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GENERAL NEWS.

Matters of Interest Condensed into Brief Paragraphs.

Heavy damage by forest fires are reported from West Virginia.

The Lexington, Va., opera house was burned Sunday morning. Loss \$9,000; insurance \$3,500.

The house on Monday passed the bill to increase the appropriation for the national guard from \$400,000 to \$1,000,000.

W. C. Endicott, secretary of war during Cleveland's first administration, died, at Boston Sunday afternoon, of pneumonia, aged 73.

An unknown negro, about 20 years of age, was lynched three miles from Geneva, Ala., Saturday, for assaulting a white girl. He confessed the crime.

The Populistic Democrats, Populists and silver Republicans have about agreed on Bryan for president and Charles A. Towne, of Minnesota, for vice-president.

Admiral Dewey went to Memphis Sunday, and was escorted to his hotel by a company of Confederate veterans. The regular exercises in honor of Dewey took place Monday and Tuesday.

A most destructive woodland fire has been burning for some days in Chesterfield county, Va. It has swept over an area of five miles, and has destroyed an immense amount of cordwood and standing timber.

The bottom is falling out of a part of Newark, N. J., where the houses are sinking so fast that the occupants are moving out. They were built on a quicksand deposit, too near a hole without a reachable bottom.

By the burning out of a furnace of the Schloss-Sheffield Steel and Iron company at Birmingham, Ala., Saturday night \$75,000 worth of property was destroyed by fire. Several furnace men narrowly escaped death.

Judge Thompson, of the U. S. district court at Cincinnati, has decided that the law does not require any revenue stamp to be affixed to bonds of notaries public. The practice has been universal to require a 50-cent revenue stamp.

The Mississippi Valley Hay Storage plant and the lumber yards of the Hofner-Lothman Manufacturing company at St. Louis were burned Saturday. The total loss is estimated at \$350,000, of which the hay company sustains about \$40,000 and the Hofner-Lothman the remainder. The entire loss is covered by insurance.

The Mallory Line steamship pier at New York was destroyed by fire Sunday. Loss \$1,000,000. Several barges which were moored near the pier were burned, and many rescues of their captains and of the members of the families on board were made. Only one life was lost. The 9-months-old daughter of Capt. Charles Lochs, of the barge Sherwood, was drowned.

The British colonial office has received dispatches giving accounts of several recent attacks upon the British constabulary in the Gold Coast Colony by the Ashantis (natives), 10,000 of whom surrounded Kumassi, the capital. The natives were repulsed with heavy losses, but many of the constabulary were wounded and quite a number killed. British reinforcements are on the way.

Half a dozen tornadoes occurred in central Kansas Sunday afternoon. Two persons are known to have been killed and three injured. A later dispatch from Kansas City says that 14 tornadoes are reported to have been seen Sunday in central Kansas. So far as learned Wm. Helfrick and wife, who lost their lives in the destruction of their home, north of Ellinwood, were the only persons killed.

A tornado swept over Denton county, Texas, Sunday, and it is believed several people were killed. More than one-third of the houses in Garsa were wrecked. Several houses were wrecked at Little Elm and several people injured. A storm visited San Antonio, Tex., Monday morning, doing great damage. The San Antonio Loan and Trust Co.'s building was demolished. The loss is estimated at \$75,000.

The vicinity of Wilsonville, Neb., was

visited by a heavy wind, rain and hail storm Saturday night. A Presbyterian church was destroyed, and many barns and out-buildings demolished. In the country along the path of the storm several farm houses were blown to pieces and a number of people injured. So far as known no one was killed. The hailstones are reported to have been as large as baseballs, and were driven through roofs.

The carelessness of farmers and brush-burning mountaineers is held responsible for an unprecedented number of forest fires in the mountain sections of Maryland this spring. The damages have not been computed accurately, but the loss in timber alone will reach into hundreds of thousands of dollars, many miles having been burned over. A number of dwellings have also been destroyed, and miles of fencing, which will take large sums and months of labor to replace, are gone.

