion of the bill, and the speeches from both parties were received with much enthusiasm.

The Fair closed with a most charming scene. Around a tableau vivant of the Great Seal of the State were grouped representatives from each of the eighty-seven (87) counties which have sent delegations to the Normal during the present year; their charming faces and characteristic costumes forming a most appropriate background. Led by three young ladies the entire audience arose and with true Carolinian spirit concluded the evening by making the roof ring with the familiar strains of the "Old North State."

Invitation of Chamber of Commerce to Property Owners on Ocean View Beach.

It has been suggested that the property owners of Ocean View Beach procure corporate powers from the Legislature now in session. The Chamber of Commerce would be glad for all owners of property on the beach to meet in their rooms to-morrow (Monday) at 12.15 o'clock for a general discussion of the matter.

## RALEIGH NEWS LETTER.

A COLORED LEGISLATOR GETS OUT OF HIS PLACE IN THE THEATRE.

The Majority Populists Caucus—Representative Jones of Alleghany Receives Unpleasant Letters From His Constituents—The North Carolina Railroad Lease.

[*Special Star Correspondence.*]

RALEIGH, N. C., Feb. 18.

The race question crops out every once in awhile with the legislators, either in or out of session. Last night a colored member of the Legislature from Edgecombe attended the performance at the theatre. One side of the gallery is reserved for the whites and the other for the colored people. This colored legislator deliberately went on the white side, though the colored side was less crowded. When requested by a policeman to move to the other side, the darkey said: "You don't know me, do you?" The officer confessed his ignorance. The negro was made to leave under protest and he said he would bring the matter to the attention of the Legislature.

The majority Populists caucused last night, remaining in session until a late hour. Senator Butler took the morning train for Washington city It was said to-day that Speaker Hileman and the jumpers were expelled, but this proved not to be true. Senator George Butler said that the situation was gone over very thoroughly, and that there was nothing to be given out. The majority Populists are more helpless than the Democrats, if anything, so far as legislation is concerned.

Representative Joaes is badly bothered these days. His constituents are writing him letters by the dozen, which furnish unpleasant reading for the gentleman from Alleghany. The people of Alleghany are disgusted at Mr. Jones' course in the Senatorial matter. Jones, it will be remembered, did not vote at all and the Republicans openly said that he had agreed not to qote at all and that if it became necessary he would vote for Pritchard. When Jones' Democratic constituents began to write these letters Jones arose to a question of personal privilege, and now he is trying to get the newspapers to publish his remarks, so that he can send papers to his constituents.

All interest is centered in the lease of the North Carolina Railroad. No one can tell what the Legislature will do. Railway people are mum, though they express confidence. Senator Butler says the conditions have improved of late and he says it looks like the bill will go through.

Death of a Venerable Lady—Mrs. Eliza Harriss Wilson.

Mrs. Eliza Harriss Wilson, wife of the late E. K. Wilson, Esq., of this city, entered into rest yesterday morning at the residence of her son-in-law, Mr. Joseph Hanby. The deceased lady was 77 years of age and was the daughter of the late Dr. Alford Guthrie and granddaughter of the late Christopher Dudley, Jr., both of this city. One son, Mr. John A. Wilson, and a daughter, Mrs. Joseph H. Hanby, are left to mourn her loss. The funeral will take place this afternoon at 4 o'clock at the residence of Mr. Joseph H. Hanby, No. 720 Dock street.

## CITY MARKETS.

Contry Produce Scarce, with the Exception of Vegetables—Shad Getting Cheaper.

The supply of country produce on the market yesterday was limited, owing probably to the exceedingly bad weather of several days previous. Vegetables, however, were more than usually abundant, particularly celery, lettuce and spinach. Fish and oysters were in good supply at usual prices with the exception of shad, which were lower by forty cents per pair than they were last Saturday. Eggs retailed at twelve and fifteen cents per dozen. Prices on other articles were as follows:

Oysters—New River, 80c to $1.00 per gallon; Stump Sound, 65c; Myrtle Grove, 50c; Sound oysters, 40c; oysters in the shell, 60c per bushel.

