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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.

There is a great store of gold as well as of coal in Corea, but an entire lack of proper mechanical devices for mining. The production of gold last year was \$5,000,000. The main object of the Korean Embassy to this government is understood to be to interest the citizens of this country in the development of Korean resources.

Benjamin Franklin, of the Second Minnesota Volunteers, is the only man on the government pension rolls who sacrificed both hands and feet in the late civil war, and as there is no provision of law applicable to such special cases a bill has been presented to Congress increasing the pension he now receives to \$150 a month. He now receives the pay provided for a soldier or a sailor who has lost both hands or both feet.

The 1,000-foot tower in connection with the French exhibition of 1889, and known by the name of the designer and constructor as Eiffel's tower, has now reached the height of 179 feet. The four arches of the base are now joined, and the great platform for the rooms of the first stage is about to be constructed, so that the work has passed the most laborious stage. Most of the construction will now proceed from the interior.

"Now comes another competitor with coal and wood," says the *Cultivator*. Several of the strongest railway corporations in the Middle States are experimenting with the transportation of natural gas carried in steel tanks under high pressure, and regulated for distribution at a very low pressure, without serious loss from the original supply. If this natural gas can be transported and made available at a distance from the well, its commercial value will be greatly increased, for its use must be extended to every branch of industry. The supply, so far as present indications can be taken as evidence, is practically illimitable. It is evident that nature has supplied this great Republic with abundant sources for heat and steam, not only in wood, coal and petroleum, but in vast supplies of natural gas."

There is no question, according to the *New York Tribune*, that the buffalo is well-nigh extinct on the plains. There are a few in Yellowstone Park protected by the Government, but they are likely to be killed at any time. In Texas a herd of about thirty is owned by one ranchman. Several other small bunches may be found, but the days when they rambled at large over the country have been numbered. Unless some means of protecting them is adopted within ten years the American Bison must become an extinct species. In Central Park, Director Conklin has several specimens of Buffalo, but the cow is growing old and another one has not been secured. The buffalo will not breed in captivity unless like other domestic animals it has abundant room for feeding and exercise.

TELEGRAPHIC TICKETS—THE SOUTHERN STATES.

News Collected by Wire and Mail From All Parts of Dixie.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Three miles from Jones, Moore county, Mrs. Louis Wickey was burned to death with her house and contents. She was sixty years old and insane. Her daughter had left her to go to the spring, and on her return she found the building in flames.

At Scotland Neck there was an explosion of a boiler in Gardner & Hassall's machine shop. There were only two men in the shop, Henderson Purse, fireman, and John Scott, both colored. Purse had his leg broken, and is badly scalded and bruised, he will probably die. Scott was badly scalded. The boiler was blown nearly out of sight.

In Rutherford county, a school teacher, Lloyd Early, had a school examination, which terminated in a fight. Edley Hunt and Sammy Hunt had a desperate combat with the Black boys. Thomas Mode, a magistrate, at first commanded peace, but soon joined in the fight, which became general. J. C. Blake's head was broken. Hunt got reinforcements and returned to renew the combat. He overtook the magistrate, Mode, who was assailed with a sling shot, knocked down and left insensible. I. T. Mode, a brother of the magistrate, received severe wounds in the breast.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

The citizens of Cheraw are making efforts to get a graded school in that town. Seventy-five thousand dollars were spent last year in erecting new buildings in Florence.

The Savings Bank at Prosperity began operations on March 1. In less than one week \$1,500 were placed on deposit.

A school building to cost \$1,200 is to be erected at Graham's. The lot contains six acres.

Charles D. Miller, of Florence, has won by competitive examination the West Point cadetship controlled by Congressman Dargan.

The collision of two construction trains on the Three C's Road, near Camden, caused the death of one man and injured several others.

A ten year old son of John Crews, of Anderson county, had his arm broken in two places while playing about his father's cotton seed crusher.

The railroad ticket office at Williston was entered by a robber a few nights ago who succeeded in stealing about four dollars. The agent had left his safe unlocked, and it was an easy matter to pry open the door.

