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Charlotte Messenger

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Every Saturday,

AT

CHARLOTTE, N. C.

In the Interests of the Colored People
of the Country.

Able and well-known writers will contribute to its columns from different parts of the country, and it will contain the latest General News of the day.

THE MESSENGER is a first-class newspaper and will not allow personal abuse in its columns. It is not sectarian or partisan, but independent—dealing fairly by all. It reserves the right to criticize the shortcomings of all public officials—commending the worthy, and recommending for election such men as in its opinion are best suited to serve the interests of the people.

It is intended to supply the long felt need of a newspaper to advocate the rights and defend the interests of the Negro-American, especially in the Piedmont section of the Carolinas.

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W. C. SMITH Charlotte N C.

The forest area of the United States is less than 450,000,000 acres, or 728,000 square miles, about one-fifth the area of the whole country. For railroad ties alone the wood on 500,000 acres (800 square miles) is required annually. Some idea of the rapid reduction of our forests may be gathered from the fact that in 1857 Ohio had forest equal to 55 per cent. of the area of the State; now it is not over 20 per cent. Droughts and destructive floods are among the results of the destruction of our forests.

Dr. J. Haney Lovell, of Philadelphia, is a pronounced vegetarian, believing that eating meat is the cause of untold evils. He even thinks that vegetarianism is the best remedy for intemperance. His theory that flesh-eating men have an abnormal taste for drink, and that if men will only confine themselves to vegetable food the desire for drink will be antagonized. "No man," he says, "who eats a pound of macaroni daily will become a drunkard. What we want is a temperance vegetarian restaurant, where young men may be banqueted on macaroni, beans, and rice."

Lieutenant Woodford, an Inspector of the Signal Service Bureau of the War Department, has recently given some interesting facts to the public with reference to the work of the Bureau. Many persons will be surprised to hear that the Signal Service Station on the top of Mount Washington is to be discontinued. It has always been interesting to watch the atmospheric changes as reported from that station, but the authorities have regarded these reports more as curiosities than as being of any practical benefit. The altitude is so great that the changes there rarely affect the lower atmospheric strata. The wind might be blowing a hurricane at the summit of the mountain, while a dead calm prevailed at the base. During the summer season the station will be maintained simply to accommodate visitors to the mountains, but it is to be dispensed with during the winter as a needless expense. Speaking of the talked-of introduction of the newly invented electrometer, Lieutenant Woodford explains the object of the instrument to be the foretelling of the approach of thunderstorms by several hours. The electrometer has not as yet been brought to a state of perfection which yields practical results, but a series of observations is being taken by all the stations, under all conditions of atmospheric pressure, and by a comparison of these, with the help of the electrometer, it will be possible to predict with accuracy the approach of storms of the character named. This will, of course, be of great benefit to all classes of people, and will greatly increase the usefulness of the Signal Service.

Thomas Langley, an innkeeper of Dove-England, is said to be the heaviest man in the world, being 500 pounds in weight. He is a little over six feet in height, and measures eighty inches around the waist. He is unable to walk much, and does not trust himself in a carriage for fear of breaking the springs. He is very temperate in eating and drinking.

The Government of Japan has invited several scientific bodies to appoint a joint committee to examine and report upon the type of buildings best calculated to resist shocks of earthquake. This is in view of the fact that whereas Japanese houses were formerly constructed of wood, they are now constructed of stone or brick, especially in the construction of public buildings.

Twelve Mormon families have already settled at Alberta, in the Dominion of Canada, and others will soon settle at Medicine Hat. The Toronto *Globe* has heard that the Mormon rulers have been in correspondence with the Canadian Government on the subject of colonizing in Canada, and that the answers they received were not such as to prevent their endeavoring to effect their purpose. We don't wish them any harm, says the New York *Tribune*, but all the same we should rejoice to get rid of the Mormons.