Fish—Shad, 60c and $1.20 per pair; mullets, 10c per bunch; trout, 20 to 35c each,

Meats—Pork, 10c per pound; steak, loin, 12½c; round, 10c; chuck, 7c; stew 5 and 6c; sausage, 10c.

Vegetables—Spinach, 25 and 30c per peck; Irish potatoes, 20c per peck; sweet potatoes, 20c per peck; rutabagas and turnips, 5c per bunch; cabbage, 12½ and 15c per head; collards, 5c per head; lettuce, 2½ to 5c per head.

Funeral of Mrs. Mattie Willis Marshall.

The funeral services over the body of Mrs. Mattie Willis Marshall were conducted in a fittingly solemn and tender manner by Rev. Dr. Robert Strange, of St. James Episcopal church yesterday morning at 11 o'clock, from the family residence on North Eighth street. A choir sang feelingly "Asleep in Jesus," and "Nearer, My God, to Thee." The house was crowded, noticeable among those present being the officials and clerks of the Atlantic Coast Line.

After the services at the house were concluded, the funeral party proceeded to Oakdale Cemetery, where the body was laid to rest in the presence of a large number of friends and relatives. The newly made mound was obscured from view with floral offerings, three of which, coming from the A. C. L. associates of the sorrowing husband, were particularly beautiful. The pall-bearers were Messrs. F. H. Fechtig, W. Graham Farmer, Benjamin J. Jacobs, Frank. Muse, Walter Thorburn, and William Neistlie.

In naming those of the late Mrs. Marshall's immediate family surviving her in yesterday's paper, the name of one of her sisters, Mrs. Charles D. Jacobs, was overlooked.

## PAINFUL ACCIDENT.

Young David Jemmison Has His Hand Crushed at Parsley's Mill.

A very distressing accident happened at Mr. Walter Parsley's mill, near Hilton, yesterday between 12 and 1 o'clock. David Jemmison, a lad of seventeen or eighteen years of age, who drives a wood cart for Mr. T. P. Sykes, who was loading his cart with dry kiln wood, when his right hand was caught between a band and wheel of the machinery which brought out the blocks and crushed almost into a jelly. He was hurried off to the City Hospital where he received speedy and competent attention from Doctors Lane, Harriss and Gore. It was found necessary to take off all the fingers except the thumb. Last night at 9 o'clock he was resting well.

## FOULLY MURDERED.

Charles Jones, a White Sailor Off the American Brig M. C. Haskell (Now in This Port, Slain in Dross Neck—Ben Smith, Colored, Accused of Committing the Crime—Coroner's Inquest—The Story in Full.

Between 11 and 12 o'clock Wednesday night Charles Jones, a sailor, was murdered in the tenderloin district—Dross Neck—and there is no doubt that the deed was deliberately premeditated.

Last Sunday, about noon, the American brig *M. C. Haskell* came up the river and dropped anchor at the Navassa Guano Company's factory. Among the crew was one jovial, light-hearted fellow, Chas. Jones, an Englishman, whose only failing was a love for the cup and women. Wednesday morning the entire crew of the brig were paid off before United States Commissioner Heide. After receiving his salary, $46.20, Jones, in company with two shipmates, engaged board at Mrs. Christian's, corner of Front and Dock streets. Then, as most seafaring men who have just come ashore after a long voyage will do, he commenced to spend his money freely. At 5 o'clock in the afternoon he parted with his two shipmates, Christia Christian and L. Hyneman, and went to Dross Neck, slightly intoxicated.

Between 11 and 12 o'clock two colored men, Moses Broomfield and John Albrittain, who live on Second street, between Brunswick and Hanover, heard the hurried tramping of feet outside their house and the dismal cry of murder! murder! floated out on the air. Again the cry sounded, and several licks was heard to fall upon some hard substance. Broomfield jumped out of bed and hollowed "stop, don't you do that," and flung the back door of his house open in time to see a man disappearing in the darkness, while another man lay on the ground, about six feet off, groaning. Broomfield and Albrittain at once went in search of the police. At the corner of Fourth and Hanover streets Albrittain met Police Officers Louis Geyer and Joseph Sharp, who were on duty in that neighborhood. Accompanied by the officers, Albrittain returned to the scene of the crime and found the happy, light-hearted sailor, Charles Jones, who had entered Dross Neck a few hours previous, lying unconscious on the ground with two or three ugly bruises on the left side of his head. Officer Geyer telephoned to the City Hall, and a wagon, in charge of Sergeant Thayer, was sent to remove the injured man, but while on the way to the City Hall Jones breathed his last.

