

A Very Important Letter.

The Washington City Herald has this to say of the exposure made by W. R. Hearst as to the methods being pursued by the Standard Oil Company to subsidize the public.

"The presidential campaign just ended, whatever else it has done, has served to place the people of this country on notice of the despicable methods that have been employed in the past to control congresses, courts and newspapers of the land for the political and material purposes of the Standard Oil Company, and probably other gigantic concerns of like character.

"The concrete and sickening evidence as to this state of affairs, for which we have to thank Mr. William Randolph Hearst, has been laid relentlessly before the American people, and however much they may deplore the personal side of the question, they cannot but rejoice that they know something of the real facts in the case and no longer merely suspect where they cannot prove.

"To our way of thinking, Mr. Hearst's last read letters were the most distressing of any. They served to show so clearly the satisfaction and smug complacency with which the Standard Oil Company has sought to control the press of the country—\$3,000 for one year's subscription to the Manufacturers Record, \$1,250 to the Pittsburg Times, \$5,000 for Mr. Stanton's protective periodical, and last, but by no means least, the suggestion to the unscrupulous Mr. Sibley that a permanent and healthy control of the Associated Press and other avenues of publicity be secured."

Col. Henry Watterson the famous Kentucky editor, says of the late battle:

"The result shows we oversteered the spiritual and understood the material hearts and minds of the people. They were dead alike to precedents, to reason, and to eloquence; for nothing could surprise, as nothing has ever equaled the personal canvass of Mr. Bryan, his wonderful lucidity and power of statement, its splendid intellectual and physical endurance, its unswerving argument. Old time Democrats will weep and keep their powder dry. If they should despair, if they should break apart, the country would be exposed to political anarchy leading the radicalism and excesses of every sort to practical irrepressibility on the one hand, unregenerate demagogue backed by resistance force on the other hand."

A meeting that should result in good is to be held in Charlotte on the 17th and 18th. The gathering is the result of an invitation from the mayor of Charlotte to the mayors of the State, and the discussions will embrace subjects relating to town government. We are accustomed to think of the affairs of big cities as being mismanaged, but they are no worse than the average North Carolina town, only in magnitude.

There is this consolation: No fuss among Democrats over how the pie is to be sliced.

It looks like there were more Taft men.

President Jumps on Those Who Criticize Taft's Religion.

Mr. Roosevelt has snatched those who have been talking about Mr. Taft's religion. In a letter to a man in Ohio who wrote that the statement that Mr. Taft was a Unitarian and his brother and wife Catholics ought to be explained, Mr. Roosevelt has written the following reply:

"I received many such letters as yours during the campaign, expressing dissatisfaction with Mr. Taft on religious grounds, some of them on the ground that he was a Unitarian, and others on the ground that he was suspected to be in sympathy with Catholics. I did not answer any of these letters during the campaign because I regarded it as an outrage even to agitate such a question as a man's religious convictions, with the purpose of influencing a political election. But now that the campaign is over, when there is opportunity for men calmly to consider such propositions as those you make in your letter would lead, I wish to invite them to consider them, and I have selected your letter to answer because you advance both the objections commonly urged against Mr. Taft, namely: that he is a Unitarian and also that he is suspected of sympathy with the Catholics.

You ask that Mr. Taft shall 'let the world know what his religious belief is.' This is purely his own private concern, and it is a matter between him and his Maker, a matter for his own conscience, and to require it to be made public under penalty of political discrimination is to negate the first principles of our government, which guarantee complete religious liberty, and the right to each man to act in religious affairs as his own conscience dictates. Mr. Taft never asked my advice in the matter, but if he had asked it, I should have emphatically advised him against thus stating publicly his religious belief. This demand for a statement of a candidate's religious belief can have no meaning except that there may be discrimination for or against him because of that belief. Discrimination against the holder of one faith means retaliatory discrimination against men of other faiths. The inevitable result of entering upon such a practice would be an abandonment of our real freedom of conscience and a reversion to the dreadful conditions of religious dis-

sensions which in so many lands have proved fatal to true liberty, to true religion and to all advanced in civilization.

To discriminate against a thoroughly upright citizen because he belongs to some particular church, or because, like Abraham Lincoln, he has not avowed his allegiance to any church, is an outrage against that liberty of conscience which is one of the foundations of American life. You are entitled to know whether a man seeking your suffrage is a man of clean and upright life, honorable in all his dealings with his fellows, and fit by qualification and purpose to do well in the great office for which he is a candidate; but you are not entitled to know matters which are purely between himself and his Maker. If it is proper or legitimate to oppose a man for being a Unitarian, as was John Quincy Adams, for instance, as is the Reverend Edward Elliott Hale, at the present moment Chairman of the Senate, and an American of whose life all good Americans are proud—then it would be equally proper to support or oppose a man because of his view on justification by faith, or the method of administering the sacrament of the gospel of salvation he works. If you ever enter on such a career there is absolutely no limit at which you can legitimately stop.