The season of 1887 will be remembered as one especially prolific in fatal accidents to Alpine tourists. Scarcely a week passes that does not bring report of one or more lives having been sacrificed to the insatiable desire to scale one of the giddy peaks in the Bernese Oberland or the Engadine, and, strange to say, each accident but serves to increase the army of climbers, so that finally the authorities in the Canton Wallis have found it necessary to take active measures to control the rush of strangers, who, emboldened by recent experiences, are flocking up into the glaciers without guides.

The preservation of forests is a favorite theme in this country just now. As the Richmond *State* well says: "Hardly a week passes that we do not read of large tracts of land at the South having been bought simply for the timber that is on them. It is only a question of a few years when there must be a timber famine in certain sections of the South. If the waste places and worn-out lands are planted in trees the day will come when the tree crop will be a most valuable one. A few days in each year set apart by Southern land owners for arbor culture would prove time well expended.

The "champion" hangman in the United States is George B. Malin, of Fort Smith, Ark., on the border of the Indian Territory. He has been acting as an executioner for the United States Marshal there since 1873. The United States Court in the Territory is scarcely more than a criminal court, having jurisdiction of all crimes committed in that region. This man has, in his official capacity, "worked off" fifty-two murderers, hanging forty-two on the same gallows. This celebrated executioner is fifty-two years of age, a Bavarian by birth, but an American by residence for the greater portion of his life. He is said to be a jolly good fellow.

The value of an engagement-ring as a mark or seal of a promise of marriage has been decided on by the Supreme Court of Missouri. In a case of breach of promise, which had been appealed to the Supreme Court, the defendant, the man, relied on the return to him of the engagement-ring by the plaintiff, to show that she considered the engagement terminated. Her testimony showed that she had resigned it under the pressure of the defendant's taunts, that he had become tired of her and loved another woman, whereat she was so much distressed that she gave up the ring without knowing what she did. The court held that the giving of the ring by the man was the seal of an engagement of marriage, and to extort its return through force or fraud operated much the same as an attempt to destroy or break any other contract by similar means. The court declares as follows: "The giving up by the plaintiff of her engagement-ring, thus wrung from her by the action of the defendant, is not to be tortured into an agreement to rescind the contract which the defendant had already refused to perform. By his own action he had left her no choice in the matter. There was nothing that she could do but accept the situation he made for her, abandon all hope of the marriage, and seek such compensation in damages as the law could give her for the injury she had suffered, without fault on her part, at the hands of the defendant." The court affirmed judgment in favor of the plaintiff.

HOME AGAIN.

The End of the Presidential Trip—A Review of a Memorable Journey.

Everybody on the Presidential special was up at sunrise. Toilets were rather hastily made, and coffee was served just as the Goddess of Liberty that crowns the dome of the Capitol came into view. Good byes were said, and at the appointed time to the minute, 6:40 A. M., the train came to a stop at Washington. The President was heartily glad to get home, though as heartily glad that he went away. During the three weeks of his journey he had traveled four thousand five hundred miles, passed through seven States, crossing three of them twice, and had seen and been seen (variously estimated by different members of the party) by from one to five millions of American citizens.

There was no brass bands, no committee men, no crowds at the station and it is nothing uncomplimentary to the people whom the president has visited, to say that every one of the tourists was glad of it. The president and Mrs. Cleveland and Col. Lamont entered their carriage and went to the White House. The Postmaster General and Mrs. Vilas were driven to their home. Dr. Bryant and Mr. Bissel went to breakfast with the President, after which they took trains respectively for New York city and Buffalo. The artist and two journalists went their several ways, the Pullman cars were uncoupled for the first time in three weeks, and the President's special train ceased to be. The President and Mrs. Cleveland took breakfast at the White House and then drove out to their country home at Oak View, where they spent the day.

THE MEMORY OF LEE.

Richmond's Great Demonstration in Honor of the Confederate Chief.

