

PUZZLING QUESTION.

U.S. Government Does Not Know What to do With Transvaal's Representative.

12 MILES FROM LADYSMITH.

Buller's Forces Not Far From the Beleaguered Town - The Dear Duchess of Marlborough Tells the Dear "Dook" Farewell.

By Telegraph to the News. WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—The nature of the credentials of Montague White, who is here as the reputed representative of the South African Republic, is the subject of serious conjecture at the State Department.

NEWS FROM THE FRONT.

LONDON, Jan. 20.—A Cape Town special dated Friday, says the Ladysmith relief force is steadily working north. Heavy fighting occurred yesterday. The Boers are retreating.

DUCHESS OF MARLBOROUGH TELLS THE DUKE GOOD BYE. LONDON, Jan. 20.—The Duchess of Marlborough accompanied her husband from Elnheim to bid him God-speed as he sailed today to the war as captain of Yeomanry.

RUMORS FROM DURBAN.

LONDON, Jan. 20.—A Durban despatch dated Thursday night says it is reported there that Bandonaki has smashed the Boer convoy. Buller is said to be within twelve miles of Ladysmith. Warren is about six miles in his rear.

FOR PYTHIAN TEMPLE.

Mecklenburg Lodge Appoints a Committee to Confer With Other Lodges.

There are four hundred members of the Knights of Pythias in Charlotte, the largest membership of any order in the city. There are three lodges, Rathbone, Mecklenburg and Charlotte, one division of the Uniform Rank and the Suez Temple of the Knights of Khorassan, the special order of Pythianism.

At its convention last night Mecklenburg lodge appointed a committee composed of Mayor J. D. McCall, F. M. Shannonhouse and John Wilber Jenkins, to consult with the other lodges in the city regarding the erection of a Pythian temple.

BANK STATEMENT.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Includes Reserve Increase, Loans Increase, Deposits Increase, Legal tender Increase, Special Increase, Circulation decrease.

JOHN RUSKIN DEAD.

By Telegraph to the News. LONDON, Jan. 20.—Mr. John Ruskin, one of the greatest of English writers, died today, aged eighty-one years.

TO CHANGE BASE.

Wedington & Davis are to give up their present stand, on North Tryon, in the Barnhardt building, and have rented the store in the Harty building recently vacated by the Snyder Bargain Store. They move February 1st.

Prof. G. B. Hanna was better today. He will be out, he thinks, by Monday. Miss Lottie Tomlinson, of Durham, who has been visiting Miss Fan Burwell, leaves this evening for Concord to join her sister and Miss Lizzie Morehead. The three go home Monday.

SOCIETY WAYS.

Luncheons, Teas and Evenings Still in Vogue.

Miss Faye Griffith entertains two tables of euchre tonight. Her guests and the players will be: Misses Annie Wyatt, Charlee and Anna Locke Hutchison, Marion Clarkson and Mrs. S. O. Brookes; Messrs. John Wilber Jenkins, W. G. Perry, Willoughby Chambers, H. L. Sanders and George Tate.

Miss Lena Heath won the prize yesterday afternoon at the Misses Clark's card party, and Miss Josephine Parker got the booby.

Mr. and Mrs. Church today issued invitations to their "evening," Monday. The compliment is to the Sans Souci Club and Miss Josephine Parker, Mrs. Church's niece and guest. The cards read: "Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Church will entertain the Sans Souci on Monday evening, Jan. 22nd, and request the pleasure of your company to meet Miss Parker. Hour, 8:30 o'clock."

Miss Hope Spencer keeps the social ball rolling next week, in an entertainment, which she is to give Tuesday afternoon in honor of her guest, Miss Ruth Lawrence. The hour is 4 o'clock.

Mr. J. L. Pryor arrived this morning from Atlanta. He is to be one of the attendants at the Gresham-Cates wedding.

The Saturday Morning Club was charmingly entertained this morning by Miss Hattie Elliott. She had an "Alphabet Morning"—a guessing game, which was new and interesting. Miss Lena Heath won the prize; Mrs. J. D. Church the booby. An elegant lunch followed the game.

ST. CECILIA.

Musicians Who Compose the Membership of the Club.

