

Mrs. J. M. Blair returned from Lincolnton yesterday.

Mr. S. O. Blair went to Raleigh yesterday on a business trip.

Mrs. Joseph Klutz of Albemarle is visiting Mrs. Foetna Crow.

Mr. C. C. Sikes and family are spending the week at the beach.

Mr. and Mrs. Rosser Wolfe of Mecklenburg are visiting Mrs. N. S. Ogburn.

Mr. and Mrs. O. P. Heath of Charlotte spent Sunday at Capt. W. C. Heath's.

Mrs. Eugene Ashcraft is spending some time with Mrs. J. P. Monroe at Sanford.

Prof. L. D. Watson of the Baptist Woman's University at Raleigh spent Saturday in Monroe.

Mr. Thomas Littleton, who has been visiting his sister, Mrs. T. J. Jerome, returned home Saturday.

Mr. Horace Armfield of Albemarle returned home yesterday from a visit to his parents in Monroe.

Mrs. Roscoe Phifer, Miss Ola Bruner and Mrs. Wriston Lee have gone to Hiddenite to spend some time.

Prof. M. B. Dry went to Atlanta yesterday to see his brother, who is sick there. Mrs. Dry went as far as Asheville.

Mrs. Hettie Williamson and daughters, Mrs. Wilson Griffin and Miss Margie Williamson, will go to the beach this week.

Miss Allie Welsh gave a most delightful reception last night in honor of Mrs. E. C. Winchester and the Misses Trotter.

The farmers' institute being held today and tomorrow opened this morning with a splendid attendance. The program is being discussed with great interest.

The excursion which left here for Atlanta yesterday morning did not carry a great many from here but gathered a big crowd along the way.

Mrs. D. A. Covington will entertain the Baptist Young People's Union from 8:30 to 11 tonight. All the members are cordially invited.

Prof. A. T. Helms, principal of the graded school at Matthews, S.C., returned home yesterday from visiting his father in Buford township.

Mr. James McNeely asks The Journal to say that the family are very grateful for all the aid extended them when his little grandchild died.

Rev. A. C. Baker returned Sunday night from South Carolina, where he has been holding meetings. He preached in Chester on Sunday.

Mr. C. N. Mullis and Miss Neely Benton, both of Goose Creek township, were married here Thursday at the residence of the officiating magistrate, Esq. A. C. Johnson.

Rev. Geo. H. Atkinson will return tonight from the mountains, where he has been preaching for a month. He will hold the regular prayer meeting service in his church this week.

The little six-months-old child of Mr. J. W. Richardson of Monroe died Friday afternoon. The body was buried at Bethlehem church, in Buford township, on Sunday afternoon.

The Journal is requested to say that there will be a meeting at Rocky River church, in Goose creek, for the purpose of considering plans for repairing the building next Saturday.

The annual meeting of the Tirzah Bible Society will occur next Saturday. Rev. Geo. H. Atkinson will deliver the address and Dr. Law, the agent of the American Bible Society, will be present.

The Monroe base ball team went to Cheraw last week and lost three games to the boys of that town. This makes a series that each team has won from the other, and the Monroe boys want the tie played off on their own grounds.

Mr. F. W. Hays and Miss Maggie Hargett, both of Vance township, were married last Wednesday by Esq. M. L. Flow. The groom recently returned from the Philippine Islands, where he has been serving in the United States army.

Mrs. A. S. Gaddy of Marshville township died yesterday morning at 6 o'clock. She was fifty-four years old, and her maiden name was Hasty. She is survived by her husband and several children. She was a member of the Baptist church.

Prof. Jackson Hamilton, who has been teaching in South Carolina for several years, left his father's home in this county, where he has been visiting, Saturday, to make his home in West Virginia. He accepted the principalship of the Union high school, in Monroe county, in that State.

