

# THE MONROE JOURNAL

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One Dollar a Year.

## METEOR DROPS AT ARATT.

Series of Blinding Flashes Precedes Crash and Deafening Explosion Which Shakes Houses for a Distance of Two Miles.

*Gaffney Special, 7th, to Charlotte Observer.*  
The people of the Aratt section, which is located about ten miles from this city, were greatly terrified last Friday night about 8 o'clock when a series of blinding flashes were seen in the sky, followed by a great crash and an awful report. The houses for a distance of two miles around were shaken and the glasses in the windows became loosened by the report. The whole neighborhood was aroused, but all were too frightened to investigate the matter that night. The following morning a squad was formed and several people went to the place from which the report came and a yawning hole was found, about fifteen feet by twenty feet and a little over six feet deep. Nothing else was found.

It is generally believed by the people of the Aratt section that it was a meteor fell, causing the blinding flashes and the great noise. They are all firmly convinced that it could have been nothing else, and the fact that Halley's comet has now become visible in Gaffney lends color to the opinion, they believing that this may have in some way been responsible for the occurrence. No other theory than that it was a comet has been advanced, as it is the only possible thing that would have come through the air and caused such a disturbance.

No effort has been made to see whether or not it has been buried in the hole and the speculations as to whether or not it was really a comet are rife in Gaffney and the above named community. Doubtless an effort will be made at once to dig into the hole and if possible to locate the object and doubtless some interesting developments will then arise. If it be a meteor and is anywhere near as large as is the hole that was made, it must indeed be wonderful. Meanwhile the people of Aratt are much excited over the matter and are very anxious to learn the cause of the peace of the community being disturbed.

## Bit Him Right in the Pinch of the Game.

There are people now living in North Carolina who saw the comet some 75 years ago on its last visit, and the Statesville Landmark is fortunate in having on its list of friends one who saw it at that time. Of his views and experiences it says:

"There seems to be so much excitement and great popular interest in the visit of this great celestial Halley comet, that a talk with our old friend and substantial citizen, Mr. Isaac Long, who lives at Hamptonville, was quite interesting. Mr. Long says he was about 9 years old when this noted comet visited us, some 75 years ago. He recalls very well of seeing it every night, in the northern part of the heavens, the head towards the west, the tail eastward, and it seemed, according to eye measurement, to be over 100 yards long. Its appearance produced considerable excitement and commotion among the people of that day.

"Mr. Long also described the falling of the stars in 1833. He relates some pleasing and amusing incidents occurring that night, among them that old Uncle Moses Austill, long since dead, who did not at all times use Sunday school talk, lit out of his bed, jumped into his pants, and called to his wife to get up, that the world was about wound up and the judgment day was here. He then dropped on his knees praying. About this time a wasp concealed in his pants let him know of his presence. He screamed out: 'There! the d—d thing's bit me, right here in the pinch of the game!'"

## Investigating Ship Subsidy Lobby.

The Merchant Marine League, with headquarters at Cleveland, Ohio, and other interests promoting a ship subsidy bill, having made fierce warfare on Representative Stenerson of Minnesota and other members of the House who opposed the subsidy bill, practically charging them with corruption, an investigation was ordered by the House at the instance of Mr. Stenerson and others.

When John A. Prenton, secretary of the Merchant Marine League and editor of the American Flag, a paper published in the interest of the subsidy bill, appeared in Washington Tuesday to testify before the committee, he was arrested for criminally libelling Mr. Stenerson. He was released on \$500 bond.

## Near Beer a Curse to Albemarle.

*Stately Enterprise.*

The near beer saloon in Albemarle is a curse to the town. Drunks go out from all these places, and we are prepared to believe what a well known drinking man of Albemarle said the other day: "I can get what I want at most any of them, and get what I pay for." Another said: "I believe if a man drinks this near beer regularly for six months it will kill him. Straight opium could be no worse." A business man says it hurts business of the place; that men who used to come around and pay bills promptly are spending their money for drink, and their families are in want and doing without actual necessities. It is no pleasure to us to expose the evils and defects of our active little city, but we want to see these evils rooted out; we want to know that our town is establishing itself along right lines in every way, and that we have a citizenship that looks higher and thinks more of itself than to allow this menacing evil to get a strong hold upon the place. We shall not attempt to name the many evils that have already gone out from the near beer saloon in its existence of a few months only within our midst, for they are many. But this is an appeal to action, and we trust that our citizens who are opposed to the thing will get together, organize in body against it, and that some restraint may be thrown around those saloons that are already operating under license, and that no other license shall be granted.

