

The Southport Leader.

DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTERESTS OF SOUTHPORT AND BRUNSWICK COUNTY.

VOL. IV.—NO. 71

SOUTHPORT, N. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1893.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

THE WORLD'S NEWS.

A CONDENSED SUMMARY OF A WEEK'S DOINGS

General E. Kirby Smith Dead. Bayard Goes to Great Britain. French Arsenal Burned. Brewery Spiked. Bismarck's Birthday.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30.

W. Irving Lattimer, the Jackson, Mich., murderer was recaptured yesterday at Jerome, 18 miles from Jackson.

Frank Marshall's grain elevator at Chicago, containing 100,000 bushels of oats, was burned to the ground yesterday. Loss, about \$100,000.

It is said that the catch of seals at Newfoundland this season will be the worst on record. Last year the take was over 350,000. This year it will probably be one-third of that.

A dispatch from Winnipeg, Man., says that Messrs. Bourge and Chaffey, the chief accountant and the postal clerk of the Northwest Government, have been suspended. It is understood that their defalcations and misappropriations amount to thousands of dollars.

General E. Kirby Smith, the last survivor of the seven distinguished generals of the Confederate army, died yesterday at Sewanee, Tenn., aged 69 years. General Smith, at the time of his death, was Professor of Mathematics in the University of the South. He leaves a wife and eleven children.

FOREIGN.

Premier Gladstone was visited yesterday by big delegations from Belfast who addressed him in opposition to Irish Home Rule. Mr. Gladstone successfully met all their arguments.

The Paris correspondent of a Berlin newspaper was unceremoniously ordered to leave town on suspicion of having written an article to his paper charging Ernest Carnot with receiving Panama money. The correspondent and his family were very roughly used by the people and received no protection whatever from the police.

THURSDAY, MARCH 30.

St. Barnabas Protestant Episcopal church at Baltimore, Md., burned yesterday. Loss about \$60,000.

The Norristown Steel Company, at Norristown, Pa., has failed. The liabilities are heavy but are more than covered by the assets.

The financial situation at Nashville, Tenn., is improving and it is probable that some of the closed banks will resume payment in a day or two.

Cox's iron breaker, at Oneida, Pa., which cost \$250,000, and was the only one of its kind in the country, was almost entirely destroyed by fire yesterday.

Gen. J. B. Gordon, of the United Confederate Veterans has issued orders to Maj. Gen. W. H. Jackson, commanding the Tennessee division of the Confederate Veterans, to take charge of the funeral obsequies of the late General E. Kirby Smith.

The North German Lloyd steamer, Strassburg, which left Bremen on March 12th, with 500 passengers and a cargo valued at over \$1,000,000, was towed into New York harbor yesterday by the steamer Chester, from Southampton. The Strassburg broke her propeller shaft on March 25, and was unable to repair it.

FOREIGN.

The French Chamber of Deputies has voted an annual pension of 6,000 francs to the widow of Ernest Renan.

The Rev. Thomas Spurgeon, son of the late Rev. Charles Spurgeon, has been invited to occupy his father's old pulpit for one year, with the view of becoming the permanent pastor.

A Berlin dispatch says that the mining town of Kaernten, near Bleiberg, is burning. Two churches and sixty-five houses have been destroyed and the fire still spreads. Fifteen persons are known to have lost their lives.

FRIDAY, MARCH 31.

Thomas F. Bayard, of Delaware, has been nominated by the President to be Ambassador to Great Britain.

The U. S. cruisers Philadelphia, Baltimore, Yorktown and Vesuvius, and the torpedo boat Cushing sailed yesterday morning for Hampton Roads.

Frank Porterfield, cashier of the Commercial National Bank of Nashville, Tenn., which recently failed, has been arrested for embezzling funds of the bank.

One thousand carpenters in Wheeling, W. Va., will quit work to-day on a demand for a 20 per cent. advance in wages. The employers refuse any advance whatever.

"Abe" Buzzard, the notorious outlaw, and James S. Dungan, the wrecker of the Bank of America, of Philadelphia, have been recommended for pardon by the Board of Pardoners of Pennsylvania.

A St. Paul, Minn., dispatch says that the snow is disappearing with such rapidity as to cause floods. A number of rivers are out of their banks and bridges have been washed away.

FOREIGN.