So much for your objections to Mr. Taft because he is a Unitarian. Now, for your objections to his being a Roman Catholic. As it happened, they are not, but if they were, or if he were a Roman Catholic himself, it would not do to object in the slightest degree to any man supporting him for the position of President. You say that 'the mass of the voters that are not Catholics will not support a man for office, especially for President of the United States, who is a Roman Catholic.' I believe that when you say this you feignly stander your fellow countrymen. I do not for one moment believe that the mass of our fellow citizens, or that any considerable number of our fellow citizens, can be influenced by such narrow bigotry as to refuse to vote for any thoroughly upright and fit man because he happens to have a particular religious creed. Such a consideration should never be treated as a reason for either supporting or opposing a candidate for a political office.

Are you aware that there are several States in this Union where the majority of the people are now Catholics? I should contribute in the severest terms the Catholics in those States, or in any other States, who refused to vote for the most fit man because he happened to be a Protestant, and try discrimination would be exactly as severe for Protestants who, under reversed circumstances, refused to vote for a Catholic. In public life I am happy to say that I have known many men who were elected and constantly re-elected to office in districts where the great majority of their constituents were of a different religious belief. I know Catholics who have for many years represented constituencies, mainly Protestant and Presbyterian, who have for many years represented constituencies mainly Catholic, and among the Congressmen whom I know particularly well was one man of Jewish faith who represented a district in which there were hardly any Jews at all. All of these men by their very existence in political life refute the slender you have uttered against your fellow Americans.

A Husband Hunter Goes for a Sturdy Widower.

Mrs. Ida M. Clarke of Rockford, Ill., registered at the Central Hotel a few days ago, and has been in town since. We have in our midst a very susceptible old widower and a patron of matrimonial agencies, George W. Lowder. In some way a correspondence sprang up between Mr. Lowder and the woman, but he avows that he did not invite her to come and that he was under no promise to her. The correspondence seems to have gone no further on his part than to ask her if she would like to come South some time or go to a point in the West where they might meet. She perhaps took encouragement from this, and trusted her charms to work out her salvation.

The would-be bride seems to be stranded, and negotiations of a one-sided nature are pending between the principals, both of whom have employed lawyers. Talk of suicide was rife on Monday when Mrs. Clarke was seen beside the road near town.

CALL on F. B. Ashcraft for lime, cement, plaster of paris, wood fiber plaster, shingles, laths, etc. Delivered anywhere in city.

November Brides.

November is a month of weddings, and this store prepares for these occasions regularly. Weeks ago we planned and bought ample supplies in wares especially appropriate for November Weddings.

They may now be seen in our show cases. Come and examine and criticize and buy, if you will.

It is a pleasure to have you visit our store, and be your wants small or great, they can be supplied at economical prices.

The W. J. Rudge Co.

CENTRAL HOTEL—Rates \$1.00 to \$1.50. Regular boards wanted; prices given on application. Good table and good beds. H. B. Billingsley, Prop'r.

SHOT BY HIS SON.

Former Union County Plan Chasing His Wife is Stopped by Pistol Ball.

The Charlotte Observer of last Saturday tells the following story, the man being a former resident of Vance township, this county: Fearful lest his father strike his mother with an axe, Ernest T. Hayes, a young white man, 20 years of age, who lives in Belmont, early last night shot W. T. Hayes with an Iver Johnson 32-calibre pistol, inflicting a wound which is deemed most critical. Young Hayes surrendered immediately after the shooting and spent last night at the police station. Hayes, the elder, was carried to St. Peter's Hospital, where his wounds were dressed. The bullet entered just below the left ear and after ranging downwards to the top of the spinal column glanced upward and finally lodged in the mastoid bone beneath the right ear.

The shooting, according to the testimony of all those who were witnesses, and according to the statement of the victim himself, was justifiable. Hayes, the father, had given his wife some money and this he wanted back. She refused to give it up and when he learned that it was locked in her trunk, demanded the key. Mrs. Hayes refused to surrender the key and trouble followed. Hayes went out in the yard and seized a small axe and with this he turned with the avowed purpose of breaking open the trunk. Seeing that Mrs. Hayes had the key with her, he sought to obtain possession of it before making the attempt to destroy the lock. Mrs. Hayes ran out of the front door into the street with Hayes in hot pursuit. At this juncture young Hayes appeared on the scene. To an Observer man last night he said, after being aroused from a heavy sleep in a cell at the police station:

"I was reading a novel by the fire in the front room of our house on North Alton street in Belmont. I am a carpenter by trade. My father is a farmer, if he can be said to have any trade at all. He also does carpenter work a little. It was about dark and I was waiting for the lamp which my sister had carried into her room to dress by. Suddenly I heard some of the children cry out and I stepped into the hall just as the old man and mama passed by, she running and he following. I stepped out into the street and saw him catch her by the shoulder and lift whatever he had in his hand, a stick or an axe. It was dark and I couldn't see exactly what—as if to strike her. I was afraid and I shot. He fell over when I fired. I then surrendered."

