

### Converse College, Robt. P. Pell, President.

Department of Music:  
R. H. Peters, Mus. Doc. Director.

SPARTANBURG, S. C., Dec. 10, 1903.  
MR. CHAS. M. STIEFF,  
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:—  
The thirty-four upright pianos and one concert grand which you delivered to us on the 10th of September, have fully come up to our expectations, students and teachers in the department of music being delighted with them.  
In regard to tone and touch these instruments are particularly good, while in the matter of durability it may be said that music students practice upon them eight or nine hours per day for six days in the week; but, these pianos are holding up most excellently against this very severe test. They were tuned in September, yet they do not need tuning again, a really remarkable record for pianos so recently sent from the factory.  
Yours very truly,  
R. H. PETERS.

We sell direct from the factory and save you the retail dealer's profit. A postal to our Southern Warerooms, 211-213 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, N. C., will secure catalogue and full information. Don't buy a piano before seeing, hearing and testing the sweet-toned "Stieff."

## CHAS. M. STIEFF

211-213 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, North Carolina.

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The Liverpool & London & Globe, Aetna, Hartford, New York Underwriters, Fire Association of Philadelphia, North Carolina Home, Piedmont, Southern Stock Mutual, Phoenix, North British & Mercantile, London Assurance Corporation, National Springfield Fire and Marine, German American, St. Paul Fire & Marine. We write Burglary, Accident and Health, Plate Glass and Liability for The Maryland Casualty Co. and The Employers' Liability Assurance Corporation. We write our policies in the Hartford, and we represent the largest and best life insurance companies in the world. No stronger agency in the South. We make insurance our business and can therefore give you the best at the minimum cost. All losses promptly adjusted and paid without discount.  
The Insurance Department of People's Bank,  
W. M. GORDON, Agent, Monroe, N. C.

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Every man, woman and child within fifty miles of Monroe knows, or ought to know, that our place of business is on the north-east corner from the courthouse square, and that we carry the largest and most complete and up-to-date stock of general merchandise of any firm in this section. Our Dry Goods Store, 25 x 100 feet, is well stocked with Dry Goods, Notions, Hats, Shoes, Clothing, Etc. Our Grocery Store, 30 x 65 feet, also our warehouse, is well supplied with Groceries of all kinds.

- 100 Car Loads Lister's, Pocomoke, Sea Fowl, Old Dominion, Columbia Guano, Acid Phosphate, Murate Potash, Nitrate Soda, Etc.
- 50 Bags Coffee,
- 10 car loads Corn,
- 10 " Flour,
- 1 " Salt,
- 1 " Mill Feed,
- 1 " Molasses,
- 25 Boxes Meat,
- 200 " Tobacco,

All to be sold at reasonable prices, wholesale or retail, cash or on time.

Respectfully,  
**McRAE MERCANTILE CO.**  
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Do you want to save dollars on your Furniture? Of course you do. Then you will buy your Furniture from us. We always have on hand a complete stock of everything in our line.

T. P. DILLON,  
Furniture Dealer and Funeral Director.  
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### RUSSIANS LOSE FEARFULLY.

The Admiral of the Fleet is Lost on His Vessel, Which Sinks in Two and a Half Minutes After Striking a Mine or a Torpedo—Crew Lost—Torpedo Boat Sunk and Another Ship Injured.

Distressing disasters continue to follow the Russian fleet at Port Arthur in its conflict with the Japanese. Last Wednesday another of its large battleships was sent to the bottom, with nearly all its crew and the commander of the fleet, Admiral Makaroff. The Petropavlovsk (Peter and Paul) was one of the finest battleships of the Russian navy, and the last admiral was her best fighter. On the next day the Japanese sank a Russian torpedo boat, and another ship was injured by a mine.

