

Wade H. Harris, Editor. SUBSCRIPTION PRICE. One Year... \$5.00 Six Months... \$3.50 Three Months... \$1.25 On Week... \$1.00 TELEPHONES. City Editor... 134 Editorial Room... 234 Business Office... 78 SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 1909.

"DESTINED TO BE." The Charleston News and Courier says: "Mr. B. Hoyt Hartley, commercial agent of the Seaboard Air Line Railway, in Atlanta, was formerly stationed at Charleston and understand the possibilities of this port. In a letter we have just received he says: 'Charleston is destined to be one of the greatest ports on the South Atlantic Coast.' This is what everybody is now beginning to think and say and do. Watch Charleston grow!"

MORE TESTIMONY. In referring to the coming celebration of the 20th of May, The Rockingham Anglo-Saxon says: "It is strange that the Charlotte papers have not quoted Washington Irving on the subject (the authenticity of the Declaration of Independence). Irving lived and died during the early days of the Republic. His historical writings mentioned the Mecklenburg Declaration in a matter-of-fact way. Notably in the life of George Washington, Washington Irving was the greatest authority on history during his life. His historical writings show in that early day that American historians accepted the Mecklenburg Declaration as a fact." The Charlotte papers have proved the genuineness of the event the people of Mecklenburg celebrate, so often that it has become a little monotonous. It might be observed, however, that Washington Irving was much nearer the scene of the events accepted by him as correct than are the modern day "historians," and the testimony of a writer of his character outweighs that of all the present day writers whose productions at best are merely argumentative.

NO DANGER OF VETO. The New York Tribune claims to have discovered the fact that President Taft is laying for the tariff bill with his veto pen. It says that Mr. Aldrich is framing a bill which cannot in any sense be regarded as a revision downward, the implication being that the Aldrich measure will fail to come up to the standard set by Mr. Taft of honest revision, of compliance with party pledges, and so on. Mr. Taft, it is said, is taking little interest in particular schedules, believing it to be the duty of Congress to frame a tariff bill, but has given fair warning that he will veto the measure if, when placed before him, it should be found unsatisfactory. The Washington Herald properly regards all this as "moonshine." It never expects "to live to see the day when a Republican President deliberately vetoes a tariff bill—framed and passed by a party majority in House and Senate." The Herald thinks Mr. Taft would be going back on his pledge if he vetoed a bill highly protective all the way through. The question is one that admits of no argument. President Taft entertains no idea, whatever, of vetoing the tariff bill.

A TIP TO STATESVILLE. The Statesville Landmark thinks the people of that town are slow in getting behind the Southern Railroad Company for a new depot. And for a fact, their apparent indifference to the character of their depot accommodations is a little surprising, quite as much so as the indifference of the people of Lincolnton to their depot abomination. Statesville is one of the biggest passenger points in the State and especially so during the summer months, when day after day, the little old, disreputable shack of a depot is overcrowded with impatient and uncomfortable people waiting on a train. Added to their provocation is the chalk-spattered bulletin board announcing the train on time and no body to tell how far it is lying. The Southern does not build depots of its own accord. That company goes on the principle that as long as the people can stand it, it can stand it also, and when it once promises to build a depot the people may set themselves for a long wait for the fulfillment of that promise. So, if the present generation of Statesville's people wants to see a new depot, it had better make a beginning in the matter.

In Atlanta an automobile owned by Judge Sheppard, of the Federal Court, struck and injured a negro. The judge claimed it was not the result of negligence and offered to pay the negro's doctor bill and give him \$50. On advice of his lawyer, the negro declined. Waiting his chance until the judge was out of town, the lawyer rushed a constable and force of negroes to his home and under a writ of attachment sacked it of all its furnishings, which were carted off. The act has justly aroused the indignation of the bar of Atlanta. It was a bold outrage on the private rights of a citizen as well as an attack upon the dignity of the Federal Court. What Atlanta will do, further than to talk of it for a day or so, remains to be seen.

