

CRONJE'S RETREAT.

Boers Stop at Every Little Hill and Ravine and Fight Kelly-Kenny.

HAS REACHED BLOEMFONTEIN

Cronje Supposed to be Already at the Capital—Large Quantities of Supplies Captured by the British—Buller Captures Some Prisoners and Stores.

By Telegraph to the News. MODDER RIVER, Feb. 19.—General Kelly-Kenny's division of infantry with a regiment of mounted rifles is still hanging on the rear guard of the retreating Boers. At every ravine, kopje natural means of defense they make a brief stand, and use light guns, of which they have very few. Then they go on. At each of these stands they abandon huge piles of stores and ammunition, so that up to this afternoon the British have captured over a hundred and fifty wagons and over fifteen hundred head of oxen.

"VIA DELAGOA BAY." Many wagons full of boxes of ammunition were found addressed to the Transvaal government, via Delagoa Bay. This fact is believed to prove that the Boers are still getting war supplies through Portuguese territory, though they may have been obtained before the war began.

It is likely that Cronje is far ahead of his rear guard, and is now within sight or in the neighborhood of Bloemfontein, where he is expected to make the last desperate resistance. There will be no let-up in the forward movement of the British. They will give the Boers no time to recuperate, but will begin the attack on Bloemfontein as soon as the big guns can be brought to the front.

BULLER'S MINOR SUCCESS. LONDON, Feb. 19.—It is announced officially that Buller reports the capture of several camps, a quantity of ammunition and a number of prisoners. He took Southern and Monte Cristo. It is difficult to measure the full importance of Buller's movements. If he manages to seize Hlangwa Hill the way may be cleared for another crossing of the Tugela and another attempt to reach Ladysmith by the direct road north. BRABANT ENTERS DORDRECHT. CAMP STERKSTORM, Feb. 18.—The Boers are retreating. General Brabant's forces are now entering Dordrecht.

FIRE AT SPENCER.

Two Stores and Two Dwellings Burned Last Night.

Special Telegram to the News. SALISBURY, N. C., Feb. 19.—Fire last night at midnight burned two stores and two two-story dwellings at Spencer.

The loss is partially covered by insurance. The fire originated in a defective fire-place.

NEW FURNITURE FIRM.

Mr. W. H. Sterchi, of Knoxville, who came to Charlotte several days ago for the purpose of opening a furniture establishment, has made a deal with Mr. W. T. McCoy, the South Tryon street furniture dealer. These two gentlemen will embark in business with plenty of capital and a number of years experience. In addition to the large stock that Mr. McCoy is now carrying, Mr. Sterchi will add to this about eight thousand dollars worth of stock just purchased for his establishment, which he intended opening in the Springs building, on North Tryon street. The new firm will be McCoy & Sterchi, and the News wishes it much success.

COLORED TEMPERANCE MEETING.

The Christian Endeavor Society of Grace church, Dr. J. W. Smith, pastor, will celebrate the quarterly temperance meeting Sunday, February 18th, at 7 o'clock p. m., by having a special programme for the occasion. All are invited to this hour of service and temperance workers will also be present.

FIRST DEMOCRATIC CLUB.

The citizens of Long Creek will meet at Long Creek Mills Tuesday night for the purpose of organizing a Democratic club. Long Creek is always among the first to start the ball rolling. A good attendance is expected and is much desired.

PORTO RICO BILL IN THE HOUSE.

By Telegraph to the News. WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—The House has taken up the Porto Rico bill. An effort was made to limit the debate, but it was not successful. Payne, of New York, has the floor, explaining the bill.

MR. AYCOCK TO-NIGHT.

Large Audience Will Greet This Well-Known Democratic Leader at the Courthouse.

The opening gun of the Democratic campaign will be fired tonight. The place will be the county court house, the hour 8 o'clock and the speaker will be Hon. C. B. Aycock.

Mr. Aycock arrived last night and is at the Buford. He is in the best of trim and will, as usual, give our people something worth their time and attention. Mr. Aycock has the reputation of being one of the ablest speakers in the State. His canvass of the State two years ago when he was called upon to meet Dr. Cyrus Thompson in joint debate, gave for him a reputation that is indeed enviable. He was accorded large audiences and all were struck with his profound logic, his eloquence and his splendid ability. Fresh from a careful study of the great question—the constitutional amendment—he comes to bring to the Democracy of Mecklenburg, the first message. It will be a pleasure for Charlotte and Mecklenburg people to listen to this eloquent champion of white supremacy.

