

**LOCAL AND GENERAL.**

Rain, sleet and snow.  
 Our streets are all mud.  
 Carpenters and bricklayers are taking holiday yet.  
 —The *Observer* is now run by a gas engine.  
 —Our aldermen have ordered all gates on streets to open from the inside.  
 —The city has given to the poor several car-loads of wood the last week.  
 —If your paper has a cross-mark look for us to-day. We need money badly.  
 —There are now about 1,300 children in our graded schools, nearly equally divided between white and colored.  
 —There are a great many business changes taking place just now. Merchants should advertise in the MESSENGER.  
 —Quarterly conference was held at Zion Church last week by Rev. A. Hill, Presiding Elder for Charlotte District.  
 —Clinton Chapel was crowded last Sunday night by eager listeners to hear the female preacher, Mrs. C. I. Burnett of St. Louis, Mo. Her text was Rev. 12:3.

—At a meeting of the S. S. Board of Clinton Chapel, the old teachers were re-elected. G. W. Johnson, Superintendent, A. W. Calvin Secretary, re elected.

—We learn three of our colored legislators were in the city last Sunday. We failed to see them.

—We have not secured all of our material yet. Our friends will please send in the cash. We are setting up our own office and need all the money we can get.

—See our new advertisements. When you want to do any trading look in our paper for a place to go. Houses that do not advertise are out of date, and those that will not recognize your paper are not the ones for you to trade with.

—We congratulate our good friend, Mr. R. T. Weddington. Rufus is just a little too proud, of course, and says it is the finest girl in the State. Good luck to it and mother.

—Mr. Womack of Moore county, has opened a grocery store in the city. We don't see how he expects to succeed without advertising.

—Our Christmas news and letters are stale, but we hope it will be looked over. There is much room for improvement. Just help us all you can and it will come right bye-and-bye.

**Our Thanks.**

The MESSENGER is under many obligations to Mrs. Tyler, Mrs. Dixon, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Smith, Misses Robinson, Moore, Davidson, Dart and Foster, for presents and other kindnesses in making our Christmas pleasant. We are glad to say the MESSENGER was kindly remembered at Scotia.

**To Our Merchants.**

Our merchants should remember that the MESSENGER is the medium to reach the colored people of this city and county. That their trade is of some consequence, and the organ of the colored people should be patronized by those who expect and live on colored trade. We expect our merchants to advertize with us and shall call on them in a day or so. Those who show themselves our friends shall receive our patronage.

**Died.**

On the 18th of December, after an illness of about two weeks, Mrs. Alice E. Myers, wife of Mr. Edward M. Myers. The couple had been married only two or three months. On the 8th inst., after a short illness, Mr. Stephen Killian. He was a good, quiet Christian, and Clinton Chapel loses one of its worthy leaders.

**Good Music.**

Three times three good pieces of music, and one over, make their appearance as recent publications of Oliver Ditson & Co., Boston.

Three belong to a pretty set called the "Chiming Bells of Long-Ago," another "Corricolo Galop," and third "Spring-time Waltz." Each cost 40 cents.

The next three songs: "Down by the Brook," (35 cts.) by Hering, "Prayer from Rienzi (35 cts.) by Wagner, and "Egyptian Lullaby" (35 cts.) from Renobia.

The third three are Mrs Langtry Schottische (40) with portrait, "Sweet Perfume March, (35 cts.) by Mack, and "Bright as a Button Polka," (35 cts.) for Violin and Piano, by Winner.

The last piece is "Dedication" (25 cts.) by Strelezki, is short and a little difficult.

Readers will notice that they can at any time receive music by mail from publishers, by sending prices such as those mentioned above.

**Kissing Parties.**

Sociables given by our young folks nowadays may well be styled kissing parties; for it seems that kissing is more indulged in than anything else. They have stirring, turning and pawn plays and every other kind that calls for a kiss. Gold is precious because it is scarce and hard to get; were it plentiful and easily gotten as lead, it would be thought no more of. So with a lady's lips. When they become a common kissing machine for anybody and every body, then no body cares for them. There is entirely too much kissing indulged in at our sociables. Too little intelligent amusement to improve our manners.