A dispatch from Manila says that Gen. Penleton Garcia, the highest insurgent officer except Aguinaldo, was captured Sunday by Lieut. E. V. Smith, of Gen. Funston's staff, in the town of Jaen, three miles northeast of San Isidro, province of New Ecija. Garcia personally directed the guerrilla operations, and Gen. Funston had spent weeks in trying to corner him, several companies beating the whole country at night. Often the Americans caught messengers bearing Garcia's commands. The people protected him, and burned signal lights whenever the American soldiers appeared. Gen. Funston will endeavor to persuade Garcia to secure the surrender of his forces, which number several thousand. Most of Garcia's men live in the mountains, and few bands would number more than 100.

CHALLENGE TO REPUBLICANS

Chairman Simmons Challenges the Republicans to a Joint Debate With the Democratic State Nominees.

Raleigh Post, May 8th.

F. M. Simmons, Esq., chairman of the Democratic State executive committee, yesterday wrote a letter to A. E. Holton, Esq., of Winston, N. C., inviting a joint debate between the Democratic and Republican nominees on the State ticket.

The Republicans who have been laughing at Butler's effort to divert the Democratic nominees from a debate with the main Republican show to the side-show of that party, will have an opportunity to laugh again. Butler's artful effort to engage the Democrats in joint debate with the dummy ticket nominated by his handful of followers, which was made up largely of McKinley office-holders, has been more than met by Mr. Simmons.

If the Republicans are half as anxious as they profess to discuss the issues in this campaign, they will not hesitate to accept the challenge. Ex-Judge Spencer B. Adams, the Republican nominee for governor, can meet Hon. Charles B. Aycock, the nominee of the Democracy for governor, if he so desires.

The Republican bluff launched by First Lieutenant Butler has been called. It's up to Mr. Holton now.

GRAINGERS ITEMS.

May 7, 1900.

Mr. L. H. Rountree, of Ayden, was here yesterday.

A good many of our people are attending court today.

Miss Callie May Jones spent Saturday night and Sunday in Kinston.

A good shower of rain would be a welcome visitor with our tobacco farmers just now.

Rev. J. T. Grubbs went to Greenville Saturday to fill his appointment Sunday. He will return today.

Mrs. Clemie Hill, of Ft. Barwell, who had been visiting at Mr. C. H. Barwick's, returned home Saturday.

There will be a Sunday school picnic at Bethel Saturday, May 12. Everybody is invited to come that will be sure to bring a basket.

Epitaphs in a Tyrolean Churchyard. A German traveler has discovered some quaint epitaphs in a Tyrolean cemetery.

On a tombstone in the valley of Tur was this inscription, "In pious remembrance of the honest widow Anna Kriedl, 40 years long." A miller is thus remembered, "In Christian memory of —, who departed this life without human assistance."

A farmer whose initials only are given and appears to have been the author of his own epitaph has this memorial: "Here rests in God F. K. He lived 28 years as man and 37 years as husband."

On the tomb of a man who fell from a roof and was killed are these words, "Here fell Jacob Hosenknopf from the roof into sternity."

This wall of a desolate husband caps the climax, "Tears cannot bring thee back to life, therefore I weep."

Switched Off.

"When through her own carelessness I discovered that she wore false hair, I lost all love for her," said Hanby. Alas, he was not the first man wrecked by a misplaced switch!—Philadelphia North American.

WHO SHOT AT HIM?

A Union Soldier Wants to Find the Confederate Who Shot at Him During the War Between the States. Interesting Incidents of the Fighting Around Kinston.

To the Editor THE KINSTON FREE PRESS: During the civil war I was a Union soldier for four years. The last time I was under fire was near Kinston in March, 1865. I think that the Confederates who shot at me on that occasion belonged to a militia company from your latitude and I write this hoping to get into communication with some of them. I expect to be at Raleigh on May 28 to witness the solar eclipse and I would like to make a flying visit to my Kinston friends, who were so considerate as to miss me 35 years ago.

