

WEEKLY CITIZEN.

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Christmas in the South.

The Chattanooga Times says "the chief reason that Christmas has never been as popular a holiday in the north as it has been and still is in the south is owing to Puritan influence."

The English speaking people had observed Christmas with peculiar joyousness until the advent of puritanism which at once set its rigid and sour face against all manifestation of human cheerfulness.

But puritanism has passed away. What was once unnamable principle has become modified into indifferent custom. The northern people acquiesce, rather than participate in, the hilarities of Christmas.

In the reckless din of fire arms, in the deafening explosion of fire works, in the senseless bray of horns, and in the mauling abuses or dangerous excesses in the uses of intoxicating liquors, civilization is shamed. Christianity is insulted by the spectacle presented in too many places in the south at that period when the birth of Him who brought with Him into the world an era not only of peace and of good will but of right and rational conception of human conduct and human destiny.

Hereafter the south may profit by judicious blending of northern philosophy or indifference, with southern fervor and traditional habits and customs. If the one takes too little account of the very main spring of Christianity, the other by its excesses runs into the other extreme of converting what should be a joyful memorial into a heathen saturnalia, amid the unbridled license of which a heathen himself would stand abashed and humiliated.

Good Detective Work.

A most clever piece of detective work has just been concluded by the Pinkertons. It will be remembered that in November last the Adams express was robbed near a suburb of St. Louis of several thousand dollars.

burglar and thief, with headquarters near Kansas City, were inquired into.

It was at once found that Sly had been in St. Louis recently, and a little later the police of St. Louis found in the suburbs a house that had been deserted in such haste immediately after the robbery that not even the personal property of the inmates had been removed.

The detectives feel confident that the other members of the gang of robbers will be arrested in a few days. The chain of evidence is that Sly and his gang rented the deserted house, in which was found, after their hasty departure, some half dozen express packages that will be identified as having been taken last November at the time of the robbery.

Rents and Houses.

It is frequently the comment of strangers coming to Asheville from different parts of the country that house rents are high here, and the same comment is occasionally heard from residents whom travel has given the opportunity for making comparison.

But it should be remembered that the situation here is somewhat different from the situation in many cities, where the rules that houses are seldom rented for less than a year, while leases are often taken for several years, thus assuring the owner a steady income on his property.

The complaint, if it is well founded, is one that should cure itself. If rents, all things considered, are higher here than elsewhere capital will in time flow in and lower them. So long, however, as houses rent freely for the prices asked, just so long will those prices remain at the present figures. It is a question of supply and demand.

In some classes of houses Asheville is plainly deficient. One of these is the block of several residences under one roof with all the modern improvements. Such would be very attractive to those from other cities who may stay but a short time, but who prefer not to go to a hotel.

Public Roads and Convicts.

The action of the last legislature of North Carolina in enacting a law whereby certain classes of violators of the law may be put to work upon the public highways of the counties in which their offenses were committed, is one step in the right direction.

There is no way in which the convicts of North Carolina could be utilized with greater benefit to all the people than by putting every man of them to work upon the public roads. In this way they will in no sense come into competition with honest labor, a complaint often heard of late years, and with much reason and justice because it cannot be done without degrading the largest and most deserving portion of our citizenship.

There is not an honest laborer in North Carolina but detests the working of roads, and it is no more than the truth to say that nine out of ten who do work the roads do so under protest, and therefore never do and never will do full and fair work.

And this question of public roads is really the most vital with which the American agriculturalist has to deal today. It has been demonstrated by those making a study of the question, that the farmers of the United States lose more money every year by reason of bad roads, than they pay out in the way of taxes for all purposes.

realize that they were gaining infinitely more than the cost, that of their maintenance.

THE CITIZEN proposes to agitate this question, and endeavor to make it a distinct issue in the election of the next members of our state legislature, and see if it is not possible to inaugurate a system whereby North Carolina may eventually hope to have public roads that will be the pride of the state and the greatest blessing that ever came to the farmer.

Our Government of Cities.

"The foreign countries, I found, beat us in governing cities. The jobbery and corruption which too often scandalize the government of our cities are unknown there."

Berlin is one of the best examples of a well governed city, notwithstanding that it is part of one of those "effete monarchies" we love to point the finger of scorn at. That city secures the very best business talent to be had, and a citizen is not allowed to plead that he has no time to devote to the city's affairs; he must attend to them; and, as a matter of fact, he does attend to them, with a devotion and an amount of intelligence such as we almost never see in an American citizen.

Large Salaries.

AS LARGE salaries as the president of the United States receives are not uncommon. It is believed that several insurance company presidents get as much and perhaps half a dozen heads of railroads, while there are "promoters" who do not think they are doing well unless they make what many of us would consider a fortune every twelve months.

