

THE GAZETTE.

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All communications should be signed so that the Editor can know their source.

If you miss a copy of THE GAZETTE, you couldn't please us better than by raising a dust and making the air blue about it. It is our business to keep THE GAZETTE matters straight, and we want to do it.

JOB WORK OF ALL KINDS.

THURSDAY, JAN. 28, 1922.

WHEN YOU ASK a Mason if he knows what "Carnauism" is, his reply consists mainly of "no-sir-ism."

THE CITY OF CHICAGO gets the National Democratic Nominating Convention. This body will meet there June 31, to nominate a candidate for the presidency.

THE PAPERS are saying that the Morganton Herald's picture of Mayor Isaac Avery, of that town, looks like a "tough" and is an illustrated slander on the mayor. A Morganton man now in Gastonia says the papers are wrong; the picture in question is a splendid likeness of the gentleman.

THE Grimley-Abernethy case which came up in the Greene Superior Court last week was disposed of in a manner which was quite a surprise to many, though we cannot see what was at all surprising about it. In what, when Grimley was arraigned for shooting the preacher, he plead guilty. The solicitor of the district thereupon moved for a suspension of judgment, which was so ordered by Judge Winston presiding, and Grimley was discharged on payment of costs. This shows the popular sentiment to be that Grimley's act was justifiable.

AFTER THE EXECUTION. We have jotted down under this head several items caught here and there just after "the hanging."

The expenses of the execution will be about fifty dollars. The sheriff's fee over and above other expenses will be ten dollars.

We wonder if any of the Military Company will be court-martialed for talking in ranks, or for saying "tote your guns any way you want to?"

A rich and bountiful harvest of grip and pneumonia is expected as a result of the public hanging. Hundreds of people stood nearby all day on the cold, damp ground.

The drop fell at two o'clock. A telegraphic account of the execution was sent to the Atlanta Journal by a few minutes past three. The message ran off the operator's key into type and at four the papers containing the account began coming from the press.

It is well known that Sheriff Shufford has a humane and kindly disposition. He had done all he could to save his prisoner's life, but in vain. The law and not the Sheriff took the woman's life. Many friends sympathized with him in having thus to perform a most unwelcome duty.

The picture shown by the Journal was not exactly true to life, and as a local paper we did not care to use it, although it was courteously offered by Mr. King, the Journal's special reporter. Our own photographer failed to come to time with his photograph of the scene just before the drop fell, and so we can give no illustration of any scene of the solemn day.

The two ministers who were with the condemned woman till the last, offering what consolation they could, showed that they possessed hearts and feelings in striking contrast with those of the woman's relatives and acquaintances who heartlessly left her to her fate. It is said that her own pastor was smoking a cigar and did not speak to her at all during the day.

By inquiring we find it had been many years since a woman was hanged in this State. A Mrs. Higgins, we learned, was hanged in Morganton, before the war, for the murder of her husband. They lived in McDowell county, it is said. The woman had chopped her husband up with an axe, kept the pieces in the fire, and sat up keeping a fire over them all night.

How many people were present? That would be difficult to tell. Mr. C. F. King, of the Atlanta Journal, says that the crowd would number about three thousand. It seemed to us that the densely packed gathering covered more than an acre of ground. If instead of being closely packed, each person had occupied a square yard of space, an acre would have had on it exactly 4,840 people. We believe that 5,000 would be more nearly correct than 3,000 as an estimate of the number of people who wanted to see the public execution of a fellow being.

Wonder if Mr. Mason didn't tell Caroline what to say on the gallows? That was a conjecture of may who heard the prisoner's last words. We have it from Mr. Mason himself that he had given her no hint or suggestion as to what she should say. In fact, he had had no conversation with her, we understand, since the trial. Neither one of the ministers, so we are told, gave her any directions as to what to say. She seemed nervous for fear she would not be allowed to make a last statement. Rev. B. F. Martin asked the sheriff about the matter and assured her she should have ample time.

We hope that Gaston county will never have another public execution. Of course we do not wish for an execution of any sort, but if hereafter they must come, let them be private. Every argument is against making a public show out of the death by law of a criminal. We have heard only one man say that he thought the effect of the public execution on Friday would be to deter people from committing capital crimes. We do not think so. No matter what the penalty, the criminal has made up his mind and sees his chances to evade the law before he commits the crime. The authorities hereafter will not order a public execution like that of last Friday except over a powerful protest from the best citizens in the county.

It is curious what wild superstitions people entertain about doctors, and what utterly groundless rumors can get about about them. One man heard that the doctors would take up the body at eight o'clock that night. Another judged that they were going to take it up that night because they were "slipping around with one another" in Dallas that evening. It was also said that the doctors had "got in with 'em" and managed to have the grave dug "mighty shallow." Now, it is a fact, several times remarked by parties present, that the grave was unusually deep. And those superstitious people who have lost sleep watching the grave to see if the hyena-doctors would come, have doubtless had the cold comfort of undisturbed night watches. The body was unclaimed and if the doctors had wanted it, we suppose they could easily have secured it from the proper authorities.