The laying of the corner-stone of the monument erected to the memory of General Robert E. Lee, took place at Richmond, Va., under the most favorable auspices. The event is a marked one in the history of this already historical city. The day selected by the Lee Monument Association was the big day of the State Fair, and was witnessed by an immense number of visitors, probably the largest gathering ever seen in Richmond. Lee Camp, No. 1, Confederate veterans, were assigned the post of honor, and the committees from the camp having charge of the details of the ceremonies have worked assiduously for several weeks and their labors resulted in a most creditable demonstration. Invitations were sent to many who fought on the Union side during the late war, and nearly all were present.

Among the Ex-Confederate Generals who participated were Fitz Lee, now Governor of Virginia; Wade Hampton, Cooke, McCombe, Cox, Walker, Early and others, while others, including Beauregard and Longstreet, sent letters of regret. Volunteer militia from several of the Southern States as well as those of the Confederate veterans were present.

The Corner-stone was laid by the Grand Lodge of Virginia Masons, who were escorted by one hundred and fifty mounted Knights Templar and several hundred Blue Lodge Masons. The programme also included a grand military and civic procession to the grounds, where an oration was delivered by Col. Charles Marshall, of Baltimore, Gen. Lee's adjutant general, and a poem, written by the late James Barren Hope, of Norfolk, was read by Capt. W. Gordon McCabe, of Pittsburg.

INTENSIVE FARMING.

One Man's Experience With an Acre of Cotton.

Mr. M. A. Ransom, a farmer in Aiken County, S. C., has furnished the state department of agriculture a report on an experiment he has made this year on one acre in cotton. It shows what can be accomplished with a proper system of fertilization and cultivation. The land on which the crop was made was good pine land, with clay subsoil. It was in oats last year, but has been moderately well fertilized for several years. The land was broken early in March, with a turn plough, running six or seven inches deep. In bedding a six-inch shovel plough was used. In the same furrow with a long bull tongue, breaking to the depth of ten or eleven inches. Planted on a low flat bed and "knocked off" with a board. A good stand was obtained. Chopped out in the usual way before "running around." First ploughing or sowing was done with a cultivator, subsequent ploughings with a sweep. The general plan observed was deep breaking and shallow cultivation. The entire cost of producing the crop according to an itemized statement furnished the department of agriculture, including labor, fertilizers and average rent of land, was \$51.02. The product was 901 pounds of lint cotton, which sold at 9 cents per pound, giving a return of \$81.09, to which must be added the value of the seed, 50 bushels, at 20 cents—a low price—\$10.00—making the aggregate return \$91.09. Deducting costs, \$51.02, leaves a net profit on the yield of the acre of \$37.07. Deducting from the costs of production the value of the seed, it will be seen that the cost of growing the crop was less than 5 cents per pound.

Mr. Ransom conducted the experiment at the request of the department, and he says in his report that while the result is nothing wonderful, it is so satisfactory—\$37 per acre profit—as to make it an exceedingly favorable showing for the intensive system of farming, which he thinks should be followed more generally by our farmers.

Sixty millions of matches are said to be made daily in Akron, Ohio.

TELEGRAPHIC TIKES.

The southern Forestry Congress will meet in Huntsville, Ala., on the 26th inst.

The Alpha oil company of Detroit, a rival of the Standard oil company, has assigned.

Hon. E. B. Washburn, ex-minister to France, is dead.

The Florida towns are raising the quarantine against Palatka.

Fordham, the noted English jockey, is dead.

John F. Henry & Co, wholesale druggists of New York have made an assignment.

Mr. Robert Garrett is outspoken in his denunciations of Jay Gould's platform in Indianapolis and beaten so that he died.

It is officially announced that a meeting is projected between the Emperor William and the Czar.

A London dispatch says that Gustav Robert Kirchhoff, eminent natural scientist and discoverer, is dead.

The Czarevitch and Prince George of Greece, who are visiting there, have also been attacked by the same disease.

The secretary of the treasury has appointed David S. Davids to be storekeeper and gauger at Kinston, N. C.

In respect to the memory of President Montgomery, of the Memphis Jockey Club, who dropped dead a few days ago, the Memphis races have been closed.

At Tallulah, Ala., Andrew Fleming, colored, was hanged for the murder of Demp Benyon.