St. Petersburg, April 13.—The awful disaster of the battleship Petropavlovsk at Port Arthur, with the loss of almost her entire crew of over 600 men, and the death of Vice Admiral Makaroff, has been a terrible blow. It would have fallen less heavily if the ship and the commander-in-chief had been lost in battle, but as the result of an accident following upon the heels of a succession of tragedies of which the Port Arthur fleet has been the victim, it has created something like consternation.

"Reverses we can stand," said a prominent Russian, "but to have the Petropavlovsk meet the fate of the Boyarin and others is heart-breaking."

Besides it has just become known that the battleship Potlva several weeks ago had a hole rammed in her by the battleship Sevastopol, while she was manufacturing in the harbor of Port Arthur.

Vice Admiral Makaroff's death is really a greater loss than would be that of several battleships. He was the pride of the navy and enjoyed the implicit confidence of his sovereign as well as of the officers and men of the service. Speaking of his death the officers here all remarked upon the strange fatality that he should lose his life on a heavily armed battleship to which he had a particular aversion. This morning for the first time he raised his flag on a battleship. Previously he had gone out on board the cruiser Novik or the cruiser Askold. It was at the urgent request of his friends that he did not risk his life in this fashion, so transferred his flag to the Petropavlovsk.

The emperor held such a high opinion of him that he declined to consider other candidates, although it was pointed out that Rear Admiral Rozhdestvensky, chief of the general staff of the navy, who has just been appointed to a command in the Baltic squadron, and who is now destined to succeed Makaroff, as well as others, were anxious to distinguish themselves.

The emperor in his summons to Vice Admiral Makaroff said, "My choice has fallen on you, and I will not take a refusal." And so the admiral went to the far East. The emperor's sorrow is doubly keen on this account.

St. Petersburg, April 14.—Rear Admiral Prince Outskinsky wires from Port Arthur today that the Bezstrashni, one of the Russian torpedo boat destroyers, sent out during the night to reconnoiter, became separated from the rest of the fleet owing to the bad weather prevailing, was surrounded by Japanese torpedo boat destroyers and was sunk in the fight. Five men were saved. Admiral Outskinsky adds:

"I have taken command provisionally of the fleet since the disaster to the Petropavlovsk. During some maneuvering of the battleship squadron the Pobieda struck against a mine on the starboard. She was able to regain port by herself. No one on board was killed or wounded."

The Pobieda is a battleship of 12,674 tons displacement and of 14,500 horse power. She is 191 feet long, has 11 feet beam and draws 26 feet of water, and is heavily armored.

**A Great Sensation.**  
There was a big sensation in Leesville, Ind., when W. H. Brown of that place, who was expected to die, had his life saved by Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption. He writes: "I endured insufferable agonies from asthma, but your New Discovery gave me immediate relief and soon thereafter effected a complete cure." Similar cures of consumption, pneumonia, bronchitis and grip are numerous. It's the peerless remedy for all throat and lung troubles. Price 50c, and \$1. Guaranteed by English Drug Co. Trial bottles free.

**Can't Read Lawyers' Writing.**  
Wadeboro, Messenger and Intelligence.  
Mr. James T. Moore of McFarlan raised a laugh in the court house Tuesday while being examined by Mr. John T. Bennett. The old gentleman, after being energetically pressed for some time, finally admitted that he could not decipher the writing of lawyers, but that he could make out to read that of other people.

**Nothing Equal to Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy** for bowel complaints in children. "We have used Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy in our family for years," says Mrs. J. B. Cooke of Netherlands, Tex. "We have given it to all our children. We have used other medicines for the same purpose, but never found anything to equal Chamberlain's. If you will use it as directed it will always cure." For sale by S. J. Welsh and C. N. Simpson, Jr.

