

# The Spencer Crescent.

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## DISLOYALTY, SHAME AND SUFFERING IN GOMER'S PATHETIC LIFE STORY

Once Prominent in State Affairs—Sacrifices All for a Woman—Dies in County Home.

Of the sad death of Charles A. Gomer in the Rowan County Home, Monday afternoon, the Salisbury Post says:

"The death, yesterday afternoon at the county home, of Charles A. Gomer closed a life replete with pathos and tragedy. Finis was written for one who had all but achieved distinction, had later become mind-possessed of a woman other than his lawful wife, and who in his closing years drank to its last dreg of the cup of regret.

"When Mr. Gomer came to Salisbury ten years ago he was accompanied by a woman whom he introduced as his wife. They boarded with Misses Sallie and Maggie Chunn, one of the best homes in the city, on East Innis street, and their devotion was often remarked upon. Mr. Gomer was a man of striking appearance, but when his reputed wife became mentally afflicted he began to decline physically. The woman was finally removed to the Morganton hospital for the insane. He was an incurable and soon died. Gomer had the remains brought to Salisbury and they were interred in the Chestnut Hill cemetery.

During these years, Mr. Gomer, a skilled mechanic, worked at his trade at the South-

ern's Spencer shops, drawing a handsome check every month. He was lavish with his money and spent as he made. It was no uncommon thing for him (agnostic as he was in his palmist days) to drop a five dollar note in the collection plate when he attended church.

"With the decline of his health, following upon the death of the woman came another affliction. He began to lose his eyesight. Specialists were consulted, but to no avail, and in a few months he was totally blind.

"It was about this time that a Mr. Parkhurst, a New York journalist came to Salisbury on a special assignment. He, too, stopped with the Misses Chunn and was so impressed with their hospitality and touched by the helpless condition of Mr. Gomer, who was now penniless and subsisting off the charity of the big hearted sisters, that he wrote a story for a paper published in Paterson, New Jersey, Mr. Gomer's former home, relating the story of the unfortunate man's plight and suggesting that assistance from friends and townsmen who knew him in his easier days would not be amiss. This well-meant act was responsible for the revelation of Mr. Gomer's former life. A considerable sum had already been raised by popular donation for him, when his legal wife appeared, produced a marriage certificate, and told the world the whole story of her husband's infatuation for the other woman. It was a pathetic story, for despite his disloyalty, she had never sought a divorce, but clung to the hope and belief that some day he would re-

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## HEAD OF SOUTHERN RAILWAY IN SPENCER

Spent Couple of Hours Yesterday Looking Over Shops Royally Entertained in Salisbury Where He Spoke at Noon

President W. W. Finley, of the Southern Railway, came to Spencer yesterday and spent a couple hours going over the Southern's mammoth shops, after which he went to Salisbury where he was the guest of the Board of Trade. With Mr. Finley, on the special train running as second thirty-seven, was H. B. Spencer, vice-president; D. W. Lunn, chief engineer of maintenance; A. Stewart, general superintendent of motive power; E. H. Copeman, manager; J. Haison, superintendent of motive power; A. H. Westfall, general superintendent; P. H. Walton, superintendent; W. H. Wells, chief engineer of construction; G. G. Thompson, district freight agent. The train consisted of six private cars, and the engine was driven by Engineer Thos. Beech, one of the most popular engineers on the road.

At 12 o'clock, noon, Mr. Finley spoke to a large and appreciative audience in the courthouse. From eight to twelve last night the visiting officials were entertained at a banquet at the Empire hotel which was a brilliant affair.

Mr. Finley was presented by A. H. Price, Esq. and he said in part:

"No one can look forward into the future with greater confidence than can the farmer, and in my opinion there is no area of equal extent in the world where the ag-

ricultural outlook is better than in our Southern States."

He directed attention to the dependence of all the people of the earth upon the farmer for food and clothing, tracing the causes of low prices for farm products in the Nineteenth Century in large measure to the opening up of extensive areas to agriculture and expressing the belief that such relatively rapid increases in the supply of farm production in the future were not probable. Showing by comparative statistics the rate at which the demand for cotton goods is increasing, he expressed the belief that "we may look forward to a time in the not distant future when the world will call on the American cotton planters for 20,000,000 bales annually," while, at the same time, that would be an increased demand, at home and abroad, from cotton seed products. Yet he did not counsel the growing of cotton to the neglect of other crops, but advised that the increased production needed to keep pace with the demand of the world should be secured by more intensive cultivation and by the growing of other crop with cotton.

Speaking from the viewpoint of one in touch with the relatives of supply and demand-affecting commodities in the United

States and in foreign countries. Mr. Finley, with a view to making suggestions of practical value, emphasized the opportunities in the South for the production of grains, hay, fruit, vegetables, livestock, poultry and dairy products, giving special attention to the market opportunities for Southern grown cabbages, Irish potatoes, and sweet potatoes. He showed that farmers in some localities in the South were shipping these products both to Northern and to Southern markets and were finding the business so profitable as to warrant increased production.

### New Telephone Directory

The new directory of the Southern Bell Telephone Company has been delivered to the subscribers in Salisbury and Spencer by Manager S. H. Wiley. The new directory is attractive in appearance and contains all the changes corrections in listings that have been made since the last directory was printed.

The number of new names appearing in the list would indicate that there are constant additions to the number of subscribers in Salisbury and Spencer, and the surrounding country, - a further proof of the progress these two towns are making in spite of the late panic.

### Her Letters

to him are badly written and her stationery speaks loudly of the bargain counter, but his replies, though his penmanship may not always be evident, are always written upon stationery of the finest quality, purchased of the Spencer Drug Co.

## THE PRESIDENT SETS NEXT THURSDAY THE DATE TO GIVE THANKS

Following Usual Custom Day Set Aside is Next Thursday, Nov. 25th.

President Taft has issued his Thanksgiving Proclamation, naming Thursday, November 25th, as the date for the observance.

The proclamation says: By the President of the United States—

### A PROCLAMATION:

"The season of the year has returned when, in accordance with the reverent custom established by our forefathers, the people of the United States are wont to meet in their usual place of worship on a day of thanksgiving appointed by the civil magistrate to return thanks to God for the great mercies and benefits which they have enjoyed.

"During the past year we have been highly blessed. No great calamities of flood or tempest or epidemic sickness have befallen us. We have lived in quietness undisturbed by wars or rumors of wars. Peace and the plenty of bounteous crops and of great industrial production animate a cheerful and resolute people to all the renewed energies and beneficent industrial and material and moral progress. It is altogether fitting that we should humble gratefully acknowledge the

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# WOULD YOU SIT DOWN

to your Christmas dinner in a suit that does not meet the demands of the occasion? Perhaps the one you are wearing is a bit too tight fitting to permit you to do justice to the good things that will be before you, or maybe it looks a trifle old for the annual celebration. Better drop in and see those handsome patterns we are showing at from

## \$20.00 UP

We can please you here. We guarantee to do so. Try us and be convinced that

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WADE STOCKARD, Manager