## Bank Robbery With Wild West Features.

A bank robbery with wild West features occurred at McKees' Rocks, Pa., a suburb of Pittsburg, Tuesday night, when two men were killed and \$400 taken from the Victor Banking Company.

Samuel Friedman, general manager of the company, was killed, his assistant, Isaac Schwartz, who was dangerously wounded in the head, died on the operating table while surgeons were probing for the bullet which penetrated his brain, and Robt. King, a passerby, was seriously shot in the groin.

Friedman and Schwartz were alone in the bank, which does a foreign exchange business on the outskirts of McKees' Rocks, counting the day's cash which was spread upon the counter, when four foreigners invaded the place with guns. Friedman was shot twice while one of the men scooped up the money, but as they escaped the wounded Friedman followed them, shouting for help, only to fall with another volley from the robbers. A policeman's face which appeared around the corner just at the moment was grazed by a bullet.

## New Form of City Government.

*Progressive Farmer.*

Hattiesburg, Miss., and Columbia, S. C., are the first two Southern cities east of Texas to try the commission form of government. When the Galveston flood came several years ago the affairs of the city were taken out of the hands of the ward politicians and party bosses—who had long controlled there as in other American cities—and the government was vested in a commission of able business men. The results in the way of economy, enterprise and efficient government were so satisfactory that the temporary plan was continued, and the idea has spread from city to city until it now bids fair to become one of the most notable developments of twentieth century politics in America. We hope to see a great many other cities adopt the idea, and we should like to have some plan worked out whereby the same principle might be applied to county government.

## Virginia Wallops Carolina.

The base ball teams from the Universities of North Carolina and Virginia played two games in this State last week and Carolina got walloped twice. The first game was played at Greensboro on Friday and the score was 4 to 3 in favor of the Virginians. On Saturday the teams again met at Charlotte, and in the presence of an immense crowd the Virginia boys took 6 runs to 2. A great many people from Monroe and adjoining towns saw the latter game. Union county has three men on the Carolina team, Stewart, Hamilton and Bivens.

Beer drinkers and others who suffer with Bright's disease, diabetes, backache or any kidney or bladder trouble can be cured if they will take Bloodine Blood and Kidney Tablets, 50c a box, mailed by The Bloodine Co., Inc., Boston, Mass. English Drug Company, Special Agents.

## DIDN'T FORGET POOR KIN.

Union County Plan Who Went to Georgia Years Ago, Got Rich and Then Helped His Relatives--The Surrender of Lee.

*Correspondence of The Journal.*

After a long absence from your columns, I appear again. I pulled through the grip once more.

Today is the 9th day of April. Forty-five years ago today the Army Northern Virginia made her last struggle. Gen. Grant once more asked Gen. Lee to surrender his army and stop the flowing of blood. Gen. Lee was hard pressed on all sides. He ordered Gen. J. B. Gordon, one of his corps commanders, to drive the enemy from his front, but he found them ten to his one and provided with everything their government could afford. Gordon's lines were forced back. He asked Lee for help time and again, but there was no help for him. And when Gen. Lee saw the brave veterans who had followed him for four long years recoiling before an enemy who was on his flanks, front and rear, he ordered a white flag raised on Gordon's lines and sent Grant word to meet him at the McClain house.

No general ever treated a subjugated army better than Grant treated Lee's that day. Grant was accompanied by two of his staff without swords, met Lee and his staff in full uniform with swords buckled on. Grant gave Lee honorable terms and asked if he could do anything for him and his army. Lee told him his army was without rations. Grant ordered his commissary to issue 20,000 rations to Lee's army.