Scott Young, a white man about thirty years old, was knocked from the railroad track and killed one mile below Starr, a station on the Savannah Valley Road, by a passenger train. The unfortunate man was deaf, and of course did not hear the warning whistle.

London Bryant, colored, constable of Justice Rogers, of Port Royal, surrendered himself and was committed by Trial Justice T. G. White, having shot and killed one Robert Gadsden, while violently resisting arrest by warrant and making an assault and battery upon the officer having him in custody, on his way to jail from Port Royal.

The excitement over the recent murder near Glassy mountain has not yet ended. Governor Richardson has offered a reward of \$150 for the apprehension of the guilty party or parties. It was remembered that Ben Ross was shot in his own house, while crossing the room to get in his sick bed. The murder was as cowardly an act as has ever occurred in Greenville county, and the news of the reward offered was received by the people here with much satisfaction.

Chas. Johnson, an ex-convict from Georgia, who is serving out a sentence at Greenville for stealing, made an attempt to break out of jail. The sheriff and the jailer make a search of the dungeons every few days, to guard against any attempt that might be made to escape on the part of the prisoners. When they visited Johnson's cell, they found two of the large oak planks which are three or four inches thick, and used on the inside wall, pried from their fastenings. The removed plank had been so carefully replaced, that it was only by the closest inspection that their scheme was detected.

GEORGIA.

A movement is on foot to erect a barrel factory in Conyers.

A large steam laundry is being built in Brunswick.

Dublin, by a vote of 82 to 3, has decided to issue bonds to the amount of \$5,000 for the erection of school buildings in that place.

A moonshine still was captured and destroyed between Resaca and Tilton. It was only a short distance from the railroad, and had been in operation for more than two years.

Mr. Bee Brown, son of Judge Loam Brown, of Abbeville, dropped a pistol, and the hammer striking a crosstie, fired. The ball penetrated his left foot near the ankle and ranged upward, and lodged a few inches above where it entered.

Rena Wall, an old colored woman living in Bransonville, while cooking her breakfast her clothes caught fire, and before they could be extinguished she was so badly burned that it caused her death.

A forty pound crocodile, covered with woolly hair, was captured by a British boat's crew on an island in the Atlantic, and is now a great pet aboard ship. It is apparently of an unknown species.

GOSSIP FROM UNCLE SAM'S CAPITOL.

What Our Busy Law Makers are Doing, Congressional and Other News.

The House, on motion of Mr. Stewart, of Georgia, took up the bill appropriating \$120,000 for the enlargement of the public building at Atlanta, Ga.

Mr. Bland, of Missouri, entered his protest against the illegal manner in which such measures were passed by the House, and against emptying the treasury and wasting the public money. The bill was passed.

The Senate Committee on Territories instructed Senator Platt to report favorably the bill to admit North Dakota as a State. It also instructs Senator Stewart to report favorably the enabling act admitting Washington Territory and North Idaho as a single State, provided no part of Idaho be admitted without consent of the majority of electors in the part affected. There will be a minority report against this last named bill.

The Senate Committee on Agriculture resumed its hearing on the bill to protect the manufacture and sale of pure lard. Prof. Sharpless, of Boston, appeared, and at the request of Mr. Wilson proceeded to compound an article out of 25 per cent of stearine, 25 per cent of cotton seed oil, 40 per cent of pure lard, and 10 per cent of dead hogs' grease. The experiment was made to show that refined lard manufacturers might use the grease of smothered and deceased hogs in the manufacture of the compound.

Senator Cromwell suggested to the committee that the advocates of the pending bill, having failed to show how refined lard was made, had resorted to a process of jugglery to show how it might be manufactured, and he suggested, further, that pure lard might also be compounded with dead hogs' grease. During the course of the experiments the question arose as to whom the opponents of the bill were—whether anybody opposed it except Fairbanks & Co., Armour & Co., and a few other manufacturers.

Senator Gray remarked that there was universal objection throughout the South to the bill, which attacked one of the products of that section. He had received numerous telegrams protesting against the bill, which he would, at the proper time, file with the committee.

