

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

All Christendom will rejoice tomorrow in celebrating the anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ. Once more the joyous Christmastide has come, the happiest season of the year, when the duties, the cares and the troubles of our daily life are laid aside and old and young, rich and poor, give expression to their better feelings. Hard indeed must be that heart that is not softened and mellowed at this joyous season!

Whether this be the true date of our Lord's nativity matters not. It is the generally accepted date, and has been for centuries, and nothing can ever change it. It is eminently right and proper that all Christendom should appropriately commemorate on some day the birth of Him who came to redeem mankind, and is the greatest event of all history.

Take away Christmas and what an empty void would be left! What would the day do without Christmas? Around it to clustered life's greatest pleasures and tenderest associations. Year after year it is eagerly looked forward to by happy young hearts as the name of human bliss, and old hearts are mellowed and wrinkled faces are brightened at its tender memories. Christmas days are the green oases in the memories of many, whose journey through life has been, as it were, through barren wastes and arid deserts.

The exchange of Christmas gifts is one of the most appropriate customs that gives pleasure to many. As on this day we commemorate the greatest of all gifts, when God gave His only begotten Son, it is peculiarly appropriate that all mankind should strive with gifts to gladden each other's hearts. But remember that it is not the intrinsic value of a Christmas gift that is most appreciated, but it is the kindly motive that prompts the giver. And above all do not so selfishly give in order to be given something better.

No more joyous scene can be imagined than children opening their Christmas stockings or running around a Christmas tree. Did you ever enjoy that supreme delight? If so, you will never forget it.

Christmas is a great occasion for family reunions, when the "dispersed abroad" return to the home nest and long separated loved ones meet once more around the old hearthstone. Childhood's happy days are then recalled and old associations pleasantly revived.

With Christmas will ever be associated dear old Santa Claus with his reindeer and jingling bells. What other mythical character ever gave so much pleasure? Surely no pagan idol ever had more devoted and devoted followers, and this devotion is so much enjoyed that it is a pity that it is ever dispelled.

To each and all its readers Tim Rifeon extends the greetings of the day and wishes for them, one and all, a very merry Christmas.

Remains of war just now are very unseasonable and inappropriate to an occasion when is commemorated the birth of the Prince of Peace.

Increasing alarm is being felt as to war between Russia and Japan, which might involve several other countries. And on this hemisphere there is a war cloud in Colombia, which may give trouble to our own government. The Colombians are preparing, it is said, to coerce Panama just as the United States coerced the South when we secured, and if this attempt is made the United States will interfere.

While Christmas is the era of kindly feeling and good-will, yet strange to say more crimes are committed and more casualties occur during the Christmas holidays than during any other week of the year. So many persons indulge in debauchery and drunkenness at Christmas, and thus degrade and disgrace themselves on the day of all days when they should be on their best behavior. It is passing strange that there should be such a desecration of the most joyous day of all the year!

Washington Letter.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

Washington, Dec. 17, 1903.

By a vote of 57 to 18 the Cuban reciprocity bill passed the Senate. After it receives the President's signature, the two years' fight for tariff reduction to Cuba will be ended, with concessions to the island as great as could have been expected from a "stand pat" republican administration. Most of the democrats favored the bill as the best that could be obtained under the circumstances. One republican, Senator Bard, voted against it. Before the vote was taken Senator Bailey and Senator Spooner took opposite sides in a debate on the constitutional authority of the President and Senate to negotiate a treaty which called for the reduction of the tariff and to make this treaty contingent on the approval of the House. Mr. Bailey said that as all revenue acts should originate in the House, the President had not this right. Mr. Spooner, republican, was enthusiastic in his defense of the administration, but it was generally admitted that he put forth the weaker argument. Referring to the recent decision of the democrats to be bound by a caucus rule, Mr. Bailey declared that henceforth there would be no "White House Senators" to be found on the democratic side of the chamber.

Perry S. Heath is scored again in the report of Holmes Conrad and Charles Bonaparte on the sealers of the Washington Post-office, which has just been published. It says, "So far as indicated by the papers submitted to us, the persons directly responsible for these fraudulent employments were Perry S. Heath and George W. Beavers." The report also tries to place some of the responsibility on former Postmaster General Charles Emory Smith. Mr. Heath continues to protest his innocence, but takes no pains to waive the statute of limitation so as not to be brought to trial.

Assistant Postmaster General Brinkley's report on the postal sealers has been sent in to the government printing office and will be given to the public in a few days. The publication of the report was decided upon by the House Committee on Post-offices and Post Roads. Each member of Congress will be supplied with several copies which he may disseminate as he sees fit. Mr. Brinkley strongly advised the publication of the entire report and it is said that he intimated to the Committee that his report had been too much edited at the White House, and that certain parts of it were tampered with before the sealers were punished. Senator Gorman and other democratic leaders are determined that the public shall get at the bottom of the postal frauds and they will continue their agitation for a Congressional investigation.