Rev. W. B. Ware will preach at the Methodist church in north Monroe next Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock sharp. The sacrament of the Lord's supper will be administered and the baptism of children will be attended to. Let the people turn out in full and help make this a spiritually profitable service.

Sandy Ridge and Macedonia in Buford township, Union in Lane's Creek, Bellefield in Monroe, and Ebenezer in Goose Creek have made up ten dollars each for rural libraries. Only one more is left. What district will take it? With the money that comes from the county and the State, each school will get one hundred books that have been most carefully selected and are first class in every particular.

Best cotton to-day 10.50.

Mr. A. Levy is spending some time at Virginia Beach.

Mr. I. A. Helms had some very large onions in town Saturday. He planted half acre in onion seed this spring and is reaping a fine harvest.

Mr. A. B. Helms requests The Journal to ask all those who are interested, to meet at Shiloh Baptist church on the first day of August to clear off the cemetery and church grounds.

Mr. Preston Manus, son of Mr. W. H. Manus of Marshville township, died suddenly of colic on the 13th. He was taken sick suddenly and died within twenty-four hours. The young man was eighteen years of age.

Mrs. Ellington, wife of Rev. Mr. Ellington, who came to the Monroe circuit twenty years ago and remained four years, has been visiting relatives here. She now lives at Bessemer City. Mrs. Ellington, Mrs. R. C. Ashcraft and Mrs. John Griffith spent last Thursday at Mr. I. A. Helms', in the Carmel neighborhood.

Sam Davis, a negro on the chain gang from Waxhaw with a nine-year sentence for house breaking, made a break for liberty yesterday afternoon. The gang is working on the new bridge being built over Bear Skin creek just above town.

Sam succeeded in escaping among the buildings near by and got out of town. In about four hours he was picked up about two miles from town. The dogs chased him, and when overtaken by the men it was found that Sam had tied one of the dogs.

John Hinson, the little darkey who stole thirty-five dollars from the cash drawer of Henderson & Snyder some time ago, has been practicing his art again. Friday evening he was seen loitering about the door of Hart's store, and when Mr. Hart returned from a short trip out of the store he found that \$5.75 had been taken out of the cash drawer. He told Policeman Laney, who, finding that John had been seen hanging about the door, and that he had just bought two large watermelons, concluded that he was the thief and started out for him. But the boy was on the lookout and the policeman was never able to find him, though he traced him beyond the county home. Nobody has yet seen him return to town. The little rogue is only ten years old. His mother came up and agreed to try to refund the money.

The eight-months' session of the Wesley Chapel graded school started yesterday with an enrollment on the first day of seventy-four. Mr. H. E. Stacey and Miss Escar Ashcraft are the teachers and Miss Thompson, daughter of Presiding Elder Thompson, is the music teacher. The educational rally and picnic on Saturday was attended by a large crowd, but the fine opening of yesterday was even better than was expected. Miss Pearl Rodman, the president of the Union county association of women for the betterment of public school houses and grounds, was present Saturday and made an enthusiastic talk. The association that has been organized at Wesley Chapel will undertake to have the school house painted and the grounds beautified. Miss Rodman is very anxious to get the women in all the school districts organized for the purpose of improving their school houses and grounds. She will be glad to correspond with all who are interested in this splendid work anywhere in the county. The object is to get pictures for the houses, keep the grounds cleared off, paint the houses when possible, plant trees, and do anything else that tends to make the school more interesting and attractive for the children.

Charlotte District Conference. Messrs. C. F. Lowe, W. S. Blake, B. F. Houston and D. Armfield are the delegates from Central Methodist church to the Charlotte district conference of the M. E. Church, South, western North Carolina conference. This body meets with the Brevard Street church in Charlotte tomorrow at 10:30 a. m. Rev. J. Ed Thompson, presiding elder, presiding. This conference is composed of all the traveling and local preachers in and four lay delegates from each pastoral charge—139 members in all. It represents 39 churches, 8,775 members in Arm, Union and parts of Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties. The business of the conference is to hear the reports of pastors and delegates on the spiritual and material state of the church, license young men to preach, pass on the character of local preachers and renew their licenses, examine and recommend applicants to the annual conference, elect four lay delegates to the annual conference, and plan for a wiser and more aggressive work in the district. These conferences meet annually during the summer and are very important gatherings. Representatives from the church schools and paper will be there. Sermons or addresses are delivered every day at 11 a. m. and at night.