In answer to a question by Cromwell, Prof. Sharpless said that it would be impossible to tell from the odor the presence of dead hogs' grease in lard when cotton seed oil was also used.

The committee adjourned until Saturday next.

NORTH, EAST AND WEST.

The fight between Sullivan and Mitchell resulted in a draw, the former getting rather the worst of the fight, which was stopped after it had lasted three hours and thirty-nine rounds had been fought.

It is officially stated that 100,000 persons were drowned and 1,800,000 rendered destitute by the great Yellow River flood in China.

Stanton & Co's stove factory at Louisville Ky, was destroyed by fire. Loss \$65,000.

Mrs. Ellen Tupper, the celebrated bee culturist, known as Bee Queen, died suddenly at El Paso, Texas.

The wife and child of Rudolph Speller were asphyxiated by natural gas at Findlay, O. Speller was also overcome by the gas and remained unconscious for several hours.

Mormon elders have been discovered working in the remote rural districts of Botetourt county Va. They have made many converts, among them a wealthy and intelligent farmer, Mr. Ferguson, and it is expected a large number will emigrate to Utah.

A BLOODY TRAGEDY.

In Which Robbery Was the Motive of the Assassination.

A diabolical attempt was made to assassinate, rob and cremate the bridge-keeper of Broad river bridge and his wife near Columbia, S. C. Mr. and Mrs. Buff, who are both past seventy years of age, were attacked by two men. Buff was beaten unconscious with a club, and his wife was knocked down and fearfully beaten. John Felton, a negro who lived on the place, had his throat cut and was killed. The murderers were intent on robbing Buff of several hundred dollars in toll and money supposed to be in his house, and it is believed that the negro was strangled with a rope in the efforts of the assassins to make him tell where the money was. As it happened the bridge-keeper had only about \$50 in the house.

After robbing the place the murderers saturated the bedding and floor with kerosene oil, set the house on fire and fled. They would have cremated their victims had not Mrs. Buff recovered consciousness and escaped from the house, and a passer-by saving Buff from the flames. His wounds are very severe, and it is not believed that he will recover. His aged wife is in a very precarious condition. William Johnson, a white man, has been in jail on suspicion. It is believed he had a negro accomplice who did the work. The scene of the crime was three miles from Columbia. The community is greatly incensed, and if conclusive proof of guilt could be fixed upon any one, he would probably be lynched.

It takes every year 1,000,000 horses' tails to keep a Pawtucket (R. I.) hair-cloth factory in running order.

Paris has lost 10,000 population in the year past.

COTTON AND GRAINS.

A Summary of the Agricultural Situation.

The Monthly Statement of the Agricultural Bureau—Some Interesting Cotton Figures.

The monthly summary of the Agricultural Bureau has been issued in Washington, and says:

The report of the cotton marketed was completed for eight States a month ago, but deferred for returns from the Carolinas and Texas. The apparent proportions forwarded from plantations on the 1st of February were as follows: Virginia, 90 per cent; North Carolina, 94; South Carolina, 93; Georgia, 94; Florida, 87; Alabama, 92; Mississippi, 90; Louisiana, 89; Texas, 94; Arkansas, 90; Tennessee, 89; Missouri and Indian Territory, 92. The general average is 92 per cent. This indicates an increase of 3 or 4 per cent on the aggregate of county estimates of the 1st of October, although the February returns of the estimated product compared with that of 1886 were nearly identical with the November returns. This furnishes a further illustration of the local tendency to underestimate production.

It was suggested in the November report that it might be assumed that deep-rooted and early and well developed plants would produce better than six per cent in their apparent loss of condition, and that if the outcome should surpass this first estimate the excess might be due to this cause. This view was correct. An allowance for the depressing effect of this in local returns, so stoutly opposed by speculators, is again proved to be necessary.

The quality of the fibre is superior, the condition clean, and the yield of lint a little above 32 per cent. The value of the seed averages 16 cents per bushel on the Atlantic coast, 15 cents in Mississippi, 14 cents in Tennessee, 13 cents in Louisiana and 14 cents in Texas.