MR. CREEDE'S OBSERVATIONS. That East Orange, New Jersey man who was sent South, or who came South on his own hook to collect facts and data as to the workings of prohibition, secured some remarkable information. His name is Creede and he is president of a play grounds commission. On his return from the South he reported: "Lynchburg, Va., a city between 35,000 and 40,000 inhabitants, has been working for three weeks under prohibition, and not a single case of drunkenness has come to the notice of the police. He is disappointed with Atlanta, as are the inhabitants themselves, over the working of prohibition there. The city has greatly retrograded under the dry law. 'There is more drunkenness in that city since prohibition went into effect, three months ago, than has been found at any time of like period in the last 25 years' Charlotte, N. C., with 60,000 inhabitants, has been under the dry law for two years, and it does not seem to be getting along so well as Lynchburg. There are many drinking clubs among the young men, who get their stuff through the mails in small lots and establish private drinking places."

The funny part of it is that this report of Mr. Creede is to be submitted to the board of excise of East Orange, to guide it in its decision as to whether to follow a restrictive policy in granting liquor licenses, or one of liberality. The bar-rooms in Lynchburg were closed on the 5th, so recently that the smell of stale beer yet emanates from their closed doors and it is too early to hold up that town as an example of the workings of prohibition. Atlanta is in the second year of the dry reign, instead of having gone dry three months ago, as Mr. Creede states. There is plenty of near-beer in the town and the people resort to the jug, the bottle and the club, but the police records show fewer cases in court for drunkenness. That there are many drinking clubs among the young men of Charlotte will be news to the people of this city. Mr. Creede's discoveries as to population are about as remarkable as are his discoveries as to prohibition. If he had stayed at home and dreamed of things he couldn't have got his facts tangled up in handsomer shape.

BRYAN AND LEADERSHIP. The Greensboro Record quite seriously discusses the Chronicle's proposition that Bryan is still the party's leader, and wants to know why this is the case. "If he is the leader," asks The Record, "why was not Mr. Cleveland the leader in the year after his last defeat? He had no more influence with the men in control of the party than a two-year-old. Mr. Bryan has been defeated three times and in all seriousness is not the leader only in so far as the party makes him leader, but if he is made the recognized leader in the next campaign we shall be very much mistaken. It looks like he is done for and he is if the party has left to it the least bit of sense. Mr. Bryan has done nothing culpable; he has been honest and straightforward, but his ideas have not been accepted by the voters of the country and it is his time to go way back and sit down. But he will not do this, you say. May be, but if the party does not make him go it, no fault can be attached to him." Colonel Bryan has owned, ruled and controlled the Democratic party so long, with the consent of the party, that he is to be pardoned for exercising the belief that he can continue doing so indefinitely. It is a sort of captivity to which the party has tamely submitted, and through this submission, the fact remains that Colonel Bryan is yet the leader and will be the controlling force in the next national convention. If he is not the nominee of that convention he will make an effort to see that a man of his choice is the nominee. Cleveland knew when it was proper to retire from the leadership of the party. Bryan does not have such knowledge, or the party to-day would not be in its present demoralized condition.

BASEBALL. It is clearly evident that the baseball season now opening up, is going to attract more public interest than any previous season. Everybody is interested in baseball. Even smallpox cannot keep away from the diamond. The fever is becoming fiercer each year, and people who have successfully resisted it heretofore are falling easy victims. In The Chronicle office imposing stones, upturned type cases and every unoccupied corner of a table is pressed into service by its volunteer corps of baseball editors, of which Foreman Ezzell is chief, advertisement setter, Willie Farrell, and galley boy, Emmett Allen, associates. Whenever the editor misses a paper that he wants to lay his hands on, he will ring up some one of the baseball staff and two to one will get the paper minus any baseball talk that it might have contained. Any one of the two dozen men in the shop would consider it a privilege to go without dinner in order to see a ball game. When it comes to a matter of a few bottles of dope or a baseball ticket, the dope market is sure to fall off. On baseball afternoons, five minutes after the mails have been cleared, the only sound heard in The Chronicle office is the low humming of the deserted linotype machines. And it is pretty much the same way in all other shops about town. Once the baseball fever gets a grip it can never be shaken off and it is scoring more victims day by day.

There had been no reason to expect that the Payne bill would be defeated in the House. The Republicans always get together when the time comes. Their factional fights never amount to anything, for they are all as one when voting time comes.

The Greensboro Record claims to have tamed the citizens of that town in the matter of complying with its rule requiring the name of the writer to be printed with his publication. It says that the rule has worked like a charm. "It enhances the value of any article printed where the author is known, provided there is any value to it, and enables the reader to sift it at once." That is a truth we endeavored to impress upon the people of this town who trot in with their little pieces, but with no success. The value of a newspaper lies in a knowledge of its authorship. Many an article printed in the Charlotte papers is passed with indifference, where it would attract immediate attention and carry weight were the writer's name attached to it. And the man who wants to say something in the municipal campaign that will be listened to and used to any effect, will do it over his own name.

