

Christmas! Again The Birthday has come, a season when there should be joy and gladness and peace and love in every heart...

Nothing is truer under heaven than when a jury winks at the crimes of the Joe Lances against colored people...

Old Man Shot from Ambush.

Without the slightest provocation so far as the police have been able to learn, Mr. J. Bennett Swain, an aged and highly respected citizen residing on the Mickey road in Pegramtown...

Judge Bennett Writes of Rev. John W. Davis.

Judge Bennett, the official biographer of Anson county, writes the following gem regarding Rev. John W. Davis, a man well known in this section in the olden times:

"Religion, humanity, the State of Georgia, lost a valiant and dutiful apostle when the spirit of Rev. John W. Davis entered immortality, the 4th day of December, 1907.

"Born in Anson county about 83 years ago, he was full of years and travail. Deeply religious by nature, anxious to impart the message of sweet comfort and peace to every heart, he devoted many years to the ministrations of the pulpit.

"He was a striking man in appearance, wearing his hair long and parted, after the manner of Cromwell and his Ironsides; a ruddy complexion with Falernian coloring, a blend of the Puritan and Whig, with a Missionary Baptist finish.

"Upon a time Melancholy marked him as her own. Then he said to me, with great tears furrowing his cheeks: 'I find solace in the example of men of old, who, through faith, wrought righteousness, stopped the mouths of lions and quenched the violence of fire.'

"His convictions were his assets. 'Many years ago one of his sons disappointed a generous creditor. On his death bed, with diminished means, he drew from his purse \$30 and sent it to the offending creditor. When Doomsday Book is laid open an angel writing in a book of gold will trace this deed.

"So wedded to the ways of simplicity he was that when under my roof he always preferred the floor to beds of ease.

"His tribe is fast marking time. 'In years gone away I promised to speak at the portals of his grave if apprised of his death. Chance or fortune disappointed our plans, and he went into the truce of the grave in his far off home the word of praise unspoken.'

Anson County Merchant Kills Himself.

Wadesboro Messenger and Intelligence. Today at 12 o'clock Mr. J. H. Hendley, postmaster at Ansonville, committed suicide by placing a pistol in his mouth and sending a bullet crashing through his brain.

Mr. Hendley has been a merchant in Ansonville for 25 or 30 years and was one of the best known citizens of the county. He was a prominent member of the Methodist church. He has been in bad health for a number of years and to this fact is probably due his suicide.

Mr. Hendley is survived by his wife and the following children: Mr. Clarence Hendley of Tampa, Fla.; Mr. Smedes Hendley of Columbia, S. C.; Mr. Helms Hendley of Wadesboro; Mrs. W. M. Robinson and Misses Marie and Theo. Hendley of Ansonville, and a small son and daughter.

Fruits, candies and nuts at Doster's.

TO DO PRACTICAL FARMING.

Department of Agriculture Will Establish 150 Test Farms in Union County—Outline of the Important Work—To Begin at Once.

A work which has for its object the improvement of farming methods with a view to increasing the crop producing power of the soil is to be conducted in this vicinity by agents of the Department of Agriculture of the national government.

The plan is very simple and practical and means more for improved farming than anything that has yet been done. This work, carried on by the government and under government auspices, is, in reality, financed by the General Educational Board of New York, that wealthy organization of philanthropists.

The agents will go over the county and select two or three farms in each community, to use in demonstrative work. They will not select the best, but take them as they come. The only requirements are that the farms must be on the public road, and the owner must agree to follow the plans laid down for the cultivation of from two to five acres of his land.

Improved seeds will be furnished free for these plots, a small one being planted in corn and one in cotton. The agent will visit the farms weekly during preparation and growing seasons and direct the work.

A complete record of each farm is kept and weekly reports made by the agent. Besides this part of the work, which will be known as demonstration farmers, there will be what is called co-operative farmers.

These will be all who desire to co-operate with the plans and will agree to meet the agent at the nearest demonstration farm and see his work. Mr. T. J. W. Broom has been employed as the local agent for this county, on a monthly salary, to give all his time for eight months.