The average close of picking is as follows: North Carolina, December 10; South Carolina, December 8; Georgia, November 29; Florida, December 4; Alabama, November 24; Mississippi, December 2; Louisiana, December 13; Texas, November 30; Arkansas, November 26; Tennessee, November 27. The date was later than last year on the Atlantic coast, Georgia excepted, and earlier in the more Western States.

The statistical returns of the Department of Agriculture for March relate to the distribution and consumption of the wheat and corn stock in farmers' hands, the proportion of merchantable corn, and the average prices respectively of merchantable and unmerchantable. The corn crop is the smallest since 1884, and the remainder on farms also the smallest in seven years. It is estimated at 508,000,000 bushels, against 603,000,000 last year, and 773,000,000 two years ago. The proportion is 34.9 per cent of the crop, the lowest percentage except in 1884, when it was 33, and the stock 512,000,000 bushels. In recent years the percentage has ranged from 1-4 to 4-10 of the annual product.

The proportion of merchantable corn is 84.4 per cent of the present average value of 50.6 cents per bushel. The average value of stock remaining is 47.6 cents per bushel, 3.2 cents higher than on the first of December. The proportion consumed without removal beyond county lines, which was last March 17 per cent, is estimated at 12 per cent for the present crop, which reduces the quantity transported to 170,000,000 bushels, 18,000,000 less than last year, while the amount for consumption is also smaller by 90,000,000 bushels.

The indicated stock of wheat of 1887 in the hands of farmers is 132,000,000 bushels, against 122,000,000 last year, or 29 per cent of the crop, against 26.7 per cent last March.

There has been used in the seeding of winter wheat 34,000,000 bushels, 187,000,000 in eight months, consumption 61,000,000 bushels, exported in wheat and flour, 38,000,000 visible supply, and an unusual quantity in minor elevators and mill stocks in course of distribution between former stocks and actual consumption.

A Chinese Earthquake.

The Hong Kong Mail, copies of which have been received at San Francisco, gives a description of the earthquake in the province of Yunnan December 15, and it is indicative of frightful mortality. The Mail says: In the interior department of Ching Chau the disturbances were extremely violent, being continued at irregular intervals for four days, when they ceased entirely. The departmental city is said to have been reduced to a mass of ruins, scarcely a house escaping damage, and over five thousand persons are reported to have been killed by falling buildings. Many of them were buried under the ruins, while the number of the injured is too large for computation. At Lo Chau, in Chula, a striking change has been caused in the appearance of the country, large tracts of land being swallowed up and the surface changed into a lake. At Lo Chau more than ten thousand persons are said to have perished.

Just the Place.

Wife—"I found an egg in the coal bin this morning. That's a queer place for a hen to lay in."

Husband—"Just the place, my dear, just the place."

W.—"Just the place?"

H.—"Why, certainly. If our hens begin to lay in coal for us, we won't need to mind how the price goes up."

(Boston Courier.)

LEAPING FOR LIFE.

One Man Burned to Death—Two Women Fall from a Window in the Sixth Story and are Killed and Fearfully Mangled—One Man Jumps and is Killed, and Another falls and Meets the Same Fate.

The new office of the Evening Union of Springfield, Mass., was destroyed by fire, and the blaze was attended with the most sickening horror ever in that city, six of the employees of the paper meeting a terrible death, most of them jumping from the fifth story and being crushed into a shapeless mass below. Six others were badly injured.

The fire was first discovered in the mailing-room, and clouds of smoke were pouring out of the lower story windows before fifty souls on the upper floor were aware of their danger. Flames shot up an old elevator in the rear, cutting off escape by the stairway, and most of the employees who escaped found their way to the ground by way of a roof in the rear. Some were cut off in the composing room, and there is still terrible suspense, as several fell back into the flames. The employees who rushed into the editorial room were cut off from escape in the rear, and had to face the horrible alternative of burning to death or jumping to the sidewalk below.

