

WAR CLOUDS. Cuba, Spain and the United States may become intermingled in war, but is hardly probable; we trust not.

How the glory has departed from proud Spain!

About 300 years ago with 130 ships, composing "The Invincible Armada," Catholic Spain determined to conquer Protestant England.

As the Armada set sail for England the nation was terror-stricken with but 30 small vessels, joined by 40 other small ones later. But the English were more dexterous, brave and persevering.

This continues the United States may intervene in the cause of humanity and civilization. If our country should recognize that the Cubans are belligerents, in an actual state of warfare, with a government with all its officers, etc., this might cause Spain to declare war, but hardly.

CONGRESS ASSEMBLES-THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Congress convened on Monday. President Cleveland's message would fill the four pages of THE MESSENGER and it is impossible for us to give even a synopsis of it in this issue.

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A DISTILLER GOES WRONG.

A government distillery warehouse broken into and seven barrels of whiskey carried away. Distillery fixtures also removed. The distiller missing.

A GOOD ONE ON DANIELS.

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ALMOST A MURDER.

Mr. A. C. Avery, Jr., Assaulted by Two Negroes and Dangerously Wounded.

CUT IN FIVE PLACES.

Mr. Avery's Condition Has Been Critical But the Chances Are Now in His Favor.

On Thursday night of last week, about 11 o'clock, Mr. A. C. Avery, Jr., was assaulted in Morganton by two negroes and dangerously wounded with a knife. He says he was on his way home and while crossing the square at the intersection of Union and Sterling streets he was accosted by two negroes, George Bristol and John Perkins. He answered them and one of them insulted him and he knocked one of them down, where upon the other seized him and the negro he had knocked down arose and began cutting him. After stabbing him five times the negro broke away from him and fled. Mr. Avery having no weapons, went at once to the Attaca Club rooms to try to borrow a pistol. Being unable to find one, he secured a billiard cue and went back on the street in search of the negroes, but they could not be found. Some friends, seeing that he was badly wounded, carried him to Dr. Laxton's residence, near by, where he has since been confined. For several days Mr. Avery's life hung upon a thread and it was thought that he could not recover, but we are glad to announce that he is now improving and his physicians think he will get well. The most serious wound is on the left side, just over the kidneys. On the night of the cutting he lost at least a gallon of blood, and, of course, got very weak. It was a narrow escape from death and Mr. Avery's many friends are truly glad that his chances of recovery are now so favorable.

Mr. A. C. Avery, Jr., is a son of Associate Justice A. C. Avery, who was in Raleigh at the time of this occurrence. Judge Avery, and his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Tom McLee, of Salisbury, arrived in Morganton Friday night.

The negroes escaped, but were captured Friday night about eight miles north of Morganton and lodged in jail here. On Saturday they were given a hearing before Esq. Powel Cobb and Bristol Esq. waived examination and were committed for the spring term of Burke court. Excitement ran high here and there was some talk of lynching. At the instance of Solicitor Spainhour the negroes were taken to Charlotte Saturday evening for safe keeping.

George Bristol and John Perkins are two of Burke's worst characters and the former was released only a short while ago from the Ohio penitentiary, where he served a sentence for killing a man. Bristol acknowledged that he cut Mr. Avery and the knife (a long, ugly one) with which he did the cutting was found on his person when he was arrested.

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STATE NEWS.

The Greenville tobacco warehouse collapsed last Thursday under the weight of snow on it. The loss is \$2,500.

Mr. John Farrior, a jeweler, of Charlotte, made an assignment on last Friday. Assets about \$10,000; liabilities about the same.

At Lillington, Harnett county, Thursday, Dec. 3rd, was witnessed the spectacle of a man on trial before a coal-black negro magistrate.

The High Point Enterprise says the amount spent there on new buildings during the past two months, including improved property changed hands, will reach over \$100,000.

Last Thursday night, Brinkley Downing, a negro democrat of No. 12 township, Edgecombe county, was waylaid on the road by five men, who took off his coat and whipped him because he was a democrat.

Raleigh correspondent of Charlotte Observer, Dec. 5th: News was brought here today by a distiller named Angle that J. S. Smith, a deputy revenue collector in the western district, had been killed by a moonshiner.