Rev. W. B. Ware and the Monroe delegation will leave tomorrow morning and expect to be gone until Friday night to attend this conference.

For lack of time to transact the business, the meeting of the Anti-Saloon League will be postponed until Tuesday, August 1st, at 1 o'clock, or immediately after adjournment of court. All the friends of temperance in the county are urged to be present. An explanation of our last temperance legislation will be given by Mr. Redwine, the founder of the bill.

O. M. SANDERS.

Natural remedies are the best ones. Mida Water cures bladder and kidney troubles. At McCauley's Drug Store.

THE DARGAN SUICIDE.

Sensational Story that it Was a Sham—Rumors Against Evidence that the Man is Dead and Buried.

(Washington Special to Charlotte Observer, 25th.)

"I don't know what went with the money," confessed the attorney for Robert Keith Dargan, the man whom the coroner's jury pronounced a suicide on July 11th. "We have not been able to discover much but debts. It does not seem that he had one hundred dollars when he died."

This whole section of South Carolina is under intense excitement over the report that the supposed suicide is not dead at all and that the alleged awful tragedy of July 11th was a farce. They say that a man who was connected with the Independent Cotton Oil Company and who is now in France, carried the money away with him. The company was capitalized at \$1,000,000, and was supposed to be worth more. It was a tremendous concern. The imposing sign, hung above the first stair landing to its offices, reads: "General Offices the Darlington Oil Company, Anson Oil and Ice Company, Chesterfield County Oil Company, Manning Oil and Illuminating Company, Farmers' Cotton Oil Company. Robert Keith Dargan, General Manager."

Mr. Dargan had been general manager for years. The by-laws, adopted by the directors, gave him virtually unlimited power and nobody knew much about the business except himself. At each successive meeting of the directors, even at their late meeting in June, they adopted resolutions affirming and re-affirming their complete confidence in Dargan. The stockholders thought the big combination immensely prosperous on account of the handsome dividends they received—dividends, it is said, which invaded the capital stock.

Not until a fortnight or so ago was it discovered that the business was bankrupt and that its personal property in the shape of oil did not tally with the books. The big tanks at Charleston were empty and the tanks elsewhere were well-nigh so. Dargan was excused from his presidency and general management. The business collapsed, carrying with it ruin to the Darlington Trust Company, the J. G. McCall mercantile business and many individuals. The receiver, Mr. Bright Williamson, says that its affairs are so complicated that it is impossible to give out yet an accurate statement.

This history, together with the report that Dargan went to Paris 2 years ago and had made a waxen image of himself, and another that his brother, Pegram, had been for several years studying hypnotism and occult arts in the North; the fact that the coroner did not go in with his jury to view the corpse and the rumor that he said, after the burial, that he could not swear that Dargan was dead; that W. F. Dargan ordered out of the mansion two men who had come with the jury to see the body; that the grave was bricked and cemented; that there was a great effort to avoid publicity on the night of the tragedy, and other rumors and reports too numerous to recount, constitute the basis for the widespread suspicion that it is a put up job. So frantic has gossip grown that a telephone message went abroad last night that the grave had been opened and found empty.