During the day, a large number of prominent Democrats have called upon Mr. Aycock at his hotel. Those who had never met him were impressed with his demeanor and the large audience that will be present to hear him tonight will be impressed with his eloquence. The News hopes that all who can will come out tonight and hear the great issues discussed by one of the State's ablest speakers.

FISHERMEN FROZEN.

Caught in a Blinding Snow Storm at Hatteras—Froze in Their Boats.

By Telegraph to the News. NORFOLK, Feb. 19.—Belated steamships arriving today report that the Saturday night storm at sea was very severe. The sides of a the vessels were capped with snow.

Six fatalities occurred at Hatteras as a result of the cold. Another Ashe was found frozen to death in a ditch at Portsmouth. Karpis Smith succumbed to the cold here.

Four negro fishermen at Hatteras Inlet were caught in a blinding snow storm and were frozen to death in their boats.

FARMERS TO MEET AND DISCUSS FERTILIZER PRICES.

The News learns that the farmers of Mecklenburg are very much dissatisfied with the high prices of fertilizers this season. In consequence, a large number will meet in the different townships of the county Thursday night for the purpose of discussing the situation and try to arrive at some conclusion as to the best plans to pursue in order to lessen the price.

It is also stated that a meeting of the farmers of Mecklenburg will be called for next Saturday to take place in the county court house, when the matter will be again brought up for final action.

JUDGE ALLEN WILL PRESIDE.

Judge O. H. Allen passed through Charlotte last night en route to Dallas, where he will preside at this week's session of Gaston county court.

Col. H. C. Jones and Messrs. E. T. Cansler and G. F. Bason will attend from Charlotte.

JUVENILE PAINTING CLASS.

The children's painting club held a business meeting Saturday afternoon from 3 to 4:30 o'clock. The club is composed of the following young artists: Moby Johnston, Jean Dowd, Emily Holt, Billy Bethel, Marjorie Bethel and Susie Hutchison.

THE NEWS GOES OVER THE COUNTRY.

Mr. M. P. Pegram, Jr., has received from Hamilton, Ohio, a communication from a patent medicine dealer in advocacy of his medicine. The gentleman states that he saw that Mr. Pegram was a sufferer from this disease from a little three line personal in the News.

CONFEDERATE STAMPS.

Col. H. C. Eccles has a splendid collection of Confederate stamps. He has been accumulating them for a number of years and the collection numbers about all issued by the Confederate government. Col. Eccles prizes the collection very highly and he would not part with them for any reasonable sum.

NEW BUILDINGS.

The ten dwelling houses for the operatives of the Victor Cotton Mills are well under way. Mr. Ed. Overcash the builder has two about done and three more framed. If the weather is favorable all of them will be completed within a month.

MR. BELK TO PREACH.

There will be an important meeting at Graham street church tonight. The congregation and friends of the church are cordially invited to attend Rev. G. W. Belk will preach. The meeting will take place after the sermon.

DEMENTED SOLDIERS

Men Who Lost Their Minds While Fighting in the Philippines.

EN ROUTE TO WASHINGTON.

Special Sleeping Car Provided for Them—They Landed at San Francisco and Will be Taken Care of by the Government—Several Sad Cases.

Attached to the north bound train this morning was the private sleeping car "Manhattan." It was occupied by 18 soldiers who are direct from the Philippines. Of this number 12 were demented. Six of them were so much so that straight-jackets had to be brought in service lest the men do themselves or the guards some bodily harm. It was sad sight to witness the ravings of these poor unfortunates who have sacrificed their lives—their all, on the altar of their country. When the train stopped in Charlotte a News reporter was allowed to take a look into the car. One poor fellow was standing in the centre with folded arms. His eyes were cast towards the roof and his lips were moving audibly. One of the guards informed the reporter that the man's name was Fisk and was a member of Gen. Lawton's brigade. His home in Idaho and he was one of the first to go to the Philippines. After Gen. Lawton's death, Fisk was never the same. The dead general was Fisk's ideal of a soldier and though a private his grief at the death of his general was so sincere that his mind became unbalanced and he was sent home for treatment. Turning to the reporter the guard said: "You see him now? Well, if you were to speak to him he would begin by telling you of General Lawton's great ability as a soldier; of his fearlessness and how he would conquer the war-torn elements in the Orient within thirty minutes. At times Fisk grows eloquent and in his flights he compares Lawton with Grant and Lee and says McKinley does not know what manner of man Lawton is.

