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A NICE LITTLE EXERCISE.

The Christmas Cantata Well Rendered and Pleasing.

The Christmas exercises at Cotton's Hall Thursday night was a very pleasant affair. It goes without saying that no little pleasure was excited at the juvenile efforts that parents note with exquisite delight while others whose hearts go not out toward the dear little folks would regard them with some indifference. The songs, and especially the duet, were very creditable. The Christmas Cantata carried a beautiful moral of unselfishness and magnanimity. The little waif was well played and she and her benefactor so rivaled each other in magnanimity that Old Santa Claus was actually bewildered, having made a little slip, too, in the initials of a name by which he was going to bestow on one of the very best girls that which hurts naughty children's feelings. While thus engaged he is caught by the whole group and they relieve him of his burden of toys. The tree was tastily trimmed and the whole exercise were pleasing and meritorious.

The attendance was hardly as good as the little missionary band deserved.

The exercises will be repeated tonight at Forest Hill.

Joseph Wheeler, Soldier.

Major-Gen. Joseph Wheeler's decision to resign his seat in Congress and retain his commission in the army may have another significance than that which he gives it in a published interview. "I prefer the army life to the life of a member of Congress," says the General. Has not this fine old soldier earned the gratitude of his country by his inestimable services to it as a wearer of the blue, and should his country be slow to recognize them substantially? Surely there is no more patriotic officer in the army today than Joseph Wheeler. It must always be remembered that when on the night of July 1 it was proposed to retire from San Juan ridge and occupy a position that could be defended with less risk to the army, Gen. Wheeler protested with such vigor that the plan was abruptly abandoned. Had he thrown the weight of his influence in the other scale, history might have been written differently.

It can hardly be disputed that Gen. Shafter set a very high value on Wheeler's advice in a military exigency, and justly so, for the little General was a famous warrior and had commanded many thousands of men on hard-fought fields long before he reached the age of 30. There was no other man of any rank in the Santiago campaign who could measure careers with him, and all the veterans of the War of the Rebellion paid him homage for his experience and prestige.

It is deliciously humorous of Gen. Wheeler to say; "Although some little discussion has been raised as to my age, I hope to be old enough soon to make a good soldier." Joseph Wheeler was

graduated from the Military Academy in 1859, being then 23 years of age. When his State by adoption seceded and Wheeler resigned from the army, he was appointed colonel of the 19th Alabama, an infantry regiment. In the national army he had served as a dragoon. At Shiloh he commanded a brigade and covered the retreat of the Confederates. He was transferred to the cavalry in July, 1862. About six months later, and at the age of 27, he was promoted to be a major-general. At Chickamauga he led the cavalry, and crossing the Tennessee after that battle, he harried Rosecrans, beat a force sent against him, and destroyed 1,200 transportation wagons, with their stores. Daily he hung on Sherman's flanks and fought him as he advanced into Georgia. Sometimes Wheeler took the field with his command dismounted. Gen. O O Howard, when he visited Tampa before the Shafter expedition sailed for Santiago, used to recall Joe Wheeler's aggressive attacks on Sherman's line of communication, and Howard, who served with Sherman, expressed the greatest admiration for Wheeler as an active, indefatigable, indomitable soldier. An incident of the Georgia campaign was the Confederate's capture of Gen. George Stoneman and his artillery and transportation. Wheeler became a lieutenant-general on May 11, 1864, being then 28 years of age, and on the death of Jeb Stuart he was the senior cavalry general of the Confederate armies. Such, in brief, was the career from 1861 to 1865 of the little hero of Santiago, who says, with his eyes twinkling, "I hope to be old enough soon to make a good soldier."

Whether a united and sectionless country purposes to bestow honors and emoluments on Joseph Wheeler, the American soldier of 1898, is something for the administration and Congress to determine, but if his services before Santiago should be adequately recognized there would be no dissenting voice from sea to sea.—New York Evening Sun.

Tomorrow a Busy Day.

Tomorrow, according to the forecast, will be fair with a colder temperature. The prospects are that a large crowd of people will be in from the country, besides the unusual amount of shopping by our own people. A large number of the presents will be delivered to the fair ones tomorrow evening, while some will be left until Sunday and even Monday. The women of the town will of course be in a flurry preparing for the coming of Santa Claus before the break of day.

More New Clerks Added.

Our merchants are doing a great business it seems, judging from the crowds that assemble in the stores, and to accommodate the customers it is necessary to have a large corps of clerks. Mrs. Sapp, of Durham, is at the Racket store, Vardrey Brown is at Gibson's drug store, Fletcher Fink is at Dove & Bost's, and Messrs. Jas. Hamilton and Joe White at Swink & White's.

