

THE BURLINGTON NEWS.

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NO. 15

ILLITERACY IN NORTH CAROLINA, WHO IS AT FAULT?

The Wilmington Messenger says: "We do not know what the census taken last June will show as to the percentage of illiterates in the Union. Ten years ago it was 133 per cent. We do not relish the poor showing that our beloved North Carolina makes. The number of illiterates is high, and among the whites it disgracefully abounds. After fifteen years of common schools it is a blistering shame that there are so many illiterates in this State. It must be gradually reduced."

And the blistering is not so much merited by the tax-payers as by the parents. (We refer to the whites.) There are, and have been, thousands of boys and girls in this State, accessible to schools, who have not been and are not today being made to attend. One excuse or another is given, but when sifted down to the bed-rock truth it will be found in a majority of cases the indifference of the parents is the real cause. The constitutional amendment will unquestionably have a very beneficial effect, and yet it will be noted, we dare fear that very many, even with that stimulus, will continue to exercise the indifference which has heretofore operated against the education of their offspring. Schools have been taught in every district in the State for two to three months of each year—short, it is true, but still that much toward affording the opportunity—and the number who have failed to avail themselves of this much is shamefully large.

The people of the State would not, in our opinion, submit to a compulsory education law. The class for whose special benefit such a law might be desirable are not only ignorant, but voters, and as such are sufficiently numerous to overturn the party that would enact such a law. And the party that is

"cut" would not hesitate to appeal to the "love of freedom" of this class to wallop the party that should thus infringe.

The tax-payers by no means should bear all the blame for the illiteracy which prevails. The schools should be strengthened, however, by longer terms, with competent teachers, who will consider it among their duties to cultivate an influence with the parents within their jurisdiction and arouse their interest in the education of their children. One million dollars out of the one and one-half million of revenue collected now goes to the public schools. Increase the school tax from 18 to 25 cents, and make this a special tax, separate and distinct from the State tax as limited by the Constitution, and there will not only be enough for the present demands of the schools, but leave the other State departments and counties ample margin.—Raleigh Post.

An experienced general advertiser announces this rule benefit of others: "Be careful to use only such mediums as reach the people who have use for the kind of goods you sell." The reason given for this rule is this: "At first I took space in all mediums at newspapers, and found that some of them were chiefly political, and were read almost exclusively by politicians and not by families. The returns from such newspapers were never satisfactory."—Exchange.

Qare is a family paper. "A word to the wise," etc.

Mrs. Grace Robinson, arrested at Cleveland, O., recently, charged with fleeing from Montana with \$50,000 worth of bonds belonging to her husband, was released Thursday.

Over \$900 was raised in the North Carolina Methodist Conference for the Galveston sufferers.

Public Library on the Traveling Plan. Shall We Have It?

Dr. P. L. Groome, of Greensboro, is in the city with the idea of establishing a station to the new Parmelee System of Traveling Library. The plan is practically the same as that in vogue in Chicago and other large cities; that is, a Central Library is divided up into sections or divisions and sent to different parts of the city, but in this case, of course, the central Library is the home office of the company and the sections are placed in different states.

The details of the plan are to send 50 books to a place and leave them there three months, and at the end of the time those are sent elsewhere, and 50 new ones are sent. The books are standard works of history, science, sociology fiction, etc. Half the books are just from the press.

The day has gone by when it is necessary to tell an intelligent community that they need a library; this is granted, the only question is, How can one best be established and maintained?

We have tried the old plan, that is, the purchase of all the books we wanted, and it has proven a failure. The old library was all right for a few months, but as it was necessary to about a year to purchase an entirely new line, this burdensome purchase was never made, and the old library naturally died.

Under the traveling plan, of course, but one "Central" Library needs be purchased, and it will supply a great many towns, in other words, the cost to the community for twenty libraries is not more than one would be on the old plan.

If the station is established at this town, of course arrangements must be made while Dr. Groome is here, in order that the exchange of libraries may be made with the other towns in this community which have already secured them

News comes of a very tragic affair from West Virginia. Mr. Stokes, one of the most prominent lawyers in West Virginia, shot and killed Rre. Mr. Wohl, a very prominent Presbyterian preacher. The tragedy grew out of a very caustic sermon, the minister had preached against dancing and the sins of society. The gentlemen had been firm friends before this. The papers state that the minister shot first, and if the report is

reliable, the lawyer is excusable on the ground of self defense. The affair took place at Williamson, W. Va.