Yesterday morning about 7 o'clock Deputy Sheriff J. P. Flynn, upon being notified of the crime, set to work, accompanied by Deputy Sheriff W. W. King, to unravel the mystery. The two deputies went over to Dross Neck and there learned that two colored women, Alice Sampson and Julia Moore alias Sing James, had been seen on the night of the murder with Jones. Both women were arrested and placed in jail. Deputy Flynn then arrested a colored man, Sirus Wright alias Bud Nixon, who said he saw another colored man, Ben Smith, strike the fatal blow, which deprived Jones of life. The deputies immediately set out to look for Smith, and at one time were talking to him about the murder, not knowing him to be the man they were after. About 8 30 o'clock, after a long chase, Deputy King arested Smith in a house on Chadburn's Hill. Smith is described as a man of medium height, about 28 years old, dark gingerbread color, with a small dark mustache and a scar over his left eye. Later Police Officer J. L. Sallings, who had been assisting in the "round up," arrested another colored man also implicated in the crime.

Coroner David Jacobs in the meantime viewed the body of the murdered man, and had it removed to David Evan's undertaking establishment on Second street, between Chesnut and Princess, where a post mortem examination was held yesterday afternoon by Drs. Shepard and McMillan, Dr. Shepard informed a STAR representative that they found an incisive wound, about four inches long, on the head; also a contused wound with a fracture of the skull, and that death had been caused bp cerebrum hemorrhage. The remains of the unfortunate man will be interred to-day.

Charles Jones is from Philadelphia, Pa., No. 216 Hannock street, but is a native of Blyth, England. He was born on February 2, 1859, and about three months ago shipped on the brig *M. C. Haskell*, Capt. A. E. Wingfield commanding, at Portland, Me. The *Haskell* then made a trip to Porto Rico, from Porto Rico to Panta Gorda, Florida, and from that port, Charlotte Harbor, to this city, where she is now loading with phosphate rock at the factory of the Navassa Guano Company. Jones is five feet five inches in height, dark hair with light complexion, mustache and eyes. His shipmates describe him as an all-round good fellow. Coroner Jacobs telegraphed to Philadelphia yesterday morning but up to a late hour last night had received no reply.

We understand thot Smith admits striking Jones but claims he did it in self-defence, Jones having struck him several times.

On Jones' person was found a knife, a razor, a small amount of money and a large collection of papers, mostly discharges from different vessels. It seems also that Jones has been going under the name of Johnson, as letters, etc., found on his person bear the name of Charles Johnson.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

At 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon Coroner Jacobs empanelled the following jury: Mr. W. C. VonGlahn, foreman, and Messrs. M. B. Shrier, F. P. Howland, W. W. Howe, Ellis Patrick and Joseph McNeill, the latter three colored, to hear the evidence and render a verdict accordingly. The Court House, where the inquest was held, was packed to suffocation with both white and colored.

Christia Christian testified: I was a shipmate of Chas. Jones, and identify the body now lying in Evans' undertaking establishment as that of Jones. I last saw Jones alive about 5 o'clock Wednesday afternoon. He was somewhat intoxicated.

L. Hyneman, also a shipmate of Jones', corroborated Christian's testimony.

Louis Geyer, colored, testified: I am a police officer of the city of Wilmington. Wednesday night police officer Joseph Sharp and myself were on duty over the railroad. About 11.15 o'clock, while I was standing on the corner of Fourth and Hanover streets, a colored man, John Albrittain, came up and said there was a sailor lying down in Dross Neck who had been struck and that he didn't know whether he was dead or not. We went down, and on Second street, between Brunswick and Hanover, we found a man lying on his back on the ground. His face was covered with dirt and there was a large gash on his head. I telephoned to the City Hall; a cart was sent out to us and we carried the man down to the City Hall. I then went after Dr. Harriss, but he was sick. We reported back to the captain and were sent back to our beat. Moses Broomfield, near whose house the man was found, told us that he heard a man hollow "Murder! Help!" heard several licks struck, and went to his door, and saw several men running off. Police Officer Joseph Sharp, also colored, corroborated Officer Geyer's testimony.