**Women as Well as Men Are Made Miserable by Kidney and Bladder Trouble.**  
Kidney trouble preys upon the mind, discourages and lessens ambition; beauty, vigor and cheerfulness soon disappear when the kidneys are out of order or diseased. Kidney trouble has become so prevalent that it is not uncommon for a child to be born afflicted with weak kidneys. If the child urinates too often, if the urine scalds the flesh, or if, when the child reaches manhood, it should be able to control the passage, it is yet afflicted with bed-wetting, depend upon it, the cause of the difficulty is kidney trouble, and the first step should be towards the treatment of these important organs. This unpleasant trouble is due to a diseased condition of the kidneys and bladder and not to a habit as most people suppose. Women as well as men are made miserable with kidney and bladder trouble, and both need the same great remedy. The mild and the immediate effect of Swamp-Root is soon realized. It is sold by druggists, in fifty-cent and one-dollar size bottles. You may have a sample bottle by mail free, also a **Book of Swamp-Root** pamphlet telling all about Swamp-Root, including many of the thousands of testimonial letters received from sufferers cured. In writing Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., be sure and mention this paper. Don't make any mistake, but remember the name, Swamp-Root, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, and the address, Binghamton, N. Y., on every bottle.

### AS A TONIC

For Convalescing Invalids Peruna is Unequaled.



Mr. Val. Schmidt, one of the founders and charter members of California Tent No. 6, Knights of the Macabees, the second largest tent in the state (having nearly 700 members.) There are about 3,000 members of the order in the city and with all of them Mr. Schmidt is immensely popular. In a recent letter from 320 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, Cal., he writes:

"Some months ago while prosecuting my calling of miner, I contracted the so-called deadly mountain fever and was confined to a bed from which I had little hopes of ever arising."

"I tried many remedies and doctors without any favorable results, until having lost twenty pounds of flesh I was induced to try Peruna, and after the use of nine bottles I was completely cured and am as hale and hearty as any picture shows, and intend to stand by it, and am still taking it as a tonic, as I feel that nothing gives me more strength when I am worn out than Peruna."

"I always speak a good word for it." VAL. SCHMIDT.  
If you do not derive prompt and satisfactory results from the use of Peruna, write at once to Dr. Hartman, giving a full statement of your case and he will be pleased to give you his valuable advice gratis.

Address Dr. Hartman, President of The Hartman Sanitarium, Columbus, O.

**Later and Exact Account.**  
St. Petersburg, April 15.—Out of the maze of conflicting reports regarding the sequence of events leading to the destruction of the Petropavlovsk, it is now established that Vice Admiral Makaroff, early Wednesday morning, took out his squadron to engage a weak division of six Japanese cruisers which were in the bay. The Japanese were in the lead, and the Russian torpedo boats, which sank the Bezstrashni. Particulars of the torpedo boat fight are still lacking.

The Russian commander-in-chief pursued the Japanese cruiser division until it was reinforced by eleven battleships, when he retired into the outer roadstead, where he was drawing up in line of battle when the disaster to the Petropavlovsk occurred. The exact circumstances of the destruction of the battleship are not known. It is certain that both her boilers and magazines exploded, but it is not absolutely sure that she touched a mine, although the weight of opinion at the admiralty is that such was the case, and if so it was a Russian, and not a Japanese, mine. It is absolutely denied that Admiral Makaroff's ships participated in a naval engagement.

The injuries to the Pobieda are said to be slight.  
The correspondent of the Associated Press learns that twenty-eight officers were lost on board the Petropavlovsk, including Capt. Vasiliev, belonging to the ship of Admiral Makaroff; fourteen members of his staff, including Rear Admiral Moles, the chief of staff, and Lieut. Von Kobe, the aide-de-camp of Grand Duke Cyril.

**Robbed the Grave.**  
A startling incident is narrated by John Oliver of Philadelphia as follows: "I was in an awful condition. My skin was almost yellow, eyes sunken, tongue coated, pain continually in back and sides, no appetite, growing weaker day by day. Three physicians had given me up. Then I was advised to use Electric Bitters; to my great joy, the first bottle made a decided improvement. I continued their use for three weeks, and am now a well man. I know they robbed the grave of another victim." No one should fail to try them. Only 50c., guaranteed, at English Drug Co.'s.