The President of San Domingo has been arrested by French officers for breaking into a French bank at San Domingo and taking \$62,000 in cash.

A Paris dispatch says that the greater part of the arsenal at Lille, France, was burned yesterday. The powder and melinite magazines were saved. Loss, one million francs.

The Russian Government is causing to be formed sanitary commissions, which

will look after the health of the people at the points to be reached through the railway system of Russia.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1.

General Hiram Berdan, inventor of the famous long range Berdan torpedoes and rifle, died suddenly yesterday, at Washington, D. C.

The large brewery of Philip Klein & Son, at Philadelphia, Pa., was seized by United States revenue officers yesterday. On the premises was found an illicit molasses rum distillery of 1,200 gallons capacity. The plant is valued at \$75,000.

The American Press, an organization for the gathering and dissemination of news, filed articles of incorporation at Trenton, N. J., yesterday. The capital stock is \$2,500,000, and the incorporators are Orlando J. Smith, of the American Press Association, and others.

R. G. Dun & Co's weekly review of trade says: "That the factor of largest influence in the past week has been the increased distribution of goods, which appears with better weather at nearly all points. Collections have already improved at many points though still generally rather behind. Business failures for the past week in the United States and Canada 104; against 218 for the corresponding week last year."

FOREIGN.

Mac Manus & Sons, bankers at Chihuahua, Mexico, have suspended, with liabilities of \$1,000,000. The cause of the suspension was land and mining speculations.

The Vatican has announced that the Pope will not grant audiences to any royal personages of the Roman Catholic faith who have come to Rome to attend the silver wedding of King Humbert and Queen Margaret.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2.

The Associated Banks of New York now hold \$10,663,075 in excess of the requirements of the 25 per cent. rule.

William B. Gambrill, a prominent cotton dealer, and for a long time superintendent of the Druid Cotton Duck Mills, of Baltimore, fell dead on the street yesterday.

Cadaby & Co., the Chicago stock-yard firm will get \$362,000, of which \$300,000 is clear profit, from the Union Stock Yards of Cincinnati, O. Cadaby & Co. agree not to organize yards in Cincinnati for 25 years.

Joseph Jefferson's beautiful summer home, "Crow's Nest," near Buzzard's Bay, Mass., was destroyed by fire yesterday. Helen McGrath, the cook, lost her life. Mrs. Jefferson who was sick in bed when the fire broke out, had a narrow escape. The home, including all its valuable contents is a total loss. The value is estimated at \$250,000.

Total visible supply of cotton for the whole world is 3,975,341 bales, of which 3,468,141 bales are American, against 4,444,777 bales, and 3,873,077 bales respectively last year. Receipts of cotton this week at all interior towns 25,837 bales; receipts from plantations 48,582 bales; stock in sight 6,012,889 bales.

FOREIGN.

President Carnot has asked M. Melne, an ex-Minister, to form a new Cabinet. M. Melne has accepted the responsibility.

Prince Bismarck's 78th birthday was celebrated yesterday with great demonstrations at Friedrichshagen. An immense concourse of people was present.

A cable from Manila, Philippine Islands, says that a destructive fire has been raging in the suburbs of the town. Four thousand houses were swept away by the flames.

MONDAY, APRIL 3.

By the breaking of a coupling, three engines and twenty-nine freight cars were wrecked yesterday morning on the Pennsylvania railroad near Alleghenry, in the Allegheny Mountains. P. B. Hull, a brakeman, was instantly killed.

Wm. Duke & Son's immense tobacco factory, corner of Thirty-eighth street and Second Avenue, New York, was burned to the ground early yesterday morning. Five hundred girls and 100 men were employed in the factory, which was controlled by the Trust. The loss will amount to about \$400,000.

Mrs. Russell Harrison and daughter, had a narrow escape from death at New York yesterday. A reckless driver of an express wagon ran into them, the pole of the wagon striking Mrs. Harrison. Both are suffering severely from the shock.

Detective Henry, of the American Surety Company, arrived at New York yesterday with two embezzlers in charge whom he caught in Brazil. One is H. A. Batsford, who defrauded Gray, Jenks & Co., of Cleveland, O., out of \$30,000, the other is A. A. Cadwallader, the former president of the National Bank of West Superior, Wis., who embezzled \$100,000.

FOREIGN.