John Albrittain testified: Wednesday night between 11 and 12 o'clock I was lying in bed in my house on Second street, between Brunswick and Hanover, about half asleep. Some one came running by the house hollowing "Stop! Stop! Stop!" I jumped out of bed and by that time a voice on the outside hollowed "Murder!" The cry of murder was repeated and I heard several licks struck. About this time Moses Broomfield, who has a room in the house, jumped up and hollowed, "Stop, don't you do that," and knocked on the inside of the house. Those on the outside then ran away, and Moses went to the back door of the house, and opened it. Moses said to me "Why don't you get up and see what is the matter?" By this time some one on the outside was hollowing "Oh! Oh!" Moses then replied "you lay down and let that man die out there and we will all get arrested." I went out of the house, saw a man lying about six feet off, between our house and another house, but went and got the police and brought them to the man. Don't know how many men were on the outside of the house at first, but judging from the noise I think there were two

Moses Broomfield, colored, testified: I live in a house on Second street, between Brunswick and Hanover, same house that Albrittain, his sister and two other women live in. Wednesday night, between 11 and 12 o'clock, I heard people tramping outside of my house, and heard several licks struck. When the first lick was struck I heard a man hollow murder, and I then hollowed, "Stop, don't you do that," and hit on the wall. I then heard some one running off. I went out opened the back of the house and saw a slim built man running from Second street to Brunswick. A man was also lying on the outside of the house, about six feet off, groaning. I told Albrittain to go get an officer. I went up to Fourth street, but by that time Albrittain had gotten an officer, and was returning. The man who was struck was lying between my house and another house.

Sims Wright alias Budd Nixon, colored, testified: Wednesday night about 11.20 o'clock I left the corner of Fifth and Brunswick streets. I was walking down Brunswick street, and when near Second street I saw a colored boy, Dan Parker, standing by the fence of Alice Sampson's house. Parker asked me for a draw off a cigarette which I was smoking. I asked him what the door of the house was doing open, and a white man lying across the bed. There was a bright light in the room, Parker said the white fellow had drawn a razon on Ben Smith. About that time Smith came across the street, and said the white man had tried to cut him. Smith had a large stick in his hand, as did also Parker. Smith then made Parker go in the house and run the man out. When the white fellow came out Smith struck him and the man ran, but fell down. Smith hit him twice more, and the man hollowed murder! I told Smith not to hit him again. Smith and Parker ran off towards Second street and I walked on home. I know Ben Smith personally, and I never have had a quarrel with him. I was standing on the edge of the sidewalk when the assault occurred. When Parker told the white fellow to get out of the house, he said he would do so, but put his hand in his pocket. The first time Smith struck at the man he missed him. Did not see Parker hit at the man.

The hearing of further testimony was postponed until this morning at 10 o'clock.

Death of Mrs. Mattie Willis Marshall.

Mrs. Mattie Willis Marshall, the wife of Mr. B. H. Marshall, died of acute laryngitis, complicated with heart disease, at 6 o'clock yesterday morning. She had been ill for some time, and her life had been despaired of for weeks before she died; but her death is none the less painful to her numerous friends and acquaintances, especially when it is remembered that she was only just married last September.

Mrs. Marshall was a member of St. James' Episcopal Church. She is survived by her husband, her sister, Mrs. A. J. Marshall, and her brother, Mr. Hardy B. Willis, now of Richmond, Va.

The funeral will be conducted at 11 o'clock this morning from her late residence, 308 MacRae street.

Major W. C. Fergus Passes Away.

The death of Major Washington C. Fergus, well known to many of our older citizens, took place from a stroke of paralysis Wednesday afternoon at his home on Masonboro Sound.

Major Fergus was born in this city, and lived here for a good part of his life. He was the third captain of the Wilmington Light infantry. In 1859 he went South, and when the war opened he was living in Alabama. He joined an Alabama regiment and served the war through with uncommon bravery.

