A Pleasant Evening

gives a delightful finish to the day. Nothing is more agreeable than music when it emanates from the

STIEFF PIANOS

which are the finest home instruments in this country. Everyone who has purchased a Piano from us is highly pleased with the result. It's quite impossible for an inferior piano to masquerade as something better. It has neither quality, tone nor durabilitiy. The Stieff Piano sells on its own merits.
Standard Organs.
Tuning and repairing.
Accommmodating Terms.

CHARLES M. STIEFF.
BALTIMORE—9 N. Liberty St.
WASHINGTON—521 Eleventh St., N.W.
NORFOLK, VA.—416 Main St.
CHARLOTTE, N. C.—213 N. Tryon St.
no 24 3m

A CHANGE.

WE ADMIT A CHANGE IN THIS SPACE IS NOW IN ORDER, AS THE PROSPECTS ARE NOT SO BRIGHT AS THEY WERE. WE WILL HELP YOU OUT IF YOU WILL SEND US YOUR ORDERS FOR

Groceries - at - Wholesale.

REMEMBER, OUR MOTTO IS TO PLEASE OUR CUSTOMERS.

McNAIR & PEARSALL
oc 24

S. P. McNAIR,

WHOLESALE GROCER AND

Commission Merchant

N. Water St., Wilmington, N. C.

Offers to the Trade:

FEED OATS, FLOUR, NAILS, SHOT SUGAR, CANDIES, CRACKERS, CONCENTRATED LYE, BUTTER, MOLASSES, VINEGAR, PEANUTS, CORN FISH, BAKING POWDER, MATCHES CANNED GOODS, COFFEE, SPICES AND RICE

Call and See Me or Write for Prices and Terms
ju 9 4m

WE CAN ACCOMMODATE

A FEW MORE CUSTOMERS

WITH FIRST CLASS BUTTER

Also NEW CHEESE, 20 pounds average, fresh and sweet, fresh FRUITS COFFEE of all grades, CAND Yin barrels, boxes, tubs, CAKES in barrels boxes and half boxes, CHEWING GUM any style, TOILET SOAP to suit everybody, DRUGS, INKS, PENCILS, WRAPPING PAPER, TWINES, paper and cotton, FISH, FLOUR. Use good Flour to make good Bread. PILLSBURY'S BEST is what to use. It makes Cakes just right

R. W. HICKS.

WHOLESALE GROCER.

Fresh Goods

JUST ARRIVED BY STEAMER.

Edam Cheese,
Roquefort Cheese,
English Dairy Cheese,
Neufchatel Cheese,
Twiss Cheese.

Fresh Ginger Wafers,

Fancy Cakes.

WE ALSO HAVE A SELECT ASSORTMENT OF

Martha Wasnington Flour Co.'s Goods

THEY ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED AND WE WOULD LIKE THE TRADE TO TRY THEM.
CALL AND SEE OUR NEW GOODS

The John L. Boatwright Co.

15 AND 17 S. FRONT STREET.

Both Phones No. 14.
no 17

HOW ABOUT YOU?

It is not only fashionable, but extremely easy to cry down monopolies and trusts at the present time, but the average business man as well as the average working man, is only consistent as far as the crying is concerned, and then he stops. They will spend several hours in discussing the hold monopolies have on the people, and what remedies should be adopted, and then they give the preference of their trade to the very monopolies they have been howling against. The different attempts which have been made in the oil business is an example which can well be cited. Every time an oil company has started in this state, the business men have promised them their support, and every time when the Standard Oil Company came in and cut prices in order to freeze out their rivals, the business men, en masse, have deserted the new company and gone, bag and baggage, to the old company and assisted them in doing their dirty work, only to suffer even more, eventually by having prices raised still higher aftetr the competition is throttled. This is a matter of record, throughout the entire United States, and the Standard Oil Company, knowing the weakness of the business men in this respect will coutinue in the future, as they have in the past.

Be a Man! Support Competition!

DIXIE OIL COMPANY

The Messenger.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Asheville Gazette: Policeman Jordan who had a small bone in his leg broken, and Jarvis, whose ankle was sprained in the row on South Main street Saturday night, are both too unwell to be on duty.

Salisbury Sun: Mr. H. T. Sprinkle, of this city has just completed a model for a heater on which he proposes to secure a patent. Mr. Sprinkle has made and placed two of the heaters and they are giving entire satisfaction.

Smithfield Herald: Sunday afternoon Henry Hamilton a ginger colored negro in the employee of Mr. H. Cohen, looted the house of all jewelry and Mr. Cohen's overcoat. His absence was not noticed until Monday morning when the loss was discovered. The stolen property was valued at $100.