An unconfirmed dispatch from Berlin says that three railway officials and four officers have been arrested for having plotted to kill Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria.

The Socialists of Belgium demand universal suffrage and it is probable that if Parliament should refuse to grant the demand a general strike among workmen will follow.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4.

L. M. Godley & Co., millers at Scottsville, N. Y., have failed. Their plant is valued at \$110,000.

Win. R. Shaw, cashier of the Lincoln National Bank, of Bath, Me., is a defaulter to the amount of \$50,000 or more and is under arrest. A bank examiner has charge of the books.

TO BE VENTILATED.

CORRUPTION, FAVORITISM AND INCOMPETENCY.

In the Weather Bureau. Secretary Morton Finds Work to Do. Gross Dishonesty and Violation of the Civil Service Rules.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—Secretary Morton finds the Agricultural Department in crying need of immediate reforms. He is investigating numerous charges which have been brought to his attention, which indicate great extravagance in the number of officials and clerks and messengers, favoritism on the part of the appointing officers, under political pressure, and to a number of cases, incompetency on the part of the appointees.

Secretary Morton said to-day: "I should be very sorry to have it thought that I have come here in any narrow partisan spirit, raking up defects in order to make political capital and discredit my predecessor. My investigations are not incited by any such motive. The fact is, that abuses have been brought to my attention. On looking into the matter I find that certain accusations are well founded. I am going to thoroughly overhaul the Department, and as I said before where wrongs exist they will be decisively dealt with. I am determined that men who have neglected their duty shall go. It will make no difference whether they are Republicans or Democrats. I will not shield or tolerate any unworthy member of my own party. At the same time, I wish it understood that all things being equal, I shall, in making appointments, give the preference to men of my own political faith. I prefer to be surrounded by my personal and political friends when they are equally competent. The first thing to be considered is the good of the service."

The most striking charges of dishonesty, favoritism, incompetency and gross violation of the Civil Service rules apply to the Weather Bureau since it became part of the Agricultural Department under the last administration. These charges were brought by James B. McLaughlin, Chief of the Executive Division of the Weather Bureau, who was suspended on the recommendation of the Chief of the Bureau March 24 for refusing to take part in the promotion of the weather observer at Norfolk, Va., because, as he now states, he was aware that the promotion was made to buy the silence of the weather observer at Norfolk as to the inefficiency of a subordinate, who is a relative of the Assistant Chief of the bureau. The fact that Secretary Morton re-instated McLaughlin yesterday vindicates the latter's action and indicates that the Secretary believes that there is truth in his charges. No reflection is made in them on the personal honesty of Professor Harrington, Chief of the bureau, but they do asperse his administrative ability. Even with his brother-in-law as Chief of his bureau, Professor Harrington seems to have either not known what was going on in it or to have been unable to remedy it.

In his letter to Secretary Morton, Mr. McLaughlin says, speaking of his experience in the Weather Bureau since it went to the Agricultural Department: "I have seen during the past 21 months more of what is generally called official corruption than during the rest of the 23 years I have spent in the Government service."

The following are the specific charges of McLaughlin, as to which Professor Harrington and his assistant-chief, Major Rockwood, who is acting chief (Professor Harrington being ill with the measles), make a general denial, and which Secretary Morton says he has already learned are in part at least well founded, and which he is now having investigated:

That a Mr. Whitehead was appointed an inspector at \$16 per day, although he is a man who cannot read the barometer.

An employe named J. K. Robinson, who had been discharged, was re-instated through political influence. The first week after his re-instatement he stole a bolt of cloth and presented it to a woman of loose character. He was then again discharged.

The late Captain of the Watch was discharged for stealing a carpet, of office furniture and other public property. Thefts have been going on for some time unchecked.

Chief of Division Fry has no technical knowledge of his work.

Professors Bigelow and Carl Barans, who have been appointed since last July, have no meteorological experience. Two clerks named Garriot and Kirkham, were detailed to do the work of these professors, who are paid \$3000 per year. The clerks proved to be themselves more or less incompetent for such work, and Kirkham was sent to San Francisco, but he could not do the work there, and was discharged. He is now in New Orleans doing work that he is competent to perform.

Captain Stone was appointed Assistant Disbursing Officer at the time he was drawing \$1600, and the law states distinctly that such appointments shall be from \$300 employes.