"He will not believe that General Lawton is dead. When we tell him that he was killed while on a charge, he laughs at us and says there never was a Philippine bullet made to pierce the heart of so brave an American. Then again he will sit down and weep for hours at the time. When asked what is the matter he will reply that General Lawton ought to have known that if he exposed himself like he did he would be killed.

To the left of this poor fellow, lying on a couch, in a straight-jacket, was a handsome young looking fellow. His home is in Frederick, Maryland. Early last fall he began to show some signs of being demented. He did not like the fare served the soldier and in his ravings he will say that the peas and bread were not good and that he longed for something to eat from home. A number of delicacies would be offered him but none seemed to satisfy him. Since arriving at San Francisco this young man became violent. He attempted the life of two of the guards and he was placed in a straight-jacket.

Just beyond the Maryland man was an Okian. He was not at all violent, so was given liberty to walk about the car. Every time his eyes would fall on a piece of brass he would touch his finger to his tongue and then touch the brass. The guard explained that he went crazy on the subject of promotion. He was ambitious and wished to be appointed an officer. He loved the sight of the gilt braid and bright buttons worn by the officers and so fancied his mind on this that he became demented.

In another section of the sleeper was a young fellow, from Indiana. He had left a wife and one child to go to the far east. After reaching there, he became morose and constantly talked of his little family. By and by his mind became affected and now he is a raving maniac. He, too, was in a straight-jacket and was in a fit of delirium when the train reached Charlotte.

The other seven or eight were not talkative. They would sit at the window, sing and jabber as so many crazy people do. Several were demented on account of sun-stroke, while others were in that condition as the result of severe attacks of fever. Just before reaching Charlotte this morning the hospital guards in charge of the demented soldiers, found that one of their charge had escaped. Two windows of the car were broken and it is supposed the man got out in this way. His name is Dolph M. Bigod and is about 5 feet 7 inches tall. The guards say he was in his bunk at bed time last night, and are of the impression that he escaped early this morning at some station between Greenville and Spartanburg.

One of the guards got off at Charlotte

and went back on the noon train to look after him. His mind is very little affected and unless one talks with him some time, it will not be noticed.

The men were en route to Washington where they will be taken care of by the government and will be placed in the government's insane asylum near that city.

FOR STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Prof. Hunter a Candidate to Succeed Mr. C. H. Mebane.

It was announced today that Mecklenburg would have a candidate for State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Prof. R. B. Hunter, of Sardis, today announced that he would be a candidate before the State convention for this nomination.

Mr. Hunter has been for several years superintendent of schools for Mecklenburg county and has done a good work for the cause of education.

He was for eighteen years a teacher, and has taught in North Carolina, Georgia, Arkansas and Indian Territory. "I have had experience in every kind of school work from the old field school to the city graded school," he said.

He is a native of Mecklenburg, and is well known through the State.

He was for several years State lecturer of the Farmer's Alliance, and, to use his own words, has "canvassed the State from one end to the other."

He says Mr. C. H. Mebane has made a fine State superintendent, but he believes a Democrat should occupy the office and that the State convention should put a straight-out Democrat on the ticket.

\$12,300 RAISED YESTERDAY.

Presbyterians Complete the Fund of \$50,000 for the Presbyterian College.

A great mass meeting of Presbyterians was held at the Second Presbyterian Church yesterday morning. Dr. Stagg made a brief talk, telling of the work of the Presbyterian College for Women, which was begun in 1857, and continued, with only six years intermission, to the present time. He was followed by Dr. Howerton who stated that \$38,000 had already been subscribed for this college, and the Presbyterians were nearly to the top of the hill.

Evangelist Pearson then made a stirring address on education. He held that it was the duty of Christianity to look after the physical and mental part of man as well as the spiritual. He called attention to what other denominations were doing in the education of women, and said the Presbyterians must take this step if they expect to keep up with the procession.

Subscriptions were called for and in about an hour, the \$12,000 needed to complete the fund of \$50,000 was raised; and \$300 over the amount asked for was subscribed.

It was another striking exhibition of the liberty of Charlotte Presbyterians.

THE OLD AND THE NEW.

The Masonic Temple Association of this city, which now has under consideration the erection of a handsome temple was first originated in 1869. The meeting was called the 13th of May, 1869, and the association was incorporated March, 1870. The incorporators were: C. W. Alexander, Samuel Taylor, E. H. White, J. Roessler, C. A. Frazier, E. A. Osborne, S. Wittkowsky, T. W. Dewey, John W. Wadsworth and D. G. Maxwell.