The battle of Wise's Fork, sometimes called the second battle of Kinston, was fought I think on March 10, 1865. Gen. Hoke with his Confederates attacked our forces under Gen. Cox with terrific vigor and, though finally repulsed, he carried off as trophies 1,500 prisoners from our advanced brigade. I have always considered it one of the most brilliant efforts of the war, considering our superiority in numbers and the discouragement that was settling down on the Confederate cause. We expected a renewal of the attack, but after waiting two days I was ordered to report at Gen. Cox's headquarters at 6 a. m. of the 13th. At that time and place I was directed to accompany 200 of the 12th N. Y. cavalry toward Kinston to ascertain if the enemy were evacuating that place and specially to find out whether the bridge over the Neuse river was intact. I was then a signal officer and this was in the line of my duty. We passed through our picket line and advanced through a wilderness country about five miles and came out on a prominence alongside the river from which we could distinctly see your town on the other side of the stream, two miles beyond us. Here I halted the cavalry and with my signal glasses I took a view of the situation. About a mile and a half ahead, across an open country, I could see fortifications on both sides of the river, at the point where I supposed the bridge was located. I climbed the trees and caught sight through the foliage of what I supposed to be the bridge. I could see a few soldiers moving about and with my telescope could count the buttons on the coat of the guard that walked the parapet, which loomed up across the intervening fields. From some sudden movements of small bodies of men across the stream I was sure our presence had been observed. The captain of the cavalry battalion thought we had better return with our information at once. It occurred to me however that by going down the steep bank of the river and looking up stream I might get a better view of the bridge. As I now remember it, the point on which we were located was 20 or 30 feet above the level of the stream. I found that by lying at full length directly at the water's edge and looking underneath the overhanging bushes I could distinctly see what I wanted. I pulled my telescope out to a focus and was enjoying a near view of the partially burned bridge, when suddenly I heard directly across the stream the snapping of a dry branch, followed almost instantly by the crack of a rifle. The Neuse river at that point was about 150 feet wide and the shot was evidently well aimed, for, as I jerked up my head when I heard the snap of the branch, a bullet struck the sand directly before my face. I cannot tell you, Mr. Editor, how quickly I bounded up that steep ascent amid a perfect encore of whistling bullets that at the time I supposed were all meant for me. I believe, however, that if any fair-minded umpire had witnessed my feat, chronometer in hand, he would have given me the first prize for high jumps, against all North Carolina.

When I reached the top of the bank I found that most of the shots came from my cavalry escort, which had seen some movements on the other side and opened on my Kinston friends the moment after they opened on me, so I cannot be sure that more than the first shot was actually intended for me.

The next morning, March 14th, our troops advanced. I acted as guide to Carter's brigade and marched them around the fort so as to attack it from the southwest, hoping thus to cut off and capture the garrison. When we rushed up the slope of the parapet, we found the fort empty, but we were assailed by a fusillade from the other fort across the river. The loose timbers which had connected the piers of the burned bridge had been thrown into the stream when the garrison on the south bank had withdrawn and there was no way our boys could reach them, except with bullets.

I raised my signal flag and waved it as agreed on to the rest of the troops about a mile and a half distant. I observed a sudden cessation of the firing on the other side and heard a voice call out, "What are you firing for while waving a flag of truce?" One of our captains replied, "It isn't a flag of truce, but a signal flag." Then the firing was resumed and some of the shots passed dangerously near my flag, as I then imagined.

In about 20 minutes the firing ceased. Our boys being largely in the majority, every time a head or hand, or cap even, was raised above the embankment it was saluted at once.

From information subsequently received I think Gen. Hoke took all his veteran soldiers with him on his retreat and left a company of militia only, to keep up appearances for a time, which militia I think must have been from your immediate section.