Mr. Broom is well known and is the man for the place. He has made fifty bushels of corn and over a bale of cotton per acre. The average for this State is about fifteen bushels of corn and less than half a bale of cotton per acre.

Mr. Broom has accomplished this by early, deep breaking of the soil, followed by frequent shallow cultivation and growing peas to keep vegetable matter in the soil to prevent washing and to supply the expensive element, nitrogen, to the soil. The farmers of Union are to be congratulated that they have been selected as one of the eight counties in North Carolina to receive the benefit of this work, which will cost a great deal of money, but will be perfectly free to them.

It is the best and most practical thing that has come this way. It means putting expert work right on their own farms, and two years of such work means untold increase in the value of crops in the county. Mr. Broom and Mr. Hudson, the special agent, will meet the farmers at the following places and explain the plan:

Indian Trail—Jan. 1, 1 p. m. Marshville—Jan. 1, 7 p. m. Waxhaw—Jan. 2, 1 p. m. Prospect—Jan. 3, 1 p. m. Unionville—Jan. 4, 1 p. m. Love and pathos intermingled with contagious humor, framed in a picture of rural simplicity, are the rudiments of success.

"Along the Kennebec," the newest New England play which will be the attraction at the opera house Friday night only, December 27th. No play written on this popular theme has proven more successful, and it bids fair to rival in popularity the most attractive plays of modern times. Special care has been taken in securing the company and the scenic production is unsurpassed.

The piece is full of good, bright comedy and the funny deed scene causes screams of laughter.

COTTON

Local market today, 10.75; yesterday, 11.00.

Receipts last week: Monroe, 428; Washaw, 336; Marshville, 282; Wingate, 22. Total for the season: Monroe, 7,707; Washaw, 5,253; Marshville, 4,101; Wingate, 660.

Hubbard Bros. of New York said on December 20th: "Today the Census Bureau published its return of the cotton ginned to December 13th as 9,281,000 bales as compared with 11,113,000 bales last year and 9,282,000 two years ago. In that year (1905) the crop was finally calculated as 11,283,000 bales. On this basis the returns certainly appear to be bullish, as indicating a crop not exceeding the government estimate. It will be regarded in Europe as indicating a small crop, as cablegrams from there today estimate the consumption as in excess of last season, excepting this country.

Our market has had so sharp a decline during the past ten days under the increase on the movement due to the large purchases for export that it did not fully respond to the bullish news received today. In addition to the census return the Indian government in an official estimate from Calcutta places the yield in India at 40 per cent. less than last season. A better demand from the New England mills is reported from the Southern interior markets."

New England Curtailing.

A dispatch from Boston to the New York Tribune says: "A general curtailing of production in New England cotton mills during January and February is regarded as a certainty in mill circles here. The product probably will be reduced 25 per cent. in practically all of the mills. Many of them, under the present plan, will be operated only four days a week between January 1 and March 1, and others, while running six days weekly, may stop a quarter of the machinery, if that policy is advisable, where there are contracts to be filled before March."

Bill Arr is as Happy as a Lark.

Mr. B. F. Mangum has bought the interest of W. T. Edgeworth in the lands of the late J. E. W. Austin, consisting of 300 acres, paying \$3,000 for same. Mr. J. H. Laney has bought about 58 acres from Mr. W. T. Laney, paying \$600 for it. Mr. Lee Byrd is offering his home place for sale, asking \$800. Land is selling high, all the way from \$10 to \$25 per acre, and very little for sale at that price.

Farmers are all well contented, made good crops, have plenty to eat and some to spare. Hog-killing time is here and every one is slaughtering for a good time during the holidays. Health and happiness seems to be our special blessings at present—no sickness to amount to anything. So we ought to be a grateful people and thank the Lord for past blessings. All of you ought to say "Amen."

