

# PUBLIC LEDGER



PUBLISHED SEMI-WEEKLY — TOWN OF OXFORD, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1916

VOLUME XXXI

State Library

NUMBER 101

## MEANEST MAN IN THE WORLD

### THE SKEPTIC WHO BOBS UP AT CHRISTMAS TIME

And Rob the Children of Their Happy Childhood By Disputing the Existence of the Sweetest Saint That Ever Lived.

We share the opinion of our friend Joe N. Pitman that the meanest man in the world is he who bobs up at Christmas time to tell the little children "there is no Santa Claus;" that St. Nicholas is a hoax; that the reindeer do not exist; that the old fellow doesn't come down the chimney—and all that.

Such a man must have never been a child. Such a man must have never known the love of a mother. Such a man must not know the love of little ones in his own home. There should be no skepticism about the sweetest saint that ever visited this planet expressly to make children happy.

Though written many years ago, the testimony offered by Jeremiah Taylor has come to be regarded as a classic. It was written in response to a query from a little girl:

"Dear Editor—I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say that there is no Santa Claus. Papa says 'If you see it in The Sun, it's so.' Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus? Virginia O'Hanlon, 115 West Ninety-Fifth Street."

Millions of copies, hundreds of millions of copies, of the writer's reply to that childish letter have been printed each year since the great heart of him framed an answer. It runneth thus:

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to our life its highest beauty and joy. Alas, how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus; it would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no child like faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

"You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

"No Santa Claus! Thank God, he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

## A NOBLE SON OF GRANVILLE

Large Congregations Hear Rev. R. A. McFarland

Rev. R. A. McFarland, pastor of the Scotland Neck Baptist church, filled the pulpit at the morning and evening services at the Oxford Baptist church last Sunday. A native of Granville he improves with age and now stands at the head of his class. At the morning service a large number of out of town people came in to hear him preach.

The congregation was delighted to hear Mr. McFarland pay a glowing glowing tribute to Rev. J. D. Harte, of Hickory, who has accepted a call to the Oxford church and will arrive January 1, and enter upon his duties here.

## CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Only Four More Days in Which to Make Selections

Shoppers are even later than usual this season in preparing for Christmas. This is probably because weather during the last of November and first of this month was warm, it was hard to realize that Christmas would soon arrive.

With only four more shopping days aims before Christmas those who are not completed their Christmas shopping should do so at once. Go out to morning morning and accomplish as much as possible, but do not wait until night for shopping if you can help it.

All of the big stores in Oxford are teeming with the most useful and appropriate gifts. Go early in the day and the clerks will be glad to assist you in making selections.

## BASKET BALL

Oxford Will Face Trinity and Wake Forest in Armory Hall

The Basket Ball team of the Oxford High School will face the Trinity and Wake Forest teams at Armory Hall Wednesday night. The game will afford more than ordinary interest. Go out and root for the home team. The admission is only 10 and 15 cents.

## COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE

Slogan: It's Your Tree, It's My Tree, It's Everybody's Tree

The exercises around the Community Christmas Tree will be held on Saturday next, December 23, at 7 P. M., at the intersection of Main and Spring Streets. It is earnestly hoped that the entire city and community will be present. This is to be a public celebration of the birth of Christ and any from the adjoining country who may come will be most heartily welcomed.

The committee has about completed the arrangements, and the tree is being put into place. The Baptist Church will be heated, and in case of bad, or extremely cold weather, the exercises will be held there.

Our programme will appear in the next issue of the Public Ledger. Peace and Good-will.

## HARGROVE POSTOFFICE

Will Probably Open January 1, Says Postmaster Currin

Mr. Willie Lee Currin, former High Lord Mayor of Providence, who was recently appointed postmaster of Hargrove, was seen in Oxford Monday and asked as to when the new office would be in operation, stated that he is under the impression that his office supplies will arrive in time to open the office on January 1, 1917. Mr. Currin state that the people of Providence and surrounding country are highly pleased with the facilities the new office will afford.

## WHISKEY SHIPMENTS

The Sacred Quart is Again in High Favor

With the advent of Christmas, the liquor shipments to Oxford are increasing materially. Some of those who have got along nicely for several months without the sacred quart have placed their order for the prescribed quantity of fire water. The favorite brand with the most of them is the right reverend North Carolina corn, guaranteed to produce eighteen fights to the gallon.

