

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Entertain at Supper. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cook, of Barrow street, entertained at a turkey dinner Friday evening at 6 o'clock...

Miss Cress Entertains. Miss Margaret Cress was hostess to a number of friends at a delightful party Friday evening at her home on East Depot street...

Dinner Party. Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Barnhardt entertained at a charming dinner party Friday evening at their home on North Union street...

Beautiful Christmas Play. A beautiful Christmas mystery play was presented in All Saints Episcopal Church Friday night...

Mother and Daughter Meeting. Great activity is being shown among the various committees who have in charge the big Mother and Daughter Day...

Surprise Birthday Dinner. Mr. William H. Scarborough was given a surprise birthday dinner Sunday at his home on Ann Street...

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Michael and little son, D. J., of Greensboro, are visiting relatives here.

PERSONALS. Mr. J. Lee Carpenter has returned to his home in Greenville, after spending Christmas here with his daughter, Mrs. W. M. Sherrill.

Major W. A. Poil spent last Friday in Raleigh in the interest of the Cabarrus County Fair Association.

Mr. Thomas J. Hendrix, of Gibson, N. C., is spending several days here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Hendrix.

Mr. George Edwards, of Rocky Mount, has been here this week with Mrs. Edwards and son, who are guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Wagoner.

Mr. Greenlee Caldwell, of Pennsylvania, is spending several days here at the home of Mrs. D. G. Caldwell.

Mrs. Charles P. MacLaughlin, of Petersburg, arrived Friday to visit her children, Miss Mary MacLaughlin and Messrs. Charles and Lex MacLaughlin.

Mr. Lex MacLaughlin, who spent Christmas with Mr. Joe Smith, of near Davidson, is visiting friends in this city now. He is a student at M. P. C. I.

Miss Mary Folshee, who was the guest here of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Fisher for several weeks, has returned to her home in Hamlet.

Little Miss Ruth Honeycutt, of Albemarle, is visiting Miss Ruth McClure.

Mrs. Julius Fisher and son, Bobbie, left Friday morning for Chester, S. C., where they will visit relatives.

Mr. O. B. Garmond, of Reidsville, spent Christmas in this county at the home of his father, Mr. J. C. Garmond.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Harding, of Spartanburg, S. C., are spending several days here at the home of Mrs. Harding's parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Fowles.

Miss Bessie Little and Master Champ Martin, niece and nephew, respectively, of Mr. R. K. Black, are spending several days here at his home.

Mr. and Mrs. James Rimer and little son, J. S. Jr., have returned home after spending Christmas in Greensboro, N. C., visiting their aunt, Mrs. Grace Stevenson.

Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Owens, of Greenville, S. C., spent the holidays with Mrs. Owens' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Levi D. Moore.

KANNAPOLIS DEPARTMENT

Kannapolis, Dec. 29.—Mrs. Z. B. Timbush and Miss Ethel Seamone, of Concord, spent Friday with Mrs. J. W. Cauthen.

The regular meeting of the Parent-Teacher Association of the South school has been postponed from the regular date, Wednesday, January 2nd, to January 9th, at 3:30. The change is made in order to have the meeting after the Christmas holidays are over and school has re-opened.

Mr. and Mrs. Cannon, of Elon College, are visiting at the home of Mrs. Cannon's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Walton.

Mrs. Reynolds, of Raleigh, left today after spending some time with her daughter, Mrs. D. A. Jolley.

Mrs. P. L. Sechler, who is teaching at Barium Springs, arrived Friday as a visitor at the home of Mr. Bill Sechler.

Miss Ethel Cornelius left yesterday for her home in Charlotte, after spending several days at the Cline house.

Mrs. Leon Smith and son, Master Winston, left Friday for Stanley, where they will visit Mrs. Smith's parents.

Master Billy Brown, of Concord, spent yesterday with Master John Rutledge, Jr. Master Billy came up to attend the rifle contest.

The Social Hour Club will meet with Mrs. Sam Kelly on Friday, January 11th. One of the interesting social events of the holiday season was what was known as the "Kids' Party," Wednesday evening at which Miss Helen Robinson was the charming hostess at her home in Center-view. The home was beautiful in its gay Christmas decorations.