Grant told Lee for every officer and every private in his army to take his horse home with him and work a crop. He also issued strict orders for his men not to cheer or make any demonstration over their fallen enemy. That day more North Carolinians stacked their arms than any State in the Confederacy. Their paroles gave them permission to return to their homes and there remain unmolested by the United States government till they are exchanged. Forty-five years has passed, and Old Father Time has mowed two-thirds of them down; and twenty years from today you will have to ride a day's journey to find a Confederate soldier.

I have a picture I prize very highly. It is a Federal soldier and a Confederate soldier in full uniform with guns at "order arms," shaking hands, Gens. Grant and Lee standing near witnessing the scene. I will take it to Monroe the Fourth of July if I live.

Just think of it, W. H. Taft, President of these United States, being escorted to the grand stand in the cradle of American liberty by the battle-scarred veterans of the Confederacy, and when he finished his 5,000-mile tour over this great Union at Richmond, Va., he was taking in the city in an automobile, and when the machine was passing the grand monuments to Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee he stood up and raised his hat! That sealed the national emblem, E Pluribus Unum.

Let us get back in old Union county and talk about her grand men. Sixty odd years ago a grand man left Union county and went to Georgia and got big rich, but he was not contented to live and enjoy his riches to himself. So he wrote a letter to Uncle Billy Houston to visit his poor kin in Union county and let him know all about their financial condition. Uncle Billy did so, and told him they were all in destitute circumstances. That good man sent each one of his poor kin so much money a month while he lived. One poor sister told Uncle Billy to tell her brother John that she had slept on a straw bed all her life, and she wanted him to send her enough money to buy a feather bed. John not only bought the bed but two good blankets, and she died on that bed. That good man was John Stilwell, whose mother was a Houston. My belief is that that deed recorded John Stilwell's name in the lambs' book of God.

He did not wait till he died to help his poor kin. I know two men who died rich and done nothing for their poor kin while alive, and at their death their poor kin got it. It put some in the lunatic asylum; some in their delirious moments put the cold muzzle of a revolver to their temples to hasten their departure.

OLIVER.

A dispatch from Washington says that the comet will not be visible to the naked eye in three weeks yet. So you'll have to wait that long unless you have a telescope.

## THE NEAR BEER JOINT HERE

A Wadesboro Man Gets License, Moves Up Old Saloon Fixtures, and Opens Up for Business, which Runs Briskly for Some Time.

Over thirteen years ago the last saloon was closed in Monroe and there are boys in this town reaching man's estate that never saw inside of anything that looked like a saloon unless they saw it in another town. But by a peculiar and apparently inexplicable turn of the law after all these years, and after the whole State has followed Union county's example and gone "dry," a man from Wadesboro has hauled out an old discarded saloon outfit, even to those "beautiful" mirrors, set it up here, and extended an invitation to all the uninitiated to come in and look upon the ghost of a departed day. Even the slick skinned negro helper is there. This is a near beer joint. It is the thing that the Supreme court says may be conducted in prohibition territory, and which has in other places been used as a cloak to violate the prohibition laws.

However, if the words of many serious minded men of this section who have for years fought whiskey, coming either by the saloon or blind tiger route, count for anything, the proprietor of this resurrected saloon paraphernalia, must confine himself to near beer and near beer alone. The law gives him the privilege of selling that but not anything else, and we believe that the people here will see that he sells nothing else. Many have told The Journal that they are ready to pay any part of necessary expenses incurred in a fight to see that he does this.

Mr. G. S. Fort of Wadesboro, formerly engaged in the whiskey business, is the proprietor of the near beer saloon, and he opened last Friday at noon in the old office room of the Central Hotel. He did a land-office business for a while. The aldermen granted license from April first to June first, the beginning of the special tax year, the pro rata cost of which was \$152.78, which amount it cost Mr. Fort to do business for two months, not including the State tax of \$40.

