The Chatham Record

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H. A. LONDON, Editor.

CHRISTMAS has come! What a magic sound is in those words, and what happiness they carry to eager hearts! Once more the joyous Christmas time has come, and all Christendom is rejoicing. Business is suspended, the World's harassing cares are laid aside, and everybody is pleasantly greeting his neighbor and extending the congratulations of the season. Every man's heart warms up to his fellow man and the hardest softens somewhat, for a monster in human shape must he be whose heart is not touched and his better feelings aroused in the approach of Christmas. Would that this effect of Christmas could last all the year round!

The RECORD wishes a Merry Christmas to each and all of its readers and hopes that its recollections will be a pleasure to them during all the coming year.

MORMONISM in the United States is a national disgrace, and a foul blot upon the civilization of the age that ought to be wiped out. And we are pleased to know that the federal government is determined to suppress its most odious feature—polygamy. A recent decision of the United States Supreme Court has affirmed the constitutionality of the Edmunds act, by which polygamy was decreed to be a crime. Under that act many Mormons were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment, and one of them, a man named Cannon, appealed to the Supreme Court, and that court has now affirmed the decision of the court below. The law will be rigidly enforced, and we are pleased to notice in President Cleveland's Message that he is in favor of still further legislation on the subject. In discussing the Mormon question in Utah he says:

> There should be no relaxation on the part of the firm but just execution of the laws now in operation, and I should be glad to approve such further discreet legislation as will end the country of this blot upon its fair name. Since the people upholding polygamy in our Territories are reinforced by immigration from other lands, I recommend that a law be passed to prevent the importation of Mormons into the country.

The Mormons regard polygamy as a tenet of their religious faith, and denounce any attempt to suppress it as religious persecution, and those who are imprisoned for practising polygamy are considered by them as martyrs.

THE Legislative committee appointed to make the annual examination of the State Treasurer's books, convened at Raleigh on the 15th inst., and for a week diligently performed its duties. Of course everything was found all right, for how could it be otherwise with Donald Bain as Treasurer? The State is fortunate in having such an officer, and he is fortunate in having Messrs. Cowan, Partin and McAlister as assistants. We are pleased to know that his chief clerk, Mr. H. M. Swain, of this place, is justly considered a most expert accountant and accurate bookkeeper.

Congressional Work.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Since the present session of Congress began seven hundred and twenty-eight bills and joint resolutions have been introduced in the Senate, and seventy-one of which originated in the House have been passed by that body. Twelve hundred and forty-seven executive messages, containing about fifteen hundred nominations, have been sent by the President to the Senate, and have been referred to the proper committees, but no action thereon has been considered. Two treaties, one relating to the boundary line between this country and Mexico and the other providing for a settlement of the claims of certain American citizens against Venezuela, have been sent to the Senate for ratification.

Twenty-four bills and joint resolutions have been introduced in the House of Representatives, and four, two of which originated in the Senate, have been passed.

A Mysterious Death.

NASHVILLE, TENN., Dec. 18.—Miss Jessie Clark, 17 years of age, and a daughter of S. M. Clark, of McKenzie, was shot and killed at that place last night. She was called up at her residence by Edward McGhee, and the visitor was ushered into the parlor, where he engaged in conversation with Miss Clark. The report of a pistol was heard soon afterwards and members of the family rushed into the room and found Miss Clark lying dead on the floor, while near her stood McGhee. An examination of the body showed that a bullet had entered the back of her head, causing instant death. McGhee was arrested on suspicion of having fired the fatal shot, but the confusion was so great that no definite particulars could be ascertained. A jury of inquest was summoned and an investigation will be had today. It is believed by McGhee's friends that the killing was accidental.

Our Washington Letter.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 19, '85.

Oratory has had free play during the week at both ends of the Capitol—in the House of Representatives and Whiskey vs. Temperance in the Senate, have given to the public no dearth of those bodies of which it is composed.

The House is still wrestling about a change of its rules, with little prospect of an early conclusion of the subject. In this debate as in all others the evil of tedious talk is painfully prominent. The building of speeches seem to indicate more excessive speech making is a serious impediment to business. It is some serious thinking of the abuses that were tolerated under the old rule or that will be encountered in the new code.

The tariff issue now is a discussion of the propriety of making appropriations which is now under the lash. Mr. Randall, the chairman of the general Appropriation Committee is opposed to this plan and has some strong backers on both sides. The Democratic party in the House is divided on the question and also has a strong following.

The battle has been sharp the last hours have seemed with more interest than the morning hours. Pennsylvania has been severely attacked and has retorted some pretty telling shots in her defense. It is made by a member from West Va., Mr. B. which seemed to me and I think to all that he did not feel in good temper—but Mr. H. is a young man and I will hope personally he might not be so in love.

The Democrats who oppose a deficiency in Appropriations take this as their principal ground, upon the ground that it will lessen the power of the Executive and increase the power of Congress. Some Democrats who are opposed to the measure contend that it will be a blow at the Treasury and increase the public debt. Some Republicans