## OXFORD COLLEGE

Will Close Wednesday, December 20, for the Holidays

Oxford College will close next Wednesday for the holidays. The student body and several of the faculty will spend the two weeks' recess at home or among friends.

## REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY

Assessed Valuation in the City of Oxford

The following is the assessed value of real and personal property for the city of Oxford for the year 1916:

|                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Real estate value.....     | \$1,339,075 |
| Horses and mules.....      | 16,940      |
| Cattle.....                | 2,505       |
| Household and K. furn..... | 98,000      |
| Money.....                 | 31,285      |
| Credits.....               | 225,885     |
| Bank stock.....            | 168,278     |
| All other property.....    | 342,510     |
| Total.....                 | \$2,055,303 |

The tax books shows the following assessments for the year 1916:

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Poll Tax.....    | \$ 1,335.00 |
| General Tax..... | 12,333.37   |
| Interest.....    | 7,193.93    |
| School.....      | 6,164.44    |
| Total.....       | \$27,027.24 |

## THE OLD PRICE FOR EGGS

Sold in Oxford As Low as Eight Cents Per Dozen

While discussing the high cost of living the other day, an old citizen remarked that he remembers when eggs sold as low as eight cents a dozen in Oxford. It was beneath the dignity of the farmers years ago, he said, to peddle eggs. The task of raising the chickens and gathering the eggs was the work of the women, who brought them to town in a basket, securely packed in chaff. Eight cents in cash or ten cents in trade was the market price, he said. The market price for eggs in Oxford today is 40c a dozen and they are scarce at that figure.

## Equal Suffrage League

The regular December meeting of the Equal Suffrage League will be postponed until January, owing to the home duties of Christmastide, and the Christmas work to be done in the different churches and in the community. Further notice will be given of the January meeting, when the programs announced for December will be carried out.

M. M. HORSFIELD,  
Chm Oxford Equal Suffrage League.

## Special Gifts

Landis & Easton have a special assortment of holiday gifts for men, women and children. It is the store where women can buy gifts that will please men—the store where men can purchase gifts that will please women. Some of the useful articles enumerated in their announcement on the fifth page of this paper.

## THE LATEST PEACE MOVES

WILSON SEEKS LLOYD GEORGE'S VIEWS ON PEACE

Peace Proposal Transmitted to Allied Capitals by State Department at Washington — President Wilson Known to be Anxious not to Impair the Usefulness of the United States as a Mediator by any Premature Action and He Has Not Determined on Any Action at This Time—Long Statement Says That Russia Will Not Accept Peace Proposals — Securities Affected By Peace Rumors Drop From 3 to 12 Points.

It is the prevailing sentiment in London that it would be most unwise for the Entente to accede to Germany's reported desire for a conference or representatives of all the belligerents at The Hague in January to consider peace propositions, the contention being that any agreement thus reached would not be effective. Insistence upon definite peace terms from Germany seems to be the popular idea in Great Britain.

Berlin newspapers speak of the improbability of the Entente accepting Germany's peace proposal. One, the "Lokal Anzeiger," declares Germans, Austrians, Hungarians, Bulgars and Turks will wage a merciless war with every weapon at their disposal should the allies reject the proposal.

A willingness by Germany to accept disarmament as a condition of peace is discerned by Washington officials in a despatch from Amsterdam giving the terms upon which Berlin would discuss the ending of the war.

## Cables Proposals for Peace

WASHINGTON—The notes of the German, Austrian and Turkish governments proposing peace negotiations were forwarded from Washington late Saturday afternoon by cable and were not accompanied by any expression from the United States government, but it is stated that President Wilson has reserved opportunity to add a word for peace in some way in the future.

All Eyes on Lloyd George  
With the announcement that the proposals had gone forward without any accompanying comment by this government, speculation here turned for the time being to what Premier Lloyd George will declare to be the attitude of the allied nations when he speaks on the subject.

The three versions of the proposal, differing slightly because of the translations made in Berlin, Vienna, and Constantinople, were harmonized into one official American translation, a single copy of which was sent of the American Ambassadors in the seven belligerent countries where the United States represents German, Austrian or Turkish diplomatic interests. The actual official texts will probably be forwarded later in order to preclude any chance of error or misinterpretation.