Enjoyment Worth the Punishment—"Willie," said the elder sister at the juvenile party, "you'll be ill if you eat any more, and then you won't be able to go to school tomorrow." "Well," said Willie, with a sigh, "It's worth it."—Moonshine.



What Shall It Be?

Many weeks of careful preparation enable us to help you solve the problem. Goods suitable for Christmas abound here—such elegance and choice as our stock presents can be seen nowhere else in Burlington. Out of the articles which are worthy of mention we quote the following as an example:

10 doz. Best String Ties, made of the best silks in the brightest and fairest colorings obtainable, at 25c; 25 doz. Imperials, Four-in-Hands and Puffs, Made by Waterhouse, Enough said. At 50c each.
Shirts—We have the celebrated Monarch Shirts with plaited and plain bosoms, in white and colors, at \$1.00.
Collars—We handle the Arrow Brand—the best known collar in America. All the newest styles, 2 for 25c; Cuffs 25c.

Hosiery—Men's, women's and children's Hosiery. Our department complete for this line of goods is complete. Prices 5, 10, 15, 20, 25c.
Shoes—Our favorite, too many kinds to mention. But for the holiday wear, we have smart styles, the kind that the well dressed man or woman like to wear. Our finest are made of Patent Kid. Men's \$5.00, Women's \$3.50. Made in other leathers as low as \$1.00. All styles and prices for the children.
Hats—Caps—All up-to-date styles.

JNO. R. FOSTER.
BURLINGTON, N. C.

Our stock of Men's Fall and Winter

SUITS AND OVERCOATS

is now at its best. Better, stronger, more original than ever before and at prices no other store can match and give as good value.

Men's Stylish Suits at \$5.00 to \$7.50.

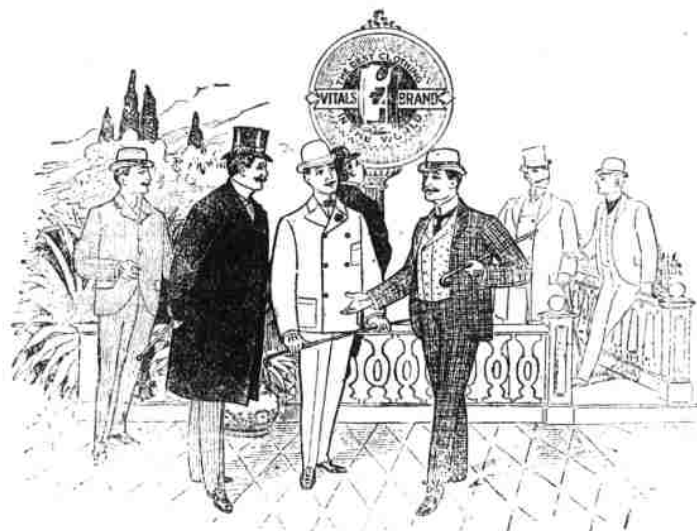
Our suitings at these prices are marvels of value-giving. The fabrics include the Newest Fall Patterns in Black and Fancy Cheviots and Cassimeres. They are decidedly out of the ordinary suits at these prices.

Men's Most Dependable Overcoats at \$5.00 to \$7.50.

We have always offered the best values in Men's Overcoats at these prices. This season they are greater than ever before. We give you choice in a variety of fabric and colors.

Men's Fine Suits at \$8.50 and \$10.00.

In this price range we show all that is best and exclusive in closely woven Black and Fancy Worsteeds, Cassimeres, Cheviots, etc. Big line to select from.



Men's Fine Overcoats at \$8.50 and \$10.00

The three essentials—Fabric, Tailoring and Fit—were never taken care of with more exactness. They are the best coats we've ever offered at these prices. They are in different colors.

Men's High Grade Suits at \$12.50 and \$15.00.

If you want something exclusive, something that will distinguish your suit from the common styles, we know of no garments that will meet your ideals better than the suits we offer in this range. They come in Blacks, Blues and Colors.

Large Purchase of Boys' Suits.

60 Boys' wool Suits in a large variety of Plain and Fancy Patterns, including all the sizes from 3 to 16 years, in vestee and double-breast styles. From \$1.00 all the way up to \$5.00. All at about one-third less than regular value.

B. A. SELLARS & SON,
Clothiers and Furnishers, Burlington, N. C.