Major T. B. Harrison was practically reprimanded by his superiors for his efforts to investigate and reveal thefts of supplies by lower grade employes.

Many of the professors are employed at \$3000, although no appropriation has been made for their employment. They are paid from the appropriations for outside work. Congress has not authorized their employment.

The number of messengers is extraordinary, and would suggest that a special messenger is assigned to every employe in the Weather Bureau above the rank of clerk.

There is more than one instance known of a female clerk receiving her full salary, although she had been absent half of the time for which she paid.

There is an instance where a number of physicians were employed in the Bureau of Animal Industry, at a salary of \$1200, to detect and act upon pleuro pneumonia in cattle. On March 25, 1892, Mr. Rusk said that there was no pleuro pneumonia in this country; yet in March, 1893, these physicians were still on the pay roll.

The hottest fight yet made against a Presidential appointment is now being waged against J. J. McAlester, recently nominated, but not yet confirmed, to be U. S. Marshal for Indian Territory. Charges have been preferred against McAlester by W. F. Weeks, chairman of the Democratic committee of the Territory, and they have been filed with the President and with the Senate committee. McAlester, who is here, is fighting back, and says he is confident of being confirmed.

There is much uneasiness among the higher officials in the Department of State on account of the rumor, generally believed, that Secretary Gresham has a little list of employes all in the upper grades, that he intends to dismiss for inefficiency. Those having occasion to visit that Department often will do no grieving if there is a general shake-up among its bureau chiefs, some of whom have long been victims of the disease known as the "big head."

After many conflicting statements, pro and con, the question of an extra session of Congress has been definitely settled by President Cleveland, the only man who had the authority to settle it. There is to be an extra session, and it will be called to meet early in September, the principal object being to pass a tariff bill in time to go into effect in the spring of 1894. It is a big task, and judging from past experience in that line the administration will be lucky if the new tariff bill gets through by the first of July, of next year.

No position under the Government is more sought after than that of Government printer. He has more patronage, outside of the Civil Service restrictions, than the head of any other bureau, to say nothing of the control of large disbursements for printing material, etc. There are a legion of candidates, some from almost every section of the country. President Cleveland says he will not make the selection for several weeks yet, and when he does he intends to appoint a man who will take the office out of politics and run it on a business basis. That will be an innovation indeed, as there has been more politics to the square inch in that office than in any other branch of the Government service, and although Mr. Cleveland's intentions may be good, it is very doubtful whether he can succeed in banishing politics therefrom.

There is an impression here that the Senate will adjourn as soon as it has decided whether the Senators appointed by the Governors of Montana, Washington and Wyoming have a right to their seats, and it begins to look as though that decision would be in the affirmative.

TOO MUCH PAY.

BERING SEA COMMISSION ASSISTANTS GET IT.

The Entire Appropriation Made by Congress Divided up. Major Halford, J. Stanley Brown and Others Get Mysterious Allowances.

WASHINGTON, March 31.—President Harrison is said, by a friend, to have had his doubts as to the propriety of sending such a large staff of assistants and clerks—more than 10 in number with the American representatives in and before the Bering Sea Commission at Paris. If he had known the size of the allowances for expenses to the members of this staff he would probably have held some additional doubt. He would certainly not be surprised to learn that President Cleveland, to whose attention this matter has been brought, thinks both the staff and expense allowances unwarrantably large, and is disposed to have both cut down. President Harrison apparently approved the unprecedented order detailing Major Elijah W. Halford as disbursing officer to the American delegation to perform the duties always performed hitherto by a civilian clerk in connection with other work so that he might not be surprised if Secretary Lamont should recall Major Halford to perform the regular duties of an army paymaster in this country. But it does not appear that President Harrison knew that, in addition to his army pay and allowances, amounting to about \$4000 a year, Major Halford was to receive \$15 a day for expenses while on this special service, and he would hardly be surprised if this allowance would be cut off.

President Harrison knew that J. Stanley Brown, Private Secretary and son-in-law of President Garfield, had been detailed from the Treasury Department, where he was receiving \$10 a day as an expert on the fur seal after one visit to Alaska, to go to Paris, and, knowing his limitations as a seal expert, may have disapproved the selection, as he doubtless would have disapproved the allowance made to him by the State Department of \$15 a day for his expenses. Under the circumstances the reduction of Mr. Stanley Brown's allowance or his recall to Washington by Secretary Carlisle would probably not surprise Mr. Harrison.