Democrats of the Senate have been to accomplish an effective organization for inspiring submission to Congress rule. Senator Gorman, the duly chosen leader, has thus been successful in his efforts in getting together his democratic colleagues to act as a unit on the major question which will be discussed this coming winter, namely the issue of the next campaign. In this way the minority will be better able to oppose the republicans, who however they may differ individually in the primary stages of the controversy, always unite on the policy determined by the majority party. Leader Williams, in the House, is confident of democratic success next year. He says, "The democratic outlook is more hopeful than for years. The democratic party is more nearly united than it has been for a long time. It comes nearer meaning something. Conservative business interests distrust Roosevelt. His stream of popularity is so near exhaustion that it would require an especially paid attorney to mark the difference."

The National Negro Suffrage League has just held a meeting here which was broken up by a question of endorsing Roosevelt. Such a resolution was voted down and those who favored its adoption bolted the meeting and organized another. The fight between the factions will be carried on, and it may result in sending two negro delegations to the republican national convention.

The case of the Northern Securities Company against the United States has been argued before the Supreme Court and the decision of the Justices is now awaited. During the two days' hearing the court was crowded by those who followed the trial with great interest. Mrs. Roosevelt, many United States Senators and prominent business men were seen among the audience. The case came on appeal from the decision of the Circuit Court for the District of Minnesota, which was to the effect that the purchase of the stock of the two railroad companies constituted a merger and was contrary to the Sherman Anti-Trust law. Attorney General Knox represented the government and Mr. John G. Johnson of Philadelphia, ex-Attorney General Griggs and others representing the companies.

On last Friday night fire destroyed half of the business portion of Benson, in Delta County.

Successful Flying Machine.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 18.—A successful trial of a flying machine was made yesterday near Kitty Hawk, N. C. by Wilbur and Orville Wright, of Dayton, Ohio. The machine flew three miles in the face of a wind that was blowing at a registered velocity of twenty-one miles an hour, then gracefully descended to the earth at a spot selected by the man in the navigator's car as a suitable landing place. The machine has no balloon attachment, but gets its force from propellers worked by a small engine. During the trial Wilbur Wright occupied the operator's seat and steered the apparatus.

For three years the Wrights have experimented at Kitty Hawk with their invention. They chose that point because of its isolation and the absence of publicity. By the merest chance the success became known as neither of the men is ready to make public the details of their machine.

The flight began from a platform constructed on a high sand dune near Kitty Hawk. There was no starting apparatus used to give momentum to the huge bird-like affair. When all was ready Wright took his place in the car in the center of the machine and his brother released the catch that held the affair to the top of the incline.

Gravity did the rest, and while a crash down the slope was going on the navigator started a small gasoline engine in the floor of the car. By a system of pulleys and gears the engine put in motion an eight-bladed propeller directly beneath it and another extended horizontally to the rear. The first is used to maintain the elevation and the other to propel the machine.

Instead of being elevated, when the end of the platform was reached the machine continued its flight and started, as the under propeller increased its revolutions the machine gradually pointed upward and soon had attained a height of sixty feet above the rolling dunes.

A stiff wind was blowing up the coast and the start was made directly to windward of it, but the machine, which started without difficulty and maintained an even speed of eight miles an hour with ease. The small crowd of fifty folk and coast guards, who have been cautiously watching the construction of the machine for months, followed beneath it with exclamations of wonder, but it soon drew away from them and went on its flight through the air alone. The first mile was covered, and then Orville Wright declared the invention was a success.

The Wrights have used the box kite in their invention, and their flying machine is really an immense kite, with propellers and steering attachment. Its frame is of wood stretched with canvas, and its dimensions, as accurately as can be secured are here given.

With a full team from tip to tip from front to rear 35 feet high about 5 feet. In the center of this frame is constructed the navigator's seat, while the engine below it serves as ballast. Directly beneath the car and arranged to push upward, is the immense propeller used for elevating the machine, and extending horizontally to the rear is the propeller that gives the forward motion. A rudder spread with canvas, extended far forward, and a speed indicator, kept the machine straight with the wind. The top surface of the machine's surface is exactly 400 square feet.

A Perilous Escape.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

Greensboro, N. C., Dec. 19.