Greenville Weekly: Last week near Gold Point, Martin county, Mr. Lawrence Jenkins was filing his saw in the woods, where trees were being felled. One tree, falling struck another tree, a part was broken off and striking Mr. Jenkins on the head so badly hurt him that he died last night.

Washington Messenger: Spring Hope had a fire Tuesday night caused by a defective flue in the prize house operated by G. J. Council & Co., and owned by a stock company. Their loss is estimated at $5,000 with insurance for $1,700. Aiken & Kelleth's loss $1,300 with $700 insurance. Asa Parham also lost heavily but the amount has not yet been estimated.

Goldsboro Argus: Mr. Hunt, from near Apple Tree, was in the city today to obtain help to find the thief who entered his dwelling last night and stole $385.00 from his trunk. Mr. Hunt went out to the postoffice last night and when he returned home to retire he found his trunk open and the money missing.

Greenville Reflector: Sunday was a day of joy and gladness to the Presbyterian congregation in Greenville and their many friends with them. It was the occasion of the formal dedication of their church, an event pleasantly looked forward to for some months. Rev. J. N. H. Summerell, of Anderson, S. C., the founder and first pastor of the church here, was invited to preach the dedicatory sermon, and much to the delight of his host of friends he was present to perform that pleasant duty.

Winston Sentinel: Winston shipped over forty thousand pounds of manufactured tobacco yesterday. The stamp sales aggregated $2,459.04.——Mr. Knight received a letter from Dr. Robinson, who is in Baltimore receiving the Pasteur treatment for the bite of a cat, which is now known to have been mad. The doctor says in his letter that he has symptoms of hydrophobia. He says also that he will not be able to leave the hospital before February, from which it is inferred that it is not thought he will die.

Charlotte Observer: Rev. Dr. Bowman recently tendered his resignation as pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran church. The resignation was accepted Sunday. Dr. Bowman was forced to give up his charge on account of failing health. He will most likely go to Florida. The church has no one in view as a pastor.——Mr. O. M. Sadler, of the Southern Express Company, was summoned by telegram to Columbia, S. C., Monday afternoon to investigate a shortage of $10,000, a package containing that amount having come up missing between the Charlotte office and the Columbia office.——The factory, fixtures and stock of tobacco of Sparger Bros., who failed at Mt. Airy a few weeks ago, were sold today for $71,000. It is not thought that the court will confirm the sale. W. S. Forbes, of Richmond, one of the largest preferred creditors, attended the sale.

Having used three bottles of P. P. P. for impure blood and general weakness and having derived great benefit from the same, having gained 14 pounds in weight in four weeks, I take great pleasure in recommending it to all unfortunate like

Yours truly,
JOHN MORRIS.
Office of J. N. McElroy, Druggist,
Orlando, Fla., April 20, 1891.

Messrs. Lippman Bros., Savannah, Ga.
Dear Sirs:—I sold three bottles of P. P. P. large size yesterday, and one bottle small size today.
The P. P. P. cured my wife of rheumatism winter before last. It came back on her the past winter and a half bottle, $1 size, relieved her again, and she has not had a symptom since.
I sold a bottle of P. P. P. to a friend of mine, one of the turkies, a small one, took sick and his wife gave it a teaspoonful, that was in the evenin and the little fellow turned over like he was dead, but next morning he was hollowing and well.

Yours respectfully,
J. N. McELROY.
Savannah, Ga., March 17, 1891.

Messrs. Lippman Bros., Savannah, Ga.
Dear Sirs:—I have suffered from rheumatism for a long time and did not find a cure until I found P. P. P., which completely cured me.

Yours truly,
ELIZA JONES,
16 Orange St., Savannah, Ga.

STATE PRESS.

We have frequent occasion to quote from the Hickory Times. Its editor, Mr. Thos. M. Hurham, is a son of Rev. J. D. Hurham, D. D., of Henderson. He inherits his pure and undefiled democracy and English from his scholarly father.—News and Observer.

Judge Linney, who represents this congressional district, has been telling the newspapers of Washington that his state is feeling the effects of the revival of industry following the passage of the Dingley bill. Eminently correct. One of the results was the failure of the Piedmont bank at Morganton. May we be spared further evidence!—Marion Messenger.

The majority of mankind abhors a traitor. The Judas Iscariots and the Benedict Arnolds have justly had the anathemas of the generations heaped upon them and in all ages and among all people the traitor has been held in execration. But Senator Pritchard seems to have regard for those men of the south who deserted their country's flag and went to the enemy during the civil war.—Monroe Enquirer.