A "Public" Trial.

Several months ago one "Buck" Murray was tried in Michigan for murder and convicted. He was a hardened criminal and was given a life sentence. There was no doubt of his guilt, but his counsel carried the case to the supreme court of the state on the ground that Murry did not have a "public trial" in the full meaning of the constitution, the lower court having ordered no one to be admitted to the court room who was "disorderly or uncleanly."

Hill's Man? Not Much.

Some of our democratic contemporaries who have been greatly worried because Speaker Crisp was Hill's man, and would not therefore be able to speak his own mind, will have to readjust themselves. Crisp, it was asserted, was in favor of passing a free coinage bill this year and of not passing a general tariff bill; hence Hill must have dictated that policy, and independence was dead or very nearly so.

No Two Bites in His Cherry.

Jay Gould boasts that he never took a salary from any corporation with which he was connected. He took the corporation instead.

him. He was thought to be one of the most promising legislators while on the floor of the house. THE CITIZEN has lots of faith in him yet.

In Bad Company.

The Charleston News and Courier prints three columns of criticisms of Speaker Crisp's appointments of the house committees. Of those three columns, nine out of the nineteen papers quoted to sustain the News and Courier's attack on Crisp are democratic papers; the remainder are out-and-out republican or mugwump or "independent."

Of all these criticisms there is but one that is entitled, from the tone and substance of the comment, to consideration, and that is from the New York Post. It says:

"It is with unfeigned regret that we make this comment upon what we consider a fundamental mistake—that of organizing the house upon other than the lines of de facto party leadership. . . . If the democrats in congress fancy that they can throw away every Atlantic state from Maine to Virginia and yet elect a president next year the course is free and open. We advise them not to try that experiment. They cannot find by the most diligent search one northern state that has ever been carried on the free coinage issue when that issue was felt to be a decisive one, so that voters should really take it into their calculations when going to the polls. Now, if the south wants to force that issue upon the north, she will get in the end what Mr. Mills predicted a few weeks ago. She will lose free coinage and tariff reform, and she will get a force bill and as near an approach to negro supremacy as the energies of the federal government, sharpened by experience, can devise for her."

This will bear thinking over, but most of the comment the News and Courier reprints is on this order, from the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, a republican paper:

"Mr. Crisp seems to think that he was elected speaker for the purpose of making it safer to bet upon the election of a republican president in 1892."

We submit that the News and Courier is in small business when it reprints partisan republican comment to condemn a democrat with.

COMMANDER B. H. McCALLA was court-martialed a year and a half ago for extreme cruelty to the crew of his vessel, one of his threats being, "If you smile at me I will kill you." He treated nearly all his subordinates with great brutality, "cutting them down" with a sword when he fancied that would relieve his temper. His sentence was suspension from the service for three years, and the president has just renited the unexpired portion of the term. As McCalla was a bully it is probable he is also a coward, but if war should break out with Chili he should be sent hence to work out the brute in him by actual conflict with an enemy that can strike back. As a matter of fact, his apoplexy in the service again is a disgrace to it.

It is very apparent that the United States has on its hands no small job in attempting to rid the Texas border of Garza. We of course harbor him at our financial peril, for if he succeeds on our soil in becoming formidable enough to inflict considerable injury on Mexico we should be liable for the damage done unless it could be shown that we did everything in our power to defeat the purposes of this revolutionist. We shall probably burn more powder in this Garza affair than our quarrel with Chili will call for.

THE Texas Rangers who are now to be put on the trail of Garza, the Mexican revolutionist, form a body of police perhaps the most effective, for the work they are intended, in the world. They are always mounted when on duty and can start in pursuit of a criminal on one minute's notice. They almost never fail to effect a capture and are such good Indian fighters that the Apaches have a dread of them and seldom invade Texas. They will drive Garza over the border if they do not catch him and hang him.

THE New York World is in error when it says that "the name of Scanlan has been added to the lengthening list of clever and favorite actors who have succumbed to the strain of stage life." What Scanlan succumbed to was the strain of a disreputable life off the stage. The wrecks of actors better than he are strewn all along the gilded way he chose to follow, and he went not without warning to his fate.

If Chili wishes to arbitrate her difficulty with the United States this country can hardly refuse to submit the questions at issue. As we said some weeks ago, to go to war with Chili without having exhausted every honorable means to avoid a conflict would be disgraceful to a nation whose policy should be peace with all the earth.

THE Statesville Landmark thinks The News was imposed on in its account of a second attempt at train wrecking at Bostain's bridge. It says railroad men there know nothing about it. We were given the points by a railroad man in a position to know.—Charlotte News.