We do not condemn dancing and games. Singing, essays and select readings may be indulged in to advantage, but we fail to see where promiscuous kissing can do any good. And our society is so made up at these parties that our girls are surrounded by a number of strangers who come upon them with nothing more than their individuality. Having been a stranger in this city ourself, and in many others, we fully appreciate treating strangers with kindness, but a mere introduction of a stranger by a stranger does not justify a young girl in taking him to her bosom before she knows who he is. This is one thing, it seems, that the parents of our girls have much neglected. Some of them seem hardly to care if they don't know the name of their daughter's company.

Woman is the noblest piece of God's work and much care should be taken to impress our girls, that they will strive to occupy their proper sphere—next to the angels. It should be an honor for a man to kiss a lady.

**From Scotia Seminary.**

The dedication of the Africo Presbyterian Church took place at 11 o'clock A. M. Dec. 16. The services were exceedingly impressive. Dr. Poor, of Philadelphia, Dr. Mattoon, of Charlotte, Rev. Mr. Billingsly, and wife, of Statesville, and Rev. Mr. McKinnon, of Concord; also several other colored ministers were present. The dedication sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Poor, from Psalm. C. 4th verse. "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise." It deeply impressed the hearts of all present. Owing to the severity of

the weather, our only regret was, many were deprived of the rich privilege of hearing the beautiful thoughts and forcible truths presented by one whom we had already learned to love. Dedicatory prayer in the church was offered by Rev. L. Dorland; the benediction pronounced by Rev. Mr. McKinnon, after which we adjourned to the Seminary Chapel where the dedication services of the new building took place. There the history of Scotia Seminary was reviewed by Rev. L. Dorland. From it, beginning in the one-story building 24x22 feet, to the present. Interesting addresses were made by Rev. Mr. McKinnon, Mr. Billingsly, Mr. Potter and Mrs. Mattoon and Poor. Dr. Poor told us of the sandal and ebony wood that he saw in Ceylon when he lived there. The white, or sandal wood, was made into fancy articles, fans, etc. The ebony wood was black and hard to polish. It required hard work, but when polished, was beautiful and servicable. So the African race can be regarded as our ebony wood. He remarked that the Yankees are sometimes called very mean, but they are not mean enough to let the Southern people do all the polishing; but are selfish enough to want the largest part in this, as they had the largest part in making them citizens. He also spoke of the true position of women. She either builds up her race or drags it down. He turned to Dr. Mattoon and said, "Dr. Mattoon thinks he is doing something great down at Charlotte, with his school, but I guess here is one—I will not say its rival—but its match in more than one sense too.

Sabbath morning communion services were held in the church. The discourse, by Rev. Dr. Poor, from John 10:9 was touchingly delivered to a large congregation. Dr. Mattoon and Rev. Mr. Billingsly dispensed the elements at the communion service. At five o'clock Sunday evening the Seminary missionary Society met in the chapel. The topic for the evening was Siam. Dr. Mattoon, who was a missionary there for twenty years, made a very interesting address upon the position of that country, its laws, customs and religions. We were sorry time would not permit him to speak longer. This meeting was followed by the regular Sabbath evening service held in the chapel. Dr. Mattoon preached an able sermon from the text: "Ye are Christs."