**Sad Death of a Little Child.**  
Wadeboro, Messenger and Intelligence.  
Joe Bennett Brasington, the four-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Brasington, died Monday afternoon under circumstances more than ordinarily sad. Just two weeks before his death the little fellow stuck a nail in his foot, but the wound apparently healed in a few days and his parents felt no alarm at all until last Thursday night, at which time the child complained of his foot pain, and a physician was sent for, but blood poison had already set in and he grew rapidly worse until his death. The interment was in East View cemetery Tuesday afternoon. The family have the tenderest sympathy of the entire community in their bereavement.

**Flakes a Clean Sweep.**  
There's nothing like doing a thing thoroughly. Of all the salves you ever heard of, Bucklen's Arnica Salve is the best. It sweeps away and cures burns, sores, bruises, cuts, boils, ulcers, skin eruptions and piles. It's only 25c. and guaranteed to give satisfaction by English Drug Co.

**SOFT CORE**  
Like the running brook, the red blood that flows through the veins has to come from somewhere.  
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### The Potato Beetle.

Many persons believe that the common potato beetle, which is so destructive to Irish potatoes, has been introduced into our midst by the purchase of Northern grown seed potatoes, but here again is a mistake similar to that pointed out recently with reference to the terrapin bug, for the potato beetle is a native of the west and spread eastward from the Rocky Mountain region of Colorado, reaching North Carolina about 1877, as nearly as I have been able to ascertain. Let us briefly consider the life history of this insect, for by so doing we may get at some facts not generally understood and may get rid of some erroneous ideas which are held by many farmers of this State.

The adult, striped beetle appears in the spring about the time the potato comes up, having passed the winter underground. They begin to feed at once on the foliage, male and lay their eggs. The eggs are yellow and laid in clusters of from thirty to fifty, usually on the underside of the leaves. In a few days the eggs hatch to small, soft-bodied, reddish larvae with black head and legs. The larvae are slug-like, and moist of skin, and are very voracious, doing much more destruction than the adult beetles. The larvae grow quite rapidly, shedding the skin from time to time to make room for more growth. When fully grown they are of a dull, reddish-pink color. They leave the plant and go under the ground where they change to the pupa stage. In this stage the insect is inactive and takes no food, but is simply being transformed from the larva to the adult beetle. Within a week or ten days the pupa transforms to the adult beetle which then comes out of the ground, attacks the plants, provides for other generations, etc.

There is no stage in its existence when the insect feeds on, or lives in, the tuber of the potato, hence it can not be shipped about in the seed potatoes, unless it be that they are simply gathered in bodily in the barrels in the field.

A single adult female beetle may, in the course of her existence, lay five or six hundred eggs, and as the larvae become mature within four or five weeks, there are four, five or six generations produced in a season, the exact number being obviously difficult to determine. In the fall, after the vines are all dead or removed from the fields and the frosts begin, the adult beetles go underground to pass the winter. If the same land be planted in potatoes a second year, the beetles may come up in the spring at the same time that the potatoes do, thus making it appear that they were in the seed potatoes. We have always stated that this could not be the case.

**Remedies.**  
The remedy to be used against the potato beetle is so simple, sure and cheap that there is no reason why one should suffer seriously from its attacks. Paris green, applied dry in a mixture with air-slacked lime or plaster, or in solution with water and lime, or in the Bordeaux mixture, makes a perfectly safe and sure antidote. The fears that some have that this will poison the tuber are absolutely without foundation, although if used to too great strength the poison is apt to have a burning effect upon the foliage of the plants. Let us consider the three methods mentioned.