A disastrous fire destroyed two entire blocks in the business centre of Marinette, Wis. About twenty five stores, besides a number of dwellings, were burned, entailing a loss of \$200,000.

The latest from Tampa is that thirteen cases of yellow fever and three deaths were reported in one day. The weather is cooler, but the fever is not abating.

Delegates from the employing printers of nearly all large cities in the country arrived in Chicago. They intend to organize a national association.

At Trenton, N. J., Henry S. Little will publish a fifteen column reiteration of his charges against Senator McPherson of bargaining to secure the election of Gen. Sewell as Senator in return for business favors.

The New York brass-workers' look-out, and the strike of the book and job printers was unchanged yesterday. Neither organization has yet exhibited any signs of yielding.

A monster saw mill boiler exploded at Centerville, Va. on Thursday night, killing three men and wrecking the engine and mill completely.

Ashworth & Downey, cotton manufacturers and dealers, whose mill is in Chester and warehouse in Philadelphia, have failed, with liabilities aggregating \$125,000.

During a quarrel at Hartas Creek, Lincoln county, W. Va., Green McCoy battered Paris Brunfield's head to pieces with a four pound weight. His victim was dead when McCoy left him.

While the family of a laboring man named Tunis Layman were at the supper table, at Catskill, N. Y., one of the children overturned the lamp. Burning oil was spattered over Mrs. Layman and her baby, both of whom were burned to death.

Holy Trinity Church, New York, has been fined \$1,000 for violating the contract labor law in engaging the services of the Rev. Walpole Warren, of England, as pastor. An appeal was taken and a test case will be made.

HANGED BY A MOB.

The Hard Fate of an Indiana Murderer who Killed a Farmer's Daughter, Strung up to a Tree.

A mob of about two hundred men made an assault on the jail, at Delphi, Carroll Co., Ind., their purpose being to secure the person of Amer Green, charged with murder of Miss Lurella Mabbitt. Green had been confined in the prison at Michigan City as a precaution against possible lynching, but was removed to Delphi, where his trial was to be held. The Sheriff did not anticipate any trouble and had taken no precautions.

When the assault was made he had only one deputy to assist him. The mob hammered in the wooden door leading to the residence part of the jail, and twenty masked men, armed, rushed in and demanded the keys of the jail proper. This was refused, when a man with a sledge hammer and cold chisel broke the locks and forced the doors. Green wrenched off a piece of water pipe and tried to defend himself, but was quickly overpowered. He was taken from his cell, placed in a wagon and driven out of town in the direction of Walnut Grove, several miles east of, and not far from, where the murdered girl lived, where the execution was to take place. When Walnut Grove was reached Green was lynched, though protesting his innocence to the last moment.

Amer Green was one of the most desperate criminals that ever afflicted Indiana. In August, 1886, he abducted and is supposed to have murdered Lurella Mabbitt, a farmer's daughter. He was captured in Texas last July with his brother, Bill Green, also a murderer, and both were taken to Michigan City for protection from mob violence.

Fatal Explosion at New York.

The steam launch Mary burst her boiler at the foot of 115th street, New York, instantly killing John and Patrick Cunningham, brothers. Carl F. Schmidt, owner of the launch, was blown into the river, but was saved. James Cunningham was struck by a piece of the boiler and severely injured. O. L. Orcott who was in a row boat near, was also thrown into the river and rescued.

\$57,000 Due Their Employees.

Although the National Rubber Company of Bristol, R. L., made an assignment for \$900,000 a few days ago, the officers are still conducting the affairs of the concern. The assignment, which was made to Samuel Pomeroy Colt, was put on record in the court at New York. The 1,400 hands formerly employed in the factory, who are unable to secure their wages, are destitute. The old management, under Ex-Governor Browne, have sent out a circular stating that \$500,000 cash has been promised by capitalists, provided the creditors will take their pay in preferred stock. There is \$57,000 due the hands. Business men look upon the scheme as chimerical.

Shoppers Beaten in a \$5,000 Game.