Wade Hasty at It Again.

Constable J. Covington of Lanesboro township arrested Wade Hasty Sunday on the charge of retailing and carried him before Esq. H. M. Bancroft, who lives near Peachland. The man Hasty said would go on his bond did not turn up and Mr. Covington took the prisoner home with him. About light Monday morning Hasty slipped out of Mr. Covington's house, bareheaded and in his bare feet, and ran for it and has not since been apprehended. Hasty also left his watch and horse and buggy in the officer's possession.

Hasty was released but long ago from the chain gang in Union county. He had been sentenced to serve three years for selling whiskey, but was pardoned at the end of two years.

Don't miss Flow's coat sale of \$25,000 worth of clothing, shoes, etc. All good stuff to go way down.

MR. TAFT

[Continued from Page One.] The jurisdiction of the Federal government may expect a rigid enforcement of the laws against dishonest methods.

Mr. Kitchin was elected Governor of North Carolina by about 40,000 polling a larger majority than Mr. Bryan. In the State there was a tremendous vote, both sides succeeding in getting to the polls most of their stay-at-home vote. The Democratic majority of both Aycock and Glenn was reduced. The Republicans elected Congressmen in the 5th, 8th and 10th districts by narrow majorities. The Republicans centered their efforts in these districts and poured bags of money into them. Mr. Kitchin's old district, the 5th, gave Moreland, a rich but unknown business man who never made a speech, a majority of 261. The 10th district elected a Republican over Crawford, a high class man who has served with credit in Congress, by a majority of 355. The 8th, which is normally Republican, gave a majority of about 1,600 to the Republican candidate. In all the other districts the Democratic candidates received large majorities. Mr. Page's in this district being about 3,000.

While the Republicans made some gains in the legislature, the General assembly will be controlled by a strong majority of Democrats. The following counties gave Republican majorities, the lowest being 11 in McDowell and the highest 1,400 in Wilkes. Alamance, 29; Brunswick, 106; Cabarrus, 230; Caldwell, 430; Catawba, 50; Cherokee, 450; Davie, 327; Forsyth, 124; Henderson, 430; Jackson, 25; Macon, 77; Madison, 800; McDowell, 11; Mitchell, 830; Polk, 75; Rockingham, 156; Sampson, 1,022; Stanly, 125; Stokes, 400; Surry, 300; Swain, 190; Watauga, 400; Wilkes, 1,431; Yadkin, 950.

All the other counties went Democratic ranging in majorities from 15 in Graham to 3,000 in Mecklenburg.

To Our Friends and Patrons:

Before making your Fall and Winter purchases, you should inspect our stock of Dry Goods, Shoes, Hats, Clothing, etc., otherwise you will do your pocketbook an injustice.

We carry everything that goes to make up the above named lines, and have arranged prices so to enable us to guarantee you a saving of from 10 to 20 per cent. on every dollar spent with us.

This may seem like idle talk to you to whom we have never had the privilege to demonstrate. However, if you will only realize that when you buy of us part of your money is not going to pay high city tax, store rent, clerk hire, etc., the assertion seems only too reasonable.

Shoes

We carry a complete assortment of men's boys', women's, misses' and children's styles and sizes of shoes from the following well known shoe companies: Stephen Putney Shoe Co., "Battle Axe," Beasley-Harwood Shoe Co., "The Kind That Satisfy," and Jenkins Bros. Co., "Home Made for Every Day Wear."

Groceries

We have added a new department to our business and in this will be handled a complete and up-to-date line of Groceries and country produce. Call on or phone us when in need of anything in this line and prompt and satisfactory service is assured you.

J. H. Benton & Sons

Phone No. 375.

Recorder's Court. Will Broun, disorderly conduct, \$2 and costs. Henry Broun, disorderly conduct, \$3 and costs. Welf Loney, disorderly conduct, \$1 and costs. Ed Canille, assault, \$5 and costs. Ida Owsart, assault and battery, \$3 and costs. Jasper Gibson, drunk, \$5 and costs. Only Griffin, assault, not prosecuted on payment of costs. Rufus Griffin, assault, discharged on payment of costs. Daniel Starnes, Jr., assault, discharged on payment of costs. John Hill, assault, discharged on payment of costs. John Billings, assault with deadly weapon, 10 days. H. M. Stearns, assault with deadly weapon, 8 to 10 days. Daisy Horn, disorderly conduct, \$2 and costs. Annie Barton, disorderly conduct, \$2 and costs. Johannes Burton, disorderly conduct, \$2 and costs. Benjamin Broun, disorderly conduct, \$5 and costs. Johnson Crump, assault with deadly weapon, guilty. Prayer for judgment continued to Nov. 16th. Carl Ross, assault with deadly weapon, judgment suspended on payment of costs.