The coroner tells me that on the night of the 10th, when he got to the office where the dead was done, he found the front door and the partition door locked. In the back room were Pegram Dargan, Dr. Edwards and the dead man. The dead man's jaws were tied with a towel to prevent his mouth from flying open. He was sitting in an easy chair with his feet upon a book case. Dr. Edwards said that he was dead when first examined by him. Both W. F. and Pegram Dargan asked the coroner if he recognized the corpse, and he replied that he did, and that it was Robert Keith Dargan. They told him that they did not want a crowd to collect or any publicity, and he agreed that they might remove the corpse to the mansion. When they were taking it up to bear it to the carriage at the door the coroner offered to assist them, but Pegram objected. The coroner thrust an arm under the body anyhow while they were lifting it into the carriage. It had not yet, he says, grown cold. This was the last time the coroner saw the dead man.

"If I had the authority," said he, "I would have the grave opened. It's the shortest way to stop all this talk."

I saw Mr. W. F. Dargan, a handsome man, and the picture of a patriot.

"No sir," he answered, "I have nothing to say. The man is dead. The doctor said so; the coroner said so; the coroner's jury and others—eighteen men and all—inspected the body and swore he was dead."

He said he was aware of the scandal that had gone abroad, but believed it would be folly to try to run it to the ground.

"When they want a scandal they will have one," he said, "but it seems to me that the facts of the tragedy were sensational enough without this."

"Why don't you have the body disinterred?" I asked him, "and settle the thing?"

"I don't care," he said, "if all South Carolina should come here and say, 'We don't believe he is dead,' that would not disturb me. I cannot help the beliefs of people. People often differ from me in their beliefs about things. No, I have no authority to have the body disinterred, but if I did have, I would not do so to gratify the clamor."

I went to see Mr. Pegram Dargan at the home of his father, the great old lawyer. He met me with fine courtesy, but said he had nothing

Another Place to Smoke. Most people have an idea that cigar stands sell only high-priced cigars. We have both and propose to offer at our first bargain sale a box containing 50 good Cigars for 75c., but don't forget to bring the 75c. with you. The best newspapers, magazines, etc., on sale, and while you read you may occupy the boot black stand for another nickel. English & Blair, Central Hotel Cigar Stand.

He had known Dargan personally for five years. He could smell the acid and saw marks of it about the mouth. Next morning when he went into the chamber with his fellow jurors the body was lying just as he had left it. "It's been reported," he said, "that the coroner got \$1,000, the doctor \$10,000 and I \$5,000 to say those things, but that is an absolute lie."

The dead man's attorney said that his theory is that Dargan, who had great pride in his business ability, had bolstered the business, which had prospered for more than a year been prosperous, out of his own resources. Since his death it is found that this, and the other property belonging to him had been sold and that there was no accounting for the money they must have brought. He had probably, to keep up confidence until better times came, given his own substance thus, and had also paid dividends out of the capital stock. But discovery came before better times, and high spirited as he was, the man died rather than face the shame of failure and the ruin which it brought upon himself and others.

So it seems that it is a case of suspicion against evidence. The street talk and the train talk—there was little other talk on the train this morning from Columbia to Florence and from Florence here except about this sensation—and the talk everywhere is that a man who was clever enough to carry on this graft on such a heroic scale so long, was clever enough to fool the public with a sham suicide. He had on his life \$25,000 for his wife, \$5,000 for his daughter, some \$20,000 for his estate, and probably more.

They say that only the widow would have authority to open the grave, and she does not even know of the rumors afloat. Unless the public will credit the men who say they saw the man dead, there is no way to settle the question except to go into the grave by violence or at the demand of the insurance people. What impresses the investigator is the inconsequence of the whole business on both sides.

"What has become of the money?" I asked Mr. Williams.

"I don't know," he replied. "I can't get the straight of this thing." I referred to Mr. Lide, one of the receivers of the Darlington Trust Company. "I must be very dense."

"No," he answered, "everybody else is dense. Nobody has got the straight of it. We are just toiling along over these books and doing the best we can."