Charlotte ought to be arranging for balcony and park concerts during the coming summer. We might pattern on a small way after Philadelphia, which has arranged for plenty of out-of-door music this summer. The city authorities have voted \$15,000 for concerts by the Philadelphia Orchestra in the City Hall Plaza, in addition to music in the parks by the city band. In approving this action The Press says: "A great city has a duty by its citizens besides that of protection for life, property and from fire. An American city in our long hot summer, where life in the open is easy, should be a joyous place, full of interest and movement through hot evenings, with play for children and music for their elders." There could be no better feature of summer life in Charlotte than music and plenty of it.

Gaston county now seems to be coming around to the opinion that a bridge over the Catawba is a good thing, and that two bridges would be a better thing. It is true that Gaston has spent a good deal of money on interior bridges, but as it has come to the conclusion that the bridging of the Catawba will carry Mecklenburg trade to Gastonia, we are waiting to see how many bridges Gaston is going to help Mecklenburg build.

The passing week has witnessed the death of three world-wide celebrities—Madame Helena Modjeska, the tragedienne; Marion Crawford, the novelist, and Charles Swinburne, the poet.

The Georgia Congressmen did not seem to have the courage of their convictions when it came to voting for the tariff bill. The Louisiana fellows, however, stood pat.

Charleston has one of the finest harbors in America, but it has no ships and never will have any until they are floated in there by a ship subsidy.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE. The oldest letter-carrier in Uncle Sam's employ—Charles P. West of Boston—recently celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his service. Although he is now seventy-five years old, West still puts in the required eight hours every day, delivering his mail promptly.

London ladies, stimulated by the Olympic games of last summer, have taken to the folla, and folla is now the fashion. Indeed, an official of the Sword Club holds vogue among women than among men. Many women prominent in the social world are actively interested in themselves in the folla, and there seems every likelihood that something approaching a craze may be started in the fencing world during the coming season.

Boston women established the first play-ground in 1902. Last year there were eight and nearly \$2,000 was expended, or about \$1 for each child, a very cheap price for the amount of good obtained. The Play-ground League is the name of the Society of the play-ground boys themselves, who wear buttons and discipline all but one of the boys in the government easy enough for those in charge. Not the least important result of the play-grounds in that city is said to be that involved in the self-government.

Two girls relating their experience in Japan, in the Wide World Magazine, give a glimpse of traveling by night by rail in the country of the chrysanthemum. They write: "The train was crowded with Japanese, and when night came the long seat was divided up into portions, the upper berths were pulled down and we all huddled into our respective bunks, men and women mixed up together. It was distinctly trying to be obliged to sit with no doubt in the high upper berth between a mixed assembly, and more trying still to descend in the morning with the very incomplete toilet which one was enabled to make in a receding position, but the blissful ignorance of our Japanese neighbor that there was anything unusual in such a proceeding considerably relieved our embarrassment. His attitude and calm master of facts were very reassuring, and the wonderfully cheerful conductor who brushed our clothes and fastened our blouses seemed to consider himself specially suited for the post of lady's maid."

SPARKLERS. Gems from the Jewel Case of Newspaper Paragraphs. MANY OF THEM. Detroit Free Press. Don't ever get the notion boy. Whatever else you do. That you're supreme because there are ten thousand more like you. Harper's Bazaar. "Our new cook is dreadful slow." "So is ours. When we invite people for dinner we tell her they're coming for lunch-noon."

AFFAIRS IN NORTH CAROLINA. DAILY INCIDENTS, FACTS AND COMMENT GATHERED FROM THE NEWSPAPERS OF THE STATE.

SUICIDE AT HIGH POINT. Prominent Young Business Man Kills Himself in His Office. High Point Enterprise, 9th.

Our community was shocked at noon to learn that Mr. J. Lindsay Ferguson, secretary and treasurer of the Atlantic Furniture Company, had committed suicide at his office some time between 11 and 12 o'clock today. The workmen in the finishing room near by heard the report of a pistol and on examination found Mr. Ferguson lying on the floor, pistol in hand, and bleeding profusely from a wound in the right temple. He had locked the door of his office, lay down on the floor and fired the fatal shot, the bullet from a 44-calibre pistol which he kept in the office all the time, passing entirely through the head and lodging in the wall. Death was evidently instantaneous. When the workmen found him his position showed that he had carefully planned the act. Mrs. Ferguson and the family physician hurried to the scene, but only to find life extinct. Much sympathy is expressed for the wife and children of the deceased on account of the sad occurrence.