The Western North Carolina Conference of the A. M. E. Zion Church in America convened at St. John's A. M. E. Zion church, Rutherfordton, on Wednesday, December 2nd, with Rev. Thomas H. Lomax, D. D., presiding.

The Fayetteville Observer says that little Blanche Lancaster was playing under an old cane mill shelter at her home near Parkton Wednesday evening, Dec. 2nd, when the structure, which was covered with snow, gave way, crushing her to death.

Perry Hinton, colored, was almost instantly killed by a passenger train on the Seaboard Air Line, in 200 yards of the union passenger station at Raleigh, Dec. 5th. He attempted to get off the track, but slipped on the snow and fell. His skull was crushed and his feet cut off.

A Winston special of Dec. 4th, to the Charlotte Observer, says affidavits of five free-holders, affirming that the county's best interests require the appointment of two democratic county commissioners, in addition to the three republicans elected, have been filed with the clerk of the Superior Court and Judge Hoke, who is holding court at Winston, will be asked to make the appointments.

An act of the last Legislature provides provision to this effect, provided 200 signers to a petition are secured in addition to the first five who make the affidavit.

A special to the Charlotte Observer from Ashboro, dated Dec. 5th, says: "Deputy Collector E. A. Moffitt was shot and instantly killed by Lee Turner, at Pennington's ferry, in Montgomery county, Friday afternoon. Moffitt, Deputy Marshal, T. J. Hoover and Lee Freeman, all of Ashboro, went to Turner's house with a search warrant for blockade whiskey, supposed to be there, made at Turner's son's blockade distillery, which they had seized. There seemed to be little provocation for the shooting. When Moffitt took from his pocket the warrant, Turner shot him through the heart with a shotgun. Freeman caught Moffitt as he fell, discovering that he was killed. In the meantime some one shot Lee Turner, who fell in about an hour. It is not learned here who shot Turner. Moffitt was for ten years sheriff of this county, was a prominent Mason and Knight of Pythias and an influential citizen. He was 50 years old and leaves a wife and three children." The remains were carried to Ashboro Saturday night for interment.

WATSON SCORES BUTLER.

Thomas E. Watson, of Georgia, in his People's party paper, is going for Butler with gloves off. Foremost among those whom he claims figured in his defeat he places Senator Butler, Chairman of the Populist National Committee. In one of his editorials he says:

As long as Marion Butler is chairman of the Populist National Committee, it will be utterly impossible to get the real Populists to take any interest in such work. They knew him to be a selfish, unprincipled trickster, and nothing he can now do will ever cause them to forget what a liar and traitor he was during the campaign of 1896.

Judged from the Butler standpoint, Populism is a mere article of political merchandise. He is devoid of any sense of honor. Words are to him the mere tools in the game of deception.

He does not mind telling the truth provided he loses no point in the game by doing so, nor does he mind telling an untruth, even if it yields him nothing more than the casual pleasure of having deceived.

We harbor no resentment against Butler. It would be unjust to do so. When a constitutional coward runs away from the battlefield all generous men feel a profound sympathy for the victim of a natural defect of character. In the same way we adjudge Marion Butler. Nature made him what he is, and he cannot help it.

To be foxy, doubled faced, false of tongue and treacherous at heart is natural to him, and when he is thrown off his balance by the deceptions of those who trust him and deceive those who are silly enough to take him at his word, he has no more stung against his nature than has our friend, the "William goat," when it fights with its horns rather than its mouth or feet.

Too much Butler limbers us in the regions of our faith. Too much Butler gives us the inclination to look with longing eyes in the direction of the mountains of Hepsimad.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS.

Items of Interest from the Counties Around Us.

TOLD BY THE PRESS.

MARRIED AT FORT MILL. A Sprightly Widower and a Charming Widow of Gastonia Surprise Their Friends—Other Items from Gaston.

The late Mrs. E. J. McEwe left an estate valued at \$6,000 or thereabouts. Mr. Alex Crawford qualified before the Clerk of the Court last Tuesday as administrator of the estate. ... The coffin factory has a new \$50 steam whistle. The noise of it is like the moaning and crying of the mighty Bopalaps in a paroxysm of acute cramp colic.