That Dargan was the only man who knew the business perfectly all agree. He knew it well enough and had time and business capacity enough to get it in such a shape that nobody else could grasp it. There is about as much gossip at the business end as there is at the so-called scandal end, and every effort the reporter made to get a comprehensive statement or estimate was met by courteous explanations that did not explain. All told, it is as the politician, C. H. Martin of North Carolina, said of

to say further than the statement left by his dead brother. He is a man of slight build, with delicate, shapely hands and beautiful brown eyes, a gentleman such as one finds in romance, and he looks the part of the poet, which he actually is. The statement left by the dead man is as follows: "I take this with my own free will and accord. I asked my brother to get \* \* \* make mistakes, but am no coward. "ROBERT KEITH DARGAN." I did not call upon the widow, for that would have been cruel. Besides, she is ill; so all that some she will never recover. Dr. J. G. Edwards said that W. F. Dargan telephoned him that night and he hurried, in response, to the office. R. K. Dargan was dead when he got there, resting in the position as described by the coroner. There was the bowl from which he had drunk the whiskey; there was the vital that had held the fatal acid, the odor of which was still in the room. There was the note, quoted above, on the table near his hand. Pegram was there and in great distress, but he would not make any statement. He advised them to send for the coroner, which they did. They then removed the corpse to the mansion. Next morning when he examined it there were signs of decomposition, such as a blueness about the lips. "The man is dead if there ever was a dead man," he declared. J. K. Doyle, a barber and a member of the coroner's jury, which in this State is composed of 12 men, said that at 10:30 o'clock that night he was sent for to shave the corpse. He has shaved many a dead man, and this was R. K. Dargan and no waxen figure nor hypnotized man.

life. "This life is but a mixed mess." After all the apparent proof of suicide an air of mystery yet surrounds the whole affair, and it will be a good many days before public curiosity, as some style it, will subside. They talk here that Pegram Dargan is crazy, but if he is I don't know a sane man when I see one.

JOHN CHARLES McNEILL.

Special Notices.

Advertisements will be inserted in this column at the price of one cent a word, cash in advance.

Notice lot mosquito canopies at Dillon's.

The annual meeting of the policy holders of the Union County Farmers Fire Insurance Association will be held in the courthouse at 10:30 o'clock on Saturday July 29th. Every member of this association is earnestly requested to be present. W. H. Phifer, President.

WANTED—One 50, 60 or 70 saw gin, feeder and condenser, and pair of wagon scales. W. Thos. Laney, Hope, N. C.

When in need of a Sewing Machine buy a New Royal at Dillon's Furniture Store.

FOR SALE—At Wingate, N. C., one 6-room house and lot of 5 acres. D. H. Perry.

EDISON'S Standard Photographs and Records at Dillon's Furniture Store.

FOR RENT—Three-room house on Crowell street. M. L. Flow.

JUST RECEIVED—A nice assortment of Toilet Sets, from \$3.50 up to \$12.50, at Dillon's Furniture Store.

WANTED—One million Chip to beacco tags. Will pay 15c. each in trade. M. C. Broom.

The City Ice House is now open under Ogburn's right. Prompt service. Treat you right. Phone 394.

BRING your wool to Crow Brothers, and get highest prices. W. E. Richardson.

WANTED—A competent music teacher at Union Institute, Address O. C. Hamilton, Unionville, N. C.

STRAYED—One black female pig, large for return. W. P. Kendall.

PLUMBING—I am prepared to put in your meters and do plumbing of any kind in first-class manner. I have had a number of years experience in the plumbing business and give as reference anyone in Monroe for whom I have done work. Prompt attention given to all orders. Orders left at Heath Lee Hardware Co.'s will reach me at any time. J. F. Correll, Licensed Plumber.

I WISH immediate correspondence with ten young men who desire work during the month of August, salary to be credited on board and tuition account at Central Academy. Address M. W. Hester, Littleton, N. C.

ANY young lady of limited means desiring college preparation for christian work or teaching may send inquiry to this office.