The fire department responded promptly. A ladder was put to the fourth story and the sight of rescue so near seemed to madden the suffering group at two windows, who dropped in succession to the sidewalk below. Six fell in this way, some of them forced off and some madly leaping, and the crowd groaned and turned their heads away as they whirled through the air.

Four compositors suffered bad fractures of bones and serious burns. Two named Donohue and Ensworth are probably fatally hurt. It is thought that the fire started among lumber in the closet on the ground floor. The flames were drawn up the elevator and spread through the composing room. There were more than thirty compositors, men and women on the floor. There was no fire escape.

Dense black smoke issued from the windows in clouds and by the time the fire department arrived the windows were filled with poor despairing human beings, who did not seem at first to realize their dreadful position. The crowd underneath called to them to have courage and on no account to try to jump or climb down, and they at first seemed disposed to obey, but so slow were the ladders in being erected that a panic seized the victims.

The scenes as the people began to drop or fall from the blazing windows were horrible. A shriek broke from the crowd as each one of the victims fell into the street below. There was great clapping of hands when a woman was seen slowly descending a ladder. The noise of the crowd was hushed as the wounded were carried through to the ambulances. The only available article for quenching the flames in the office was an old watering can. There were no force pumps or fire buckets of any sort. A large canvass sheet was stretched over the sidewalk. Three men jumped on this, but broke through and fell to the pavement. A woman also fell through the canvass and landed on the sidewalk insensible.

Joseph H. Lanford was standing on the sidewalk at the end of the building furthest from the corner of the building when Mrs. Farrelly fell. He stood his ground and reached out his arms to catch her. She fell on his neck, bearing him to the ground and knocking him senseless. Mrs. Farrelly was killed instantly. Lanford was not seriously hurt.

Discoveries at Pompeii.

Excavations at Pompeii have yielded abundance recently. Surgical instrument (mostly of bronze) have been found, which appear to have been kept in a wooden box; also a small pair of apothecary's scales and a set of weights, equivalent to 14, 17.5, 21, 24.9 and 35.8 grammes respectively. Among various domestic utensils may be mentioned as noteworthy, a beautiful steatop of bronze, the silver inlay of which represents a head in raised work, and a bronze lamp, still containing the wick; finally, various glass vessels, terra cotta, gold rings and ear pendants. Among the finds of coin are a sesterce of Vespasian with Fortuna on the reverse and the inscription: "Fortuna reduci," and a denarius of Nero with the temple of Janus and the inscription: "Pace per ubi. parta Janum clusit."—*Christian at Work.*

A Bad Sign.

It is an old story about the store sign that advises people not to go further and be robbed, but the average newspaper reader has regarded that story as a mere invention of the wits, and as having no foundation in fact. At this very moment there hangs in the window of a second hand furniture establishment on West Randolph street a placard which reads:

DON'T GO DOWN TOWN TO BE

ROBBED,

BUT COME IN AND SEE US.

—Chicago Herald.

Lost His Legacy.

A French provincial lawyer recently died. In his will he directed that an annuity of \$400 a year be paid to the servant who should "close his eyes." When this clause was read the servant who had performed the office jumped with joy, but his delight was speedily damped by the nephew and heir of the dead man, who reminded the servant that his master only had one eye, and the servant actually failed to get his legacy on this absurd technicality.—*New York Graphic.*

A MEXICAN MONKEY HUNT.

THE DIFFICULTIES MET IN CAPTURING THE LITTLE ANIMALS.

Keen-Eyed Monkey-Hounds of the Sierra Caliente—Bananas Soaked in Brandy Make Capture Easy.

The fruit-planters of the Sierra Caliente keep "monkey-hounds"—gaunt, keen-eyed brutes—that reconnoitre the fences of the plantations with the regularity of a military patrol, and have been trained to intercept the fugitive in their retreat to the woods. But the monos often contrive to defeat such tactics. They cross the enclosure at the first peep of dawn, entering the garden with extreme circumspection, besides posting a sentry in the top of a convenient tree; and a New York Alderman might envy their talent for exhausting the business opportunities of a limited term. In less than five minutes they manage to fill their stomachs, as well as their cheek pouches and at least two of their four hands, and recross the fence before the hounds have started in pursuit.