Farmer John Meeks, of Lincoln County, Tenn., purchased a Louisiana State Lottery ticket which drew a prize of \$5,000. Two young men of Fayetteville learned of Meek's good fortune before he did and induced him to sell them the ticket at a slight advance over the cost. They then started for New Orleans, but Meeks learning that his ticket had drawn a prize employed a lawyer and followed, stopping payment of the prize by telegraph. In New Orleans the parties met, and the one holding the ticket surrendered it for \$300. Meeks got his money, paid his lawyer \$500 and put the remainder in bank.

To Organize a National Labor Party.

Preliminary arrangements have been made for the holding in St. Louis about the middle of December of a conference of all labor political elements or factions in the country, at which there will be representatives from all sections of the Union. The object of the conference is said to be to harmonize all the factions of the labor party under one banner for the campaign next year and to adopt a general platform. Another purpose is to decide upon a new name—one in which the word labor will not appear. The national Free Soil party is the name which it is thought will be adopted. It is expected that Henry George will be a prominent figure in the conference and that it will adopt his land theory. It is also expected that the conference will fix a date and place for holding a national convention.

Mrs. Cleveland and the President.

At Calera, a Junction point in Alabama where the President's train stopped to change engines, three or four thousand persons were assembled, and among them five hundred workmen from Birmingham, who had come on a special train with cars gaily decorated. Here three cheers were given for Mrs. Cleveland and the President. Mrs. Cleveland remarked, sotto voce: "They have got the wrong end first," but the President thought the people knew what they were about.

WIPING OUT OLD SCORES.

A Shiftless Fellow Murders a Justice, the Mayor and Himself.

A shocking tragedy occurred at Maxwell, Story county, Iowa, one which has plunged that community into the deepest gloom.

Perry Ackers, a shiftless fellow, started out early in the evening, saying he was going to "wipe out some old scores." He borrowed a revolver from a hardware store on the pretence that he wanted to shoot a dog.

He then went straight to the office of Justice of the Peace Schmetzer, and after asking him, "Are you ready to take your medicine?" administered it without further explanation, shooting him in the left lower jaw, the ball passing down and out under the shoulder blade.

Acker next entered the office of Mayor French, and stealing up behind him sent a bullet into his brain. The Mayor never uttered a word, but died within an hour.

The murderer then passed into the street, his crime as yet being unknown, and meeting several citizens he talked in a threatening manner about evening up old scores and brandished his revolver freely.

Passing on to the entrance to Odd Fellows' Hall, he said "goodby" to the Postmaster, and shot himself, dying immediately.

A RAILROAD WRECK.

Collision of Freight and Passenger Trains on the Western North Carolina Road near Marshall.

A collision occurred on the Western North Carolina Railroad about 10 o'clock Sunday night between a freight and passenger train near Marshall, N. C. One fireman had his leg so badly crushed as to render amputation necessary. It was over an hour before he could be extracted from the ruins. Several men were severely burned by the escaping steam and hot debris. The mail car was completely demolished. Fortunately there was no mail agent aboard or he certainly would have been killed. The express messenger, Mr. Staten, barely escaped with his life. The Spartanburg train due in Columbia at 6:30 A. M. did not arrive in consequence until 4:10 P. M.

Police Fire on Students.

A body of students from McGill University at Montreal, Que., after attending a theatrical performance, paraded the streets and behaved so riotously that several of them were arrested. The rest of them then obtained reinforcements, marched down to the police station and attempted to take possession, but were driven off by the police, who were obliged to fire on them.

THE TRADE OF THE WEEK.

Business Depression, Notwithstanding the Immense Increase of the Currency.

R. G. Dunn & Co's review of trade for the week says: "In spite of many favorable conditions noted last week prices do not advance. The treasury added \$33,000,000 to the circulation in September, and has added about \$4,000,000 since, and the Baltimore and Ohio bargain has been ratified and Reading organization has been insured, yet the prices of stocks fell on Wednesday to an average of 58.77 per share, the lowest since April and May, 1886, and, excepting a few weeks then, the lowest for two years.