The musical event of next week is the concert to be given Tuesday night by the St. Cecilia Club. The members of the club are: Mesdames W. B. Ryder, director; G. H. Brokenbrough, J. D. Church, W. F. Dowd, T. C. Guthrie, J. A. Gorham, C. C. Hook, H. S. Bryan, J. Frank Wilkes, J. W. Zimmerman, E. L. Martin, Mrs. Richmond; Misses Julia Alexander, Johnnie Bason, Mamie and Addria Christberg, Nan Dowd, Lena Heath, Janie Kessler, Hattie Lucas, Mary Armand Nash, May Oates, Myrtle Porter, Josephine Parker, Lizzie Scott, Cleve Stephens and Nellie Tate. The cantata, "The Lady of Shalott," is to be given. Mrs. George W. Bethel, has kindly consented to contribute a solo to the programme.

EARLY MORNING FIRE.

At a few minutes before 2 o'clock this morning fire broke out in the home of Mr. J. S. Simpson, corner Brevard and Vance streets. Mr. Simpson had been restless during the night and at the hour mentioned above, awoke and discovered the flames which were, at that time, confined to the kitchen. Before either department arrived the fire had burned a hole through the wall. Mr. Simpson, assisted by the family, managed to get out most of the household belongings in the front portion of the house, but could not save any in the kitchen or room adjoining. Mr. Simpson figures his loss at \$950. He carried \$300 insurance with Capt. R. E. Cochrane.

MRS. BAKER RETURNS TO CHARLOTTE.

Mrs. W. Baker has returned to Charlotte from a short stay in Savannah. She arrived last night and states that she and her husband will make Charlotte their home in the future. When approached about the gambling sensation, in which her husband figured, she stated that it was not her intention to prosecute the case further. She also states that she will not appear as prosecutor in the case that has already been docketed against three of the men who were in the game in which her husband claims to have been swindled out of \$500.

SMALL-POX PATIENTS WANT THE NEWS.

Even small-pox patients can't get along without the News, it seems. The following telegram came to the office this morning: To the Editor of the News: HAMLLET, N. C., Jan. 20.—John Austin, John Berryhill, Martin Beatty and I are all right. Send News to us daily at post house.—B. N. RICHBURG, at post house. B. N. RICHBURG.

—Mr. D. P. Hutchison is just back from Greensboro, where he sold the county commissioners of Guilford a Russell Roller, the same kind that Charlotte township has.

Mr. Ben Houston, superintendent of the Monroe cotton mill, has returned home, after a visit to relatives here. Messrs. J. C. Smith, of ewton; R. S. Reinhardt, of Lincolnton, and J. C. Rankin, of Spencer Mountain, are here today to meet Mr. Wilson, the well known commission man.

ASPHYXIATION. ADMITS HIS GUILT.

Mr. Robert Campbell, Manager of the "White Slave" Company, Has a Narrow Escape.

WHO TURNED GAS JET ON?

He Was Found in the Central Hotel Annex Bath Room Nearly Dead—Saved by a Colored Woman and Boy—Unconscious Still at 2:30.

Mr. Robert Campbell, son of Bartley Campbell, the author of "The White Slave," and manager of the company, which will put the play on the boards here tonight, had a narrow escape from death, today.

He and his company arrived in the city this morning. Mr. Campbell and his wife registered at the Central Hotel about ten o'clock, he writing their names on the register. His wife, at first started to handle the pen, and he told her in language which attracted the attention of the clerks and bystanders, to let him do the writing. He did so. The clerk assigned him and his wife to room 16, in the Central annex. A few minutes after reaching the room Mr. Campbell called for a bath. Will, the hall boy arranged the bath, the room being on the same floor as No. 16, and when the water which is heated by a gas heater, was hot, turned the gas off and called to Mr. Campbell that his bath was ready. Mr. Campbell went in the room and locked the door. The boy went about his business, thinking no more of the man in the bath room. About 15 minutes after the chambermaid heard Mr. Campbell close the transom which was generally left open. The noise it made in closing attracted her attention. She remarked on it to the hall boy. Some minutes after the woman smelt gas escaping. She went to the bath room door, deciding that it was in there that the gas was escaping. She knocked but there was no response. She heard only the labored breathing of the man within. She said to the boy: "Lord, he's dying!" Stopping, she looked through the key hole. She could see Mr. Campbell sitting on a chair by the wash stand, which was directly opposite the key hole, with one limb stretched out and resting on the tub. He was undressed, having evidently just stepped out of the bath tub. The woman sent the boy to the office to notify Mr. Lucas, while she went into the room adjoining the bath room, climbed out on the roof, ran to the bath room window and broke it open, and got inside. The room was stifling with the odor of gas, which was escaping from the jet on the wall and heater. Mr. Campbell having either accidentally or on purpose turned the jets on. The woman unlocked the door, ran for a blanket and throwing it around the unconscious man, dragged him to an adjoining room. By this time the alarm given had brought his wife, the hotel proprietor, clerks and physician to the scene. Mr. Campbell had not been found too soon. In a few minutes more he would have been dead. Heroic treatment was resorted to and at 2:30 he was showing signs of returning life, but had not regained consciousness.