Always Something Doing at Belk Brothers. Many New Specials on Sale For This Week.

10c. Long Cloth at 5c. a yd. 2000 yards 10c. Long Cloth, a great bargain, very special price 5c. Yard wide 12 1/2c. side border Percales, pretty patterns, 10c. 15c. Kimona Flannelette, side border, this week's price 10c. 7 1/2c. drill buck Canton Flannel, splendid value, only 5c. 10c. Dress Gingham, 7 1/2c. All wool red and blue Flannel, very special price 10c. Big assortment Gingham, extra quality, worth 6c. yd., perfect goods, per yard 4c.

Special Values for Cold Weather. 50 pairs North Carolina 10-4 grey wool Blankets, \$1.98. \$3.50 value North Carolina all-wool white Blankets, blue and pink borders, special price, \$2.75.

W. H. BELK & BRO.

CLOTHING BARGAINS!

In addition to our regular line of Clothing which we have been pushing forward each season by enlarging our stock and improving our styles, until now it compares favorably with any regular Clothing house in the city. We place on sale this week nearly

Three Thousand Dollars Worth

of Men's Suits, Youths' Suits, Boys' Knee Pants Suits, and Men's Odd Pants (slightly imperfect) at the manufacturer's wholesale price. The imperfection is so slight you can hardly detect it. However, we bought this lot of Clothing at a BIG DISCOUNT and we give our customers the advantage of our buying. Here's just now much you save, and isn't that worth considering.

MEN'S SUITS At a Saving of \$2.00 to \$4.00

Boys' \$2.00 Knee Pants Suits \$1.48 Boys' \$2.50 Knee Pants Suits \$1.98 Boys' \$3.00 to \$3.50 Knee Pants Suits \$2.50 Boys' \$4.00 Knee Pants Suits \$2.90 Boys' \$5.00 Knee Pants Suits \$3.00

MEN'S ODD PANTS

Men's \$1.50 Pants 98c Men's \$2.00 Pants \$1.48 Men's \$2.50 to \$3.00 Pants \$1.98 Men's \$4.00 Pants \$2.90

OTHER SPECIALS

7 1/2c. quality Apron Check Gingham, per yard, 5c Very good quality Checked Homespun, yard, 4c Regular 20c. quality Bed Ticking, yard, 15c 36-inch Taffeta Silk, everywhere at \$1.00 per yard, our price only 89c Best Calicoes, per yard, 5c 56-inch Broad Cloth, all colors 48c Ladies' 25c. Elastic Belts, each 18c Ladies' Long Cloaks, \$1.50 to \$15.00 Children's Cloaks, 75c. to \$6.50 Ladies' Gown Special, 48c. to 88c Children's Drawers, per pair, 10c Children's Bodice, each 10c And remember Cadet Hose are the best.

The Cash Mercantile Company The House That You Money.

Building Material and Roofing.

In order to make storage room for the big crops now growing in our county, a great many farmers will have to enlarge their barns and graineries; therefore we desire to call our friends' attention to our immense stock of BUILDING MATERIAL. We are the only dealers in this section of the country who carry a complete line of Building Material. Buying all Building Material in car lots direct from the manufacturers, we are in position to sell at a less price than our competitors.

We have in Stock Wood Shingles, Cartright Metal Shingles, Paroid Roofing, Galvanized and Red Steel Roofing, in all lengths. Plaster, Cement, Nails, Sash, Doors, Blinds, Paints, Oils and Varnishes.

A full line of BUILDING HARDWARE of every description. If you contemplate building this season do not fail to call or write us for prices on your Building Material requirement. Furnish us with your specifications and we will be glad to submit prices.

We have in transit a CAR LOAD of "ELLWOOD" WIRE FENCING for hogs and cattle that we will offer at reduced prices. Remember we carry a large stock of both and our prices and terms are attractive.

Heath Hardware Co.

Day & Night advertisement for Rockers and Chairs. Includes illustrations of a woman sitting in a chair and a man sitting in a rocker. Text: 'Why not buy Rockers that are guaranteed to you? We are here to back the guarantee. Newwood Rockers from \$2.50 to \$20, and the \$2.50 chair has a finish equal to any \$10 chair. If it's a leather rocker you want, buy the Karpen—a chair that has a guarantee and reputation back of it. We have a complete line of Rockers and Chairs displayed on our floor now and we will appreciate your giving our stock a close inspection as to quality and price. Yours for business, T. P. Dillon.'