

ASHEVILLE DAILY CITIZEN.

By RANDOLPH-KERR PRINTING CO.

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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 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 the disreputable life of 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.

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 Murray 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." It is a most amazing thing that a supreme court worthy of the name should have granted a new trial on this ground, but it has been done, and Murray may now escape altogether, as it will be difficult to get together the witnesses whose testimony convicted him on the former trial. The technicalities of the law are often more powerful than the law itself.

In Had 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. Mill 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 is 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.

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." This is true to large extent; but not for the reason given, which is, that it was not the birthday anniversary of the Saviour. That the precise natal day is not observed is unquestionably true, because no records are preserved to fix an exact date. But as such an august event did happen, the sentiment of pious reverence acting upon the hearts of those inspired by its momentous significance naturally demanded the observance of some fixed memorial day. The 25th of December was fixed upon as in happy consonance with human thoughts and customs, the period of the winter solstice, the period at which the dormant forms of nature make sign of waking again to life, turning upward again after the sun had traversed in its downward path to the lowest point of decadence. It was also the period of the year in which the northern nations of Europe had given themselves up to the celebration of the most joyous of their heathen festivities. It was an easy and a natural transition to them to substitute for their accustomed pagan observances the purer and more rational methods which marked the beginning of the practice of a new and loftier faith.

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. Puritanism ignored Christmas as it did all other recognized Christmas festivals. It affected to see in them the perpetuation of pagan license, when, in reality, it only saw the wickedness of throwing the rays of cheerfulness upon the gloomy austerity which it had prescribed as the rule of human conduct. It proscribed the observance of the merry Christmas holiday upon the same childish principle that it proscribed bear baiting, not because it was cruelly to the bear, but that it was

pleasure to the spectators. Christmas festivity was not sin against God or offence against morals so much as rebuke to sour asceticism by the presentation of human life in some of its brightness and joyousness.

But puritanism has passed away. What was once unamiable principle has become modified into indifferent custom. The northern people acquiesce, rather than participate in, the hilarities of Christmas. The southern people, largely the descendants of those who sided with the royalists, the antagonists of the puritans, and the dear lovers of fun and frolic, and also faithful cherishers of all those traditions and customs which so endear Christmas to sentiment as well as to festivity, adhere to their old ideas of the character of the period with almost exaggerated tenacity. Christmas at the south is still eagerly welcomed and universally observed, by some in its true character as a Christian festival, by all as a time for the display of the kindly, cordial feeling which unites the human family for once in the year in close unselfish sympathy, by many as a period of license and intemperance, and by far too many as the justification for the perpetration of all kinds of noises, ludicrous, barbarous, irrational.

In the reckless din of fire arms, in the deafening explosion of fire works, in the senseless bray of horns, and in the mad din 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. Heathendom might exult at the contrast even its excesses might present to the mad orgies or senseless pleasures of enlightened (?) Christians which mark the celebration of the birthday of Him they affect to welcome and worship as a God, and whose service they seek to impose upon all the unbelieving world.

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, and the unbridled license of which a heathen himself would stand abashed and humiliated.

BAPTIST UNIVERSITY.

Raleigh Chronicle: The site of the Baptist Female state university is now fully decided upon. It is the one on the Pullen and Adams property, near the capitol, chosen over a year ago. Considerable payments have been made and last Thursday the payment for the Adams property was completed (\$2,000). The Adams house is not purchased.

A private letter to the Raleigh Chronicle announces the death of Prof. Alonzo Troup, at Newton, Upper Falls, Mass., December 29. He is well known in Raleigh and most of the larger towns in the state where he had lectured. He was to start to Fayetteville, N. C., the week he was taken sick to deliver a course of lectures.

On Monday at Newbern three buildings occupied as stores in the west end were destroyed by fire. Much of the stock of goods was lost. Lemster Duff, druggist, W. H. Houten and Wit McIntosh, grocers, were burned out. Loss about \$6,000, partially insured.

The congregation of the First Presbyterian church of Raleigh have unanimously decided not to accept the resignation of Rev. Dr. John S. Watkins as pastor. The latter states that he had yet positively accepted the call to a church at Spartanburg, S. C.

In Wayne county a white man named Cicero Pearsall was told that he was afraid to hold a cannon-cracker in his hand and fire it. He made the experiment, and as a result his hand was blown to pieces and his eyes badly injured.

Salisbury Herald: Messrs. Eames & Earnhardt, furniture dealers, made an assignment Christmas day for the benefit of creditors. Liabilities of the firm about \$2,600.

AT BOSTIAN'S BRIDGE.

Another Attempt at Train Wrecking There.

Last Thursday night an unsuccessful attempt was made to wreck a passenger train at Bostian's bridge. Two crossings had been placed between the rails on the bridge in such a way that the engine of the eastbound passenger train would mount them and leave the track. It happened, though, that a westbound freight train, an extra, passed half an hour before the east bound passenger train was due. The pilot of the freight engine ploughed under the upright ends of the crossings and threw them from the bridge. There was a sharp shock, but none of the wheels were derailed, and the freight passed in safety.

The section of country adjacent to Bostian's bridge is now picketed with detectives.—Charlotte News.

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OFFICE OF E. B. BARNUM & CO., Fine Clothiers, Hatters and Gent's Foot Wear, 8 Court Square. Branch of 931 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D. C. ASHEVILLE, N. C., Dec. 19, 1891.

These fingers are pointing to the fact that 75 acres of land just outside the corporate limits of Asheville, with a magnificent view of the city and the French Broad river, can now be purchased at figures so low that no one expecting to buy a home in Asheville, can afford to let the opportunity for buying pass.

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Below is a list of our agents who now sell these stamps. As others are appointed you will be notified through this paper.

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