## Other Side of An Automobile Disturbance--A Gentlemanly Fight.

*Statesville Landmark.*

The Landmark printed the other day an item to the effect that while Dr. Wexter Smathers was motoring ("motoring" takes less space than "riding in an automobile") from Asheville to Hendersonville to attend a good roads meeting, a citizen in a buggy zigzagged across the road to prevent the doctor passing him; that finally when the doctor did get by the buggyman "cut at him" or "cut him" with the whip, whereupon Dr. Smathers stopped his "motoring" long enough to take the whip from the buggyman and horsewhip him, so to speak. That was one side. Here is the other from the Asheville Citizen:

"It develops that the occupant of the buggy was Mr. C. A. Bynum, one of the most highly respected residents of Fletcher, who had his wife in the buggy with him. He admits striking Dr. Smathers with his buggy whip as the machine passed, being angered at the moment by what he thought was the disregard of his warning to the motorists. Mr. Bynum says that he had a horse that was not very gentle and he motioned the motorists not to approach, as he was near the railroad track and his horse was skittish. They disregarded his signals, he claims, and this angered him for the moment. He says that he did not try to 'hog' the road and if his horse did zigzag at all it was because it was frightened.

"There was no 'walloping' he says, as was stated by some of the party, but just a gentlemanly fight."

If Mr. Bynum has his facts right as to the horse and the railroad, the motorists were clearly in the wrong and violated the law. Not only so, their conduct was outrageous, seeing that Mr. Bynum was accompanied by his wife, and his anger under the circumstances was excusable.

It is a pleasure to learn, however, that the fight was a "gentlemanly one."

Dogs invaded the premises of Mr. Ben J. Council of Watauga county one night last week and killed about \$75 worth of fine registered sheep. Mr. Council was so disheartened with his loss that he sold his entire herd of sheep to Mr. Ed Shipley. The price received per head was \$12.

## SHOWS UP NEAR BEERERY.

In His Sunday Morning Sermon Dr. H. F. Chreitberg Gave His Opinion in No Uncertain Words of the Near Beer Joint.

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all forms of evil."

From these words as a text, Dr. H. F. Chreitberg, pastor of Central Methodist church, in his morning sermon last Sunday gave in no uncertain words his opinion of the near beer saloon that has been opened in Monroe. In the opening prayer the matter was referred to, the minister pointing out that God requires men to do all they can for themselves first, and after they have exhausted every resource he would then answer their prayer. In his discourse, after showing how some things had been tested, Dr. Chreitberg said:

"I refer now to one specially—the near beer saloon established last week in this community. I ask this question, are all our efforts to be thwarted and our achievements to be nullified by this infamous innovation? And what for? That a man may come into our community to debauch our people for the money that is in it. The money to him is a greater consideration than the peace, prosperity and the morality of the community.

"And who is this man? An interloper, an intruder, without a spark of moral principle, forcing himself upon this community over the protests and the agonizing prayers of every father, mother, wife—every good man and woman of our town—to debauch our people. We do not want him. We have no room for such undesirable characters, and one spark of manhood left would make him move on and out. The whole history of near beer is that it is more vile and lawless than even the old saloon. We do not want it. No law should force it on us against our earnest protest. What man, with a modicum of common sense, would but know that one could not pay a thousand dollars license without selling other and stronger drinks?"

"I will not at this time address myself to our board of aldermen, as I am not informed as to the facts, or reasons, moving them to grant this license. It seems to me that they have acted prematurely. This movement should have been resisted to the bitter end. We have time and again recorded our sentiments against the traffic in intoxicants. We have prayed, worked and voted. The good people of Monroe have done all in their power against strong drink for the home, business and all moral interests of the community, and we won our fight at the ballot box. Are all these to be set aside for this covetous monster, that he may scorch, wither and damn our young men and older men, who have tendencies to strong drink, and thus debauch our community? I think the whole movement should have been fought out to the bitter end, and if at last the law of the land, the Supreme court of North Carolina, should stand with its legal heel upon our necks, holding us down, helpless in the dust, and demand that we must not only tolerate this monster but give him the right of way to the inevitable ruin the traffic works; then having reached the limit of our rights as freemen, we could call upon Almighty God to interpose in our behalf. The prayer offered at the opening of this service could be answered. God helps those who help themselves. We can pray against these evils as much as we please, but God requires that we put our manhood back of and under our prayers; then what we cannot do He will do for us. He can and will deliver us, but not until we do our part."