He leaves a son, who resides on the Sound, and several relatives in this city, among them being the daughter of the late Mrs. Samuel P. Gause, who was a sister of Maj. Fergus.

The body will be buried at the Sound at 11 o'clock this morning. Out of respect to his memory, the flag at the armory of the Wilmington Light Infantry will be kept at half-mast to-day.

Death of Mrs. Caroline Greer.

Mrs. Caroline Greer, relict of the late David J. Greer, died at the residence of her son-in-law, T. C. Craft, yesterday morning at the advanced age of seventy-five years. She had been suffering from attacks of heart trouble off and on for a year or longer and had been confined to her room for six weeks before she died. Her death was sudden, though not unexpected, as the doctors had warned the family that the end might come at any time.

The deceased lady was born in Newbern on the 15th of April, 1822, but by far the greater part of her life was spent in this city. She was a member of the methodist church, her membership in the old Front Street and Grace Methodist churches covering a period of over fifty years. She was always very active in church work, was the oldest Sunday school teacher in the city and by her numerous deeds of mercy and sweet charitableness, won scores of friends to mourn her loss.

She leaves one daughter, the wife of Mr. T. C. Craft, and two sons.

The funeral will be conducted from Grace M. E. church to-morrow morning at 9 30 o'clock.

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## AT CASWELL.

The Work There—The Outlook—Plan of Defence—Lieut. Jadwin Located.

[*Southport Leader.*

The work done so far on the battery emplacements has been only preparatory, as nothing has been done on the actual location. The track from the dock is about finished and the rails laid, and work is being done on the trestles at the rise.

About sixty hands are being employed, spiking down the rails, on the trestles and in other work. Quarters for those directing the work, foremen and others, are under way, and when finished the men will remain on the ground during the progress of the work, instead of crossing to and from Southport twice a day.

The steamer *Wilmington* has brought down lumber daily for some time past, mainly long sticks of heart pine about twelve inches in diameter. Each stick weighs about 600 pounds. Each day tools, iron and other material are brought also.

There has been some talk about the number of men that will be required to look after the batteries when they are completed. A battery numbers sixty men, and it has been said that the force located here would amount to 180 men, or three batteries. All that can be said at the present time is that it is the purpose of the Department to have a force at each port capable of managing the guns, and that an increase in the artillery service has been asked for, upon the granting of which will depend the number of men that will be available for each place.

The strengthening of old fortifications as well as the placing of new batteries has been going on at all the ports on the coast. The plan, as outlined by Secretary Lamont, is to place every important port in a state of defence sufficient to ward off one or two war ships that might attempt to enter and create destruction. In case of war with a foreign Power our white squadron would be relied upon to defeat a hostile fleet, but from such a fleet one or more vessels might be detached to destroy weak points on our coast and the first efforts of the authorities are directed to protect the ports against smaller plans of attack.

The steamer *General Thom* was brought to this port last week from Newbern, N. C., and will be under the orders of Lieut. Jadwin, of the United States Engineering Corps, for use on the river, carrying supplies, and for other service between here and Wilmington and back and forth from Caswell.

The Government building on the garrison has been put in good repair, roofs painted, with new gutters, and the outside back walls whitened. The interior has been changed, a number of new windows inserted in the walls for better light and air, and water brought into the building from the water tank.

Lieut. Jadwin has made his residence in the main building and western wing and uses the upper rooms, formerly occupied by the signal service, for his offices. New desks, chairs and furniture make the place look bright as well as business like.

Since the time that Mr. Henry Bacon moved the offices of the corps to Wilmington, there have been no headquarters here, and it is quite a feature for Southport to have an office re-established. It has been often said that the offices would never have been removed but for some very unfortunate actions. It would appear that the services of Mr. Bacon and the advantages of the location of the offices here were not fully appreciated, but Southport has grown wiser in its day and generation.

## FOREIGN NEWS.

No Probability of a War Between Turkey and Greece.

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LONDON, Feb. 18.—It would be easy to present the array of authentic information from Athens, Crete and Constantinople in such a way as to indicate that war is inevitable and close at hand. There are some observers in all European capitals, especially Berlin, who take that view of the situ