**Paris Green and Air Slacked Lime**  
Mix good quality of paris green with thoroughly air-slacked lime at rate of one ounce of the green to four pounds of the lime. Be sure that it is thoroughly mixed. Better mix with the hands, stirring it together again and again until there are no spots or streaks in the lime which show more greenish color than others. Apply by sprinkling by hand, or by shaking it from sacks made of loose cloth, or with a powder-gun or bellows. The application had best

be made in early morning while the plants are wet with dew. Make first application as soon as the beetles appear and repeat as often as seen to be needed.  
Paris Green, Lime and Water.  
Shake two ounces of lime and to the milk thus formed add water to make ten gallons. Mix one ounce of paris green with a little water in a cup or saucer to form a thin paste and then wash it all out into the water with the lime. This gives one ounce paris green, two ounces lime, to ten gallons of water. Apply with a spray pump. If pump is not to be had, the application may be made with a watering pot or brush, but spraying it on with a regular spray pump is preferable.

**Bordeaux Mixture with Paris Green**  
Dissolve five pounds bluestone in water by lugging in a sack at top of keg in which the water is placed. When it is entirely dissolved add water to make twenty-five gallons. Now shake five pounds of lime and add water to the milk to make twenty-five gallons. Pour equal parts of the bluestone solution and the lime water together to make the perfect Bordeaux mixture and mix in equal quantity, at any time as needed. Being kept separate, each will keep through the season, but once the two are poured together to make the Bordeaux, it should be used within forty-eight hours. Apply with regular spraying pump, or with watering pot if pump is not to be had.

The advantage of the Bordeaux mixture and paris green over the others is that it is a remedy for blights as well as the beetles, and thus by protecting the plant from a number of enemies at once the general vigor and health is so improved that the yield is much better. The writer is strongly of the opinion that our potato-growers would do well to spray their potatoes three or four times each season with Bordeaux and paris green. The first application should be made as soon as the plants are well started, the second, ten days or two weeks later, and the third, two weeks after the second, the idea being to keep the plant well protected by continuous applications so that the beetles will not have a chance to get started.

If you have doubts about the remedies here suggested, why not try one or more of them on one-half of your patch and let the other half go as you have done before? Then, when you see plainly just what the results are, let me know.  
If you are interested in the matter of spraying, write to me for Circular on "Spraying Apparatus."

**Robbed the Grave.**  
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In every receipt that calls for cream of tartar and soda or other quick leavening agent use Royal Baking Powder. It will make the food of finer flavor, more digestible and wholesome.

**Tirzah Items.**  
Tirzah, April 12.—Spring, spring! lovely spring we welcome thee! As we look out over fields and forest, and see the flowers blooming and the trees putting forth their beautiful young leaves, we realize the fact that springtime is here. In a few weeks more the whole forest will be covered with a heavy coat of green, then we can see a scene of grandeur more beautiful and perfect than the hand of any human artist can ever portend. We often love to wander over hills and valleys, through woodlands and forests, and behold the beautiful green trees, looking so fresh and tender, and see the lovely, fragrant flowers as they spring forth from mother earth. What is more grand than the wonderful works of nature? I often wonder how any one can gaze upon such a scene as this, and think for a moment that there is no God? For surely nothing but the hand of an all-wise providence can create such wonderful things.  
The farmers have been very busy for the last two weeks, being from early morning until late in the evening, preparing their lands for another cotton crop. Some have already begun planting cotton, and if the weather continues favorable it will not be long till the most of the seed will be in the ground. As yet, very little land is being prepared for corn, but guess that will be done later. I think it is wise to raise plenty of corn and meat, even if cotton is worth 15 cents a pound. The small grain crop will be poor in this section this year.  
Miss Kate Steele has returned from Waxhaw, where she spent a week with her brother, Mr. W. R. Steele.  
Miss Maggie Walkup, who has been teaching school at Mt. Prospect for the past five months, returned home last Thursday.  
Miss Pearl Powell of Rock Hill spent a few days at Rev. W. W. Ratchford's. She is one of our former teachers, and her many friends made during her stay here are always glad to welcome her back in our midst.  
We noticed among our visiting friends at Tirzah yesterday, Misses Mamie and Rosa Sisto, Mrs. J. R. Sisto, Miss Minnie Nisbet, Mr. J. D. Craig, all of Waxhaw.