Deceased was born in Richmond, Va. He was engaged with Bradstreet & Co., for a number of years. He came to High Point to work with the Lyon agency and afterwards became secretary and treasurer of the Smith Furniture Company. He was counted a good business man. Deceased did not leave any message giving any cause for his act. Since the occurrence it is learned that he has been rather blue lately on account of some business matters. Nothing, however, of a serious nature, because the affairs of the business with which he was connected are in good shape. The Enterprise learns from Greensboro this afternoon that he had been under treatment for his health for some time. In fact, ever since one side of his face was paralyzed on account of an operation several months ago, he has taken treatment under a specialist.

Mr. John M. Harrell was at his office about 10 o'clock this morning. He was complaining about being blue about business and seemed pre-occupied. In fact, he had the door of his office locked when Mr. Harrell arrived. After talking a few minutes on business they went up street together. Mr. Ferguson must have returned to the office immediately and carried out his plans.

Formerly Lived in Charlotte. Mr. Ferguson formerly lived in Charlotte, having been connected with Bradstreet's here. He was no relative of Mr. Ferguson, who is now in charge of Bradstreet's office here.

Rockingham's New Hotels. The Hotel Rockingham is completed. The furniture has been placed in all the rooms, or will be by to-day and the doors will be thrown open to the public either to-day or Monday. Mr. Corpening, the manager has been here all the week with a large force of helpers getting things straight and he has succeeded in building a beautiful building and is a modern one in every respect and we hope it will be patronized to its full capacity.

Shelby's Water Supply. The pumping station for the Shelby water supply is rapidly approaching completion and at no very distant day the water will be turned on and Shelby will take her place with other progressive cities with this admirable improvement. The machinery to operate the plant has all arrived and is being placed. The station is located on the river bank out near the Seaboard Air Line Railway.

THE ROZZELL'S FERRY BRIDGE. How the Gastonia's Papers View the Matter Since It Has Been Settled by Mecklenburg. Gastonia News.

The people of Mecklenburg have decided to build a bridge over the Catawba river at Rozzell's ferry in the northern corner of Gaston and near the Lincoln line. The Mecklenburg people also want bridges at Mount Holly and Belmont. These bridges are needed and it is to be expected that they will be built. Gaston will likely help some in building the bridge at Rozzell's ferry. The bridge would, however, be a greater convenience to the pent up people of Mecklenburg than to the people of Gaston. The commissioners are asking that the Gaston commissioners help to build the bridge and this will likely be done. With the exception of the people of Gaston people, the bridge, "Bend" bridge would be of little use to Gaston people. It would be used as much probably by Lincoln people as Gaston people. The bridge at Belmont and Mount Holly are in the line of the river and are within the borders of the county and when the expense is over the bridge to help Mecklenburg build the bridges across the Catawba so that the people of that county can take advantage of the markets of Gaston for selling their cotton and purchasing their supplies.

Gastonia Gazette. Brother Wade Harris, editor of The Charlotte Chronicle, is indulging in a broad smile that went some off since Monday for the reason that he is to seek—the Catawba is to be bridged at Rozzell's Ferry after forty years. Colonel Harris has been dreaming of this bridge for several years—we won't say forty; because he is still one of the boys when it comes to wearing—and has not missed an opportunity, we believe, to agitate the matter in season and out. To him as much as to any man here, because the final determination of the Mecklenburg commissioners to build this bridge. Gaston county is thus under obligation to Colonel Harris in no small degree, for his assistance in getting a bridge which will be of service to Gaston county and which is to be built without any of the expense falling on our shoulders; and The Gazette is already planning a little reception for the colonel to be held in Gastonia as soon as the bridge is completed so he can get across the river. This will be some months in the future and in the meantime the colonel will doubtless indulge in many fond dreams of long drives of produce-laden wagons from Gaston, Lincoln and Catawba counties pouring into Charlotte disposing of their goods and spending great wads of the long green; at the same time Gastonia

BRIDEGROOM A SUICIDE. Charles Pennell, of Alexander County, Killed Himself After Marriage. Salisbury Post.