I am growing to be tolerably old, at least it looks so on occasions such as protracted meetings, Thanksgiving days and Christmas, for then my numerous and increasing descendants flock to the old home to enjoy a few days together, and a fine time we have at these meetings. I have 9 children, all well and living; 10 grandchildren, all healthy and strong—thanks to the giver of all gifts. Mrs. E. E. Redfeard is staying with us through Christmas. Miss Cora Laney, who is teaching near Chesterfield, S. C., and one of her pupils, Miss Emma King, will spend the holidays with your scribe.

Misses Kate Eubanks and Corrie Laney are home from the Asheville Normal School. There is a great moving among the renters, for no obvious cause except "just to move." It seems to be a kind of mania for a certain class to move, when if they would stay in one place longer, work and improve the land, it would be far better than moving every year.

There is one tenant in Buford who has not moved since the war—Jack Laney, colored, who lives with Dr. W. H. Gribble. I have sold fifty dollars' worth of geese and turkeys this fall. One little lamb has come to enjoy Christmas festivities.

Miss Rosa Presson and Mr. J. H. Edwards, our efficient teachers at Trinity, gave a week's vacation and have gone home to spend the holidays. I will perhaps give a few reminiscences of my young days during the '60s in my next letter. Merry Christmas to one and all! J. C. L.

...Wanted...

Ten thousand children to eat apples, oranges, candy, nuts and raisins. We have them at prices lower than anybody else. Nice Baldwin and Winesap apples 10 cts. per doz. or 40 cts. per peck. Three nice oranges for 5 cts. Other prices on the same basis. Also wanted a few of the best people of Monroe to try some of that good country honey and others to try some of that N. O. Molasses we have just opened. We thought the others were good but these are the best to be had, and only 60 cents per gallon.

PLYLER & ARMFIELD, Shannan's Old Stand.

TWO KILLED, ANOTHER ALMOST

Terrific Tragedy in a Barber Shop at Kershaw Last Saturday Night

A telephone message from Kershaw this afternoon says that Mr. Berry Mobley, the only survivor of a terrible pistol battle in Wilson's barber shop at Kershaw Saturday night between three prominent young men of that town, is recovering nicely from three wounds. The other two participants were Thomas L. Clyburn and his first cousin, Steve Welsh. Clyburn was acting as peacemaker, both being instantly killed. Welsh was buried this morning at Kershaw and Clyburn this afternoon near his old home six miles from Kershaw. Clyburn's mother was in Charlotte, N. C., at the time of the tragedy. The phone message says the fact that the young men concerned were all armed is undoubtedly the cause of the double tragedy. Whiskey played its part and the irritation engendered by a previous quarrel had something to do with it; but had the ever-ready pistol not been at hand, the affair would have been nothing more than a harmless, if somewhat exciting, fistful encounter, filling no graves and leaving few hard feelings.

The young men concerned were personal friends. Clyburn, in fact, was a first cousin of Welsh, the man at whose pistol muzzle he met his death. A previous altercation had been patched up and they were amicably discussing the matter, when Berry Mobley remarked that it was a good thing the previous difficulty had been patched up, as all the parties were too good friends to fight with each other. At this stage, it is said, Welsh drew his pistol and struck Mobley over the head with it, then stepped back and began firing Clyburn, who rushed between the two, received the first three bullets from Welsh's pistol. By this time Mobley had got out his pistol and commenced firing. Clyburn had dropped to the floor, a dead man. Within a moment Welsh's dead body also lay prostrate, while Mobley, his coat and blood streaming from his wounds, walked unsteadily across to the doctor's office.

Clyburn was president of the Clyburn Mule Company. He was formerly a student at Clemson College and was 25 years old. His father is Capt. W. U. Clyburn of the Hale Gold Mine, Kershaw county. Welsh was president of the Health Supply Company, was 28 years of age and unmarried. Berry Mobley is head clerk at the store of Carson & Co. He has a wife and five children. The inquest was held yesterday. The jury rendered the following verdict: "That Mr. Welsh came to his death by gunshot wounds inflicted by Mr. Berry Mobley and that Mr. T. L. Clyburn came to his death by gunshot wounds inflicted by Mr. S. W. Welsh."