The disclosures as to the allowances made to the gentlemen representing the United States in more or less important capacities at Paris have come from the Treasury Department and not from the State Department. Secretary Gresham, whatever he may have said to the President privately, would be the last man, in view of his life-long friendship with ex Secretary Foster and his appreciation of the properties and of the fact that Major Halford was associated with ex President Harrison, to give the facts to the press. Secretary Carlisle, even, has been unwilling to do this, but having been sent to him officially by Secretary Gresham, in response to an official request for a statement of the conduct of the appropriations entrusted for expenditure to the State Department, the facts got out through subordinates.

They show that the appropriation made for the representation of the United States in and before the Bering Sea Commission, amounting to \$250,000, was apportioned with the sanction of, not by the personal act of ex Secretary Foster among the representatives of the United States, large and small, with a liberality which amounted to extravagance.

The allowances made to the American members of the commission, Justice Harlan and Senator Morgan, and the agent of the United States, ex-Secretary Foster himself, and to the distinguished counsel, ex-Minister Edward J. Phelps, ex-Judge H. W. Blodgett, and Mr. James C. Carter, are not out of proportion to the importance of the occasion; but in the first place an unusually large number of assistants of various grades were appointed, and in the next place they were given unusually large allowances.

Major Halford and Stanley Brown are the only attaches, apparently, who receive as much as \$15 a day allowance, but all the others, from ex-Secretary Foster's son-in-law, Robert Lansing, assistant counsel, with an allowance of \$10 a day, down, receive in addition to their salaries large amounts for expenses.

A typical case among the subordinates is that of Mr. Lewis, clerk to

Justice Harlan, who, in addition to his salary of \$1800, is allowed \$6 a day for expenses. The extravagance involved in these allowances is emphasized by the fact that a number of attaches were already employed by the Government at fair salaries and without, of course, any allowance for expense here in Washington. But when they were detailed to Paris, hearing what large expense allowances others were getting, they succeeded in getting similar allowances themselves.

It is a delicate matter for this administration to handle. Any official action which it might take would almost certainly involve our representatives at Paris in a scandal which would prejudice the United States in the arbitration and put us to shame in Europe. But if President Cleveland feels free to follow his inclination in the matter he will bring regret to those responsible for it.

The books of the State Department show that over \$100,000 of the appropriation has already been expended; but the payments made include a full payment of the allowance to the agent, counsel and arbitrators and a portion of their expenses; also expenditures in connection with the preparation of the case and counter case, collecting evidence, printing, etc. The Government of the United States is chargeable with half the expenses of the Court of Arbitration.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., March 31.—Ex-President Harrison was shown to-day the charges made as to Secretary Halford and the Bering Sea Commission by the new administration. He read the dispatch about half way through and handed it back to the reporter, saying in an almost petulant way: "I don't know anything at all about it." He said that he did not want to be quoted upon the subject at all, but upon being pressed said: "General Foster was employed by Mr. Blaine, at what pay I don't know. All I know about the whole matter is that General Foster has done a noble work. About the other charges I have nothing to say, as I am ignorant of the facts."

Mr. Harrison further stated that upon the matter being investigated he thought all would turn out all right.

THE CUBAN FILIBUSTERS.

Key West, Fla., April 3.—The revolutionary expedition against Cuba is about to leave here on its mission. The greatest excitement prevails among the people, while the Federal officials are anxious but vigilant. The revolutionary leaders cannot be found, the men in the ranks who have been most active in the movement are not to be seen in their usual haunts, and there is a general restlessness and mysteriousness characterizing the entire Cuban population.

It is regarded as certain that the night will witness the attempt of the revolutionists to get away. The revenue cutter McLane is here. Her small boats have been equipped for immediate service, her men have been armed to the teeth, and everything is in readiness to intercept the revolutionists if they make a start.

The McLane has got steam up ready for pursuit. The commander is being kept constantly informed by men on shore as to the movements of the revolutionists, but their plans for departure, made during the past month, have been so carefully concealed that it is hard to discover what they are doing or what move they intend to make.