On Monday morning Drs. Poor and Mattoon were still with us; chapel was opened at the usual hour with prayer by Dr. Poor, after which he addressed the school. He dwelt long on "shiftlessness," and upon the importance of our becoming careful readers, writers, spellers, etc. He mentioned several instances in which great mistakes had been made by careless spelling and writing. He spoke of a countryman who sent to his lawyer, living in the city, for a bill of goods, one item being two bushels of colt. As colts are not bought by the bushel, the lawyer concluded to write and see what he wanted. The man wrote back very plain c-o-l-t, still the lawyer did not know what was wanted. He wrote to the man that he could not understand the word. After a few days they met at the depot, when the countryman said: "You are a pretty fellow to be a school trustee, and don't know that c-o-l-t spells salt. He also told us of a young man who was paying his addresses to a young lady. He wrote her a letter complimenting her on her "angle form and stary eyes," meaning angel form and stary eyes. Of course he lost his suit. Thus he enforced the injunction to be careful in all things. The visit of these friends was pleasant indeed, and we were all sorry to have them leave. We will not soon forget the many important lessons taught. We wish all a safe journey home, and that health and happiness may at-

tend them wherever they go. When Dr. Poor visits Scotia again, an honor that we desire, may not be long deferred. We truly hope that the Seminary will still be free from every appearance of shiftlessness.

From one of the pupils,  
**HATTIE E. JACKSON.**

Scotia Seminary, Concord, N. C.

**Distribution of the County School Fund.**

The following is a statement of the distribution of fourteen thousand dollars, public school fund of Mecklenburg county, among the several school districts of the county, according to the number of children, January 1st, 1883:

Township.	Whites.	Colored.
Charlotte.....1	\$ 1,444.49	\$ 1,282.64
Berryhill.....5	73.56	74.06
6	67.55	148.45
7	52.90	
8	93.15	88.61
9	52.90	
Steel Creek.....10	85.22	80.67
11	64.81	72.74
12	72.74	84.66
13	122.00	58.19
Sharon.....14	80.18	68.64
15	66.12	112.73
16	94.22	91.25
17	96.87	111.09
Providence.....18	136.85	184.15
19	41.90	55.54
20	78.03	79.35
21	70.19	51.57
22	62.15	92.57
Clear Creek.....23	56.87	
24	120.67	93.90
25	58.19	50.16
26	80.18	55.54
Crab Orchard..27	55.54	75.39
28	90.75	93.90
29	50.16	91.25
30	92.50	91.25
Mallard Creek..31	80.18	
32	65.48	
33	88.11	88.61
34	38.96	
35	71.41	58.19
36	98.44	221.19
Dewese.....37	84.16	24.01
38	88.11	62.15
39	60.84	58.19
40	41.97	34.39
41	140.51	128.36
Lemly.....42	114.41	162.99
43	75.06	
44	98.94	180.12
45	64.81	
Long Creek...46	90.50	
47	125.96	104.07
48	68.74	178.86
49	71.42	
50	43.64	66.66
52	68.77	
Paw Creek...53	109.44	66.12
54	80.43	64.80
55	111.41	96.54
56	80.43	
57	50.51	
Morning Star..58	84.64	215.53
59	94.72	
60	85.96	
61	102.15	
Pineville...62	145.47	221.18
63	80.17	
64	58.87	54.22
65	78.03	92.57
67	76.70	
68	84.64	
69	39.67	58.51
70	46.29	80.67
71	70.09	75.38
72	54.22	32.05
73	70.09	88.61
74	46.29	
75	44.94	
76	67.45	68.77
77	60.83	88.61
78	71.41	95.22
79	32.90	
80	66.12	143.42
81		150.00
82	149.76	
83	66.12	
84	46.96	
85	50.25	
86	No returns.	
	\$7,574.17	\$6,425.83
	6,425.83	
Total.....	\$14,000.00	