SCHOLARSHIPS in a Woman's College for acceptable applicants. Send written inquiry to this office.

LEE & LEE, THE LEADING DRY GOODS, NOTIONS, CLOTHING, GENTS' FURNISHINGS, HAT AND SHOE STORE IN MONROE. CORSET has so much to do with a woman's appearance that it should be bought with the utmost care. We always lay particular stress upon this point in our department and we contribute toward the proper result by carrying only those lines which we know may be depended upon absolutely. Now we are showing COLTON'S INVISIBLE LACING CORSET. ONLY \$1.00. Lee & Lee.

Some of the Advantages of a Bank Account. You are relieved of the worry and danger of loss incident to keeping money in your home or on your person. You are enabled to save money more easily. You are always able to give a check for any amount without the trouble of making change. You have a complete record of all money paid out, and your cancelled checks which are returned to you at the end of each month, are the best kind of receipts. You are saved the trouble and expense of buying money orders or registering, in sending money through the mail. Money hoarded is dead and of no use to any one; deposited in a bank, it is put into active circulation, and is of benefit to the whole community. Persons who have never run a bank account think it a very complicated affair. Such is not the case. Come in any time and we will take pleasure in showing you just how a bank account is run and how simple and convenient it really is. The Savings, Loan & Trust Company. R. B. Redwine, President. F. H. Wolfe, Cashier.

BARGAINS THIS WEEK IN Shoes, Dry Goods, Clothing, Etc. AT THE PEOPLE'S DRY GOODS GO.

BUCK'S KIDNEY PILLS. Turn on the hose! There isn't anything more necessary than water to promote the growth of your garden and lawn. See our garden hose, lawn mowers, etc. Prices Low.

TURN ON THE HOSE! There isn't anything more necessary than water to promote the growth of your garden and lawn. See our garden hose, lawn mowers, etc. Prices Low. Monroe Hdw. Co. MONROE, N. C.

...GOOD NEWS... The Greatest and Grandest Bargains Yet Offered to the People of Union County. Nothing but Specials. Unmatchable Bargains. These prices hold good while the good things last. 10c. and 12 1/2c. Lawns and Chambrays at 5c. the yard. Colored Lawns, at 3 1/2c. Yard-wide Bleached Domestic, at 5c. yard. 40-inch White Lawns—the best value you ever saw, at 10c. Lot Fancy Silks, worth up to 75c., your choice of the lot at 25c. yard. 36-inch Percale, at 5c. Ladies' Wash Skirts, at 38c. Ladies' Shirt Waists, at 10c. each. Hosiery Bargains Children's Hose (good seconds), buy as many as you want at 4c. the pair. Ladies' Hose, full seamless, at 5c. Men's Sox, perfects, 5c. Shoes for All Ladies' \$1.00 Oxfords, at 75c. Ladies' White Canvas Oxfords, at 68c. Children's White Canvas Oxfords, sizes 8 1/2 to 12's, at 50c. Misses' White Canvas Oxfords, sizes 13's to 2's, at 60c. Children's Vici Oxfords, at 50c. and upwards. CHILDREN'S SAILORS, at 10c. 50c. Children's Sailors, at 25c. Boys' Envelope Hats, at 5c. MEN'S SHIRTS, at 15c. \$1.00 Men's Shirts, at 75c. 75c. Men's Shirts, at 50c. LOT OF CORSETS, 75c. and 50c. values, but slightly soiled, at 25c. LADIES' BELTS at 5c and upward. The store where you get the most for your money is THE GASH MERCANTILE CO. Down on the Corner. Successors to Shannon & Co.

New Buggies and Surries! We have just opened up the largest and nicest lot of Surries and Buggies ever put on exhibition in Monroe. We have some nice jobs in rubber tire goods. Now is the time to buy your new vehicles. See us before buying and we are sure that we can please you in anything you need in our line. THE SIKES COMPANY.