The voters of North aCrolina may differ as to whether we should have high tariff, low tariff, or free trade; they may differ as to whether the currency should be based upon a single gold standard, or upon a double standard of both gold and silver, or upon fiat money; they may differ as to the "initiative," and the "referendum," and the "imperative mandate," and a hundred or more other things, but every patriotic son of the state should be agreed that North Carolina should have fair, honest and upright administration of affairs, and there should be a mighty getting together to kick out the scallawags that are bringing discredit upon us by base and incompetent and trading tactics. Past experience amply demonstrates that the desired results can be accomplished only through the great democratic party, whose doors are wide open to all who would take part in the grand work of saving the honor of the state and giving all her people safe and good government.—Winston Sentinel.

Rev. P. J. Carraway, the venerable and beloved presiding elder of Greensboro district, backs up Dr. Crawford, of the North Carolina Christian Advocate in the position that free tuition does not weaken the character of the right sort of boy, and insists that the Methodist church must help the needy in an educational way. His article in The Advocate of two weeks ago is one of the best things he has written in several years, completely answering the objections of the other side. The pith of his sensible and practical article is found in the following extract: Our schools and colleges, we think, should have a system of free tuition. We do not believe free tuition unmans a student. We think the proof is in hand that it does not. Will you let me give a little of the proof, viz: Our preachers' sons receive free tuition in most of our high schools and colleges. I know several of these who were educated at Randolph-Macon college, Trinity college, and I think at Wofford (if I am mistaken in this please correct me) and perhaps at Weaverville college, and perhaps a greater number at Rutherford college, and also at the University of North Carolina—these so far from being unmanned are doing the grandest work of any set of men in our church or state. They are professors in our institutions of learning, presidents of our colleges, and editors of our church papers. Are you able, doctor, to say that this is absolutely without foundation? I think not. Now in all seriousness are our preachers' sons the only poor boys in Methodism in North Carolina, and are they the only class of poor boys who can make men on free tuition?—Reidsville Weekly.

The Sherlock family are noted horse traders in Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas and Alabama. They intermarry, and one of the characteristics of the family is the largeness of the men and the diminutive size of the women. Whenever a member of the band dies his body is shipped to Nashville and placed in a vault. Every year, in the month of May the family meets in that city, when the dead are removed from the vault and interred with appropriate services.

WILMINGTON MARKETS.

COTTON REPORT.

Wilmington, N. C., December 23.
Receipts of cotton today—2,311 bales.
Receipts same day last year—1,387 bales.
This season's receipts to date—257,707 bales.
Receipts to same date last year—204,987 bales.
The quotations posted at 4 o'clock today at the exchange.
Cotton firm.

Ordinary	2 15-16
Good ordinary	4¼
Low middling	4 15-16
Middling	5⅝
Good middling	6⅝

Same day last year, 6½c.

NAVAL STORES.

Spirits turpentine—Machine barrels firm at at 31c; country barrels firm at 30½c.
Rosin firm at $1.15 and $1.20.
Tar firm at $1.05.
Crude turpentine quiet; hard $1.40; yellow dip $1.90; Virgin $1.90.
Prices same day last year—Spirits turpentine 24½c and 24c; rosin $1.45 and $1.50; tar $1.05; crude turpentine $1.40, $1.80 and $1.90.
Receipts today—63 casks spirits turpentine, 303 barrels rosin, 744 barrels tar, 136 barrels crude turpentine.
Receipts same day last year—85 casks spirits turpentine, 491 barrels rosin, 724 barrels tar, 11 barrels crude turpentine.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Peanuts—North Carolina, prime 55@60c per bushel; extra prime, 65c; fancy 72½c. Virginia—Extra prime, 40@45c.
Rice—Uplands, 65@80c; lowlands, $1.10@$1.15.
Corn—47½@50c.
North Carolina Bacon—Hams, 10@11c; shoulders, 6@6½c; sides, 7½@8c.
Chickens—Dull; spring 10@18c; hens 18@25c; roosters, 18@22c.
Turkeys, (live), 7c to 10c per pound.
Eggs—Dull at 17c.
Shingles—Per 1,000 five inch, hearts and saps, $1.05@2.10; six inch, $2.50@3.50.
Timber at $3.00 to $5.00 per 1,000 feet.

MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH

FINANCIAL.

New York, December 23—Money on call firm at 3@4 per cent.; last loan at 4 per cent.; closed at 3½@4 per cent; prime mercantile paper 3½@4 per cent.; sterling exchange weak with actual business in bankers bills at $4.84¼@4.84⅝ for demand and at $4.81⅝@4.81¾ for sixty days; posted rates $4.82½@4.83 and $4.86½@4.86; commercial bills $4.80½@4.81; silver certificates 57⅝@58¼; bar silver 57⅝; Mexican dollars 45⅝; government bonds weak; state bonds dull; railway bonds heavy.

STOCKS.