Well, let us have the name of the "railroad man in position to know."

THE Hawaiian Islands have asked for 9,000 square feet for an exhibit at the World's fair at Chicago. This is considerably more than the state of North Carolina will occupy unless she wakes up pretty soon.

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Jay Gould boasts that he never took a salary from any corporation with which he was connected. He took the corporation instead.

NOT FOR FREE COINAGE.

Senator Hill is Not Far from Grover Cleveland.

From His Speech at Albany.

"Shall the people's verdict of the billion congress have execution or not? Shall the democratic party, by keeping before the people the billion congress issue of 1890, keep for the people the power to add to their verdict of 1890 its execution in 1892?"

"How can that best be done? At Elmira I suggested this course: Pass no free coinage bills; pass only needful appropriation bills, enforcing economy; grapple to undo the worst work of the billion congress; demand a repeal of the Sherman silver law and the two McKinley laws. No small issues, no untimely issues, no new issues, no other issues. Grapple to undo the work of the billion congress. Put the country and its silver laws and its tariff laws back where they stood before our party's misadventure in 1888, and before the infamous republican revolution."

A North Carolinian Did It.

From the Chattanooga Times.

The esteemed Knoxville Journal announces, editorially, that the firm of McNulty & Ransom informs the Knoxville Council that the sale of Knoxville's \$500,000 improvement bonds, is "off," and that the failure to sell to the New York Mutual Life Insurance company, was because a gentleman residing in North Carolina, but owning property and being a taxpayer in Knoxville, notified the proposing purchaser that he—the North Carolina-Knoxvillian—would enjoin the city from paying interest on the securities. The insurance company, not caring to buy a lawsuit as an appendage of the bonds, withdrew its offer for the latter.

The Jefferson Davis Bail Bond.

From the Richmond Dispatch.

A paragraph about the disappearance of the Jefferson Davis bail bond from the United States Circuit court records in the custom house is going the rounds of the press. This is an old story revived, the facts having all been published some time ago. The original document is in the handwriting of Mr. William Flegenheimer, and no doubt exists at the custom-house that it was stolen by an employee of the government in the building and sold to some relic-hunter. Subsequently, it is said, this same employee forged another bond, had it lithographed in facsimile, and sold numbers of copies of the lithograph. He did not, however, deposit the forgery in the court records.

Cleveland.

From the New York World.

Mr. Cleveland is the candidate of the anti-politicians, so to speak. He represents ideas, sentiments, aspirations, not organized purpose. Ordinarily such a candidacy for a nomination would be hopeless because organization is supposed usually to count for more than ideas, sentiments and aspirations in nominating conventions. In Mr. Cleveland's case there seems to be a widespread conviction that the rule will not hold good. In spite of the organized hostility to his candidacy, it has been the general expectation that he will receive the nomination.

The Keely Cure and Prohibition.

From an interview with Mr. Keely.

"Moral treatment in inebriety? My dear sir, you might as well give a set of ruffles to a man who is in need of a shirt as to talk religion to a drunken man who seeks help. He is sick man and must be treated accordingly, and all the advice and moralizing in the world will be absolutely without effect upon him. But I say without the slightest hesitancy that the result of the rapid increase in the number of men who have been cured by the Keely system, means just one thing—prohibition in this country. The prohibition party will soon be like Othello—minus an occupation."

The Independents' Position.

From the Springfield Republican.

The course of events in the next six months will largely shape the lines of the approaching campaign. If wise and patriotic counsels shall prevail in the democratic leadership, that party may still offer the best practical resource for the time. We regard this as the more probable solution. We incline to think that the plot to pass a free silver bill and so prevent Cleveland's personality and the simple issue of tariff reform will justify the independents in again supporting the democratic party.

Effect of a Free Silver Plank.

From the Charleston News and Courier.

The Atlanta Journal is talking right out in meeting in a way that must make the heads of some of its more cautious contemporaries fairly swim. "With a free silver plank in the democratic platform," says the Journal, "we might save Georgia to the democracy and come within 50,000 votes of carrying New York." This is a very forcible way of teaching a wholesome political lesson.

To Obtain Relief.

From the Raleigh News and Observer.

When will the people regain their old habit of advocating practical measures? If they would only do so, and with one voice advocate the repeal of the tax on state bank notes, they could obtain relief. But as long as they set their faces against feasible measures and insist on what congress will not adopt nor the president agree to, they are wasting precious time.

Sort of a "Stand-Off."

From the Mecklenburg Times.

The earnings over expenses of the penitentiary for the quarter ended Nov. 30, were \$9,808.52.—Statesville Landmark.

The Penitentiary and the evangelists

are about the only things that pay expenses this season.

The News Has Reached Mecklenburg.