Washington Notes and Gossip. Speaker Crisp is himself again, and the new rules for the House being ready it is expected that the House will now begin to get down to the serious business of the session. The Republicans are making much of Mr. Mills having declined to serve as chairman of the Committee on Commerce, and they have made that the basis for a lot of cook and bull stories about his intending to antagonize on the floor of the House the separate tariff bills that may be reported from the Ways and Means committee. Mr. Mills is too good a Democrat, proved by long and arduous service, to antagonize any policy that may be adopted by a Democratic caucus, and there is little doubt that a caucus will soon be held for the purpose of outlining the party policy during the session.

It is probable that a joint caucus of the Democratic Senators and Representatives will be held to discuss the Chilean correspondence and Mr. Harrison's message thereon. The message is lengthy and the correspondence and accompanying documents voluminous, and Senators and members are chary of expressing opinions for publication until they have had an opportunity to carefully study and digest them. It is hoped and believed that Congress will set as a unit when it does act. Foreigners should be made to understand that however much we may differ on matters of internal government we stand shoulder to shoulder as united Americans on all matters pertaining to the foreign policy of the United States, and everybody should adopt the motto of the renowned patriot: "My country; may it always be right, but right or wrong, still my country."

Senators Voorhees and Turpie have made their fight against the confirmation of Judge Woods, of Indiana, so vigorous that even the Republican members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, before which the matter now is, have agreed to await the arrival of a number of witnesses, before disposing of the nomination. The charges involve the judicial integrity of Woods, as well as his display of political partisanship in his decisions, and the Indiana Senators say they will prove them by incontrovertible testimony.

The breath had hardly left the body of the late Justice Bradley, of the Supreme Court, who became so widely known in connection with the notorious 8 to 7 decision of the Electoral Commission, before Republican Senators and Representatives began to make combinations to control the nomination of successor. The hopes of Attorney General Miller are again raised, but it is not believed that the new Justice will be selected outside of the third district, composed of the States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

Representative Cates, of Alabama, is in earnest about his bill authorizing National banks to loan money on real estate, and he made a strong argument in its favor before the House committee on Banking and Currency, taking the ground that it would largely in-

crease the volume of currency in circulation, increase the value of real estate and cause many people, particularly in the South and West, to find profitable employment who are now without it. He also spoke in favor of the bill to suspend the 10 per cent. tax on the circulating notes of State banking associations.

Republicans can see a great deal better that Democrats if they can, as they profess to do, see where any one of the gentlemen who have been named as probable candidates of the Democratic party for President will be specially benefited by holding the National Convention at Chicago, instead of at some other city. None of the members of the National Committee, nearly all of whom your correspondent talked with, regarded the selection as having any connection with any Presidential candidate. No matter what city had been selected the same cry would have been raised.

Secretary Foster's illness was very convenient, as it enabled him to get rid, temporarily at least, of appearing before the House committee on Ways and Means and answering some questions as to the country's finances. His place was taken by Assistant Secretary Spaulding, who made a statement about on a par with the statements usually published by the Treasury. He was not subjected to much questioning, as it is the Secretary that the members of the committee want to get at.

There are indications that all of the Southern Representatives elected as members of Farmers' Alliance will soon be openly acting with the Democrats, believing that more will be gained for the organization they represent by such an alliance than by going with their colleagues from the north.

Among these good people who refused to sign my petition, were five Christian Ministers. Although widely differing in doctrine, I am sure each one of these gentlemen was earnestly anxious to present the Christian religion in such a way, as to win earnest, thoughtful logical men to embrace it. Let us Christians of whatever denomination decide whether their course was calculated to reduce this effect.

The Episcopal minister visited Wilson prayed with and for him, and for his wife, and in effect saying "how long he has been in the house."

The Methodist minister visited the prisoner, prayed with and for him, and went his way in effect saying the same that his church brother had said. At my next call I found Wilson possessed by country tracts which recoiled me to the fact that the fellow had never been taught to read.

The Presbyterian may have called but I am not aware that he did. I do know that he is a devoted and ardent admirer of the Christian religion in trying to get it abolished. Possibly he thought if Wilson was predestined to hang, no man could prevent it and so far as my feeble efforts were concerned, his preaching was lamentably correct, for I failed entirely.

One cold, black, snowy winter morning I stood before the jail. My mind is not disturbed as to the condition of my brother-in-law. I know it to be in the hands of a Father all merciful, a God all wise, who for his own purpose had created it and placed it in that body, there to remain until he called it back to him. North Carolina had not given Wilson his life, consequently it could not be forfeited to the State. North Carolina had given him his liberty and that should have been forfeited to his State for the good both of himself and society.

No, I troubled not myself about his soul, but oh! his poor emaciated body as he, chained hand and foot, was brought from the stifling hot cell and exposed to the winter blast, was lifted into the rough open rick and dragged over rough frozen roads for forty miles!

On the way a Baptist clergyman met him. "Ahl Wilson have you been baptized?" "Yes, by an Episcopal clergyman." "Stop, stop that will never do! Sheriff take him out. I will break the ice in this river and immerse him." Oh! poor feeble body, who can tell the agonies you endured for the residue of that freezing ride?