A Whopping Bale of Cotton.

Mr. W. T. Lemmond, a successful farmer of the Marvin neighborhood, sold the largest bale of cotton here the latter part of last week that was ever sold on this market. It weighed 754 pounds. Being a rather inferior grade of cotton, it brought only 11 cents a pound. But even at that price the bale netted Mr. Lemmond the very neat sum of \$829.44. That is not bad. Time was only a few years ago when Mr. Lemmond and many another good farmer sold good grades of cotton at \$25 and even less a bale.

THE Five & Ten Cent Store

Austin & Clontz, Proprietors.

We have for the Christmas trade a full line of fresh pure candies, raisins, nuts, apples, bananas, oranges, cakes, crackers, cheese, jellies, preserves, apple butter, mince meat, macaroni, favoring extracts, pickles, canned fruits of all kinds, evaporated apples and peaches at short profits. M. L. Flow Co.

Tax Notice!

The taxes are now in the hands of the collectors for collection. If you don't want your property levied on or your wages garnisheed, come on at once and save the cost. I have instructed the collectors to levy and not take promises for pay. Don't delay; I need the money to meet my payments with the State and County Treasurers.

If you would do as you wish to be done by, you will certainly come. The taxes are due on the first day of September in each year and the law allows the sheriff to place the taxes in the hands of the collector after the first day of November. Very Respectfully, B. A. HORN, Sheriff.

December 3rd, 1907.

A FIRST CLASS Livery and Sale Stable.

Horses and Mules for Sale at all Times. Fine stock of Buggies and Wagons for you to select from. We sell the famous Auburn Wagons. And we do a general livery business. Turnouts of all kinds at all times. Don't forget the place to do business.

PLYLER & ARMFIELD, Shannan's Old Stand.

His Little Christmas Joke.

A bright-eyed old man boarded the train at St. Paul, bound for Seattle. As the conductor passed through the car the old man stopped him and asked how far it was from St. Paul to Seattle. "Sixteen hundred and twenty miles," the official answered curtly. The next time the conductor came along the old man stopped him again and asked him how far it was from Seattle to St. Paul. "See here, my man," said the conductor pompously, "it's sixteen hundred and twenty miles from St. Paul to Seattle, and it's sixteen hundred and twenty miles from Seattle to St. Paul; do you understand?" "Maybe so," said the little man modestly. "I didn't know. You see, it's only seven days from Christmas to New Year's, but it's a long time from New Year's to Christmas."

SOMETHING NEW

AT THE Five & Ten Cent Store

We are putting in a nice line of Candies & Fruits

for the Holiday Trade, and are going to make a specialty of that line.

We also have the best TAFFY CANDY in town—fresh and crisp every day.

Christmas and New Year Post Cards in large quantities. They are all the go now. Come and get some and remind your friends that you are still right side up.

Your Dollar Will Do More Here Than Elsewhere in Monroe.

Come and see us whether you buy or not.

THE Five & Ten Cent Store

We have for the Christmas trade a full line of fresh pure candies, raisins, nuts, apples, bananas, oranges, cakes, crackers, cheese, jellies, preserves, apple butter, mince meat, macaroni, favoring extracts, pickles, canned fruits of all kinds, evaporated apples and peaches at short profits. M. L. Flow Co.

Cold Weather Specials at Belk's Department Stores.