The present temple association is composed of the following well known citizens: H. C. Eccles, John H. McAden, M. C. Mayer, H. G. Springs, S. H. Hilton, William Anderson, T. R. Robertson, D. E. Allen, G. W. King and J. H. Van Ness.

EXPLOSION IN DILWORTH.

There was considerable commotion in Mr. Villalonga's kitchen, in Dilworth, yesterday morning. The cook came at her usual hour, and not knowing there was anything wrong with the range, proceeded to build a fire. She had just stepped outside the kitchen door when a terrific explosion took place. The noise of the explosion alarmed members of Mr. Villalonga's household. He went to ascertain the trouble and found that the range had been blown to atoms. A frozen pipe was the cause. The range was almost entirely destroyed.

RIGHT OFF THE BAT

Jenkins, the well known short-stop, of the Mountain Island baseball team, has signed with the Bingham School team at Mebane, N. C., for the coming season. He left for Mebane this morning.

Dr. McJAMES, the young South Carolinian, who has been with the Brooklyn team for several seasons, was in Charlotte yesterday morning en route to Spartanburg to see his relatives. He was looking well and states that he is going to be a great year for the national game.

THE REVIVAL CLOSED

A Very Large Congregation Hears the Last Sermon of Evangelist Pearson.

"CONFESSION" HIS SUBJECT.

At the Close of the Service Mr. Pearson Expresses His Gratitude for the Success of the Meetings; and the City Pastors Tender Their Tribute to Him.

The closing service of the Pearson meeting was attended by one of the largest congregations ever seen in Charlotte. The main auditorium of the First Presbyterian Church was crowded with men, while the galleries and Sunday school room overflowed with the fair sex.

After the song service, a collection was taken up for Mr. Pearson.

Rev. Frank Siler lead in an affecting prayer, asking especially that Christians everywhere shall be led to lives of consecration.

Hymn 615, "Stand up for Jesus," was sung.

Mr. Pearson said this had been a precious, blessed, happy meeting. There has not been a ripple, not a far, not a discord. It has been a union of brotherly love, prayer and co-operation. I never worked with a more delightful set of pastors. I love Charlotte better, and I know you love me better than ever before. I feel that I have given all the strength and time I could give to this meeting now, and it must close. I want to thank you for your prayers and your cooperation in this great work. I want to thank Dr. Pearson, Dr. Crowell, and all the members of the church, the ushers, the members of the congregation and to the press that has printed the papers—they have been so able and good work. I want to thank especially Miss Addie Williams and Miss Bays, Charlotte is fortunate in having reporters who have sense, religion and heart. Their work has been the best of the kind I have ever seen.

"Now I want to preach you a plain, short, simple, sermon on 'Confession.' After it I will give you an opportunity to confess Christ. A great many men here tonight are on the verge of confessing Christ. If they don't confess tonight, they may never confess. I want you to take the text, 'And I prayed unto the Lord my God and made my confession.' I want to talk to you tonight about confession.

It takes a man with great will power to come out and say 'I was wrong.' The bravest thing that has come from South Africa was the telegram from Sir George White, after he lost two British regiments at Ladysmith. 'It was my fault.' The bravest thing of the civil war was when Robert E. Lee said of the disaster at Gettysburg, 'It was my fault.'

It is the hardest thing a man ever did to confess his faults. Were you ever in a penitentiary?—I mean as a visitor. Not one prisoner in a hundred will tell you the truth about how he got there. After I had heard a hundred evasions, I asked one old darkey how he got there. He said: 'I fotch up the wrong cow.' He was akin to Adam and Eve. Eve said a serpent beguiled her. Adam said it was the woman's fault. God knows that's human nature. In Numbers 5:6, 7, we find: 'If a man or a woman shall commit a sin they shall make confession of it.'

Proverbs 28:23, 'He that covereth his sins, shall not prosper.' You have sinned. What are you going to do about it. You can hide it or you can confess it. Confession is spreading out your sins so that all may see them. You can't hide your sins from God.

If there is a man here who is committing any secret sin, 'Be sure your sin will find you out.'

If you will not confess your sin He will expose it to your eternal shame and confusion. Come like an honest man, confess your sins to God and He will dispose of them. That's the principle laid down in God's word.

He illustrated this by the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican. One man confessed his sin, the other did not. He then told the story of the thieves dying on the cross. One confessed his sins and was saved; the other did not and was lost.