## Duma Against Peace Proposal

The unanimous declaration of the Russian Duma against the peace proposal aroused great interest here, particularly in view of the many rumors during the last few months hinting at a possible separate peace for Russia. The Russian empire has been regarded in some quarters as the keystone in the peace situation, and information as to the diplomatic struggle in progress there is meager. It is known, however, that a semi-revolution has occurred against the German elements in the court and the bureaucracy, and the action of the council and the Duma recently in acting together for the first time in history is taken as an indication of the great strengthening of the anti-German party.

## Brokers Forsee Peace

NEW YORK—Traders in Wall Street and the Chicago wheat market apparently believe they hear the footsteps of approaching peace. No other explanation would account for the wild trading and crashing decline in war specials, which is continuing.

News which stirred the traders more than anything else since the original announcement of the German Chancellor was the report that Germany was not opposed to partial disarmament. Everything indicates that the brokers are discounting a speedy ending of the world's greatest war.

Premier Lloyd George Sick  
LONDON, Dec. 18—It appears doubtful today whether Premier David Lloyd George will be able to go before the House of Commons within the next twenty-four hours. His voice is affected, but he is making rapid progress toward recovery.

At any rate, it is not expected that the government will be by that time in a position to make a statement regarding the German peace proposals.

The National Bank of Granville has sent out \$8,000 in checks to the members of the Christmas Saving Club. Now is the time to enroll in the club for 1917.

## HIGH PRICES MAINTAINED

Oxford Market Averages \$22 per Hundred for Six Million Pounds Sold.

It is interesting to note that the average price paid for tobacco in Oxford since the opening of the season to date is higher than any previous average experienced here in a similar period of time. The weed has commanded excellent prices during the present season and the indications are that this will continue so during the remainder of the season. While it is true that the total number of pounds sold here since the opening of the market last September is smaller than during the same period last year, this is largely attributable to the shortage of the crop and the lightness of the wrappers.

According to President Farrish, of the Oxford Tobacco Board of Trade, the average price paid for the six million pounds sold since the market opened in September is \$22 per hundred.

The Oxford tobacco market will close next Thursday night, December 21, for the Christmas holidays and the warehouses will reopen for business Monday morning, January 8. This will enable the local tobaccoists to enjoy a season of rest.

## EMINENT SPECIALIST HERE

The Guest of Dr. Morehead Emmett, Richmond.

Dr. J. M. Emmitt, of Richmond, and his friend, Dr. Wm. Sharp, of New York, spent Friday with Dr. Emmett's mother, Mrs. Candace Brown. On Saturday, accompanied by Mr. Roy Wright, they enjoy a hunt on Mrs. Brown's farm in the southern part of the County. They returned to Richmond Saturday night, taking with them a fine lot of quail. Oxford was indeed honored in having so distinguished a guest as Dr. Sharp, who stands out preeminently as the greatest neurologist and brain surgeon in America. Dr. Sharp has attained this reputation as a young man, being now only 34 years of age. He was delighted with the South, and particularly so with North Carolina.

## BANQUET FOR SOLDIER BOYS

The Granville Grays Will Dine at Hotel in El Paso

Major Will Landis, acting for the citizens of Oxford, sent the following telegram to El Paso Saturday: Capt. E. E. Fuller, Co. E 3rd N. C. Brigade, Camp Stewart, El Paso, Texas: Arrange banquet for you Company and others from Oxford at good hotel. Sending check for one hundred dollars from citizens of Oxford. Best wishes and assuring you and your command, though absent at your country's call, this season of good cheer. All thinking of our boys on the border. WILLIAM LANDIS.

## HOTEL MARRIAGE

Miss Mary Parrott the Bride of Mr. M. D. Critcher

At high noon Monday in the parlors of the Exchange Hotel, Miss Mary Parrott, of Lyon, became the happy bride of Mr. M. D. Critcher, the ceremony being performed by Rev. E. G. Usry. Accompanying the bridal party were: Mr. Will and Miss Ora Parrott, brother and sister of the bride; Mr. Ed Critcher, brother of the groom, and Messrs. J. C. Mangum, Joe Vaughan and R. Z. Goss.

## THE OXFORD LIBRARY

New Books of Absorbing Interest Arrive

A number of new books have arrived at the Oxford Library. The librarian suggests that these books will afford much valuable reading for the holidays and hopes that the patrons will call and get them. They also have some exquisite fancy work on sale at the Library.