It's a cold day when Gastonia hasn't a matrimonial sensation. In fact, it looks like the colder the weather the more certain the sensation. This time our townsman, Mr. J. L. Niell, a sprightly widower, and Mrs. Minerva Wilson, a charming widow, whose pleasing manners and many virtues of character have won her wide esteem and popularity, were the parties to the marriage contract.

When he left town on the early train, Tuesday morning, a few friends thought they saw a sort of secret spangle in her eye and a manner, but they didn't know a thing. Only one or two who guarded well their secret knew that she was on her way to her sister's at Fort Mill to be married there. Mr. Niell was at Clover. From there he went to Lock Hill and thence to Fort Mill. Tuesday night they were married at the home of Mr. Frank Pegram, a brother in law of the bride. The happy couple will be back to day or to morrow, they don't care which. We welcome the wanderers home, and wish them a happy journey together along life's devious pathway.

A MOONSHINE STILL CAPTURED.

Mrs. Thornton Sends an Alarm of Two to the Telephone Exchange—Her Fears Soon Allayed—A Birthday Dinner—A Game of Football by the "Bums" and the "Blacks"—Other Hicky News.

Mr. Paul Gage, a brother of Mrs. T. M. Hulbaum, of this city, died Saturday afternoon at the home of his parents, in Asheville, and was buried at Marshall Monday. ... Mr. J. F. Dellinger, of Marion, will come to Hickory to live, provided a place can be found for him. Our people would be glad to have Mr. Dellinger as a citizen. ... Mr. Martin Baker, of Alexander county, and Miss Ollie Raby, of Catawba, were married at 3 o'clock last Sunday afternoon at the residence of Mr. William Raby, father of the bride. The ceremony was performed by S. E. Killian, Esq. ... The entertainment given last Thursday night for the benefit of the Hickory Library Association was in all respects a success.

NEWTON NOTES.

The Pio Hunters Now Rapidly Coming from Their Hiding Places—Mr. M. M. Sigmon's Horse Runs Away With Him—Personal.

Rev. G. W. Callahan, of Mr. Holly, spent a few days in Newton the first of the week, the guest of Mr. D. F. Moore and family. ... Mr. E. M. Sigmon's horse ran away with him last Monday as he was coming into Newton. With the exception of a good muddling, he escaped without any injury. ... Miss Alice Summerlow left Tuesday evening for Charlotte, where she accepts a position with the well known hoteliers, Eckles & Bryan, at the Buford. ... Mr. Horace Payne, formerly agent at Morganton, has been promoted to the place recently made vacant by the promotion of Mr. R. F. Barton. We extend to him a hearty welcome to our town. ... The pio hunters are now rapidly coming from their hiding places. The week two republicans were on the streets of Newton with petitions, one for the postoffice here and the other at Maiden. The one who aspires to be postmaster at Newton lives at the foot of Little Mountain. From our position as an observer only, it does look like there would be some one in or near Newton of the "faith" that would be entitled to this place.

CAPT. E. W. WARD BETTER.

C. L. Improvements at Lincoln—A Marriage—No Court in Henderson—Nothing for Trial.

The many friends of Capt. E. W. Ward will be glad to hear that the last news from him at Kenansville is to the effect that he is very much better than he was last week. ... The C. & L. railroad has made considerable improvements at their station in Lincoln, by extending the siding so drays can now stand at the platform and load while trains are shifting, which was not the case before. ... The bank of Lincoln is daily expecting the arrival of their new fire and burglar-proof time lock safe. ... Miss Alma Newland, of Lenoir, is spending a few days at the pleasant home of Mrs. Hugh Jenkins. She stopped upon her return from Atlanta, whither she had been to attend the marriage of Miss Laura Newland, daughter of the well known traveling passenger agent of the S. A. L. Capt. B. A. Newland, to Mr. A. H. Ellar, a prominent young lawyer of Winston, which occurred last week. ... Solicitor James I. Webb, of Shelby, spent Monday night in Lincoln on his return from Henderson county, where he had gone to attend court. Mr. Webb says there was no court, not even a jury impaneled. Judge Brown endeavored to get up some cases, but failed entirely. The judge says he never before had such experience.