The next day Wilson was hanged in the presence of a great multitude. The law was vindicated, North Carolina punished her child for having yielded to the temptation she had placed before him, for having fallen into the trap she had set for him. Oh! glorious land! Oh! disgrace to my dear old State of North Carolina. Society demands that the law be vindicated. Was Society protected by this vindication? Listen to who urge the execution of the negro Dawns in order to stop burglary; within one year three homicides were committed within five miles of that awful spot, and I believe all of the participants had seen that execution and been brutalized thereby.

JOHN WILSON. THE STATE TEMPTED HIM AND HANGED HIM FOR YIELDING.

The Awful Crime Committed by North Carolina in Taking his Life - The Talk of the Ministers.

ASHEVILLE, N. C., Jan. 16. If your correspondent were of an aesthetic temperament, he would notify you that he proposed to tell your readers about a wretch who "Stepped Home" or was "Jerked in Jail," or was "Yanked into Eternity," or some other of those Beatitudes of English language, which are now popular aesthetic journalistic; but being only a plain blind man, he will relate a portion of the life and circumstances of the death of one of North Carolina's citizens named John Wilson.

He lived in Yancey county. During his youth he received an injury by falling, which fractured his skull, and the pressure upon a portion of the brain affected it to such a degree as to render him peculiarly liable to the exciting influence of drink. Thus for months or years he would be perfectly sane, and attend to his duties, but the moment whiskey entered his lips he became a frenzied lunatic.

One day in company with a friend, he attended a Key-Steeping Frolic. Near the scene of sport was the "place of business" of a man whom North Carolina had licensed to sell liquor; under authority of this license he presented the fatal cup to Wilson, urged him to buy it, succeeded in doing exactly what North Carolina had licensed him to do, the result was exactly what reputable physicians had foretold. Wilson becoming frenzied shot, not the turkey, but his friend against whom he had neither grudge nor enmity.

I first saw Wilson at Burnsville, during his trial before Judge Armfield; a more humane, honorable, upright judge never occupied the bench. The court charged that unless the jury believed the prisoner to have been insane prior to the drinking, the act of drinking being a voluntary one could not be pleaded as an excuse. No doubt this was good law. No doubt the man was sane, until North Carolina, in the person of her license, tempted him to do that which just inevitably rendered him insane.

Wilson was convicted and brought here for safe keeping, and in Asheville all I became acquainted with him, I found him as I thought feeble of body, but evidently sick in body, to such a degree that I could not restrain myself from saying to him that I wished that a merciful Father would all his child to his presence and save by State from the crime of his "taking life."

I at once started a petition for computation of sentence to life imprisonment. Many people signed it but many others refused, and oh! horrors! certain persons started an opposition petition, and boasted that Wilson's own brother, brother had signed this paper. I was told that this brother gave this reason "that John had got religion now and he had better die quick before he lost it."

Among these good people who refused to sign my petition, were five Christian Ministers. Although widely differing in doctrine, I am sure each one of these gentlemen was earnestly anxious to present the Christian religion in such a way, as to win earnest, thoughtful logical men to embrace it. Let us Christians of whatever denomination decide whether their course was calculated to reduce this effect.

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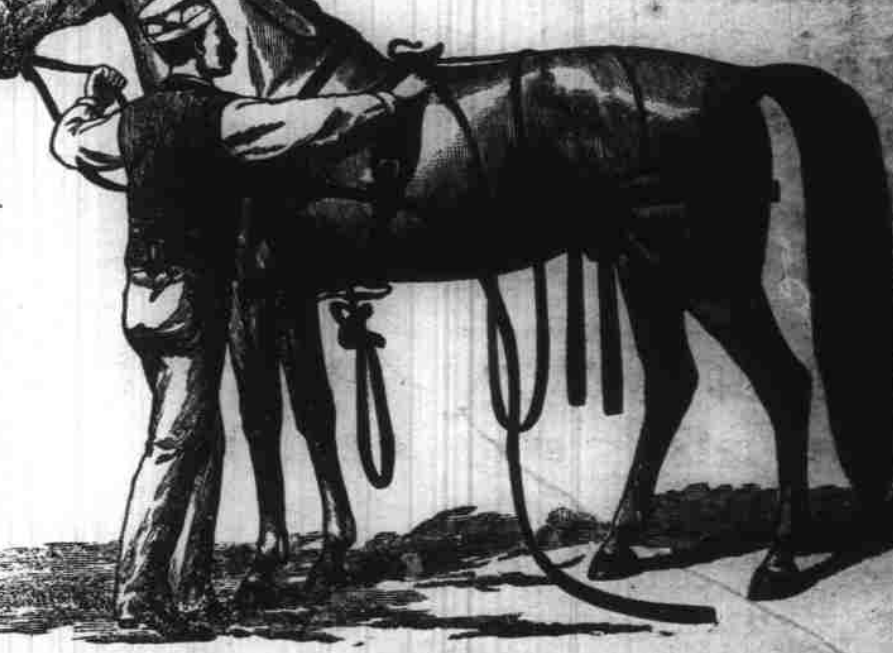
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