

Tomorrow is Christmas and once again all Christians will rejoice at the most joyous of all Christian festivals. It is the one day of all the year to which everybody looks forward with pleasant anticipations, and is an occasion when man's better nature asserts itself, for hard indeed must be the heart of that man that is not, on that joyous day, touched with tender feelings towards his fellow-men and is not responsive to the happy greetings that are heard from every lip. What a pity that the kindly, sympathetic and generous feelings, that move us at Christmas, do not influence us every day of the year.

The custom of making gifts on Christmas Day is eminently right and proper, but with many it is a nuisance. It is both pleasant to give and receive a Christmas present, however small, when it is accompanied with the heart's love of sympathy and when it is the outward expression of true love and friendship. But a Christmas gift loses its true value, however costly it may be, when it is given because the donor feels that he or she is compelled to give it.

To each and all of members the Record extends the happy greetings of this joyous festival and wishes for them all a very Merry Christmas.

Too many men and women are ever later than their duty. Recently several instances of this have occurred in this State. The last and most extraordinary one is the case of John C. Hay, of Wilmington. A few years ago he was a poor young man, who studied law, obtained his license and began the practice of his profession in that city with the best wishes and good will of all who knew him. He soon became a prominent and devoted member of the Methodist Church, and finally it seemed as if he was destined to spend the remainder of his life in the upbuilding of his church. He was the leading spirit in the construction of a costly new church building, and gave to it several very costly presents, such as paintings, of bells, organs, etc. Everybody was speaking of his wonderful generosity. He occupied the highest and best honored positions in his church, such as trustee, steward and superintendent of the Sunday school. And now he is a confirmed drunkard, and under false pretenses, the worst of it is that his victims are helpless widows.

Another case at Wilmington is that of Bowden, the abandoned cashier of the broken bank in that city, who was a prominent church member and was the leader of the choir at the recent Sunday school meetings held there. And McDougall, the acquitted murderer of his wife, was an elder in the Presbyterian church and president of the V. M. C. A. at Lumburg. Such cases bring reproach upon religion, but then it must be remembered that there was a bad reason even among the first disciples of Christ.

THE AMOUNT of money that is paid in pensions by the Federal government is enormous far greater than the average tax payers imagine, and the worst of it is that the amount grows larger every year. During the present fiscal year the amount paid in pensions will be nearly one hundred and fifty million dollars. Do our readers realize the immensity of this vast sum? It is nearly \$220 for every man, woman and child in the United States, and is about two hundred times the amount paid for carrying on our State government. The amount annually expended by our State government is less than \$10 million dollars, and yet our State's proportion of the amount paid every year for pensions alone is nearly four million dollars.

Complaints are frequently made that our State and county taxes are too high and are the cause of the "hard times", but yet nothing, in very little, is ever said about the vast sum paid for pensions by the Federal government. And yet this amount paid by the people of North Carolina for pensions to Union soldiers is much greater than their total State and county expenses. Think of it!

And what makes it worse is the fact that scarcely a dollar of all this pension money returns to our State. It is a continual and constant drain, year after year, upon our people and this stream of money all pours north-

ward. The taxes that we pay for State and county purposes are expended among our people and the money is kept in circulation here at home. But it is very different with all this pension money, for very little of that ever returns here. Is it any wonder then that money is scarce in North Carolina and our people complain of the hard times? And are they going to make the time harder and money scarcer by aiding the so-called Peoples' party in increasing this vast amount paid in pensions? One of the planks in the platform of that party, adopted at the Cincinnati meeting is in favor of largely increasing the pension expenditures, and as soon as Congress meets this month, Senator Peffer promptly introduced a resolution for that purpose. Are our people in favor of that? Are they willing to be drained and more?

It is all right and proper to pension disabled soldiers and we do not complain of that, but we do protest against any scheme to increase those pensions to such an amount as to drain from our people nearly every dollar that they can raise. And we warn them against the attempt of Senator Peffer and the Third party to do this very thing.

Profitable Fishing.

Profitable fishing along the whole Carolina coast this season has never been equalled. This winter caught has been marvellous. We have been told of many instances caught in Murrelets, Carolina Sheepshead, City Croaker, etc. The number of fish taken is about three tons a day, and it is said that there is a quantity of fish brought in that city and sold at every day. This is a very profitable business. It is said that the fish are sold at a price of 10 cents per pound, and the fish are sold at a price of 10 cents per pound.

Mr. Paris, who has just returned from a business trip in this country, is of the opinion that the business is profitable. He says that he has seen many instances of fish being caught in the same manner. He says that he has seen many instances of fish being caught in the same manner. He says that he has seen many instances of fish being caught in the same manner.

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A Forger in Raleigh.