PAT MITCHELL CONFESSES.

The Negro Who Attempted to Rape a Six-Year-Old Girl in Watauga is Arrested and Placed in Jail, and Confesses the Heinous Crime—Other Watauga News.

Solicitor Spainhour of Morganton, spent Saturday and Sunday in town. ... Mrs. Parks, of Morganton is stopping with her daughter, Mrs. Edgar Coffey. ... Many of the colored population are taking leave of our country and going to Jehon, the haven of peace and plenty for the colored race. May their hearts be in the good of their new home. ... On last Saturday the soul was again buried in one of the dead and the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Coffey was laid away to rest in the bosom of mother earth. ... Mr. A. F. Davis died at his home near Todd, this county, Monday afternoon. He had been in bad health for some time and five days ago while getting out of his saddle his foot became fastened in the stirrup, his mule frightened and ran, dragging him some distance, from which he received injuries that caused his death. ... The negro, Pat Mitchell, who attempted to rape the 6-year old daughter of Mr. John Eggers, at Zionville, a few days ago, was lodged in jail here last Wednesday evening, being arrested at Johnson City, Tennessee. He has confessed the heinous crime, and it seems that his chances for pulling hemp are very good.

A MIRACULOUS ESCAPE.

A Negro and a Horse Fall into a Well, But Are Rescued Without Serious Injury—A Big Hog—What Did the Rainbow Mean?

Rutherfordton Visitor, December 4th.

Len Twitty, colored, was riding a horse last Saturday night, and as he was leaving the house of his uncle, John Twitty, the horse slipped backwards into an old well, covered over, which is 60 feet deep. The alarm was given by Len from his perilous situation and a crowd soon gathered and in the rain and darkness drew the man and horse out. The man had a bruised ankle, but the horse escaped. It was a wonderful escape from a fearful death. ... Mr. B. A. Hampton killed a pig the other day, 26 months old, weighing 512 pounds. ... What does it mean? We saw it last Friday as it was a large, bright rainbow spanning the northern horizon. Did any one ever see such a phenomenon before?

THANKSGIVING RADISHES.

One of Catawba's Farmers Sells 500 Bushels of Wheat—Other News.

It is thought by some farmers that the fly has gotten into the growing crop of wheat. If so, they will injure the crop. ... Mr. P. C. Ikard, of near Maiden, one of Catawba's largest and most successful wheat growers, was in the city Saturday and while here sold Senator A. Y. Sigmon 500 bushels of wheat at \$1.10 per bushel. ... Mr. "Gus" Hahn had on sale at his market in this city on Thanksgiving day several bunches of fine, crisp radishes which he had gathered that morning in his garden. Thanksgiving seems to be rather out of season for garden "sass." ... The warm weather we have been having was very bad on the wheat crop. The weed of the early sowing and well fertilized is getting too large now. If the weather continues as it has been, there will be a short crop raised next year.

EVERY HOUSE OCCUPIED.

Not a Vacant Residence in Hickory—A Refined and Up-to-date Entertainment—A Mail Clerk, H. Harris, to Be Married on the 16th Inst.

A friend of ours told us the other day that there was not a single residence in Hickory unoccupied. He has been trying to rent one. ... Dolf Blackburn and Frank Little, the two negroes who have been breaking into so many stores, etc., in Newton and the eastern part of the county, and who have been arrested and are now in jail, are both from Hickory. ... Mr. L. H. Harris, now mail clerk on the Salisbury and Knoxville railway postoffice, will be married to Miss Agnes Roencher, of Salisbury, on December 16th. They will make a tour North and will then return to Hickory to reside.

THANKSGIVING BANQUET IN LENOIR.

A First-Class Bill of Fare at the Merchants' Hotel—Some Excellent Recitations—Meeting of the Directors of the Wilson Lumber Company—Musical and Educational Recital—Other Colored News.