**Sciatic Rheumatism Cured.**  
"I have been subject to sciatic rheumatism for years," says E. H. Waldron of Wilton Junction, Iowa. "My joints were stiff and gave me much pain and discomfort. My joints would crack when I straightened up. I used Chamberlain's Pain Balm and have been thoroughly cured. Have not had a pain or ache from the old sore for many months. It is certainly a most wonderful liniment." For sale by S. J. Welsh and C. N. Simpson, Jr.

**A Cure for Headache.**  
Any man, woman or child suffering from headache, biliousness or a dull, drowsy feeling should take one or two of DeWitt's Little Early Risers night and morning. These famous little pills are famous because they are a tonic as well as a pill. While they cleanse the system they strengthen and rebuild it by their tonic effect upon the liver and bowels. Sold by English Drug Co. and S. J. Welsh.

**Serious Stomach Trouble Cured.**  
I was troubled with a distress in my stomach, sour stomach and vomiting spells, and can truthfully say that Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets cured me.—Mrs. T. V. Williams, Laingsburg, Mich. These tablets are guaranteed to cure every case of stomach trouble of this character. For sale by S. J. Welsh and C. N. Simpson, Jr.

**Are You a Dyspeptic?**  
If you are a dyspeptic you owe it to yourself and your friends to get well. Dyspepsia annoys the dyspeptic's friends because his disease sours his disposition as well as his stomach. Kodol Dyspepsia Cure will not only cure dyspepsia, indigestion and sour stomach, but this palatable, reconstructive tonic digests and strengthens the whole digestive apparatus, and sweetens the life as well as the stomach. When you take Kodol Dyspepsia Cure the food you eat is enjoyed. It is digested, assimilated and its nutrient properties appropriated by the blood and tissues. Health is the result. Sold by English Drug Co. and S. J. Welsh.

**The Commercial Club of Charlotte.**  
of which Mr. J. P. Caldwell is president, gave one of its regular dinners Tuesday night, the guest of honor being Bishop Haid of the diocese of the Catholic church in North Carolina. A letter of regret was read from Mr. Cleveland, who had been invited but was unable to attend.

**Good for Children.**  
The pleasant to take and harmless One Minute Cough Cure gives immediate relief in all cases of cough, croup and is gripe because it does not pass immediately into the stomach but takes effect right at the seat of the trouble. It draws out the inflammation, heals and soothes and cures permanently by enabling the lungs to contribute pure life-giving and life-sustaining oxygen to the blood and tissues. One Minute Cough Cure is pleasant to take and is good alike for young and old. Sold by English Drug Co. and S. J. Welsh.

**Two or three railroad detectives** have been in Lilesville and vicinity for several days. They are trying to discover evidence which will justify the arrest of the parties who placed a piece of rail on the track, a short distance below Lilesville, one night recently. Fortunately the engineer saw the obstruction in time to almost stop the train before it struck the rail, only the front wheels of the engine leaving the track.—Wadesboro Messenger.

**A Thoughtful Man.**  
M. M. Austin of Winchester, Ind., knew what to do in the hour of need. His wife had such an unusual case of stomach and liver trouble, physicians could not help her. He thought of and tried Dr. King's New Life Pills and she got relief at once and was finally cured. Only 25c. at English Drug Co.'s.

**Postmaster Holland of Gastonia** was tried before the mayor of his town Wednesday on a charge of being drunk and disorderly. He was found guilty and fined a penny and costs, but the case was appealed. The final settlement of the case will probably determine the postmaster's tenure of the office.

**Back to his home on a train of spring** has taken all his heart's yearning to his life. "Water is forgotten, love is forgot, Sweet in your face, I read the story of my love, Sweet in your face, I read the story of my love, Sweet in your face, I read the story of my love." "Love, love, love, and Spring in the South!"