At a safe distance from the scene of the forage the marauders will huddle together to compare notes and relivide their spoils after a code of prestige which the junior members of the tribe seem to accept as a matter of course. After incorporating his own share, a eucletic patriarch has no hesitation in snatching the savings of his nephews; but in his turn will at once proceed to deeds of violence if he should catch them in any act of retaliation. I remember an old gray-whiskered glutton, munching a ten-inch banana while he hugged two reserve specimens, and at last bethought himself of bestirring them in order to get his hands free. He had four of them, but only one pair of eyes, and, while he scrutinized the covetous faces in front, one of his victims slipped up from behind and with a sudden wrench jerked those bananas from under his haunches. The sachem dropped on his hands, and for a moment glared about almost speechless with rage, but then gathering himself up, he leaped to the ground and raced after the offender with the energy of an Andover heretic hunter.

In Chatham street, New York, the price of a pet capuchin monkey varies from \$10 to \$15. In Acapulco \$12 a pair is a fair average, while monkey skins could be bought for as many times a dozen. The Mexican mono, though not the shyest of American four-handers, is harder to trap than the weariest fox, and seems to discover the mechanism of a snare by a sort of sixth sense; for, after all kinds of experiments, the most successful methods of the native pet-fanciers are still the pea rife plan and the brandy plan. The former consists in killing a nursing she-monkey by a close aimed shot and capturing her babies (often twins) in the arms of their dead mother. The brandy-trapper soaks a lot of bananas in a mixture of sugar and alcohol, and after distributing his bait near the favorite haunts of his game, he hides behind a tree and awaits results.

The main difficulty lies in calculating the proper strength of the mixture, as its overpercentage of alcohol is apt to frighten the guests by its virulent taste; a weak compound may begin to operate only after the revelers have retreated to their inaccessible roosts in the heart of the jungle forest. Amateur trappers are, therefore, often obliged to repeat their experiments for weeks before they can bag the desirable trophy in the shape of a befeuddled ringtailed squealer. There is a third method, practiced on large plantations, with the aid of trained hounds, who, by long watching and co-operative tactics, may succeed in treecing a marauding monkey and giving the hunters a chance to capture him by means of a troske-net.

In the primeval wood of Oaxaca and Jalisco I have noticed that the appearance of a man excites the curiosity rather than the dread of his arboreal cousins. They will follow him for half-miles, with a chatter quite distinct from the panic screams awakened by the sight of a panther, and if he should try the experiment of taking a seat at the foot of a tree, and remaining quiet for a quarter of an hour, the long-tailed investigators are quite apt to congregate in the lower branches of that very tree, every now and then peeping down and exchanging looks with a sort of solemn whisper.

Dogs, on the other hand, are at once suspected of wolfish propensities, hostile to the interests alike of men and monkeys, and chat mistake may have occasioned the curious scenes witnessed by Colonel Simon Hernandez, of the Mexican Topographical Survey, and described in the appendix of his official report. In his bivouac on the Upper Sumasita River he had engaged the services of an Indian boy, who carried his instruments, and with his naked feet made his way through the thorniest jungle, but one day was so overcome by fatigue that he fell asleep in the shade of a cauchito tree. The Colonel was cleaning his top boots in a little pond a few hundred steps from that tree, when his attention was attracted by loud screams in the tree-tops, and, looking back, he was surprised to see a troop of Cebus monkeys leaping from branch to branch of that cauchito, till at last half a dozen of them jumped to the ground and made a simultaneous rush in a direction where the Colonel's hound was nosing about in the underbrush. In his first surprise the dog actually turned tail, when his aggressors at once stopped, and, bristling with dread and excitement, surrounded that cauchito tree with the evident intention of defending their sleeping little cousin against the attack of the wolf-like prowler!—*Cincinnati Enquirer.*

A pound of United States pennies is actually worth \$142. A pound of nickel five-cent pieces is worth \$455.50.