THE LELAND OPENED.

The Leland was opened last night. Mr. H. C. Williams, the proprietor, served supper to ten boarders, and registered ten more today. Mr. and Mrs. Williams have every prospect for success in their venture.

—Deputy Hampton put Jack Gurlee, of Union county, in jail in Monroe yesterday for distilling.

Preliminary Trial of Mack Fesperman Took Place This Morning.

THE PRISONER'S STATEMENT

Claims He Did Not Know His Wife Was Dead Until Chief Orr Informed Him in Kershaw—Is Very Penitent and Prays Most of the Time.

Chief Orr arrived last night with Mack Fesperman, the news of whose arrest was given yesterday afternoon in the News. The chief found his man unloading brick along with a number of other railroad hands at Kershaw, S. C. The officers at Kershaw had Fesperman spotted, and were expecting to arrest him, and thereby get the reward. The chief had to give up \$25 before he could lay his hand on the man. Fesperman made no resistance. He was brought in hand-cuffed. He told the chief on his way to Charlotte that Fannie Oglesby had not told the truth as to the contents of his letter. He wrote her, he said, to send his trunk to Kershaw, and that he expected as soon as it came to leave for parts unknown; he did not expect a letter by mail, but in the trunk, and he was going to the baggage room to get the trunk. He protests that he loved his wife, and that he killed her because of his love. (He was doing "the Christian act.") He says she left him and went with other men, and that he could not stand it.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.

Irene's father, Gilbert Nims, did not want her to marry Mack, and he attempted to kill himself, drawing a razor across his throat. He bears the scar yet—a long and ugly cut. His infatuation for the woman amounted to frenzy at times. He loved her and was wildly jealous of her. She was a very good-looking woman, and a very good woman. When she and Mack lived together, she took in sewing and washing and kept up her part of the work. Mack was exacting and they finally separated on the ground that Amelie Ripers left her first— incompatible of temper. Mack was sick and died. Fesperman said last night, on his way to the toms, that he had made his peace with God. He spent the night praying. Toward daylight he fell asleep, but as soon as he awoke this morning he began praying again.

CONFESSED HIS GUILT.

A preliminary hearing of the case took place in Mayor McCall's court this morning. At 9:30 o'clock the case was called. Fesperman, when asked if he was guilty of the charge, answered in the affirmative. Chief Orr was the only witness examined. His evidence was the same as previously published in the News. He told how he learned of Fesperman's being in Kershaw and of his trip to that place. He stated that Fesperman gave him no trouble; that he was exceedingly penitent and seemed heart-broken when told that his wife was dead.

Fesperman was asked if he wished to make a statement. He replied that he did. He was warned by Mayor McCall that he could do as he wished in the matter. After being sworn he said: "I had a great deal of trouble with my wife. Last summer I learned of her infidelity. This came to me in a letter that a man wrote her. I took the letter to Mr. J. N. Kenney, at Squire Sever's office, and asked him to read it to me, so I could not mistake what it contained. After I had learned its contents, I went home and when Irene found out that I had the letter, she got mad and had me indicted. "Last summer one of our children was taken sick and afterwards died. She would have nothing to do with the child during its sickness and refused to pay any of the burial expenses, or for any of the medicine. "Last Tuesday morning I went to where she was staying. I had a message to her from my mother, which was that my mother and several of us were coming to see her that night. She stated she was not going to be at home. I asked her where she was going. She refused to tell me at first, but afterwards said if I wanted to know real bad that she was going to see her man, I told her she ought not to act this way and she laughed at me. "Tuesday night I went to her house, at least near by, so I could see which way she went. I had only been there a short while when she and one or two other women came out. I called to Irene and asked her to stop. She would not do it, but said she was going to meet her man and that I had nothing to do with her. I pulled my pistol and began firing in a bank of dirt near by. She ran under me, in the direction I was firing and fell to the ground. I left and went to the Tryon street crossing. I did not know whether I had shot her