Wheat has lost every advance since September 26. Corn for a fortnight past, and oats for a month past have occasionally risen. Oil is higher, but transactions are insignificant. Coal is stronger because of the strike, but iron and steel are lower. Elaborate statements of exchanges for the past year and a quarter only conceal the fact that of late exchanges have been falling behind those of the last year, first at New York and then at other chief cities and New England manufacturing towns. In short, the theory that more money excites prosperity comes to grief again. More than 107,000,000 have been added to the circulation within the past fourteen months, but speculation thus stimulated has wrought much harm already and clouded the future with doubt.

While great activity and expansion were witnessed in some branches of business others exhibit symptoms of reaction. Steel rails are again lower. Sales were made last week for 34, spring delivery, and some makers are urging a general stoppage of works. Pig iron, No 1 foundry, continues scarce because of the Lehigh coal strike, but lower quotations came for gray iron and also for bar iron.

Encouraging statements of exports in September show that of beefstuffs, cotton, provisions, oil and cattle the value was 9 per cent greater than in 1886. A large decrease appears in flour; of cattle and pork exports a decrease of one half, and there is a loss in butter, cheese and oil, but a gain of 6,640,000 dollars in exports of cotton. This month exports from New York show a gain of 2 1/2 per cent, against an increase of 10 per cent in imports. Interior reports are uniformly more favorable.

Though tight, money is still reported from some points; the pressure is in most cases less severe, and collections are rather better.

In Texas the cotton yield is said to be 10 per cent below last year's, failures are more numerous, and the Mississippi money market is generally easier at the South, and the partial failure of the crop is as yet hardly recognized as a cause of disturbance in the North and West. If the actual losses of farmers are as large as the October bureau reports would indicate, however, some shrinkage in the volume of business must result.

The business failures occurring through out the country in the last week number for the United States 182, Canada 20; total 202, against 212 last week.

The Five Per Cent Suits.

A decision has been rendered by the Supreme Court of the United States in three cases of the United States, appellant, against the States of Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi. These were suits brought in the Court of Claims by the States named to recover from the United States five per cent of the net proceeds of the sales of public lands within their limits, and also to recover indemnity for swamp lands purchased by individuals, the proceeds of which were by statute directed to be applied as far as necessary to the reclamation of such lands by means of levees and drains.

The United States maintained that the Court of Claims had no jurisdiction to determine a claim in which a State sued the United States; that part of the claims was barred by the Statute of Limitations, and that the United States was entitled to make a set-off or counter-claim on account of unpaid direct taxes due from the States of Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi under the Act of August 5, 1861. The Court of Claims decided that it had jurisdiction; that the disputed items were not barred by the Statute of Limitations, and the set-off or counter claim could not be allowed. This Court affirms the judgment. Opinion by Justice Field.

Newspaper Editors Indicted.

At Petersburg, Va., the Grand Jury have indicted R. P. Barham, editor and publisher of the Daily Index-Appal; W. W. Evans, editor of and owner of the *Lancet*, the organ of the colored people and Messrs. M. M. Lewis H. C. Kennedy and W. T. Smith for criminal libel. The prosecutor in the case is T. J. Jarrett, Mayor of the city. The charge against Barham is that of publishing a series of resolutions adopted at a colored political meeting in August last which reflected on the Mayor's official conduct in the case of the sentencing of Edward Ridley, colored, for assault on a woman. This is the case that brought about the calling out of the military a short while ago. Mayor Jarrett has brought suit against the Index-Appal for \$10,000 damages.

The large Sprague five-story stone mill, 1,000 by 50 feet, at Baltic, Conn., was totally wrecked by fire. The mill was built in 1857 by Amasa and William Sprague. Nine hundred hands are thrown out of employment. Loss estimated at 1,500,000; insurance 257,000.

The grand jury has ignored the bill against Timothy Coughlin, the section master, who was held in jail on the coroner's jury verdict as negligent of his duties and causing the Chataworth disaster.