Collectives, ten miles from Lenoir, will be connected with the Lenoir telephone exchange one day this week. ... On Nov. 15th, Mr. E. H. Crump attended in the bonds of matrimony, at his residence, Mr. David Summers and Miss Ollie Hall, daughter of Mr. Felix Hall. ... Mr. Francis L. Littlejohn and Miss Addie West, daughter of J. H. West, Jr., were married on the 19th of Nov. at the residence of E. H. Crump, who performed the ceremony. ... Rev. J. F. England and family are spending this week with Mrs. England's parents, Rev. and Mrs. J. L. Healen. Mr. England goes this year to Woodleaf circuit, which is in Rowan county. ... The school which Miss Davis is conducting in Lenoir is in a very flourishing condition. There are now thirty six pupils in attendance. The directors of the Wilson Lumber Co. made a handsome donation for its support when here last week. ... The directors of the Wilson Lumber Co. held a meeting here last week, and expressed themselves as well pleased with the condition and management of the business. It is operated mainly by Pennsylvania capitalists, with Mr. J. B. Kinross as manager. ... On Thanksgiving night Mr. Willis Schell worked up a banquet at the Merchants' Hotel. There were fifteen couples present, and all speak very highly of the feast which was spread for them by Mr. and Mrs. Higgins. Turkeys, quail and oysters, supplemented by all that was necessary to round up a first-class bill of fare was on board in profusion. But, in the language of Rev. Mr. Patton, these young people of Lenoir are not "a pack of gluttons." They enjoy good eating, and this feast for reason and a flood of soul" is always to be found when they get together. So after paying proper respect to the good things on the table, they repaired to the parlor, where they had some excellent recitations by Misses Mattie May Connolly, Lula Fay Squires, and Anna McRee. ... Miss McLean, the teacher of music at Davenport, gave an entertainment in the College Chapel last Friday night. She was assisted by her sister, Mrs. Sperry, who is a vocal talent of no mean order. ... Miss Courtney, the bright little daughter of Mr. M. M. Courtney. Some of the music was very enjoyable, but some of it was "artistic" for the uninitiated ears which this scribe carries around on his guitar.

FEAST OF "POSSUMS AND TATER'S."

These Fingers Made Out a Large Turkey—Gospel Meetings—A Lively Oratorical Death of Rev. Hartzell.

Mr. L. C. Palmer, a live young democrat of Polkville, has caught 65 "possums this season. What a feast of "possums and taters" the Polkville folks are having now. ... Mr. Walter Hill, of Hamlet, who is with the Carolina Central railroad, had the most time last week, while conducting cars, to get three of his fingers washed off. ... Mr. George A. Hicks, of Lenoir, writes us that James Wells, colored, of that place, killed a turkey weighing seven pounds and fifteen ounces, and measuring 28 inches in circumference.

THE FLEMING-EAGLE.

Two Hotels in one, under one management, by THE GRUBER FAMILY.

NO - RAISE - IN - PRICES.

Summer, Regular and Transient Boarding. Reasonable rates. Marion, N. C., July 22, 1896.

BOARDING.

Piedmont House. 50 Cents a Day; \$2 a Week; \$8 a Month.

A - GOOD - FEED - STABLE

Run in connection with the House. J. M. ELLIS, Proprietor. Marion, N. C.

Taxes! Taxes!!

Let everybody come and settle their Taxes by January 1st, 1897. I am bound to collect the taxes; come and settle and save cost. Respectfully, R. L. NICHOLS. Tax Collector of McDowell County.

J. G. REID, D. D. S.,

—SUCCESSOR TO— R. J. Burgin, Dentist, Offers his professional services to the people of McDowell and the surrounding counties. All Work Guaranteed First-Class. 207 Rooms 1 and 3, up stairs, in the Neal Building. Marion, N. C., June 4th, 1896.

NOTICE—MORTGAGE SALE!