The party was characterized by unique and novel features, those in attendance being dressed as kids, a mock marriage, also giving rise to much merriment. Miss Geneva Graeber and Mr. Cecil Robinson were the parties to the mock marriage. A large number of young people enjoyed the hospitality of the home. Miss Robinson is one of the most popular and accomplished young ladies of our town, and has made a large circle of friends since making her home here.

Mrs. W. R. Brandon, of Statesville, is expected here a few days of next week as the guest of Mrs. M. L. Troutman.

Mr. and Mrs. Jas. O. Nolan spent Christmas day in Shelby with relatives.

Dr. M. L. Troutman was a visitor in Statesville Christmas Day.

Kannapolis, Dec. 28.—Mrs. Louis Cole spent one day of the past week in Salisbury shopping.

Mr. C. G. Sechler gave a big turkey dinner Wednesday, having as his guests Mrs. J. R. Sloop, of China Grove, sister of Mrs. Sechler; Mrs. G. B. Blackwelder, of China Grove, parents of Mrs. Sechler; Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Bost and family, of China Grove, parents of Mrs. Sechler. Mrs. Sechler on this occasion, as usual, took advantage of the culinary skill for which she is noted, and all very much enjoyed the tempting and sumptuous repast.

Twenty-eight boxes, furnished principally by the school children, the Kings Daughters and the Y. M. C. A., making small donations, were made ready for distribution to make it possible for needy families to enjoy Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Sechler were entertained at dinner Christmas day at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Goble.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Cole and little son, Jr., spent Sunday in Charlotte.

Mrs. Morris, of Concord, spent Wednesday with Mrs. W. A. Gray.

Mrs. W. C. Graham, who has been very ill at the Presbyterian Hospital, is decidedly improved.

Rev. and Mrs. W. C. Jamison spent Christmas day at Davidson with Mrs. Jamison's home folks, where a family reunion was held. From there they went to a Christmas tree in Charlotte at the home of Mrs. Jamison's relatives.

Miss Flora McQueen has gone to spend the holidays with home folks in the eastern part of the state.

Mrs. G. N. Norville spent Monday night with her sister, Mrs. Arthur Eudy.

Mrs. Choate and Mr. Mack Choate, of Charlotte, spent Wednesday at the Cline house.

Miss Ethel Cornelius, of Charlotte, is spending the Christmas holidays at the Cline house.

Misses Vivian and Pauline Walters and Mr. Griffin, of Concord, have gone to Asheville for a few days to visit Miss Ruth Walter.

Misses Lucile Cline and Masy Flowe spent last night near Mooresville with Miss Elizabeth Smith.

Mr. J. H. Peeler and family moved yesterday into their new home on the corner next to the Cline house. This is one of the handsomest residences in our city.

abundance for distribution among the needy families. The Barons are to be commended for their generous response in pinning the dollar bills to the sheet. Mr. Turner, the pastor, was presented a purse.

Rev. Mr. Conrad, of Charlotte, will give his illustrated address Sunday night at the "Y" on the land of Palestine.

Mrs. W. H. Walter gave a turkey dinner Tuesday, the invited guests being Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Saunders and Master Bobby, Mr. R. M. Housel, and Mr. Griffin, the latter of Concord.

On Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock the picture "Behold the Man," or "From the Manger to the Cross," will be presented on the screen at the Y. M. C. A. This picture was shown about two years ago, the first Bible picture to be presented at the Kannapolis Y. M. C. A., and made an indelible impression upon the minds of the great audience, old and young. These pictures are free, and it is hoped that all who can will take advantage of the opportunities being offered, as the pictures are educational, and create an interest in Bible reading.

The friends of Mr. W. H. Fowler will learn with regret of his having lost three of his legs recently, cholera or some malady being the cause. It will be remembered that Mr. Fowler lost his crop the past year, and the greater part of his crop the present year, from the destructive hail that visited this section. It is hoped that Mr. Fowler's tide of fortune has reached its crisis, and is ready to turn.

Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Bryant attended the marriage of Miss Fayssoux in Gastonia Wednesday afternoon at 5 o'clock. A reception was held after the ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Bryant returned home Wednesday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Tomlin, of Charlotte, spent Christmas day with Mrs. M. E. Harrison.

Mrs. T. L. Steele, Miss Martha, and Messrs. William and Thomas Steele, of Statesville, were visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Scott during the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Whaling, of Winston-Salem, spent Christmas day at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Graeber.

Misses Vivian McCombs and Ruth Sherrill went to Rockwell Monday, returning home Wednesday, accompanied by Mr. Banks Trexler, of Greensboro, who was visiting home folks in Rockwell. While there they went to a number of Christmas trees and enjoyed a big Christmas dinner at the home of Miss McCombs' aunt, Mrs. C. A. Trexler.

PERSONALS. Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Cline and daughter, Volina, returned today to their home in Blacksburg after spending the week end here with Mr. and Mrs. John A. Cline.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Sappenfield and children, of Gastonia, spent the week end here with relatives.

Mrs. W. T. Pollard, of Washington, is the guest of Mrs. W. H. Gibson.

Mrs. A. H. Propst spent the week end in Charlotte with relatives and friends.

Cap. J. J. Laughlinhouse, of Greenville, N. C., spent Sunday here, a guest in the home of Mrs. B. F. Rogers.

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Freeze and son returned today from Greensboro, where they visited friends for several days. They made the trip home in their car.

Miss Lilly Wiley has returned to her home here from Faith, where she spent Christmas with home folks.

Mr. Sam Black and Mr. Ralph Morrison, of No. 10, spent several hours here last night with relatives en route to their home from Davidson college, where they spent the day.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Sherrill and Miss Hazel and Master Grier Sherrill, of Hickory, spent Sunday here with Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Cornelius. Miss Hazel will remain here for several days.

Mr. Hugh Broome is spending several days in Raleigh with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Rimer and children, of Atlanta, are visiting relatives here.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Harding have returned to their home in Spartanburg, S. C., after spending several days here with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Fowles.

Mr. T. A. Foreman, of Wilmington, spent the week end here with Mrs. Foreman, who is visiting her sister, Mrs. A. E. Harris.

Mr. T. D. Maness is spending several days in Washington, D. C., on professional business.

Mr. and Mrs. P. G. Cook and Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Cook spent Sunday in Salisbury with relatives.

Mr. W. A. Kendrick visited friends in Salisbury Sunday.

Miss Sudella Frick has returned from Chapin, S. C., where she spent Christmas week with homefolks.

Mrs. J. C. Fisher has returned from Whiteville, where she spent the holidays with her father, Mr. J. L. Towell.

Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Troutman and son, Harry, Jr., spent the week-end here with Mrs. W. T. Linker.



BEGIN HERE TODAY

Paul Harley, criminal investigator, is called upon by Sir Charles Abingdon to find out why Sir Charles is being shadowed by persons unknown to him. While Harley is having dinner at the Abingdon home Sir Charles falls from his chair in a dying state. The last words uttered by Abingdon are "Nicol Brinn" and "Fire-Tongue." Dr. McMurdoch pronounces death due to heart-failure. Harley insists that Abingdon was poisoned and calls on Nicol Brinn to ask him the meaning of "Fire-Tongue."

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY

"There isn't any one I would rather confide in," confessed the American. "We are linked by the common danger. But—he looked up—"I must ask you again to be patient. Give me time to think—to make plans. For your own part—be cautious."

Something struck with a dull thud upon a window pane—once—twice. There followed a faint, sibilant sound.

Paul Harley stared and the stoical Nicol Brinn turned rapidly and glanced across the room. "What was that?" asked Harley. "I expect—it was an owl," answered Brinn. "We sometimes get them over from the Green Park."

CHAPTER VI Phil Abingdon Arrives

ON the following afternoon Paul Harley was restlessly pacing his private office when Innes came in with a letter which had been delivered by hand. Harley took it eagerly and tore open the envelope. A look of expectancy faded from his eager face almost in the moment that it appeared there. "No luck, Innes," he said, gloomily. "Merton reports that there is no trace of any dangerous foreign body in the liquids analyzed."