or not. I did not know that she was dead until Chief Orr told me in Kershaw."

At the conclusion of Fesperman's statement Mayor McCall said the judgment of the court was that Fesperman be remanded to the county jail, there to remain until the next term of the Criminal Court, which meets the 9th of April.

POLLY TALKED TOO MUCH. Last night Charlie Kirkpatrick, the well known colored hack-driver, sauntered into the police office and said to one of the policemen: "Let us have him, this is not white folks' business; it's for the niggers to settle." "Well, if you want him you can come right back here," said the officer, and led Kirkpatrick into a cell and turned the key. This morning the mayor fined him \$25 for disorderly conduct, but remitted the fine, with the advice to Charlie not to "chew the rag" so much hereafter.

A NEW YEAR.

The Y. M. C. A. Re-Elects Old Officers, Makes Statements and Starts Again.

The directors of the Young Men's Christian Association held their annual meeting last night. President G. B. Hanna being ill, vice president J. A. Durham occupied the chair.

There was a larger attendance than usual and an excellent spirit prevailed. The general secretary's report showed that a good work was going on and indicated that when the improvements now in progress were completed new interest and large results might be looked for. The statistical report for the year was as follows: Membership: Active, 250; associate 160; total, 410.

Religious: 59 men's meetings; attendance, 4053; 9 Bible classes, 57; 6 prosessed conversions.

Educational: 3 classes, different men enrolled 20; 50 periodicals on file; 2,507 volumes in library; 6,399 volumes drawn out.

Social: 150 daily attendance at building; six receptions.

Physical: 182 gymnasium classes; attendance, 2,188; 9,872 baths; nine situations secured.

Boy's Department: 95 members; 127 gymnasium classes; attendance, 2,477; 37 boy's meetings; attendance, 820.

Mr. F. C. Abbott, treasurer, presented the following report: Receipts: Memberships and subscriptions, \$2,645.47; boy's fees, \$95.50; tuition, \$16.50; bills payable, \$1,050.00; miscellaneous, \$157.47; total, \$3,964.94.

Disbursements: Salaries, \$1,500.27; miscellaneous, \$400.00; furniture and repairs, \$381.21; fuel, light and water, \$351.25; religious department, \$50.80; educational department, \$197.48; physical department, \$74.10; social department, \$20.75; State and International, \$71.75; Star Course, \$200; miscellaneous, \$442.64; boy's department, \$17.38; balance on hand, \$7.81; total, \$3,964.94.

Audited January 12th, 1900, D. H. Anderson, Fred Nash, Jr.

The report of the finance committee showed that during the past two years the income from memberships and subscriptions had fallen short of meeting current expenses by \$850.

The importance of an increase in subscriptions was urged. Few associations in the country can show so large a proportion of the annual income being derived from membership fees.

The officers of the association were re-elected for another year: Geo. B. Hanna, president; J. A. Durham, vice president; J. A. Bivins, recording secretary and F. C. Abbott, treasurer.

The resignation of Mr. C. H. Duns, as a director, was accepted and Mr. Geo. Stephens was chosen in his stead. The departure of Mr. Mahan just at the opening of the fall work was a loss to the association, but the outlook for the coming year is very promising.

REALTY SALE.

The Land of the Late Hugh T. Rhyne Sold Today.

At the court house today the property of the late Hugh T. Rhyne, of Paw Creek, was offered for sale by Clarkson & Duls, attorneys. The home place adjoining the lands of W. P. Hipp, A. A. Catey and others, containing 18 3/4 acres, was purchased by Dr. M. R. Adams, of Statesville, son-in-law of deceased. The price was \$900.