A forger, it is said, is prevailing in Raleigh, N. C. He is said to be a man of ten dollars. It is said he would like to be a forger. He is said to be a man of ten dollars. It is said he would like to be a forger.

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Duck-Committee Succeeds.

BEVING, Dec. 19.—One of the strangest things that has happened in Niagara Falls in some time is the large number of wild ducks, which have been going over the Falls the past week. The birds, which have been gathering in large numbers above the Falls for two or three weeks, float down the river until they are caught in the rapids and are made to rise in the swift current and are therefore whirled over the brink. Those that are not killed are stunned by the fall.

The large-sting of this winter was made yesterday when a dozen ducks were shot by some one in the river below the falls. Three men got in a boat and rowed up the river and held a net, and the third to stab the ducks and throw them into the boat.

It is currently rumored that the State Alliance will establish a daily paper in Raleigh about January 15th.

Col. A. B. Ansel has been promoted to be first vice president of the R. & D. R. C. G. A. A most excellent appointment.

Senator Phindus, of Kansas, died suddenly of apoplexy, on Dec. 20th. The Governor of Kansas will probably appoint ex-Senator Ingalls as his successor, until the Legislature meets a year hence.

Washington Letter.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, 1891.

Speaker Crisp thinks that he will be able to announce the committee of the House on the 23rd inst. at the Senate does not ask for an earlier adjournment for the holiday recess. Quite a number of the members think it would be better to defer announcing the committee until after the recess, as that would give the Speaker that much more time to consider the matter. It appears to be generally conceded that Springer will be chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and that Holman will be chairman of the committee on Appropriations. It is also generally expected that Springer will be chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and that Holman will be chairman of the committee on Appropriations.

Representative Oates, of Indiana, offered a resolution, which was referred to the new Committee on Rules providing for the appointment of a standing committee of finance on account of business, of which the Speaker shall be ex-officio chairman, which shall have jurisdiction of the order in which business shall be conducted, having full power to pass and report upon the various public bills.

It was this week reported that the United States Government had purchased a large quantity of land in the State of Texas, and that the land was to be used for a military reservation.

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Burning a Church.

Special to the Charlotte Chronicle.

SALISBURY, N. C., Dec. 22.—Information reached here this morning that the church of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Salisbury, N. C., was burned last night by the hand of an arsonist. The congregation has been scattered for some time over the method of moving the church to Woodfield a distance of five miles from the present site. At the last quarterly conference of the M. E. Church at the instigation of the pastor, Rev. D. W. Jones, the members of the church voted to move the church to Woodfield, and yesterday a force of hands went to work in using down the building preparatory to moving it. This morning when they returned to continue the work they found the church a mass of ruins. The community is very much excited over the transaction. No one is held responsible for the burning, but it is supposed to be the work of a madman who rather than have it moved, preferred to see it burned.

Natural Gas Well. —MEXICO, Ind., Dec. 21.—The largest natural gas well of the State was drilled west of this city, Saturday. The capacity of the well is estimated at 1,000,000 cubic feet and the pressure is 100 pounds to the square inch. The well had pipe and cement work with the main line, but when the gas was turned on from the well the force was so great as to twist a steel pipe two inches in diameter twenty feet of pipe was blown out of the well. This amount of well is within a few feet of another that has a capacity of 27,000,000 feet per day.

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Kings Mountain News: Last winter Mr. Jesse Hays, son of Jno. H. Hays, who lives on Crowder's creek, set and used a rabbit trap in the old field. Some time in the early spring Mr. Hays left on a business trip and it went untrapped for a few days and he happened to find it and concluded he would have it set and attend to it. When he was about to attend to it he found it to be a trap for a rabbit and he further noticed that the trap was full of it. Mr. H. went home and that night returning with a sheet took his gun home, filled it with powder and obtained 20 pounds of the best trout from the creek. This is a true story and can be proved by the best citizens if they doubt it.

The ghost of the White House is said to walk half of every night, but he would do double that amount of work if he were not so busy with the ghost of the White House. The ghost of the White House is said to walk half of every night, but he would do double that amount of work if he were not so busy with the ghost of the White House.

Congress has taken a recess until the 5th of January.

SAVATION OIL. Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup.

IMPORTANT CASE IN AIR. A case involving the rights of an air carrier was heard in court.

JOB P. WYATT & BROS., RAINIER, N. C.

HEAVY SHOENES, HEAVY SHOENES, SHIPSTOPS.

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WE STAND AT THE TOP IN STYLE! OUR STOCK OF FALL AND WINTER GOODS IS NOW READY!

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LUMBER! ALL KINDS OF LUMBER for sale at the PITTSBORO SKUTTLE MILL.

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