

Editorial Comment.

It is a wonder that the rough, uncut diamonds of the South are not more highly valued than polished brass.

A four-year-old child smoking cigars. Who would believe such a sight could be seen in good old North Carolina. But that was the scene recently witnessed by the writer. The boy—a boy with bright eyes, bright face and bright prospects for a brilliant future but for the one misfortune was in charge of a fond and indulgent grandfather who seemed to love the child more than if it had been his very own. He was smoking a cigar and had another lighted and stuck in the child's mouth urging him to smoke it. Moreover, he seemed to take delight in telling of the fact that the boy went to the store and bought them regularly and would "smoke a pack of cheroots quicker than a man."

It was heart-sickening to see thus blighted all the possibilities of an innocent child's future usefulness and happiness.

There should be a law against administering nicotine to an innocent child with penalties just as severe as those for administering any other poison.

GREEKS BEARING GIFTS.

Mr. Taft is quoted as saying in his Charlotte speech:

"What I do desire . . . is a complete tolerance of opinion and that there shall grow into respect and power an intelligent opposition party in every State in the Union."

We do not believe he desires any such thing, and we shall never believe it until he says it in New England or some of the other hide-bound Republican States.

Within the past year Mr. Taft has spoken in many states of the Union, but never yet has he preached any such doctrine as that above quoted except when he was speaking in a strong Democratic community. But every time he comes to the South to speak he has to say something like that. "Strong opposition party!" Fiddlesticks!

Mr. Taft's avowed purpose is to break the "Solid South," and we are not to be taken in by any of his fine theories about "opposition party." And the more he talks such stuff the less we think of him, for the reason that we cannot but abhor insincerity on the part of any man occupying a high position of influence and honor and power. And we know that if Mr. Taft were sincere in his utterances he would go into some of the States North where his own party has an overwhelming majority and make the same plea for an opposition party that he makes when he comes to the Democratic South. We would admire him more if he would be bold enough to tell us plainly what he is "up to" and not try to fool us.

But "I am anxious," he says, "that the Republican party in North Carolina should be strengthened MERELY (for no other purpose) to have a good fight at every election." "Merely to have a good fight!" "Nonsense!" We would not object to his preaching such doctrine in the South if he would go into Connecticut or Pennsylvania and say something like this:

"I am anxious that the Democratic party of Connecticut should be strengthened MERELY to have a good fight at every election."

Our purpose here is not to denounce Mr. Taft's teaching as wrong—though we are not endorsing him here—but to point out his very evident insincerity.

There never was a time when Southern Democracy had more need to "Beware of the Greeks bearing gifts."

You can save fifty cents by taking THE INDEX and the National Monthly together. Read announcement in this paper.

General News From Everywhere

Important Happenings of the Past Week Told in Single Sentences For Index Readers

A fire at Union, N. C., last week damaged a thousand bales of cotton.

The news last week centered the nomination of Judge H. G. Connor.

One was killed and several injured in a wreck at Salisbury, Md., last week.

President Taft last week abolished Roosevelt's "Council of Fine Arts."

The plan to combine the fertilizer factories of America and Europe has been abandoned.

Louisiana's Democratic Senators made speeches last week favoring protection on sugar.

The local option election in Petersburg, Va., Thursday, resulted in a victory for saloons.

More than 6,000 men went on strike last week in the Kanawha coal field in West Virginia.

The annual convention of the American Cotton Manufacturers Association was held in Richmond last week.

The American Association of Automobile Manufacturers met in annual session at Hot Springs, Va., last week.

Indictments charging fraud in the Muskogee town lot cases were returned against Governor Haskell and others Thursday.

On account of a cloud burst near Roanoke, Va., last Wednesday two miles of railroad was washed away and great damage was done to crops.

A remarkable burial occurred near Norfolk Thursday when the ashes of a Confederate Soldier were consigned to the waters of Hampton Roads.

In the Senate Thursday two amendments to reduce the tariff on sugar were defeated, 11 Republicans voting for reduction and two Democrats for protection.

In the United States Senate last Wednesday, Senator McEmery, of Louisiana, made a strong speech for stiff protection for the Louisiana sugar cane industry.

The Supreme Court of North Carolina adjourned last week for its spring term, to meet again the last of August, with only five cases going over until the next term.

At the session of the General Assembly of the Southern Presbyterian church last week, a protest was filed against three representatives of the Synod of Kentucky.

On account of friction as to their authority, Director North, of the U. S. Census Bureau, and Secretary of Commerce and Labor Noble have quarreled, with the result that Director North has resigned.

In a speech to the students of Howard University, (colored), Washington, D. C., last Wednesday, President Taft declared that the prospect for the negro race is growing brighter.

Exceptions of Cardenio F. King, of Boston, a former North Carolinian, convicted of larceny and embezzlement, have been overruled by the Supreme Court, and he was compelled to go to prison.

Free lumber was given a knock-out blow in the Senate last week, Mr. McCumber's amendment to the tariff bill placing lumber, a commodity, on the free list, being defeated by a vote of 25 to 56.

Sheriff Shipp, Deputy Sheriff Gibson and four other residents of Hamilton county, Tenn., last week were declared to be guilty of contempt of the Supreme Court of the United States in combining in a conspiracy to lynch a negro named Johnson.

