

*J. Bryan Gunn*

THE

# Evening Messenger.

Vol. VII. No. 57

Washington, Beaufort County, N. C., Wednesday Afternoon, January 12, 1898.

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## BICYCLES, AND BICYCLE REPAIRS,

**A. S. KELLY & CO'S**  
SUED FOR \$10,000 DAMAGE.

President of the A. and N. C. Railroad Charged With Seduction.

The following letters taken from the News and Observer tells the terrible story.

"Newbern, N. C., Jan. 8, 1898.

"This community is ablaze.

The indignation of its people has never been so much enraged.

President Robert Hancock, of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad, took his wife's niece, Miss Anna Abbott, to New York on a pleasure trip and while there one night he came in her room and forced her \* \* \*

She says he told her if she did not let him have his way, etc., he would leave her penniless in New York and not take her back to New Bern.

After he and she returned to New Bern on several occasions he again forced her with him by threats of death. A writ has been issued out of the Superior court by the girl and her father, suing Hancock for \$10,000 damages for seduction.

It is probable he will be indicted for rape. Hancock is in Washington city at this time. It is the unanimous opinion here that Governor Russell will not allow Hancock to be president of the road when he shall have satisfied himself that he seduced his niece, to whom he stood in the relation of parent. It is the most awful crime committed here for years. I fear violence towards Hancock when he returns to the city. No one can defend him or say a word for him.

THE SECOND LETTER.

From a private letter received yesterday afternoon, we make the following extracts:

"Newbern, N. C., Jan. 10, 1898

"The Hancock scandal is the most low contemptible and rotten ever made public here. The sense of it is that Robert Hancock, president of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad, and an already rotten Republican leader in this county, is charged with seducing his eighteen-year-old niece. The first offense she charges, was in New York, at the Astor House, and at this point comes a long story. Remarks Hancock made to the girl while spreeing caused the girl's mother to press her for facts, when she breaks down and tells the story and a pitiful one too.

"Papers have been filed with the sheriff charging Hancock with seduction and for damages. Hancock, I think, came in here from Goldsboro on a special over the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad this morning early.

"Every effort is being made by Hancock's relatives to keep

it out of court, and make a compromise of the affair. This is the talk of the town."

### THE THIRD LETTER.

The following letter was received yesterday from a citizen of Newbern of high standing:

"Newbern, N. C., Jan. 10, 1898.

"I have been expecting every night to hear of the account of this noted, low scandal of Robert Hancock, in your paper.

"The case is a Miss Abbott vs Robt. Hancock for seduction—claims \$10,000 damages.

"Miss Abbott is a niece of Hancock's wife, and has been living with said Hancock to help her aunt in her domestic work. (Mrs. Hancock has been in feeble health for a long time) Miss Abbott's father who has lost his mind, is retired by the government on half pay. Some time ago Hancock took this young lady to New York and by threats of leaving her there without a cent he compelled her to admit him into her room and sleep with her. Her complaint states that this was the first offence. But a few weeks ago she became tired of so being persecuted and told her mother. This started the ball to rolling. So Hancock drove the young lady from his house; had her sister discharged as teacher in our graded school (through the Republican School committee) and threatened to go to Washington and have her father's half pay stopped. He went to Washington a few days ago and everybody thought he had gone for this purpose.

"I do not know about that. But instead of his coming back Saturday night on the regular passenger train, he came on an extra train which quietly steamed in here the same night after 1 o'clock. I presume the engineer was instructed not to blow the whistle as he approached the station, as I understand he came in very quietly. I feel certain that he was expecting a mob to meet him, and there is quite a feeling here now to give him his just deserts.

"Hancock brought a friend of his wife's family from Goldsboro down with him and he has been trying, I hear, to get the young lady to withdraw the complaint and to smother the whole affair over.

"The papers have been sworn out and Miss Abbott has secured the services of Clark & Guion, W. D. McIver, and, I think, Mr. A. B. Waid. In fact, I do not think there is a lawyer in New Bern who would take the other side."

[Hancock bitterly denies the charge and says an investigation will prove its falsity.—Ed.]

Morgan and Kafer's Bakery Parlor is now ready for business. We have Lady fingers and any kind of fine Cakes and Pies in stock. Ladies and Gentlemen are cordially invited to call and examine our stock.

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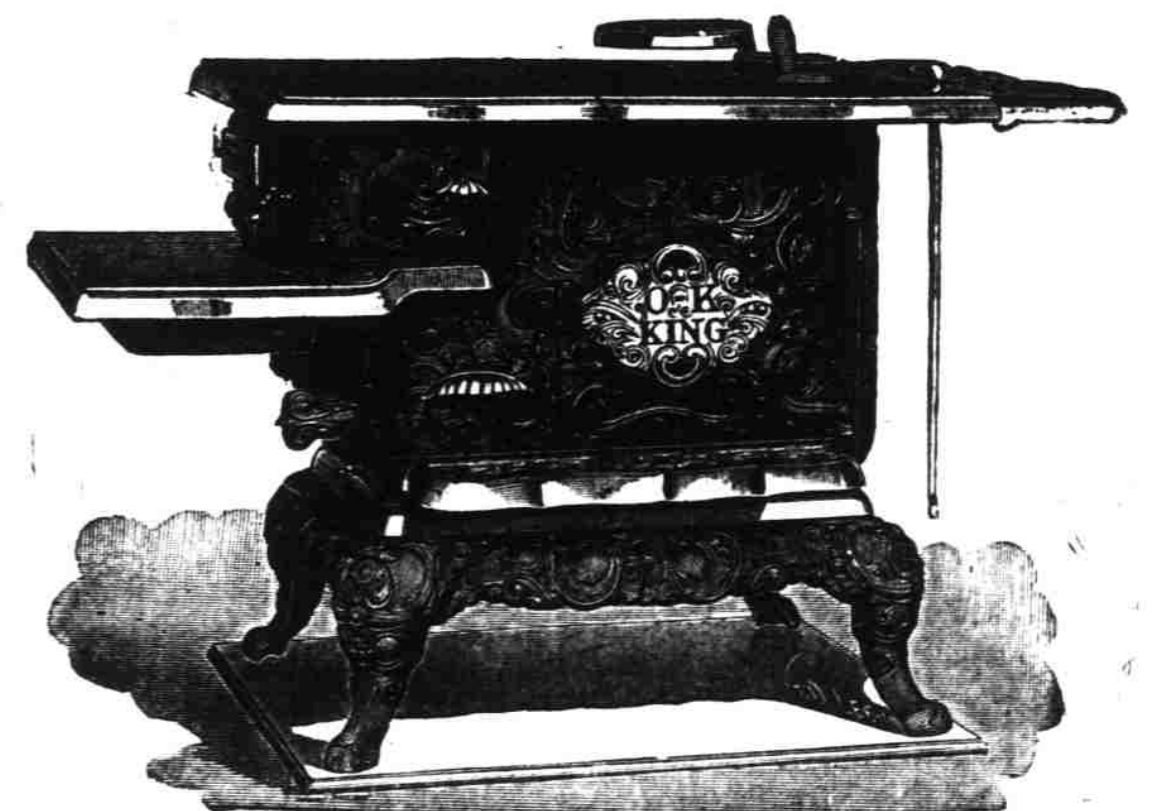
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