Dr. Miles' Pain Pills are guaranteed to stop headache in 20 minutes. "One cent a dose."

PERSONAL POINTERS.

—Miss Julia Gray went over to Charlotte this morning.

—Miss Myrtice Thompson, of Salisbury, is expected here next week to visit Misses Pearl and Chas-sie Brown.

—Misses Hattie Weddington and Mary Hendrix returned home from Mont Amœna this morning. Their vacation will last until the 3rd of January.

—Miss Jennie Skeen, of Mt. Pleasant, passed through here this morning on her way to Statesville to spend Christmas.

—Misses Carrie Cruse and Pearl Rendleman, of Rowan, accompanied by Capt. Klutz, of the Western road, passed through here this morning.

—Misses Belle Eddleman, Myrtle Patterson and Mabel Bostian, three of China Grove's young ladies, were here this morning on their way to their home from Mont Amœna.

FRENCH PEAS,

KORNLET

and

ITALIAN PASTE

at

Ervin & Morrison

GROCERS.

A BIG DAY.

The Junior Order to Have a Celebration—A Flag to Be Raised—An Address By Rev. Shinn, of Mooresville—A Grand Supper to Be Given Monday Night to the Invited Ones.

The two Councils of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics will make next Monday a great gala day and intend to make it one in the history of their order here.

Between 12 and 1 o'clock the members will form their procession at their hall over Swink & White's store and will march in a body to the graded school building where a large United States flag, measuring 10 by 12 feet, will be raised.

Rev. J L Shinn, of Mooresville, who is a most enthusiastic Junior, and who some months ago delivered an address before the two councils here, will be the orator of the day.

Between the hours of 5 and 10 o'clock that evening, a sumptuous supper, consisting of almost everything substantial and dainty, will be served to the members and their invited friends in the vacant room up stairs near their hall. While all are enjoying themselves partaking of the hospitalities of the Jr. O. U. A. M.'s the Forest Hill string band, which is composed mostly of members of the order, will delight the people with their sweet strains of music.

SHORT LOCALS.

Ladies' Kid Gloves 68c to \$1.48, Gents' 49c to 98c. 2c

250 doz. Handkerchiefs, well assorted, at 1c to 75c each. The Racket. 2c

Framed Pictures, under glass, 10c to \$1.75. The Racket. 2c

Nice assortment Linen Towels, Napkins and Table Damask. The Racket. 2c

39 inch Sea Island at 3 1-3c per yard. The Racket. 2c

Cannon and Fetzer Company.

Our goods have been going out with a rush this week. Still we've got plenty things yet that will interest you.

Plenty handsome things for Christmas presents, and the price is always the lowest. Lots of things on both sides. We are too busy to enumerate. Come and we'll show you.

We have been worked so hard this fall that we feel bound to close up on Monday to catch a long breath. We're thankful for the splendid trade we've had, and we'll be open till 11 o'clock Saturday night bright as a new pin, but we ask our friends to come today and Saturday and we'll close Monday for a needed rest.

Yours,

Cannon & Fetzer Company.

New Lot of Ladies' and Misses' Mackintoshes in Grey and Mottled Color at \$1.48.

H L PARKS & CO.

WHY - NOT - BE - HAPPY

GET INTO THE SWIM—THE ELECTION IS OVER—THANKSGIVING IS PAST AND IN A FEW MORE DAYS WE WILL HAVE CHRISTMAS AGAIN.

PRESENTS! Oh, Yes! You must have presents for Christmas times. We don't know of any better place in the State of North Carolina to buy a useful as well as an ornamental PRESENT than the

FURNITURE HOUSE OF BELL HARRIS & CO.

SEE. Run over the list and see if we are not correct. One Hundred Bed Room Suits in all the fancy woods. Parlor good, medium and best. Wardrobes, Side Boards, China Closets, Office Desks, Book Cases, Hall Racks, Rocking Chairs, Dining Chairs and all kinds of children Chairs, Bissels Carpet Sweepers, Cook Stoves, Mattress and Spring Baby Tenders, Boy Wagons, Go Carts, Coasters, Tricycles, Velocipeds, etc.

Our line of Pictures and Frames, Mirrors, Lamps, etc., must be seen to be appreciated. We have bought largely. We have bought at right prices. We have bought to sell if you will favor us with a call we will convince you that we mean just what we say. Come and see us. With best wishes for a merry Christmas we are

Yours

Bell, Harris & Company.