NORTH CAROLINA, D. P. Cuthbertson vs. Geo. M. Annis. By virtue of the power conferred upon the undersigned by a mortgage deed executed to D. P. Cuthbertson by Geo. M. Annis and wife, on the 24th day of January, 1895, and recorded in the office of register deeds for McDowell county, in Book No. 5, on page 78, I will sell for cash, at the Court House door in Marion, N. C., at 12 o'clock m., on the 4th day of January, 1897, the following described lands, to-wit: The house and lot in which Geo. M. Annis now resides, and bounded as follows: Beginning on a stake at southwest corner of J. F. and J. L. Wilson's store house lot on the west bank of said line, passing corner of said lot, in all 35 poles, crossing branch to a stake on east side of the branch; then west 30 poles to a stake on a stake; then south 25 poles to a stake; then east 14 poles to the beginning, containing three acres, more or less. Said mortgage deed was executed to secure a note of even date therewith of three hundred dollars, and this sale is to satisfy the balance due on said note. Terms of sale CASH. This Nov. 26th, 1896. D. P. CUTHBERTSON, Mortgagee.

D. E. HIGGINS, Atty for Mortgagee.

READY FOR THE FALL - TRADE.

EXCELLENT GOODS AT LIVING PRICES. Our line has been enlarged for this season. Our usual line of DRY GOODS AND GROCERIES, HARDWARE - A - SPECIALTY, HATS, CAPS, SHOES, AND USEFUL - NOVELTIES. LIME ON HAND. SADDLERY AND HARNESS GOODS. GOOD VALUES FOR YOUR MONEY.

J. S. DYSART.

Livery and Feed Stable. GOOD TURNOUTS. CAREFUL - DRIVERS. A. B. GILKEY & SON, Marion, N. C. A GOOD TAILOR ESTABLISHED. If you will give me your work. Tailoring, Cleaning and Repairing Done to Order. B. W. BOND, Tailor, Craig Building, Marion, N. C. NOTICE—TRUSTEE'S SALE! BY VIRTUE of a deed in trust executed to the undersigned as trustee, with power of sale, by P. J. Slaughter and wife, and recorded in Book 4, page 590, book of mortgages, in the register's office of McDowell county, the undersigned, trustee, do hereby sell to the highest bidder, for cash, on the first Monday, January 4th, 1897, all the estate and interest of said P. J. Slaughter in the "Beck Rock" tract of land in North Carolina, and interest of said P. J. Slaughter in the water of Turkey Creek, in McDowell county. December 2d, 1896. J. S. DYSART, WM. M. BLANTON, Trustees.

Marion, In the Mountains of Western North Carolina.

What Marion Has.

- One Drug Store.
- One Jewelry Store.
- One Furniture Store.
- Two Barber Shops.
- Two Hotels.
- Seven Practising Lawyers.
- One Photographer.
- Two Saloons.
- Three Blacksmith Shops.
- One Furniture Factory.
- Two Lumber Dealers.
- Two Tanneries.
- Two Telegraph Lines.
- Three Livery Stables.
- Two Exclusive Grocery Stores.
- One Public School for Whites.
- One Exclusive Dry Goods Store.
- Several Private Boarding Houses.
- A General Distributing Postoffice.
- Several Stores Keeping Hardware.
- A Sign Painter and Paper Hanger, etc.
- Two Primary Private Schools for Whites.
- One of the Best County Jails in the State.
- One Express Office—Southern Express Company.
- Nine General Stores—Dry Goods, Groceries, etc.
- Two Practising Physicians (regularly practicing).
- One Public School in the Year for Colored People.
- A Deputy Collector's Office of U. S. Internal Revenue.
- Three Secret Orders—Masons, Knights of Pythias and Odd Fellows.
- Four Church Organizations for Colored People—one building, two in process of building.
- One High Grade School for Whites, with a Primary Department—three to four teachers.
- Four Church Organizations and Buildings for Whites—Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian and Episcopalian.
- Two Railroads—One Through "Trunk Line" (the Southern), and one terminating here—the Ohio River and Charleston.
- One Bank.
- Two Millinery Stores.
- One Hardware Store.
- Three Weekly Papers.
- A Signal Service Station.
- One Dentist.
- United States Commissioner.
- Three Restaurants.
- Three Shoe Shops.
- One Tobacco Factory.
- One Whiskey Refinery.
- One Marble Dealer.
- Real Estate Agencies.

For sale by Mophew & White.