Aachison	12⅞	W. & L. E.	2
B. & O.	13⅞	W. & L. E., pre	10
Ches. & Ohio	21⅝	Adams Ex.	158
Chic. & Alton	162	American Ex	115
Chic., B. & Q.	99½	United States	38
Del. & Hudson	112	Wells Far.	113
Del., L. & W.	156	Am. Cot. Oil	22¼
Fort Wayne	168½	Am Cot Oil, pre	75½
Illinois Central	103½	Am. Tobacco	86½
L. & N.	56⅝	Am. Tobac, pre.	132
Manhattan L.	108⅛	People's Gas	97⅛
Mobile & Ohio	28½	Con. Gas	182
N. J. Central	96¾	Gen. Electric	33½
N. Y. Central	107¼	Lead	33¼
Pittsburg	168	Nat. Lin. Oil	16¾
Reading	23¼	Pacific Mail	29¾
Southern Ry.	8⅞	Pullman Pal	171½
South. Ry., pre.	32⅝	Silver Cer.	57⅝
Texas & Pacific	10⅞	Sugar	128⅜
U. P. D. & G.	6⅞	T. C. & Iron	24⅜
Wabash, pre.	17⅞	West. Union	88⅝

BONDS.

U. S. N. 4's reg.	128½	L. & N. Un 4's	87¼
U. S. N. 4's cou.	128½	Missouri 6's	100
U. S. 4's reg.	112½	N. J. Cen. 6's	112¾
U. S. 4's cou.	114¾	N. Caro. 6's	125
U. S. 2's	99½	N. Caro. 4's	103
U. S. 5's reg.	114¼	Pa. 6's, of '95	102⅝
U. S. 5's cou.	114¼	S. Caro, non-fu.	¼
Ala. Class A	108½	South. Ry.	95
Ala. Class B	108½	Tenn N set 3's	91½
Ala. Class C	101	Union Pa. 1's	102¾
Ala. Currency	103	Va. Cen.	69
La. N. con 4's	101½	Va. deferred	3½

COTTON.

New York, December 23—Cotton steady; middling 5 15-16c; net receipts 1,590; gross receipts 11,218; exports to the continent 150; forwarded 6,564; sales none; stock 104,367.

Total today: Net receipts 41,891; exports to Great Britain 14,157; to France 10,755; to the continent 12,573; stock 1,126,342.

Consolidated: Net receipts 303,950; exports to Great Britain 97,757; to France 41,691; to the continent 90,774.

Total since September 1st: Net receipts 5,145,235; exports to Great Britain 1,654,090; to France 484,141; to the continent 1,345,810.

Cotton futures opened steady and closed quiet and steady; sales 173,900 bales; January 5.80; February 5.83; March 5.87; April 5.92; May 5.97; June 6.01; July 6.06; August 6.10; September 6.09; October 6.10; November 6.12; December 5.79.

Spot cotton closed steady at 1-16c; middling uplands 5 15-16c; middling gulf 6 3-16c; sales none.

PORT RECEIPTS.

Galveston—Firm at 5⅞c; net receipts 6,038.
Norfolk—Firm at 5½c; net receipts 3,638.
Baltimore—Steady at 5⅝c; gross receipts 1,763.
Boston—Steady at 5⅞c; net receipts 1,169; gross receipts 2,343.
Wilmington—Firm at 5⅝c; net receipts 2,311.
Philadelphia—Firm at 6 3-16c; net receipts 396.
Savannah—Steady at 5 3-16c; net receipts 11,944.
New Orleans—Steady at 5⅝c; net receipts 11,259; gross receipts 12,411.
Mobile—Steady at 5 3-16c; net receipts 913.
Memphis—Firm at 5 5-16c; net receipts 2,891; gross receipts 3,211.
Augusta—Firm at 5 9-16c; net receipts 1,588.
Charleston—Steady at 5 3-16c; net receipts 2,638.
Cincinnati—Quiet at 5½c; net receipts 2,054.
Louisville—Stead yat 5⅝c.
St. Louis—Firm at 5⅝c; net receipts 820; gross receipts 6,203.
Houston—Firm at 5 7-16c; net receipts 7,603.

GRAIN AND PROVISION.

Chicago, December 23.—The leading futures were as follows:

	Open.	High.	Low.	Clos.
Wheat—				
December	98½	99¾	97½	97½
January	93¾	95	93¾	94¾
May	93½	94	93⅜	93⅝
Corn—				
December	26½	26⅝	26⅜	26½
January	26⅝	26¾	26⅜	26¾
May	28⅝	29⅝	29⅜	29½
July	30½	30¾	30½	30⅝
Oats—				
December	22	22¾	22	22¼
May	23¾	23½	23⅜	23
Mess pork, per bbl—				
December	——	——	——	$7.70
January	8.67½	8.77½	8.67½	8.72½
May	8.87½	9.00	8.87½	8.87½
Lard, per 100 lbs—				
December	——	——	——	4.45
January	4.55	4.57½	4.55	4.57½
May	4.70	4.75	4.70	4.72½
Short ribs, per 100 lbs—				
December	——	——	——	4.49
January	4.40	4.45	4.40	4.42½
May	4.55	4.57½	4.52½	4.57½