From the Charlotte Chronicle.

Columbus discovered America in 1492.

THE TATTLER.

What He Sees and Hears Worth Talking About.

Well! Here we are, right into '92, and going at the same old '91 I-want-to-get-there gait. Old Father Time has thrown to the wind the 365th card in the pack, and—what are you going to do about it? Have you turned over a new leaf that is to be filled up like last year's? If last year's was filled as it should have been, then you are right, but if not, well it's high time you were making a few resolutions for your guidance in '92. There is nothing like a set of good resolutions well kept from one year's end to another, so I'm 'old.

Coming to Rev. Mr. Byrd's reply to my remarks commenting on his reference to the "drunken printer." I did not say, nor intend to leave anyone to infer, that he had made an attack on the Asheville printers. I did get my information "second hand." Two of Mr. Byrd's hearers on that day told me that that gentleman had said something like this: He had met a man in an office in Asheville who was drunk. Some words were spoken, and the man, in reply to a remark, said, "I am not a sinner; I'm a printer." That's where I thought the smile came in, but I suppose I haven't the necessary discriminating sense of humor. I said that I thought the sermon would have been as good with that reference to the printer left out, and this humble opinion I yet most respectfully beg to maintain. Mr. Byrd says he is reliably informed that the man belonged to the printers' union. I hope the union printers will not feel hurt over that reminder that there is a drunken printer in their ranks. But, then, there are, I am sorry to say, men in every profession who love their "bit-terns."

And now I want to say a word or so on Mr. Byrd's declaration that "tattlers usually get their stock second-hand." Perhaps he knows; perhaps not. The name which I selected for this column nearly a year ago seems to worry some people. But I don't think I shall change it for a day or two, at least. In fact, I have about concluded that I am satisfied with it, and, Providence and THE CITIZEN permitting, hope to have my weekly chat with you for some time to come. When I want to change, I will advertise in THE CITIZEN for suggestions.

In closing his letter to THE CITIZEN, Mr. Byrd shows that he has been guilty of doing just what he says "tattlers" do—get their stock "second-hand." He intimates that somebody forced me to say that I did not mean the aforesaid "somebody" in my article on dead-beats two weeks ago. He says the man called at my office the next morning after my article was printed! The "next day" was Sunday, and I am hardly ever in "my office" on Sunday. But allowing Mr. Byrd one day for mistakes in "second-hand" matter, still it would have been a physical impossibility for anyone to have seen me at my office. I have said nothing that I will retract, and have retracted nothing. I challenge Mr. Byrd to prove his assertion, made so boldly. He can't do so.

The First National bank is undergoing changes that will make it one of the finest buildings in Asheville. But in my opinion it would add greatly to the beauty of the pile if the old stucco were discarded and the entire building left to show just what it is—good honest brick. There can be nothing prettier. Look, for example, at the new Reynolds block and others near the square.

The people who will miss Rev. Dr. Nelson, the First Baptist pastor, are not all members of his congregation. Members of other churches recognize his ability and his Christian character and influence, while many of Asheville's poor people, who have been ministered unto by this good man, will testify to Dr. Nelson's willingness at all times to look after their physical as well as spiritual wants. May his days be long in the continuation of his noble work.

Louisiana Needs Help.

From the Chicago Herald.

The Louisiana lottery is a far greater curse than Monte Carlo, more despicable in its methods and more subversive of the general welfare. The decent people of Louisiana are engaged in a desperate effort to destroy it. They should receive the active assistance of every honest and patriotic citizen of this country.

Horn Blowers, Beware!

From the Raleigh Chronicle.

Late Christmas eve a rather jolly negro blew a horn in the face of a woman who, accompanied by a man, approached in the opposite direction on the street. There was a quick blow, perhaps with a sandbag, and the horn blower, when found, was unconscious.

"ANOTHER STORY."

From the Raleigh Chronicle.

Rudyard Kipling is soon to be married and he will find out that matrimony "is another story" sure enough.—St. Paul Globe.

Mr. Kipling is going to apologize for his ill-natured remarks on America by marrying an American woman. Thus the whirligig of time brings its revenge.—Kansas City Times.

Now that Rudyard Kipling has fallen in love with an American girl he will view "the states," and all that is therein through new and rose-colored spectacles.—Boston Globe.

Rudyard Kipling is to wed an American girl, and we wish him joy. She may train him into a decent regard for the American people—but that's another story," as Private Mulvaney would say.—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Blood diseases are terrible on account of their loathsome nature, and the fact that they wreck the constitution so completely unless the proper antidote is applied. B. B. B. (Botanic Blood Balm) is composed of the true antidote for blood poisons. Its use never fails to give satisfaction.