Now it came my turn to laugh. Our Kinston friends were perfectly safe behind their earthwork but they could not get out of it without exposing themselves to the merciless fire of an ever increasing force. If, Mr. Editor, you will walk across the river to our position you will see how perfectly we had them couped up. Our boys began a good natured bantering, told them they had got into the "last ditch" and advised them to surrender. They returned the compliment by advising us to swim over and capture them. We responded that our engineers would swing a bridge across in a few minutes and in the meantime they could stay where they were. Soon after one man started on a run for a wooded country toward your village. He made almost as good time as I did the day before. Several shots were fired at him but I do not think they touched him. The next one that appeared was a boy. One of the soldiers fired but the rest cheered him as he ran. A Michigan captain whose name I cannot recall turned to his veterans and said "They're old men and boys, let 'em go." So after that, when one appeared our boys would hoot and cheer and occasionally some one would snap a gun to encourage the sprinting. So Kinston won the medal in the second day's races.

I do not think anyone was seriously injured either day. The only casualty on our side was one poor soldier who swam to one of the piers and climbed up to assist in rebuilding the bridge. He suddenly fell off, probably in a fit, and went down into the waters of the Neuse in full view of 1,000 men who were powerless to help him.

The mayor of Kinston with half a dozen citizens soon after came down to the opposite bank under a white flag and formally surrendered the town, but it was some hours before our troops got over to take possession. Later in the day I established a signal station on the balcony of your hotel and during our stay I made some delightful acquaintances among your citizens.

If this should meet the eye of any of the soldiers who withstood our advance on those two days, I would be glad to receive a letter from him.

Yours truly,
GEO. C. ROUND.
Manassas, Va. May 3, 1900.
Goldsboro and Raleigh papers please copy.

INSTITUTE ITEMS.

May 7, 1900.

Mr. Herbert Hill, of Lousin Swamp, spent Sunday here.

Mr. Giles Parks and sister, Miss Sallie, spent Saturday and Sunday here.

Mr. George Tucker and Mr. Spence spent Sunday with Mr. Henry Allen.

Miss Iola Patrick and Master De Witt Allen went to Hookerton this morning.

Miss Cora Wooten, of LaGrange, visited Miss Daisy Gray Saturday and Sunday.

Miss Myrtle Tucker and Mr. John Jones, of near Kinston, spent Saturday night at Mr. J. J. Bryan's.

Mrs. M. Pulley and daughter, little Miss Susie, of LaGrange, are visiting friends and relatives here.

Miss Ruth Tucker and Mr. Troy Rouse, of near Kinston, spent Saturday night and Sunday at Mr. A. T. Dawson's.

Misses Mary Smithwick and Nancy Burgess, of LaGrange, spent Saturday and Sunday with Miss Maude Dawson.

Misses Bertha May and Rosa Taylor and Mess. Jim Edwards and Anderson Hyatt, of Kinston; Prof. James Newbold and Mess. Johnnie Walters, Carl Sutton and Eugene Best, of LaGrange, spent Sunday at Mr. A. T. Dawson's.

Danger About a French Duel.

Wilmington Star.

There is some danger in attending French duels, not to the principals, but to the observers. The other day there was a duel between an editor and a sculptor. The editor shot first and missed his man, and then the sculptor, declaring that it was against his religious belief to kill another fellow, turned his weapon sideways, pulled the trigger, shot and killed the surgeon who came to fix them up if they happened to get hurt.

Biliousness is a condition characterized by a disturbance of the digestive organs. The stomach is debilitated, the liver torpid, the bowels constipated. There is a loathing of food, pains in the bowels, dizziness, coated tongue and vomiting, first of the undigested or partly digested food and then of bile. Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets allay the disturbances of the stomach and create a healthy appetite. They also tone up the bowels. Try them and you are certain to be much pleased with the result. For sale by J. E. Hood, druggist.

The best job printing, at lowest prices, is the only kind to be had at the Free Press office. Send us your work.

STATE NEWS.

Interesting North Carolina Items in Condensed Form.

At Mebane Monday Bingham School beat University of Maryland playing ball, 6 to 5.