Cash quotations were as follows: Flour firm; No. 2 eyllow corn, 27c; No. 2 spring wheat, 88⅝@89⅝; No. 3 spring wheat, 81@93c; No. 2 red, 99½c; No. 2 corn, 27c; No. 2 oats, 23c; No. 2 white, ——; No. 3 white, f. o. b., 23¾@24¾c; dry salted shoulders, boxed, $4.62½@4.75; short clear sides, boxed, $4.77½@5.00; whiskey, distillers' finished goods, per gallon, $1.19.

New York, December 23.—Flour quiet, but firmer; city mill patents $5.65@5.90.

Wheat—Spot firm; No. 2 red $1.01¾; No. 1 northern New York $1.02¾. Options opened firm on unexpectedly better Liverpool cables and was advanced later on war talk from urope and a good demand from all local sources, closing tsrong at 1⅛@1⅜c net advance. No. 2 red, January 95⅞@96 9-16c, closed at 99½c; May closed at 94¾c; December closed at $1.01⅛.

Corn—Spot firm; No. 2 34⅞c. Options opened firm with wheat and ruled dull but steady all day, aided by cables, closed ¼c net higher. May 34⅝@34¾c, closed at 34⅝c; December closed at 32¾c.

Oats—Spot stronger; No. 2 27½@28c. Options dull, but unusually firm with the west, closing ⅜@½c net higher. February closed at 28c; May closed at 28c; December closed at 28c.

Lard—Steady; western steamed $4.82½.

Pork—Steady.

Eggs—Firm; state and Pennsylvania 21@24c; western fresh 20@24c.

Cotton Seed Oil—Steady; prime crude 18@18½c; do yellow 21½.

Rice—Steady.

Coffee—Options opened irregular at 10 points advance, ruled very quiet with firm undertone on better cables then expected and claims of damages to Santos crop; demand mostly from shorts, closed dull with prices 5 to 15 points net advance. Spot coffee—Rio steady; No. 7 9¾c.

Sugar—Raw strong; fair refining 3⅝c; centrifugal 96 test 4¼c; refined strong; No. 6 4 9-16c; standard A and confectioners A 5¼c; cut loaf and crushed 5⅞c; powdered and cubes 5 7-16c; granulated 5¼c.

NAVAL STORES.

New oYrk—Rosin steady. Turpentine firm at 33@33½c.

Charleston—Turpentine 30c bid, 30½c asked; sales non. Rosin firm and unchanged; sales none.

Savannah—Spirits turpentine opened firm at 30⅝c; sales 44 casks; closed firm at 31c; further sales 572; receipts 668. Rosin firm; sales 3,908; receipts 5,707. Quote: A B C @ $1.00; E F $1.25; G $1.30; I $1.40; K $1.60; M $1.85; N $2.30; W G $2.35; W W $2.45.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

ARRIVED YESTERDAY.

American schooner Clara, Hatch, Punta Gorda, Geo. Harriss, Son & Co.

CLEARED YESTERDAY.

American, schooner May Thompson, Cahoon, Philadelphia, Geo. Harriss, Son & Co.

EXPORTS COASTWISE.

For Philadelphia, per schooner May Thompson, 105,000 shingles, cargo by Victor C. Britton, vessel by Geo. Harriss, Son & Co.

VESSELS IN PORT.

STEAMSHIPS.

Hawkhurst, (Br.), 1,538 tons, Watson, Rio Janeiro, Alex. Sprunt & Son.
Magdala, (Br.), 2,297 tons, Reed, New York, Alex. Sprunt & Son.
Yearby, (Br.), 1,664 tons, Goldsworthy, Hull, Alex. Sprunt & Son.
Fram, (Br.), 1,405 tons, Tysland, Hamburg, Heide & Co.
Lucerne (Br.), 1,227 tons, Wallace, Glasgow, J. H. Sloan.

BARKS.

Falcon, (Nor.), 389 tons, Henriksen, Bahai, Paterson, Downing & Co.
Poseidon (Nor.), 544 tons, Pattersen, Pernambuco, Heide & Co.
Hans, (Swed.), 546 tons, Ebbersen, Bristol, Heide & Co.

SCHOONERS.

Clara (Am.), 281 tons, Hatch, Punta Gorda, Geo. Harriss, Son & Co.
D. J. Sawyer, (Am.), 326 tons, Kelley, Philadelphia, Geo. Harriss, Son & Co.
Cora M., (Am.), 137 tons, Mitchell, Charleston, Geo. Harriss, Son & Co.
Mable Darling, (Br.), 111 tons, Roberts, Dunmoretown, Bahama, Geo. Harriss, Son & Co.
Bessie Brown (Am.), 220 tons, Smith, Lewes, Geo. Harriss, Son & Co.
Roger Moore (Am.), 277 tons, Miller, Savannah, J. T. Riley & Co.