The Ledwell place, containing 83 3/4 acres, was also purchased by Dr. Adams. The price was \$1,100.

Mr. T. L. Lowe, of Mt. Holly, purchased the tract known as the "Luring Bottoms," or "River Place." This tract contains 317 3/4. The price paid was \$20 per acre.

The tract known as the "Rhyne Mill Place" was also bought by Mr. Lowe. This contained 155 acres. The price was \$11.

All of the above lands are in Paw Creek township.

Y. M. C. A. At the Young Men's Christian Association tomorrow afternoon, Mr. Julian E. Pleasants will conduct the men's meeting and Rev. Jas. A. Dorritee will sing. For the boys, a song service will be held.

JACKSON AND LEE.

Confederate Organizations Today Celebrate Birthdays of Great Commanders.

IN SONG AND IN STORY

They Recalled the Heroism and Virtues of the Leaders of the "Storm-Cradled Nation" That Fell—Renewal of the War Memories of the Southland.

The chapel at the Presbyterian College was the scene this afternoon of a Confederate re-union. Lovers of Lee and Jackson met to honor the dead heroes in a joint memorial service, the birthday of Lee having been yesterday; that of Jackson to be tomorrow. Between the two heroes the Daughters and Children of the Confederacy stood, with one hand stretched back toward Lee; the other forward toward Jackson. Southerners bow around one common altar: that of their dead heroes, and offer oblations that rise as sweet incense of the memory of the heroic dead. With the fire of patriotism of the white and red strip—burning in their hearts, Confederate Veterans, Daughters and grand-daughters of Confederate veterans met this afternoon to honor the dead.

The college chapel was appropriately decorated for the occasion, the banner furled in song and story, being unfurled and touched with reverential hand. The programme of the evening was arranged by a committee from Stonewall Jackson Chapter, U. D. C., and Mrs. J. L. Sexton, president of Julia Jackson Chapter, Children of the Confederacy. After the opening number, a funeral march from Chopin, played by Miss Helen Foil, Miss Laura Watkins recited:

STONEWALL JACKSON'S WAY. Come, stack arms, men! pile on the rails.

Stir up the camp fire bright, No matter if the canteen fails, We'll make a roaring night. Here Shenandoah brows along, There burly Blue Ridge echoes strong, To swell the brigade's rousing song, Of Stonewall Jackson's way.

We see him now, the queer slouched hat, Cocked o'er his eyes askew; The shrewd dry smile, the speech so pat. So calm, so blunt, so true, The "Blue Light Elder" knows 'em well. Says he, "that's Banks, he's fond of shell; Lord save his soul! we'll give him"—well. That's Stonewall Jackson's way.

Silence! ground arms, kneel all, caps off— Old "Blue Light's" going to pray; Strange the fool that dares to scoff, Attention! it's his way; Appealing from his native sod, In forma pauperis to God; "Lay bare thine arm, stretch forth thy rod, Amen!" That's Stonewall's way.

He's in the saddle now. Fall in! Steady—the whole brigade; Hill's at the ford cut off—we'll win. His way out, ball and blade. What matter if our shoes are worn? What matter if our feet are torn? "Quick step! we're with his before morn." That's Stonewall Jackson's way.

The sun's bright lances rout the mists Of morning, and, by George, Here's Longstreet, struggling in the lists. Hemmed in an ugly gorge, Pope and his Yankees whipped before, "Bay'nets and grape!" hear Stonewall roar. "Charge, Stuart, pay off Ashby's score," Is Stonewall Jackson's way.

Ah! maiden, wait and watch and yearn, For news of Stonewall's band; Ah! widow, read with eyes that burn, That ring upon thy hand. Ah! wife, sew on, pray on, hope on, Thy life shall not be all forlorn, The foe had better never been born That gets in Stonewall's way.

This was followed by "The Jacket of Gray," soulfully and exquisitely sung by Miss Emma Leinbach. Next came General Hill's eulogy of Robert E. Lee, read by Miss Louie Jones.

EULOGY.

When the future historian comes to survey the character of Lee, he will find it rising like a huge mountain above the undulating plain of humanity, and he will have to lift his eyes high towards heaven to catch its sum-

(Continued on third page.)