It is believed that the Federal officers have had either knowledge or suspicions of the intent of the revolutionists to leave for several days past, and that a call was sent to the Navy Department asking for reinforcement. The statement is made now and not denied, that two other revenue cutters have been ordered here, and are expected to arrive before another dawn.

If the revolutionists have heard and believe that the McLane is to be thus re-inforced, it will undoubtedly hasten their attempts to get away. They at least know that the Federal authorities are fully alive to the exigency of the occasion, for their spies, keen men with channels for getting inside information which the authorities have been unable to discover, know of the preparations to prevent their leaving which have been made on board the McLane.

What the exact force of the revolutionists is cannot be stated, but they certainly number between 300 and 400 men.

STATE NEWS.

LARGE SAW-MILL BURNED AT NEW BERNE.

S. Otho Wilson Under Suspended Sentence Railroad Surveys Finished. Railroad Wreck and Fire at Fayetteville. Severe Storm in Chatham County.

The *Caucasian*, Marion Butler's paper, has been mortgaged to Dr. W. P. Exum for \$1,200, says the Goldsboro *Headlight*.

Mr. A. Leazar, superintendent of the penitentiary, and Mr. A. B. Young, one of the directors, are now examining the State farms near here. *Weldon News*.

A severe storm swept over the western part of the county on last Friday afternoon. There was considerable hail, a heavy fall of rain and the wind blew with great violence, uprooting many trees and blowing down fences.—*Chatham Record*.

S. Otho Wilson, on trial last week at Raleigh, having been indicted for being a member of the secret political organization known as Gideon's Band, entered a plea of *nolo contendere* and was released under suspended sentence and on payment of all costs.

Governor Carr has pardoned Lacy Sears, of Yadkin county, who had served seven years of a fifteen years' sentence for manslaughter. It is stated that he killed the man in self-defense; that he was a good citizen, while the man killed was of bad character. The solicitor, most of the jurors and many citizens asked that he be pardoned.—*Raleigh Chronicle*.

On Thursday the preliminary surveys of lines of railroad from Lenoir to Wilson's Creek were finished up, estimated and compared. The Morganton line is just 400 feet shorter than the Lenoir line, but is more expensive and much rougher. All the papers in the case were sent by express to Philadelphia Friday.—*Lenoir Topics*.

Bartow Brittain is now in jail in Morganton for the murder of his brother, Julius Brittain, last week. Bartow struck his brother with a stone and death resulted last Friday from fracture of the skull. The deceased lingered three days before his sufferings were ended. The men quarreled over the division of the estate of their father, old Sheriff Brittain, and this led to the murder.—*Winston Sentinel*.

About midnight Wednesday night the saw mill of the New Berne Lumber Company—the Basnight mill—was discovered by the watchman to be on fire. It caught in the fire room either from the heat of the fire going through the brick wall to such an extent as to ignite the sill or from a spark in some way getting below. It had probably been burning an hour or so before bursting out. The wood being hot burned rapidly, and the fire gained headway, and by the time the engines arrived it had a strong hold. Though the mill was on the river, the fire was a bad one to fight because of being hard to approach at the desired points, but in about an hour it was under control, which was splendid work under the disadvantageous surroundings. The loss by the burning of the mill is \$4,000; by the dry-kiln an additional \$2,000 and the value of the lumber destroyed would fall but little below another \$1,000. A total loss of \$7,000. There was partial insurance.—*New Berne Journal*.

Friday morning about 3 o'clock the fast passenger train going south from New York to Jacksonville, Fla., ran into two box cars which were on the main line between Moore and Rowan streets, completely demolishing them. The engine was badly wrecked but not dangerously scalded. The passengers were considerably shaken up and very much startled but none were injured. It was very fortunate that the train was not going fast,—it was slowing up for the crossing one hundred yards away—or there would have been a very serious wreck.—About 8 o'clock Saturday morning Yard Conductor Roberts, of the C. F. & Y. V. Railroad, discovered fire in the residence of Mr. J. W. Welsh, on Mumford street, and immediately gave the alarm, and then aroused the inmates just in time as the fire was burning fiercely and leaping up the stair case; luckily no accident occurred. The house, with part of the furniture, was entirely consumed. The fire originated from plastering falling on the lamp in the hall, causing an explosion. The house was insured for \$1500; the furniture for \$100.—*Fayetteville Observer*.