Special Clothing Values. (Old Store on the corner.) Boys' School Overcoats, special value, \$2.98. Men's extra good Overcoats, big bargain, 3.68. \$15.00 Men's Cromette Coats.....\$12.50. 12.50 Men's Rain Coats..... 10.00. Special \$10.00 Men's Suits. We have the best line of \$10.00 and \$12.50 Men's Suits we have ever shown, in Blacks, Grey, Brown and Fancy Mixtures, round cut, double breasted and slims. Every suit worth 25 to 33 1/2 per cent more. Watch Given Away, Free. As a special inducement will give a splendid Guaranteed Stem Winding and Setting Watch with every suit of this price. Don't miss this opportunity. Boy's 65% Worsted and Cassimere Knee Pants, all sizes.....49c. Job Counter Men's Pants.....98c. \$2.00 Men's Pants, special.....\$1.50. \$1.35 Men's Suit Cases.....98c. We handle Sweet Orr and Fast Mail Overalls and Jackets.

Ladies, Mens and Children's New Brown Shoes. Made on latest and swellest lasts and colors, special values.....\$1.98, \$2.50 and \$3.50. Men's and boys' good Gloves.....25c. Men's leather Gloves, worth 75, for.....50c. Extra good 1.25 Railroad Gloves.....98c. Men's Heavy Wool Sox.....10, 15 and 25c. Boy's Heavy Fleece Shirts.....25c. Wright's Underwear, slightly shaded, nearly perfect goods, at.....75c. All kinds of Men's Furnishings and Handkerchiefs—big stock to select from.

Money Saving Sale of Ladies Misses and Children's Coats and Furs.

This has been the greatest season we have ever had. Duplicated lot after lot. We have just placed on sale four big special values. Only about 100 coats in this lot and they will not last long. Lot 1. Full long, Tan, Black and Castor Coats.....\$2.98. Lot 2. Ladies' Coats, come in Fancy Mixtures, Tan, Castor and Black, cheap at \$5.00 to \$6.00, special price.....\$3.98. Lot 3. Full line colors, \$7.00 value, \$5.00. Lot 4. Handsomely braided Ladies Coats, \$9.00 and \$10.00 values, price only.....\$7.50. Splendid assortment of children's Coats in Broadcloth and fancy colors and White Bear skins.....98c. to \$6.50, caps to match. ALL KINDS OF FURS. Over 100 pieces Furs and Scarfs, big values, 68c. to \$12.50, with muffs to match.

Every Department in our four stores full of exceptional Bargains. Glad to show you, whether you buy or not.

W. H. BELK & BRO.

Going to Move!

Your Advantage! On January 1st, 1908, we will move our stock of goods to the Loan & Trust building, formerly occupied by the People's Dry Goods Company. It looks reasonable that we would want to sell as much as possible to save moving. That is exactly what we are going to do. And we are going to make it to your advantage to buy now. We will cut prices on Shoes, Hats, Caps, Dry Goods, Clothing, Overcoats, Notions, etc. \$2000 worth of odds and ends in job lot of Shoes that we will let go cheap—at 25 to 50 per cent. discount, besides our big new line of Shoes to suit, \$5000 of which we will sell as low as the lowest. Hats, Caps, Gloves, Underwear, and most anything you want at bargain prices. This is a bone fide sale for the purpose mentioned. We would rather reduce at cut prices than to move and it is to the interest of all buyers to see us.

It Works While You Sleep!

And if Fortune is the structure you wish to build, you should by all means begin saving as your cornerstone. You will never be financially independent if you wait for some "lucky strike."

Deposit your earnings in The Savings, Loan and Trust Co., and add to it regularly. We will add Four per cent. interest, compounded every 3 months. Then, watch it grow!

Don't be ashamed to start with a small account if you can't do better.

The Savings, Loan & Trust Company. Members of the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Association of North Carolina. Take Notice: That by virtue of authority conferred on me as receiver of said company, I will on the 1st day of January, A. D. 1908, bring suit against every member individually, who has failed to pay the assessment made against him in the case of T. J. Perry against The Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Association of North Carolina. This is my last notice to you. This the 9th day of December, A. D. 1907. JOHN C. NIKES, Receiver.

D. WILL FLOW. The Head to Foot Outfitter.

SILVER KING. The lightest running ball bearing shuttle machine on the market. Price \$20, cash. Manufactured for and guaranteed by W. J. Rudge Co., MONROE, N. C.