## Change of Date for Laying of Corner Stone.

It has become necessary to postpone the laying of the corner stone of the Confederate monument from May 10th to June the 3rd. Every thing will be in readiness that day and the occasion will be a most interesting one. The address will be delivered by Mr. John C. Sikes. The monument will be placed on the west side of the public square.

The State Grand Lodge of Masons with the cooperation of the Masonic lodges of the county, will lay the corner stone.

Crosses of honor will be delivered at the corner stone laying. All old soldiers who are entitled to them should send their names to Miss Frances Lee, at the First National Bank, and receive application blanks.

## A WHOLE TRAIN BUNDED.

A Burned Trestle Swallows Freight Train Just in Time to Save a Passenger Train--Fireman the Only Man Killed--Conductor Carroll Saved by a Jump.

Fire destroyed a long trestle over a creek four miles this side of Greenwood, S. C., last Wednesday night. In the early hours of Thursday morning a long freight train, in charge of Conductor Wilton Carroll of Monroe, and Engineer Hinnant, came along and the whole train of twenty-five cars, engine and caboose went down, and in a little while all that was above water was burned. Fireman Kemp was so badly hurt that he afterward died. Though the engineer and conductor were hurt somewhat their presence of mind probably saved a wholesale loss of life on passenger trains that were due about that time. Train No. 38 coming this way was only fifteen minutes behind the freight, and No. 41 from here to Atlanta was due pretty soon.

In writing home concerning the wreck Conductor Carroll says: "We were going round a curve onto the trestle, which is 45 to 50 feet high, and my train was onto the trestle before I knew that it was burning. To jump meant death, but when I heard the roaring of the cars as they dashed down into the dark hole and were crashed to pieces, I decided to jump from the cab anyway before it went down and risk a fifty feet fall into the dark, rather than go down and be roasted. It was so dark I could see nothing, only hear the roar of the breaking cars and the steam from the engine. Just before my cab was about to go down I noticed a small platform on the side of the track on which a water barrel had sat. I made a leap for the small platform and made a good landing. I supposed that I was the only man of the whole crew left alive, and I knew that I must get busy. I knew that 38 and 41 were both due in a few minutes and that I would have to flag both if everybody else was dead. I crawled to the ground and started back to a switch about a quarter of a mile. At the end of the trestle I met my flagman who had gone down in the cab, and had waded out of the creek. We set the switch target and the flagman went to flag 38. I went back by the wreck which had now caught fire and was making a big light. I met the engineer, who said his head was broken and asked me to get a doctor. The brakeman who had gone down on top of the cars came up about this time and I left the engineer with him and started up the road to flag No. 41. I went back three miles and found 41 in the sidetrack waiting for 38. Superintendent Gore was on 41 and they took the engine and went to the wreck and found the fireman badly broken up and unconscious."

## Big Forest Fire.

Last Wednesday when the wind was blowing a gale from the southwest, fire which had been smoldering in a pile of sawdust at the mill of Mr. John A. Long about seven miles above town, was driven into the woods and before it burned itself out probably a thousand acres of wood and timber land had been burned over. Only the cleared fields that usually surround premises kept the fire from sweeping all the buildings in the territory, as all efforts to fight it were of no avail. Mr. Cornelius Helms' barn was the only building that was burned. The buildings of Mr. Durant Helms were saved only by the efforts of about fifty people, as the woods came up near to his barn.

## Looking for More Water.

Lee Brothers of Spartanburg are boring a well on Bryan street for the town. The great depth from which water has to be lifted from the old wells and the consequent frequency of accidents and the expense, have caused the aldermen to decide to try to find water in shallower wells as an auxiliary supply. On the lot which the town owns on Bryan street a well will be bored not over two hundred feet. If a good supply is not found there other points in different sections of the town will be tried. If water is found at these points small motors and pumps will be used to send the water to the reservoir.

If is a mighty little word but if you are paying out good money for old candies, "if" stands between you and satisfaction. Why not get the best for your money? Best assortment of chocolates. Monroe Candy Kitchen.