**The Heads of Great Men.**

Journal of science.  
 It is usually supposed that men of great intellectual powers have large and massive heads; but the theory which Dr Gilbert, physician to Queen Elizabeth, was the first to suggest, is not borne out by facts. An examination of busts, pictures, medallions, intaglios, etc., of the world's famous celebrities almost tends the other way. In the earlier paintings, it is true, men are distinguished by their large heads, but this is attributable to the painters, who agreed with the general opinion and wished to flatter their sitters. A receding forehead is almost condemned. Nevertheless this feature is found in Alexander the Great, and, to a lesser degree, in Julius Caesar. The head of Frederick the Great, as will be seen from one of the portraits in Carlyle's work, receded dreadfully. Other great men have had positively small heads. Lord Byron's was remarkably small, as were those of Lord Bacon and Cosmo di Medici. Men of genius of ancient times have only what may be called an ordinary or every-day forehead, and Herodotus, Alcibiades, Plato, Aristotle and Epicurus, among many others, are mentioned as instances. Some are even low-browed, as Burton, the author of "The Anatomy of Melancholy." Sir Thomas Browne and Albert Durer. The average forehead of the Greek sculptures in the frieze from the Parthenon is, we are told, "lower, if anything, than what is seen in modern foreheads." The gods themselves are represented with "ordinary, if not lower brows." Thus it appears that the popular notion on the matter is erroneous and that there may be great men with out big heads—in other words, a Geneva watch is capable of keeping as good time as an eight-day clock.

**Life Too Hard.**

Chas. Smith, a painter, well known in this community, committed suicide last Saturday night by taking morphine. He made an attempt on his life some months ago with laudanum but was saved by timely medical aid, family troubles prompted the deed, and form what we can hear, he is worthy of the deepest sympathy. For a long time he had suspected the fidelity of his wife, and he made the first attempt on his life when he found that those suspicions were only too true. After his recovery she promised reform, and they lived together up to a few days ago, when she eloped with former seducer, taking her three children with her, and causing her husband the above sad ending. Mr. Smith was about forty five years of age, a German by birth, and for many years a resident of this city. He served in the Confederate army and is spoken of as a brave and dutiful soldier.

**Some Tom Thumb Reminiscences.**

Tom Thumb celebrated his 46 birthday on January 4th in Chicago. He said that when first exhibited by Barnum he was only 5 years old, and so light that a strong man could hold him on the palm of his hand. A fashionable overcoat of those days was like the ulster of the present, and had large side pockets with flaps over them. "Barnum wore one of these," Tom relates, "and I could get in one of the pockets, and by doubling myself up snugly the flap would conceal me. It was a favorite trick of Barnum's to put me in his pocket and appear in the hall about the time for opening our entertainment. He would call for me, affecting to be surprised that I was not on the platform and then I would respond: 'Here I am, sir,' emerging from the pocket. Alas! how I have grown since then."

**Death from Paralysis—An Afflicted Family.**

The sad announcement was received here yesterday of the death, at Magnolia, on Saturday last, of Capt. J. M. Hartswell, a prominent citizen of that place, from a stroke of paralysis which he received about three or four weeks ago. Deceased who was about 50, years of age, was a leading merchant Magnolia, and highly esteemed by all who knew him, and his death will be sincerely regretted. His funeral took place on Sunday.

Capt. Hartswell leaves a wife and four children, and we regret to hear that his afflicted widow is now dangerously ill, while her mother Mrs. James Southerland, an old and greatly esteemed lady, preceded Capt. M. over the dark river by just one day, having departed this life on Friday evening the 12 inst. Truly this is an afflicted family.

**The Goldsboro Oil Mill.**

The Goldsboro oil mills commenced work last Friday. The magnificent machinery in operation, driven by the large eighty horse power engine, is an interesting and truly wonderful sight. We visited the mills on Friday evening and were struck with the facility with which each piece of machinery did its allotted part in the mighty whole. The seed are placed in a hopper on the ground floor, where they are cleared of all loose cotton and trash, and thence carried by cup elevators to hoppers on the fourth floor, where they are fed into two large gins on the third floor, where they are ginned closely; the lint arising from this process passes into a cotton press on the second floor, while the seed are carried into a shelling mill which separates the shells from the kernels, throws the shells out and passes the kernels into a grinding mill from which they are carried to the oil presses on the ground floor; the oil flows from the presses into troughs, and thence passes through pipes into large iron tanks to be refined for use. The building is—and necessarily so—a powerful one, well adapted to the immense machinery driven within its walls.

**THE MESSENGER**

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In the interest of the Colored People and the Republican Party.

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**WILLIAM C. SMITH,**  
 Publisher.