## FRIEND OF THE FAIR

President B. M. Caldwell Extends Congratulations

Writing to Dr. J. A. Morris from his winter home in Florida, President B. M. Caldwell expresses his regrets at not being able to be present at our last Fair, and also his great pleasure at hearing of its success. More especially was he pleased at the creditable showing by the communities in their exhibits. He says, "Please present my congratulation and thanks to all those responsible for the good work; and express my hope for a renewal of their interest next season."

## DR. H. C. MOORE COMING

Distinguished Editor Will Preach Here Next Sunday

It was announced from the pulpit last Sunday that Dr. H. C. Moore, editor of the Biblical Recorder, will fill the pulpit at the Oxford Baptist church next Sunday morning.

Correspondent says farmers are getting five dollars a barrel for sweet potatoes. If the thing keeps on they will also be getting dress-suits, diamonds and high hats.

## SIX PRAIRIE DOGS AT LARGE

THE STRANGE PETS OF LIEUTENANT JAMES STEGALL

Brought Them From Texas and Fastened Them up in a Chicken Coop and they Gnaw Their Way to Liberty.

On his return from the Mexican border last week, Lieutenant Stegall brought a half dozen prairie dogs with him and fastened them up in his chicken coop. He was not aware that the strange little animals had a propensity to gnaw, and great was his surprise a couple of days later when he went to the coop and found that they had enlarged a one-inch knot hole large enough to admit them to freedom.

Prairie dogs burrow holes and live in the ground. One of their number stands guard at the entrance of their den three hours and when his time is up he goes to the entrance of the hole and barks like a dog, which is a signal for the next watchman to come out and relieve him. This is done throughout the day and night.

Lieutenant Stegall is of the opinion that the bunch which escaped from him has established a camp somewhere near Oxford. They are full grown and weigh about two pounds each. They are a shaggy looking animal and wear a coat of fur, their tail being short and stumpy like the tail of a rabbit. They are perfectly harmless.

## DISABLED AT SEA

The New Superdreadnaught Arizona Ripped Her Blades

The new superdreadnaught, the pride of the American Navy, to which Lieutenant Henry G. Cooper, of Oxford, was assigned last spring, ripped her blades at sea last week and was taken in tow to the Brooklyn Navy Yard for repairs. She was making the final trial test with full bunkers and larder and the blades proved to be too slender for the powerful engines in heavy sea.

## MAY-SMITH MARRIAGE

Rev. R. C. Beaman, of Henderson, Pastor of the Bride, Officiated

Mr. Erby Smith of Oxford, and Miss Ila May, of Henderson, were married Thursday evening at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. May, in the western part of Henderson, Rev. R. C. Beaman officiated.

The bridesmaids were Misses Lois Wright and Mary Capps; the maid of honor was Miss Emily Smith; Messrs. Otho May and Archie Harris were groomsmen, and Mrs. Barker of Oxford, was best man.

Just before the bridal party entered the parlor, Miss Katherine Beaman sang, and Miss Lonnie Nelson played the wedding march.

The decorations were cut flowers and potted plants. The bride wore a suit of dark blue cloth.

Immediately after the marriage Mr. and Mrs. Smith came to Oxford, where they will make their home, and were accompanied by the bridal party.

The groom holds an important position with the Golden Belt Bag Co.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE LEAGUE

Organized Last Week at Caltolina With Sixty Members

(Correspondence Public Ledger)  
The good people of Caltolina community gathered at the new school house for the purpose of organizing a Community Service League. After a splendid speech by Dr. E. B. Meadows on club work, about 60 names were registered and League organized with the following officers: W. T. Calton, president; W. A. Davis, vice-president; W. A. Sherman, secretary and treasurer.

Farmers in this section have sown quite a large acreage of wheat, oats, and rye this fall and did it more farmer like than in many years. We believe in raising our own bread and meat over here regardless of tobacco prices.

Denny Brothers have a new corn mill and have good custom. Now we need a wheat mill, and a good opportunity awaits the man that wants to put one in operation.

## CARD OF THANKS

The Late Joe Hunt, Who Died in China

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hunt, and family, of Tar River, sends us the following card of thanks for publication:

"We most earnestly desire to thank all persons who have shown us any kindness or aided us in any way during the sad hour of bereavement of our dear son, Joe. Especially do we invoke God's richest blessings upon all who have spoken or written us words of condolence and sympathy, and may we all meet him in higher realms of love."

—Good place to hide Christmas presents from little Johnny is behind the box of ashes you told him to tote out last week.