Cotton Futures.

(Special to The Messenger.)

New York, December 23.—The improvement in the cotton market continued today. Liverpool sent favorable cables, reporting an advance there of 2-64d and good short business. Our markets opened 2 points higher. After the opening it became evident that there was a brisk demand, both for investment and to cover shorts and prices improved further. Heavy realizing sales checked the advance. Receipts everywhere were moderate. The southern markets were firm and higher. May opened at 5.97, advanced to 5.99 and closed at 5,97 to 5.98, with the tone of the market quiet and steady. While the trading today was broader than it has been recently it has an unmistakable ante-holiday aspect. With encouragement from Liverpool prices may be higher tomorrow, but we are not sanguine of much advance at present.

RIORDAN & CO.

(By Associated Press.)

New York, December 23.—Liverpool cable accounts at hand when our market opened this morning were distinctly more favorable than had been expected and still later cables gave a further lift, showing exceptional spot sales for a holiday market and finally a net gain of 1½64d to 2-64d on futures. Our market, after opening steady at a net advance of 1 to 3 points, further advanced 2 to 4 points, showed larger activity than for some time past and closed quiet and steady at a net rise of 2 to 4 points. The local shorts were anxious to cover their contracts with a brace of holidays at hand and in view of a more cheerful feeling on the part of investment buyers, following a belief in decreased cotton acreage. Today's business in cotton futures foots up 173,900 bales, against 201,900 bales November 12th, which was the largest business for over two months. Receipts are falling below the larger crop estimates.

New York Stock Market

New York, December 23.—Several factors combined in the last hour of trading on the stock market today to lift it out of the dullness and depression which had been its character all day and to raise prices quite sharply above last night's closing level. One of these factors was the subsidence of apprehension caused earlier in the day by the closing of the Chestnut Street bank in Philadelphia. Another was that the Joint Traffic Association had succeeded in securing measures going to assure the restoration and maintenance of established tariffs on live stock, provisions and grain from western to eastern points. Another was the announcement from the treasury department at Washington that sufficient amounts of the current 6's were being offered for redemption on December 27th, in accordance with the government's proffer, to assure relief to the money market from the scarcity threatened by the withdrawal of the Union Pacific payment to the government. Still another factor was the news from Albany that the railroad commisison had extended by two years the period for equipping freight cars with automatic couplings in New York state. A number of the speculations, which showed marked strength all day took on renewed buoyancy at the close and helped on the rise.

Call money loaned as high as 4 per cent. again and did not yield below 3 per cent. There was a further fall of ¼c in the actual rate for demand sterling and of ⅛c for cables and long sterling. Demand sterling is now at the lowest point touched since the gold import movement in September, namely $4.84¼c. The rates for money in London and Berlin are stiffly held and some apprehension of a squeeze before January 1st is reported from London. This serves to offset the weakness in the exchange rates. The bond market was dull and rather heavy. Total sales were $1,340,000. The total sales of stocks were 212,900 shares.

The Chicago Market

Chicago, December 23.—Speculative markets were all strong today and more generally active than yesterday, though in the end wheat and oats were the only substantial beneficiaries of the improvement. May wheat closed ⅝c to ¾c higher on buying, principally by the Leiter people. The news, however, favored higher prices. Corn closed a shade higher. Oats advanced ¼c to ⅜c and provisions closed unchanged to 5c higher.

CURES TO STAY CURED.

Thousands of voluntary certificates received during the past fifteen years, certify with no uncertain sound, that Botanic Blood Balm, (B. B. B.) will cure to stay cured, Rheumatism, Catarrh, Ulcers, Sores, Blotches, and the most malignant blood and skin diseases. Botanic Blood Balm is the result of forty years experience of an eminent, scientific and conscientious physician. Send stamp for book of wonderful cures, and learn which is the best remedy. Beware of substitutes said to be "just as good" and buy the long-tested and reliable Botanic Blood Balm, (B. B. B.) Price only $1.00 per large bottle.

EFFECTED AN ENTIRE CURE.

For over two years I have been a great sufferer from Rheumatism, affecting both shoulders to such an extent that I could not put my coat on without help. The use of six bottles of Botanic Blood Balm, B. B. B., effected an entire cure. I refer to Rev. W. W. Wadsworth, proprietor Coweta Advertiser, and to all merchants of Newman.

JACOB F. SPONCLER,
Newman Ga.

For sale by all druggists.