A call is issued to all Confederate veterans associations of the State to be represented at Winchester, Va., June 6th, at the dedication of the monument to the North Carolina dead in the Confederate cemetery there.

It is reported from Washington that the Republicans in the house have decided to turn out Crawford and seat Pearson, not on the merits of the case, but simply to give the Republicans of North Carolina some encouragement.

The house on Monday passed the senate bill to expend \$3,000 to repair the road to the national cemetery near Newbern. The president's signature, which will be made as soon as the bill reaches him, is all that is needed to make it a law.

The senate judiciary committee is reported to be unanimously adverse to the confirmation of Ewart as federal judge. It is said that no report will be made at the present session, and that McKinley will reappoint him on the adjournment of congress.

The presidency of the Baptist Female University at Raleigh has been unanimously tendered by the trustees to Rev. John E. White, who has not yet decided whether he will accept, and, at his request, the trustees have consented to wait ten days for his decision.

Greensboro Record: The Republican ticket was known in Greensboro, from governor down, before the nominations were completed. Parties who came up on the evening train had it all straight, when, as a matter of fact, not a single nomination had been made when they left Raleigh at 3:50 in the afternoon.

The "Shoofly" train from Norfolk ran into the rear of a freight train at Fremont Monday night and badly wrecked the caboose car and engine. Conductor Willford of the passenger train was between the coaches when the collision occurred and had his foot caught between the bumpers and mashed to such an extent that amputation will be necessary. He was taken to Rocky Mount.

Raleigh Post: Our Salisbury correspondent gives us information of a new cotton mill which is not only gratifying of itself, but more so from the assurance that every dollar of the capital stock was subscribed for by farmers residing in and near the place of location, China Grove, Rowan county. Fifty thousand dollars of good money, the profits of energetic and intelligent farming, have been combined for the erection of a mill to manufacture and consume at home the products of the farms.

Charlotte News: Capt. W. H. Ramsour is very much elated over the success of his stop motion machines for cotton mill machinery which prevent seconds and waste. He is an officer of the University Machine company, which is to manufacture the invention. They have not yet had time to build a machine shop, but already have orders for eleven thousand machines. Mr. W. H. Biglow is in Boston representing the company and reports that the New England mill men are enthusiastic over the invention, which has long been needed. The company will probably erect a machine shop in Charlotte.

BOERS GONE NEXT MORNING.

No Further Opposition to the Crossing of the Vet River.

London, May 7.—The Times' correspondent with Lord Roberts' force at the Vet river telegraphs that the Boers evacuated their position on the north bank of the river, and Sunday the British continued to cross over as the different columns came up. The railroad bridge over the river at that point is entirely destroyed. Continued the correspondent: "The country immediately north is hilly but the force is advancing on a broad front and should be able to turn most of the neighboring positions. It seems likely that the Boers intend no serious resistance, but will fall back to succeeding positions until they reach more favorable ground."

"The present general advance is the culmination of the recent operations to clear the southeastern districts. Lord Roberts attained his object by striking before the enemy had time to concentrate on our actual front."

Does it Pay to Buy Cheap?

A cheap remedy for coughs and colds is all right, but you want something that will relieve and cure the more severe and dangerous results of throat and lung troubles. What shall you do? Go to a warmer and more regular climate? Yes, if possible; if not possible for you, then in either case take the only remedy that has been introduced in all civilized countries with success in severe throat and lung troubles, "Bocher's German Syrup." It not only heals and stimulates the tissues to destroy the germ disease, but allays inflammation, causes easy expectoration, gives a good night's rest, and cures the patient. Try our bottle. Recommended many years by all druggists in the world. For sale by the Temple-Marston Drug Co.

Ayer's Pills

Sick headache. Food doesn't digest well, appetite poor, bowels constipated, tongue coated. It's your liver! Ayer's Pills are liver pills, easy and safe. They cure dyspepsia, biliousness. 25c. All Druggists.

Want your portrait or a beautiful likeness of the man or woman of the family? The BUCKINGHAM'S DYE CO. of Philadelphia.