

THE MESSENGER.

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—AT—
CHARLOTTE, N. C.

—BY—
WILLIAM C. SMITH.

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All Letters should be addressed to
W. C. SMITH.

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Corresponding Editors.

GEO. W. CLINTON,.....Chester, S. C.
ED. L. THORNTON,.....Washington, D. C.

OSCAR E. JONES,.....Traveling Agent.

All money must be sent by registered letter or money order.

If you don't get your paper at the proper time please tell us at once.

Short correspondence of interest to the general public is solicited, but don't be disappointed if you fail to see your production in our columns. We are not responsible for the views of correspondents. Anonymous communications go to the waste basket.

WRONG DATE.

By some mishap, we give the wrong date on our outside; it is all right, though, the figures mean no harm.

The charter for street cars in our city has been granted.

Lieut. Flipper who joined the Mexican army some time ago is now a Brigadier.

Several civil rights cases are pending in the Supreme Court of the United States. Read our Washington letter on them.

FALSE ARREST.

Last Monday a colored woman was brought up from Mathews, supposed to be the one who robbed a trunk last week. Now, what evidence was against this woman we do not know, but it does seem to us very hard and humiliating for one to be snatched up and hauled around in this manner when innocent, then have no redress. We believe in punishing the guilty, but at the same time the innocent should be protected. There is somewhere a careless, a looseness. We believe in seeing the law take its full scope. Let no guilty man escape, neither punish and disgrace the innocent.

OUR OPERA HOUSE.

A longing for a first class play forced us to go to the Opera House on last Monday night. There we witnessed "Virginius" by Frederick Warde. The play was good, but the house small.

It is a source of regret to see that so many of our better class of citizens are prevented from going to operas on account of their color. Free American citizens and many of them free born, educated and as refined as they may be, they are compelled to take back seats or none at all. Our surroundings Monday night were several students from Biddle and two or three of our lady teachers. But think of our sitting on back seats—straight, hard benches—and in front of us a lot of rude, noisy boys. There were seats in the gallery; they are also back seats of the same class, and there we would be crowded by all manner of male and female roughs, tobacco, and blackguard. It is dangerous for a lady to wear a decent dress to such a place.

Our people are fond of amusement, and as they are becoming more intelligent, take great interest in the theatre board, especially those plays which take them back to Roman history. Under the circumstances we could not advise our people to go where they must take back seats and be left at the mercy of the worst classes of both races.

We sincerely hope that some changes will be made in our opera

house before the opening of next season. We do not wish to push ourselves upon our good white friends. We only want good accommodations apart from noisy, bad boys and bad women, and we are willing to pay for the same.

We have witnessed many fine plays in northern and western cities by McCullough, Barrett and others and would be pleased to advise all pleasure seekers among our people to attend them here at home for their amusement and instruction.

We hope the management of our opera house will fix up and give us some good chairs in some part of this house, and we believe they will.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

For the MESSENGER.

A rather novel decision involving the color line has just been rendered in the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of Toney Pace against the State of Alabama, in which it appears that the plaintiff in error violated the State law by living in sexual relations with a white woman. The court holds that the law of Alabama prohibiting miscegenation, is not in conflict with the Fourteenth Amendment, or with the Civil Rights legislation founded on it, for the reason that it applies the same punishment to both offenders, the white and the black without discrimination. This decision has called into play many an incredulous smile, as its intent and meaning are clear to every fair minded man. Any attempt, however, to controvert the action of the highest tribunal of the American government would be fruitless and unprofitable, yet, nevertheless, there can be no doubt as to the voice of the six million of blacks on the absolute fairness of this decision. There are other cases before the Supreme court of incalculable moment, appertaining to the rights and privileges of the American Negro, the outcome of which is extremely doubtful. It is high time for our people to come to a decisive stand upon this question. The times demand it, society demands it, the great law of human justice demands it. There is a growing tendency on the part of our young men towards independence of thought and action and it behooves every father of negro youth to instill in them principles of manliness, earnestness and frugality; to crush out the prevalent spirit of fawning and sycophancy; to educate them up to a full sense of their being, their obligations, their significance as a factor of the body politic.