Two Men Lynched

San Francisco, December 23.—An Examiner special from Spokane, Wash., says: Several persons who have come here from Colfax declare that notwithstanding all denials, a lynching occurred there Sunday night or Monday morning. It is asserted that Chadwick Marshall and John McDonald, the alleged murderers of Orville Hayden, a prominent citizen of Farmington, were taken from the county jail by a mob and hanged to trees near the town. According to this story a press censorship prevails and consequently the facts have not been permitted to make their way to general notice.

The Indian Head Cotton Mills, at Cordova, Ala., have been completed, and will soon begin making cotton cloth. They were built by Boston capitalists, cost $600,000, and have 25,000 spindles and 800 looms.—New York Tribune.

TO EASE THE MONEY MARKET

Secretary Gage's Efforts to Prevent Financial Disturbances from Heavy Payment to the Government by the Union Pacific Railroad.

Washington, December 23.—Assistant Secretary Vandelip, in speaking of the heavy payments by the government on January 1st, said:

Secretary Gage intends that there shall be as little disturbance as possible in the money market as a result of the payment of the principal and interest of the Union Pacific railroad bonds which mature January 1st. The amount of the principal of these bonds is $29,902,000 and the interest due thereon $897,000. Up to last night $10,195,120 of these bonds had been presented for payment and the treasury drafts to the amount of $8,350,173 had been issued and sent out from the treasury. This represents the actual cash payments made up to date. There were to last night $2,143,800 proceeds of redeemed bonds held in the treasury to secure circulation of national banks. Checks representing the actual cash payments already made and to be made between now nd the 27th will be available on that date in the banks. It is probable that the amount of cash payments to that date will reach $15,000,000. On the same day the re-organization of the Union Pacific railroad will pay into the treasury the sum of $8,538,401 and in order to guard further against any disturbance of the market Secretary Gage has arranged that $4,000,000 of this amount shall be deposited in the National City bank, of New York, upon bonds being turned over to the government for security. The balance, $4,538,401, will represent the actual amount withdrawn from the money market and paid into the sub treasury at New York.

"The whole amount of bonds falling due on January 1st, will of course, not be presented by that time. There is usually a certain percentage which is slow in coming in, depending mostly upon the condition of the money morket. If this is easy, holders of bonds prefer to let the money, for safety, remain with the government and if the price of bonds is high, there is also a tendency to present them slowly for redemption. Such is the case at this time. There has been a congestion of currency at the money centres and except within the last week or ten days the money market has been exceedingly easy. Bonds to the amount of $7,350,000 are now held as security for special deposits in national banks on account of the purchase of the Union Pacific railroad, and to this extent there will be no actual money transaction. It will be seen, therefore, that the measures taken by the secretary will, so far as the redemption of the bonds is concerned, and the payment to the government of the next installment of the purchase price of the Union Pacific railroad company, prevent any disturbance of the money market on these accounts.

"The last payment to be made to the government on the Pacific railroad account will be Jnuary 6, 1898 and will amount to $8,538,401."

Red Springs News

(Correspondence of The Messenger.)

Red Springs, N. C., December 23.

Last Monday night a chartered organization known as the "Red Springs Land and Improvement Company," held its first meeting and elected the following officers: President, R. W. Livermoore; vice president, W. F. Williams; secretary and treasurer, A. T. McCallum. The other members are Dr. J. L. McMillan, J. G. Williams, of Red Springs, and J. A. McKoy, of Richmond county. This company starts out well and has already a number of valuable tracts of land and improved town property for sale and exchange. It will also run telephone lines to various points in this and Richmond county.

Rev. W. G. Vardell, of James Island, S. C., father of President C. G. Vardell, of Red Springs seminary, lies critically ill at Davidson College, where he is now on a visit. Mr. Vardell, visited our town a few months since and left hale and hearty, and the news of his sickness is both a surprise and regret to his many friends here. His family have been summoned to his bedside.

As the holiday season approaches our town has assumed a business air that brings cash to the merchant and joy to the small boy. On the whole, trade is satisfactory. The many lumber mills in this section will close down next Friday, but owing to the rush of orders, the shut down will last only a few days.

The seminary faculty and students will depart for their respective homes on the 23rd inst., to return on the 3rd of January '98,

Our local paper, the Citizen, will come forth the first of the year in a new dress.

Several residences are now in course of erection, with more to follow. Work on the new Episcopal church will begin 1st of January next.

Rev. D. W. Fox preached in Lumberton last Sunday. Rev. J. D. Moore had a good protracted meeting at Lumber Bridge last week.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. McKinnon celebrated their siler wedding last night. A number of relaties and others were present.

Several northerners are at Hotel Townsend to enjoy our mild climate and hospitality. Others are expected soon. Several have sent mistletoe, holly, long leaf pine, cones, etc., north recently.

Your excellent paper is popular in this section and ranks among the best. Success to it and merry Christmas to all.