Charles Vernon, the eight-year-old son of Mrs. Len Vernon, residing seven miles from this city, fell thirty feet down a coal-lined well, and when the alarmed neighbors had sent a man hurriedly down to bring up the supposedly drowned and mangled boy the little boy was not hurt. He said he didn't "holer" because he didn't want to frighten mama. The boy's presence of mind and courage is something remarkable. He had fallen head foremost down the well, missing the bucket which hung suspended and plunged to the bottom through ten feet of water. He had been left sticking in the mud. So great was the force of his "holer" when he arose to the surface, he immediately grasped the well chain and began to climb. A small cut on his hand and some torn clothing was all the injury he suffered by his icy and perilous experience.

He was drawing water, it was nearly dark, and being cold, the little fellow was in a hurry, so he was throwing one hand high over the other to bring the bucket up rapidly. He lost his balance and went head foremost to the cavernous depths below.

Six Persons Asphyxiated.

San Francisco, Dec. 20.—Six persons were asphyxiated by illuminating gas last night, and the coroner concluded that the cases were all accidental. In most instances a window was open in each room in which gas was escaping, and the coroner called attention to the fact that it is popularly supposed a fatal result cannot ensue where fresh air also has entrance.

Terrible Railroad Accident.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 18.—In a wreck today at Godfrey, Kan., of the "Meteor" a St. Louis and San Francisco fast train from the South, nine persons were killed and 32 injured. Of the injured four probably will die, while fourteen were severely hurt.

J. A. Bartley, a freight brakeman, whose failure to flag the passenger train caused the wreck, has not been found. The wrecked train was one of the fastest and finest in the service. It was made up of two baggage cars and one mail car, a smoker, two chair cars and a sleeper. When the train reached Godfrey it was running at full speed to make up lost time. The crew of the freight train that had preceded the Meteor left the switch open and the passenger train left the track and rolled down the embankment. The sleeper turned over, and so fast was the train running that the engine and forward baggage car landed nearly 50 feet off the road bed before it stopped. The sleepers remained upright and none of the passengers in this car were injured. The baggage cars were completely wrecked and the smoker was badly damaged. Five of those killed were in the forward end of the smoker and four of them were killed instantly.

The Czar Receives Bryan.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 21.—William Jennings Bryan was received in audience by Czar Nicholas at noon today. The audience, which lasted for fifteen minutes, was arranged almost on the spur of the moment by Ambassador McCombs, who until yesterday was in St. Petersburg as the time of Mr. Bryan's arrival at St. Petersburg. During the conversation with Mr. Bryan His Majesty expressed in the most emphatic manner the feeling of friendship entertained by him and by the Russian nation for the United States and the hope that the good relations which have always existed between the two nations will never be disturbed.

He gave evidence of the deepest interest in and acquaintance with affairs in the United States.

In response to Mr. Bryan's inquiry concerning progress of public instruction in Russia His Majesty gave a minute description of the system of education in the Russian empire, showing an intimate knowledge of the educational methods and statistics relating thereto.

Mr. Bryan was entertained at dinner by Ambassador McCombs, tonight. He will leave for Berlin tomorrow.

Broken Neck R. Sci.

Stony Creek, Iowa, Dec. 21.—An operation that has been paralleled in the surgical world was performed at Stony Creek's hospital today by Dr. William Jepson, who has the chair of surgery at the State University, Iowa. Dr. Jepson, of Danbury, Conn., fell from a load of hay, striking on his head, and breaking his neck. He was almost paralyzed for several weeks, and Dr. Jepson decided to operate on his broken neck. Accordingly a portion of the vertebrae was removed, the fibrous tissue was cleaned out and the bone replaced. The patient is doing well, with every prospect of recovery. Operations have been performed for the relief of a dislocation of the human vertebrae, but no other case is known in which the cervical vertebrae have been successfully removed and replaced.

Important to Doctors.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

Andrew C. Biggs, who was indicted in Greensboro for practicing medicine and surgery without license, has gained his case in the Supreme Court. "Dr. Biggs held himself out to the public to cure disease by a system of 'drugless healing,' but as he is not an osteopath he was convicted in the Superior Court and appealed. The appeal to the Supreme Court called into question the validity of chapter 97, of the acts of 1903, which defines what the practice of medicine shall be construed to mean. The court holds that the act is unconstitutional in its attempt to provide that the practice of medicine shall be construed to mean the management for fee or reward of any case of disease, physical or mental, real or imaginary, without real drugs.

Fatal Shooting at Hoffman.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

Hoffman, N. C., Dec. 21.—One of the bloodiest battles in the history of this town took place this evening at 8:30 between Town Marshal Thompson and Mr. Culp, night operator for the Seaboard, on one side, and Galloway and John Blue on the other.

The Blues, who are brothers, came from Cumberland county, today, and proceeded to fire up on mean whiskey and began looking for trouble. Mr. Thompson summoned Mr. Culp to assist him and while looking for the negroes were fired upon with a shotgun and Winchester, the officers returned the fire with pistols, killing both. Culp had his hat shot off him, but escaped injury. Thompson was unhurt.