He dropped the analyst's report into a wastebasket and resumed his restless promenade.

There came a rap at the door and Miss Smith, the typist, entered. "Miss Phil Abingdon and Doctor McMurdoch," she said.

Almost immediately Phil Abingdon came in, accompanied by the sepulchral Doctor McMurdoch.

Phil did not wear mourning. Harley recalled that there had been no time to procure it. She was exquisitely and fashionably dressed, and even the pallor of grief could not rob her cheeks of the bloom born of Devon sunshine. He had expected her to be pretty. He was surprised to find her lovely.

Doctor McMurdoch stood silent in the doorway, saying nothing by way of introduction. But nothing was necessary. Phil Abingdon came forward quite naturally—and quite naturally Paul Harley discovered her little gloved hand to lie clasped between both his own.

"How brave of you, Miss Abingdon," said Harley. "How wonderfully brave of you!"

"She's an Abingdon," came the deep tones of Doctor McMurdoch. "She arrived only two hours ago and here she is!"

"There can be no rest for me, Doctor," said the girl, and strove valiantly to control her voice, "until this dreadful doubt is removed. Mr. Harley"—she turned to him appealingly—"please don't study my feelings in the least; I can bear anything—now; just tell me what happened. Oh! I had to come. I felt that I had to come."

CHAPTER VII Confessions

PAUL HARLEY crossed the room and stood in front of the tall Burness cabinet. He experienced the utmost difficulty in adopting a judicial attitude toward his beautiful visitor.

"In the first place, Miss Abingdon," he said, speaking very deliberately, "do you attach any particular significance to the term 'Fire-Tongue?'"

Phil Abingdon glanced rapidly at Doctor McMurdoch.

"I expect—it was an owl," answered Brinn. "We sometimes get them over from the Green Park."

His high voice sounded unemotional as ever. But it seemed to Paul Harley that his face, dimly illuminated by the upcast light from the lamp upon the coffee table, had paled, had become gaunt.

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Phil Abingdon. "Will you come and see me?"

Paul Harley walked through to the private office and, seating himself at the big, orderly table, reached over to a cupboard beside him and took out a tin of smoking mixture. He began very slowly to load his pipe, gazing abstractedly across the room at the tall Burness cabinet.

Paul Harley, having lit his pipe, made a note on a little block: "Cover activities of Ormuz Khan."

He smoked reflectively for a while and then added another note: "Watch Nicol Brinn."

For ten minutes or more he sat smoking and thinking, his unseeing gaze set upon the gleaming lacquer of the cabinet; and presently, as he smoked, he became aware of an abrupt and momentary chill. His sixth sense was awake. Taking up a pencil, he added a third note:

"Watch yourself. You are in danger."

CHAPTER VIII A Wreath of Hyacinths

DEEP in reflection and oblivious of the busy London life around him, Paul Harley walked slowly along the Strand.

From dreams which he recognized in the moment of awakening to have been of Phil Abingdon, he was suddenly aroused to the fact that Phil Abingdon herself was present. Perhaps, half unconsciously, he had been looking for her.

Phil Abingdon was coming from the direction of the Savoy Hotel. Was it possible that she had been to visit Ormuz Khan?

Harley crossed the Strand and paused just in front of the hurrying, black-clad figure.

She stopped suddenly, and through the black veil which she wore he saw her eyes grow larger—or such was the effect as she opened them widely. Perhaps he misread their expression was that of detected guilt. More than ever he was convinced of the truth of his suspicions. "Perhaps you were looking for a cab?" he suggested.

Overcoming her surprise, or whatever emotion had claimed her at the moment of this unexpected meeting, Phil Abingdon took Harley's outstretched hand and held it for a moment before replying. "I had almost despaired of finding one," she said, "and I am late already."

"The porter at the Savoy would get you one."

"I have tried there and got tired of waiting, she answered quite simply.