Modern Magic

"That," said the father pointing, to the portrait in an illustrated paper, "is Dr. Holbank, who wrote so many schoolbooks. It should be of interest to you."

"Did he write 'Holbank's Arithmetic'?" asked the boy.

"Yes."

"May I have the picture?"

"Certainly—glad to see you taking an intelligent interest in your work. You can cut it out." The boy was of untidy appearance and sallow complexion. He possessed at school among his fellows a reputation for mystery which he thoroughly injoyed. He did not attempt to maintain it in the more critical and sceptical atmosphere of his home. His name was Williams—Charles Williams; Smith, aged 11, fully believed in him; Thompson, aged 13, had admitted there might be something in it.

* * * * * * *

As they entered school Charles Williams carefully abstained from speaking to Smith, but pressed a note into his hand.

"What's up?" said Smith, not being entirely ready for the mystery at the moment.

Williams put one finger warningly to his lips and passed on. Smith opened the note. It was incribed outside: "H. Smith, esq. Secrit and Private." Inside it ran:

"See me imeadiately after school on a urgent mater of business. Your help is neaded. (Signed) C. Williams."

* * * * * * *

Up the street from the school, down by the left to the end of the town, went C. Williams and H. Smith. It was a winter afternoon, and dark. C. Williams paused before a house in process of building, standing alone on the outskirts. The workmen engaged on it had gone.

"There is the place," said Williams. "Follow me. No; wait until the lantern is ready." He produced a small lantern from his pocket and lit it. "Now we're ready. Ask no questions."

"Shan't we be copped?" asked Smith.

"Who's to cop us?" replied the dauntless and mysterious one.

By means of a ladder they made their way to the first floor, which was still in the skeleton stage. Smith found the ladder good.

"This is rather sport," he said.

"It won't be sport for some one else when I've finished. Be careful—one false step and you're dashed to atoms."

They seated themselves side by side on a rafter, and Smith produced his portrait of Dr. Holbank.

"Do you know who that is?"

"No."

"It's the man who wrote the arithmetic. I've been on his track for years and now I've got him."

"What are you going to do?"

"Kill him; you're to help me. No one will ever know. It's going to be done by magic—the way they used to do in the old days."

"I don't see what you mean."

"See these pins?"

"Well?"

"Have you got anything against the man? Have you ever been 'kept in' for arithmetic?"

"Twice last week. And my answers were right and the answers in the book were wrong."

"Take these pins and dig them into the two eyes of the picture. That's right; now he's blind."

"Whatever we do to the picture happens to the real man. I'm going to dig a pin into the forehead myself. That's where the brain is, and it'll send him mad. That'll teach him to lay traps for us; that'll teach him recurring decimals."

"I say do you think we ought to do this?"

"You don't know any more about revenge than a child. I've been on this man's track for——Said that before? Oh, yes; so I did. How many horses does it take to plough a field in ten days if one of the horses is a goat? I'll teach him to ask questions like that! This one is in his heart." And another pin perforated the centre of the watch chain in the portrait. "Now he's dead."

"I say," said Smith, aghast, "isn't this rather going it? I mean, if it's real."

"It's real enough. To make quite certain, if you'll open the lantern I'll burn that portrait. Not a word to anybody, mind; this is a hanging business if we're caught."

"You might have told me that before. If I believed it"——

"You'll believe it all right when you hear he's dead. Come on—down the ladder. I'll see if any of the police are waiting for us—you stand back." He peered out cautiously. "Right; the coast's clear. Now then, run for your life."

* * * * * * *

"Father," said the magician that night, "is Dr. Holbank dead?"

"Of course. He died a week ago or more. That's why they put his portrait in the paper."

"Does it say anything about him?"

"Only that he died recently—it doesn't give the date—and that he was the author of some well-known schoolbooks."

"I should like to cut that out, too. I want to show it to another boy."

"Certainly. As I've always said, an intelligent interest in your work is what I like to see."

And C. Williams took that obituary paragraph to school two days later, and his reputation for magical powers, combined with a total want of principle, is on the increase.—Barry Plain, in Black and White.

OFFICE OF
OWEN F. LOVE & CO.,
DEALERS IN
HARDWARE, CUTLERY, GUNS, &c,
WILMINGTON, N. C.

December 10th, 1897.

Santa Claus—

Dear Sir, Replying to your query would say, we have the largest line of Carving Knives, Scissors, Razors, Brass Fire Dogs and Fire Sets, Wrought Fire Sets, Five O'Clock Teas, Chaffin Dishes, Guns, Pistols, Hunting Coats, Leggins, Caps, Pocket Knives, Loaded Shells, Cartridges, A Full Line House Furnishing Goods, Wilson Heaters, Cooking Stoves, &c., &c., in the City, and we would be glad to