When the United States Senate adjourned Thursday Senator Bailey, of Texas, called the correspondent of the New York Times a liar and choked him because of an article in the paper reflecting on him; the newspaper man returned the assault with an umbrella.

Last week United States Deputy Marshal Mitchell opened and in the same breath adjourned the Federal Court at Raleigh until Monday, speaking to empty benches, being entirely alone in the court room. This week Judge Connor presides. There is enough business to make a full two weeks' term.



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MEREDITH COLLEGE

Name to Which "Baptist University For Women" Has Been Changed.

The Trustees of the Baptist female college at Raleigh have changed its name from the Baptist University for Women to Meredith College, choosing this name in honor of Rev. Thomas Meredith, one of the founders of the Baptist State Convention, the founder and first editor of the Biblical Recorder and the man who made the recommendation in 1838 when Wake Forest College was established and also two years later at the convention of the Baptists, that a school for girls be established. Mr. Meredith lived a few miles west of Raleigh and was a man of much learning. The school when first established was named the Baptist Female University, but this name did not suit, and two years ago it was changed to the Baptist University for Women, but again this was not satisfactory, as this is not a university, so the name was a misnomer. Twenty-five young women graduated at Meredith College this year.

DOINGS AROUND PARKTON

String Band to Give Concert—Entertained by Mr. and Mrs. McNatt—Crop Conditions.

Correspondence of The Index.

The weather has been favorable this week on crops. Cotton is very poor in this section and the stand is bad, but corn looks very well.

Mr. J. G. Hughes is putting up a telephone line from Parkton to his new saw mill out on the V. & C. S.

Mr. Needham Farmidge, who suffered a broken arm on Monday, is getting along very well. He is a "drummer" for Mr. Hughes.

Col. S. J. Cobb, Misses Dare and Ethel Cashwell and Mr. Knight Cashwell attended the Baptist union meeting at Great Marsh.

Miss Iris Cashwell returned home Wednesday from Greensboro where she has been in school at the State Normal. Miss Ethel Williamson will return home Saturday as she stopped over at Ore Hill to visit her aunt, Mrs. V. E. Ellis.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. D. McNatt gave a reception on Wednesday night in honor of the Parkton string band. The occasion was greatly enjoyed on the inviting, moonlight night. The guests, including the band, numbered about sixteen. After an hour of delightful music, refreshments, consisting of ices, cake, lemonade, etc., were served. At 11 o'clock the guests, voting Mrs. McNatt a splendid hostess, took their departure.

We are sorry to report Mr. M. J. Johnson sick.

The Parkton string band will have a musical concert at the Academy on Saturday night, June 5th. Saturday has been named as the date for the convenience of people from the country. The admission price will be small, and the proceeds will be for the benefit of the band. In addition to the music there will be ice cream and cake; also a chance to vote for the most popular young lady to receive a beautiful silver cup. Doors open at 8 o'clock. Parkton, May 29.

CITIZENS THRASH PREACHER

Lively Scene at Clinton about Two Children.

The many readers of THE INDEX in Sampson county will be interested in the following special to the News and Observer from Clinton:

"A rather sensational trial occurred in the Mayor's court here today when John E. Fowler, G. M. Faircloth, B. L. Crumpler, Jere Mathis and Frank Tarlington were tried for an assault on Rev. G. M. Fomby. From the facts that came out in the trial they were about as follows: Mrs. John E. Luten, of Perry, Fla., recently had the peculiar experience, so she testified, of having won her children from her husband at her home, and then having a Florida justice of the peace award their custody to Rev. G. M. Fomby to take to the rescue home for fallen women that he was conducting. Mrs. Luten heard he was in Clinton and came here to see about her children. Rev. Fomby had not arrived. When he came here he was met at the depot, and Mrs. Luten demanded to know where her children were, only to be told it was none of her business. She did not take kindly to that suggestion and asked Mrs. Fomby where they were. Mrs. Fomby called her an insulting name, and said she was not fit to know where they were, whereupon some of the defendants tried their fists upon the anatomy of the Rev. Fomby. He sought refuge under the train, and a lively scene was the result. One of the children is said to be about seven months old and the other one seven years. The Rev. Mr. Fomby indicted the above-named influential citizens, and Mrs. Luten, who was accompanied by her husband, retaliated by having Mr. and Mrs. Fomby put under a thousand dollar justified bond each for their appearance until requisition papers can be gotten here from Florida and a warrant charging the Fombys with the abduction. The defendants plead guilty, and the Mayor fined them each five dollars, except Tarlington, and their part of the costs. Fomby admits placing the children in a "home" at Meansville, Ga., and the mayor of that place wires he has the children there awaiting their parents' coming. Rev. Fomby established a "rescue home" near Clinton last fall, the reputation of which has been of two kinds."

OUR BEAUTIFUL HAYMOUNT

Raeferd Fact and Figures.

A visit to Fayetteville at this season is always delightful, and it is a great treat to go on beautiful Haymount, the most attractive place in the town. St. Luke's Hospital on this hill surrounded by the most lovely scenery is always kept well filled with patients, who not only have the benefit of the best surgical and medical skill, but in addition, the invigorating air is a great help to the restoration of the sick. I am informed that this is the only hospital in this section that gives special attention to massage. St. Luke's takes the lead in this as in all other advances in scientific treatment of patients.

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