Wednesday about noon Mr. Charlie Pennell, son of Mr. Mac Pennell, who lives about ten miles west of Taylorsville, committed suicide by shooting himself. The young man was found lying upon the bed, having perpetrated the awful act by tying a string to the trigger of a gun and discharging the weapon, the entire load taking deadly effect in his body. The young man was married Sunday to Miss Addie Stine. Their relations, it is said, were not congenial. The tragedy is much to be deplored.

Charlotte, The Clean Town. Gastonia News. Charlotte looks cleaner and neater than it has looked before. There are evidences of the Woman's Betterment Association on every hand. The old town has had a cleaning up. There is an absence of quite so much trash drifting about on the streets and receptacles are placed at intervals for the disposition of refuse paper, etc. The public buildings seem to have candescent lights strung along the streets makes a festive appearance and the skyscraper looms up at the square. The boys over there have buried the proposed charter under the Declaration of Independence and getting ready to celebrate the glorious Twentieth in grand style. President Taft will of course be the principal attraction but the military companies, bands, decorated streets and big crowds will figure in the interest on that occasion. We are all going over to see, hear and admire his rotund majesty.

Fayetteville's Street Cars Resume Duty. Fayetteville Observer.

The street car service which was suspended during the paving of the streets, was started up again to-day, using for the first time the company's constructed power plant on Little River, at Manchester, the same power which now furnishes the city's lighting. The service, very good before, is now even better. The Consolidated Power and Railway Company contemplates putting in one or two more cars, which will add greatly to the service. It will be a very short time now before the cars will be running as far as the Victory village.

Water and Sewerage in Farm Houses. Catawba County News.

Mr. Ed. Smyre passed through town Tuesday with an immense galvanized iron water tank on his wagon. He is putting in a hydraulic ram, and expects to fit up his home with water and sewerage. Nothing in a home more comfortable and convenient than a water system, and the wonder is that more country homes are not fitted in this way when the cost is so trifling. And elegant, comfortable country homes makes life worth living.

A Strenuous Ruling. Durham Herald.

Judge Boyd's ruling that the buyer is equally guilty with the seller is founded on good common sense, but if the other judges take it up it will play the wild with the prohibition law.

Something Doing in Durham. Durham Herald.

With the cotton mill, the hospital, the market house and the city hall all underway at the same time there is going to be something doing in this town this summer.

merchants will no doubt be raking in a few dollars from upper Mecklenburg farmers who will not be long in finding their way to Gastonia, where they can buy the best goods at the lowest prices from enterprising merchants and that without making affidavit that they believe in the genuineness of the Mecklenburg Declaration and swearing eternal allegiance thereto. Seriously, however, The Gazette has never objected to the building of this bridge by Mecklenburg county but it has never favored Gaston's footing the bills. As far as the matter of drawing trade is concerned we have yet to find one Gaston merchant who has entertained any fears along that line whatever.

SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS. Hope for Recovery of Rev. J. S. Grier Given Up. Yorkville Enquirer.

A telephone message from Sharon brings information that Rev. J. S. Grier, pastor of the Associate Reformed church of that place, fell in his yard this morning, broke his arm and is in a critical condition, there being but little hope for his life. Mr. Grier has been ill for about two weeks, suffering with acute indigestion, and his fall seems to have been the result of weakness greater than he was able to realize.

Palmetto Frods. Peddler Watson, colored, is dead at his home in Greenwood at the age of 110 years.

Charles Strange, of Chick Springs, lost his barn and several mules and horses by fire.

The next convention of the Baptist Young People's Union will be held in Lancaster.

The South Carolina Association of Colleges will be held at Clemson College May 6 and 7.

Miss Addie Garrett, a school girl of Laurens, ran away from school and married S. W. Walker, of Clinton.

Merriam Reeves and Arnold McElhane, the alleged slayers of Presley Reeves, are being tried at St. George.

In a suit between Woodmen, a fraternal insurance organization of Atlantic has been denied a license in this State. Charges have been preferred against Sheriff Corley of Lexington county, for not arresting a man who carried a pistol.

Spencer Has a \$2,000 Blaze. Special to The Chronicle.

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Our store has been packed full of people since opening this morning. Every department packed and jammed with customers. Never such selling seen here before. SPOT CASH counts more now in buying goods than ever before. It counts for us, and we are making it count for our customers.

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