For a moment Harley's suspicions were almost dispelled, and, observing an empty cab approaching, he signaled to the man to pull up.

"Where do you want to go to?" he inquired, opening the door.

"To the Savoy," she replied, stepping in. Paul Harley hesitated, glancing from the speaker to the driver.

"I wonder if you have time to come with me," said Phil Abingdon. "I know the doctor wants to see you."

"I will come with pleasure," replied Harley, a statement which was no more than true.

Accordingly he gave the necessary directions to the taxi man and seated himself beside the girl in the cab.

"I am awfully glad of an opportunity of a chat with you, Mr. Harley," said Phil Abingdon. "The last few days have seemed like one long nightmare to me." She sighed pathetically. "Surely Doctor McMurdoch is right, and all the horrible doubts which troubled us were idle ones, after all!"

Now, Paul Harley had determined, since the girl was unacquainted with Nicol Brinn, to conceal from her all that he had learned from that extraordinary man.

When he replied he replied evasively: "I have absolutely no scrap of evidence, Miss Abingdon, pointing to foul play. The circumstances were peculiar, of course, but I have every confidence in Doctor McMurdoch's efficiency. Since he is satisfied, it would be more impertinence on my part to question his verdict."

(Continued in Our Next Issue)



PHIL ABINGDON CAME IN, ACCOMPANIED BY DOCTOR MCMURDOCH.

Doctor McMurdoch. "None at all, Mr. Harley," she replied.

"And Mr. Nicol Brinn? Have you met this gentleman?"

"Never. I know that Dad had met him and was very much interested in him."

"H'm," muttered Harley. "And now, Miss Abingdon, can you enlighten me respecting the identity of the Oriental gentleman with whom he had latterly become acquainted?"

"Yes. He could only have meant Ormuz Khan."

Paul Harley gazed steadily at the speaker for a moment. "Can you think of any reason why Sir Charles should have worried about this gentleman?" he asked.

The girl lowered her head again. "He paid me a lot of attention," she finally confessed.

"So far as you are aware, then, Miss Abingdon, Sir Charles never met Ormuz Khan?"

"He never even saw him, Mr. Harley, that I know of."

"H'm," mused Harley. "That's possible. But such was not my impression."

He turned again to Phil Abingdon. "This Ormuz Khan, I understood you to say, actually resides in or near London?"

"He is at present living at the Savoy, I believe. He also has a house somewhere outside London."

Presently Harley went down to the street with his visitors.

"There must be so much more you want to know, Mr. Harley," said

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COME TO WASHINGTON'S CONCORD, N. C. SEASON'S GREETINGS, ETC. Nice, nifty, nobby Caps for men and boys. Silk and All Wool. 75c each. Nice Classy Saddles, fully strapped and cinched, iron stirrups, bargain at \$10.00. Bridles to match \$3.50. Curb Bit, extra for \$1.00. Ladies' Waists, fancy patterns, Voiles, pulsts, lawns, worth a dollar and a half. Choice Navy Middy Blouse \$1.00. Army Raincoats (used) \$2.50. Overcoats \$3.00. Small men's Suits for little men and boys, worth fifteen dollars choice for \$7.50. Men's Collars 10c. Ladies Short Coats and Skirts, each piece \$1.00. Long Coats \$4.00. Shovels and Spades \$1.00. Wash Stand and Mirror, Majestic Range and Wash Stand with marble top, each \$10.00. Just Around the Corner Below the City Hall on Barbriek Street. Children Present For Dinner. Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Brown entertained at a family dinner at their home on North Union Street Sunday. All of the children with the exception of Mrs. Charles Easterday, of Washington, D. C., were present for the dinner.

If you ask us— These are the greatest and warmest O'coats in Concord \$35.00 If display windows here and in other cities count—then these coats at these prices are the greatest buys here or elsewhere. Pure, fleecy wool from long haired sheep. The style is as bright as a shoeshine on a rainy day and we could say \$8 more and look our customer in the eye without blinking. COMPARE—remember we know clothes and we also know enough about men not to tout these values to the sky unless they deserve the ride. All sizes— Browns - Cannon Co.