You face a condition, not a theory. Will you cover up your sin or confess it?

CONFESSING JESUS.

When a man contends that he has no sin, he needs no Savior. When a man confesses his sins, he needs a Savior. When a man confesses Jesus he honors Him as the man who saved him from his sins. In Romans we find: 'If thou confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in thy heart that He hath risen from the dead, thou shalt be saved.' The confessor has God dwelling in him, as 'hid with Christ in God.' Those results can never be attained

save through confession. He quoted from Matthew 16:16, 17—"When say ye that I am?" and Peter's answer "Thou art the Christ."

"When a sinner confesses his sins and Jesus as his savior God reveals Jesus as a visible, personal savior.

No man can say Jesus is the Christ save through the Holy Ghost. CONFESSING JESUS BEFORE MEN. Some people say regarding public confession: "If I am a Christian, God knows it and I know it, what is the use of making a parade about it." Well, Jesus Christ told you to do it. That is enough. It is a soldier's duty to obey orders. Matthew 16:32, 33, "Whosoever shall confess Me before men, I will confess him before My Father which is in heaven; and whosoever shall deny Me before men, I will deny him before My Father which is in heaven."

Luke 12:8, "Whosoever confesseth Christ before men, I will confess the Son of Man before the angels of God. Whosoever shall deny Christ before men I will deny the Son of Man deny." If you are ashamed of Christ here, Christ and the angels will be ashamed of you in that day.

Is there one here tonight ashamed of Jesus? I would rather the ground would open up and swallow me than that the thought should ever fit across my mind, 'I am ashamed of Jesus Christ.' Thank God, I am not ashamed of Jesus or His blessed Bible. He has been a precious, blessed, tender, good savior, to me, a friend, an Elder Brother, a constant companion through life. And I thank God that I am going to spend a glorious eternity with my savior. Why don't you say tonight I will not act the man, renounce my sins and acknowledge Him as my savior.

THE BACKSLIDER'S CONFESSION. Let us consider, then what God says about backsliders confessing their sins. You backsliders who are cold and far away from God and His communion. Were you ever converted? You say "yes." At that time all your sins were blotted out. What about the sins you've committed since. What is your status? Are you still God's child. I believe in only one new birth. But you have wandered away from God and must return and confess. Return to the backsliding children and I will help you backsliding, and "He will cleanse us from our unrighteousness."

Let me use a simple illustration: John Smith has a boy, named John after him. He tells him on Sunday morning not to play marbles, go to the train or go swimming on Sunday. John stays at home until after dinner. Then he goes out, finds a lot of other boys playing marbles, gets into the game; he follows them to the train, he goes swimming with them. In every one of these acts he has disobeyed his father. As night comes on, he goes home. He is still Smith's boy, but he is Smith's bad boy.

The status of the backslider is just the same; but he has lost his communion with God, and his joy and fellowship are not the same. John at last goes to his father, throws his arms around his neck and says, 'I've been a bad boy; father forgive me.' Smith loved him just the same. He said to him, "Son, you have made an honest, manly confession; I forgive you." "As a father pitieth his children, so He pitieth them that fear Him."

Like the Prodigal Son, say, "I will arise and go to my father and make an honest confession." In Revelations 3:15, we find: "He that overcometh shall be clothed with white raiment and I will not blot out his name from the book of Life, but I will confess their names before my father." The angel calls the name of my people. "The angel calls names 'Abel, Enoch, Luther, Wesley, Moody,' all along down the line. When he reaches my name how this heart will beat. And when I hear Jesus say "yes," I will have reached the goal of my hopes. The one ambition of my heart and soul is to be confessed as His son at that last day. How will it be with you?

Hear Jesus say, "Now turn to the death roll and call that roll." The angel calls "Cain, Ahab, Jezebel, Judas, Tom Paine, Voltaire, Robert Ingersoll." Then hear him call your name. I hear him say "No." How small the little old world will seem then; how small those sins you now roll like a sweet morsel under your tongue. May God help you to decide this question.

It will not always be like it is now, we will not always be pleading and entreating you to confess. Philipians 2:8-11. "At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue confess." You may never confess Him as your savior, but you will confess Him as Lord to the glory of God. Whether in heaven your knees will bend on the golden streets in adoration of Him as your savior, or whether in the fiery precincts of hell, you will confess him as Lord of all; you will confess him. You cannot always ignore Jesus Christ.

That tongue will confess Jesus Christ either in a glorious heaven; or