CHRISTMAS

BYNUM & HEADEN'S.

Bynum & Headen have tried to anticipate your Christmas wants, and they now have ready for your inspection the most complete line of Xmas Goods that they have ever had.

They have two especially strong lines that they wish to call your attention to, viz:—

Fancy Parlor Chairs, and a splendid line of Sterling Silver and heavy Plated Ware.

Don't fail to see their goods before making your Christmas purchases.

BYNUM & HEADEN.

Prominent Officials Indicted.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 18.—The United States grand jury today made its report to the court, returning nineteen true bills. These include indictments against United States Senator Charles H. Dietrich for alleged illegal leasing of a building to the government to be used as a postoffice; former Adjutant General Leonard W. Colby for alleged embezzlement of government funds; Daniel Gains, of Bassett, Neb., for alleged perjury in swearing falsely to homestead entries; former State Senator Elliott Lowe for alleged conspiracy to bribe a United States Senator; Postmaster John S. Mitchell, of Alma, Neb., charging him with illegal sale of postage stamps; William M. Irwin, on the charge of acting as agent for Mitchell, and against R. M. Allen, president of the Standard Cattle Company, for the alleged illegal leasing of government lands. The other indictments were similar to that against Allen, but do not involve extensive tracts of land.

Farmers Kill Each Other.

Andover, I. T., Dec. 21.—John Scott and Sam Victory, farmers, fought with guns at Woodley today, both being killed. The misunderstanding arose over Scott's cattle breaking into a field of Victory's.

Application For Pardon.

John S. Mitchell, of Alma, Neb., has applied for pardon for the alleged conspiracy to bribe a United States Senator. He was indicted for this crime in December, 1902.

SOPHIE HILL.

Valuable Farm For Sale.

ON SATURDAY, 16th DAY OF JANUARY, 1904, a well-settled farm, with the buildings, 150 acres of land, known as the "Blue Ridge Farm," situated in the town of New Hope, West Virginia, 137 acres of which is in original forest, the best land with a large number of trees, oaks, elms and cherries.

T. J. BLAND.

W. J. HUNTER'S

LIVERY STABLE.

Chapel Hill, N. C.

TEAMS FOR HIRE AT REASONABLE RATES.

Passengers carried with daily mail between Pittsboro and Chapel Hill by a white driver. Fare only \$1.

NATURAL STOCK LICK!

Gave your Horses and Cattle what nature intended for them and keep them in a normal condition.

DR. PLETY'S NATURAL STOCK LICK

Is the real lick. Manufactured by Lick Company, Whitman, Tenn. Sold by G. R. Pilkington, W. L. Louden & Son and Wm. A. Lindsey, Pittsboro, N. C., and other dealers in the county.

SPECIAL RATES

via Seaboard Air Line.

Commencing Oct. 15th, 1903, the Seaboard Air Line Railway will place on sale round trip winter tourist tickets to all Winter Resorts in the South and Southwest. Tickets will be sold up to April 30th, 1904, with final return limit May 31st, 1904.

For further information apply to Local Agent at address: Z. P. SMITH, L. P. A., Raleigh, N. C.

RICHMOND, FREDERICKSBURG AND POTOMAC RAILWAY AND WASHINGTON SOUTHERN RAILWAY.

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Fast Mail, Passenger, Express and Freight Route between Richmond, Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Pittsburg, Buffalo and all points North, South, East and West.

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In effect April 12th, 1903.

Southbound.

City	Rate	City	Rate
New York	\$12.00	Richmond	\$2.00
Philadelphia	\$10.00	Fredericksburg	\$1.50
Baltimore	\$8.00	Potomac	\$1.00
Washington	\$6.00	Washington	\$0.50
Pittsburg	\$4.00		
Buffalo	\$2.00		
New York	\$12.00		

Northbound.

City	Rate	City	Rate
New York	\$12.00	Richmond	\$2.00
Philadelphia	\$10.00	Fredericksburg	\$1.50
Baltimore	\$8.00	Potomac	\$1.00
Washington	\$6.00	Washington	\$0.50
Pittsburg	\$4.00		
Buffalo	\$2.00		
New York	\$12.00		

For further information apply to Local Agent at address: Z. P. SMITH, L. P. A., Raleigh, N. C.

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"A light purse is a heavy curse." Sickness makes a light purse. The LIVER is the seat of nine tenths of all disease.

Tutt's Pills

go to the root of the whole matter, thoroughly, quickly safely and restore the action of the LIVER to normal condition.

Give tone to the system and solid flesh to the body. Take No Substitute.

To Cure a Cold in One Day

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. E. H. Lowe

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