It is a deplorable fact that the old men who fought with the most unselfish devotion in that dark struggle for liberty, are to-day most tardy to secure any effort looking to the triumph of the great principles which prompted our civil strife, and look on with fear and trembling while the intelligence and manhood of their younger brethren are crying out for justice, for right, and unquestioned citizenship. Oh, say they, you are too fast, too previous, too aggressive. The courts will decide against you, they say. Perseverance, firmness, fortitude, consistency and courage are the necessary concomitants of any cause. Why decry the effort to secure equal and exact justice, equality and law, when so near the consummation of centuries of sacrifice and endeavors. The persistent efforts of Beccaria were necessary to remove the cruelty of the old penal systems of Soto to prohibit the sale in Africans, of O'Connell to emancipate the Catholics, of William, the Silent, to wrest the Netherlands from Spanish tyranny and fanaticism; of Washington to shake off the shackles of English exaction and injustice. All history confirms and inspires perseverance. We may encounter derision, jeers, insult, opposition, but what great measure has been free from them. We cannot stand still, we must not go back but on, both our political, moral and social being impels us.

Some time ago the leading colored men of North Carolina assembled at Wilmington and deliberated as to the advisability and necessity of building a railroad. This is a healthy sign, and the road should be distinctively the project of Negro brains and money. It exhibits a singleness of purpose which is especially noteworthy and commendable, because of the lack of this most excellent article in our storehouses, and its necessity for the success of any enterprise or effort.

Now I wish to address myself to every colored man in North Carolina. They must join in with the march for justice and equality before the law, search for and know the right and dare to arrest it, whether contending for miscegenation, equality at the church, theatre or public meeting, or justice at the ballot, be independent, manly and brave. Sons are springing up who can ill afford to receive a legacy of ignorance and dependence. Stay in America, in South, in North Carolina, colored men, and work out the social and political problem for which you have been contending so long, so zealously, so manfully. The purpose is good, the cause just. Civilization cannot and will not be complete until all American citizens are accorded their just freedom and rights in law and society without regard to the color of Skin. What possible reason can white men advance to gainsay your rights. The apparent justice of their past kindnesses and forced legislation will no longer be taken for the essential justice of our being and creation. The reputation of the country calls out for justice. It has been well said that "laws may be wrested, contracts evaded, the most solemn terms may be broken, if we abandon justice. That community in which injustice and bad faith are habitual cannot possibly support civil liberty." Colored men should appreciate thoroughly the maxim that you cannot expect to love and support you whom you affect to disdain. E. L. T.

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7-29-2m.

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Carolina Central Railway

TRAIN NO. 1 GOING WEST.

Leave	Wilmington,	6:30 p.m.
..	Lumberton,	10:35 p.m.
..	Laurensburg,	12:35 a.m.
..	Hamlet,	2:13 a.m.
..	Wadesboro,	4:13 a.m.
..	Monroe,	6:14 a.m.
..	Mathews,	8:15 a.m.
..	Charlotte,	10:15 a.m.
..	Harrogate,	12:15 p.m.
..	Tuckasee,	2:15 p.m.
..	Lincolnton,	4:15 p.m.
..	Helby,	6:15 p.m.

TRAIN NO. 2 GOING EAST.

Leave	Shelby,	1:15 p.m.
..	Lincolnton,	3:22 p.m.
..	Tuckasee,	5:22 p.m.
..	Charlotte,	7:25 p.m.
..	Mathews,	9:25 p.m.
..	Monroe,	11:25 p.m.
..	Wadesboro,	1:45 p.m.
..	Hamlet,	3:00 a.m.
..	Laurensburg,	4:30 a.m.
..	Lumberton,	6:52 a.m.
..	Wilmington,	8:50 a.m.

Each of the above trains connect with the P. & A. Airline for Raleigh. No trains leave Charlotte for Wilmington, on Saturday nor Wilmington for Sunday.

TIME TABLE

Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Ry.

To take Effect on Monday, June 12th, 1882.

UP.		
(DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY.)		
	Arrive.	Leave.
Fayetteville, ..	4:00 p.m.	4:45 p.m.
Little River, ..	4:40 p.m.	5:20 p.m.
Spot Springs, ..	5:10 p.m.	5:50 p.m.
Swann's station, ..	6:05 p.m.	6:45 p.m.
Jonesboro,	6:45 p.m.	7:25 p.m.
Sunford,	7:05 p.m.	7:45 p.m.
Fayetteville, ..	7:45 p.m.	8:20 p.m.
Gulf,	8:20 p.m.	
DOWN.		
(DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY.)		
	Arrive.	Leave.
Gulf,	6:15 a.m.	6:20 a.m.
Egypt,	6:45 a.m.	7:10 a.m.
Sunford,	7:20 a.m.	7:35 a.m.
Jonesboro,	8:05 a.m.	8:25 a.m.
Spot Springs, ..	8:55 a.m.	9:35 a.m.
Little River, ..	9:30 a.m.	9:35 a.m.
Fayetteville, ..	10:15 a.m.	

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15-2t

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