

The Commonwealth.

E. E. HILLIARD, - - - Editor.
Published Every Thursday.

Entered at the Post-Office at Scotland Neck, N. C., as Second Class Matter.

THURSDAY, JAN. 7, 1897.

THE LEGISLATURE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina met in Raleigh at noon yesterday. As is usually the case, the minds of the people all over the State turn towards Raleigh, and the oft-repeated question, "What will the Legislature do?" is heard on every hand.

From reading the papers and listening to the conversation one hears on railroad trains, in groups of gossipers and almost constant inquiries about the matter, it would seem that the chief work of the General Assembly at its present session is the election of a United States Senator to succeed Senator Pritchard. We are impressed, however, with the fact that there are some other things to which our law makers, since they are in session, might well turn their attention.

THE COMMONWEALTH thinks Senator Pritchard will succeed himself. The election of the Speaker of the House, the inauguration of Governor Russell, (which promises to be tame), the election of a Senator all having been rounded up, the people may look on to see what else.

Whatever they do, the men who sit for sixty days to legislate for the best interests of the people of the great State of North Carolina, ought to remember that they bear a grave responsibility in office, and the "So-help-me-God" in the oath ought to come from the heart and impel them to the best service they can render.

ABOUT DRUNKENNESS AGAIN.

Recently THE COMMONWEALTH said that drunkenness and general intemperance is on the increase in the State. We only gave expression to our convictions from our own observations, but we were satisfied that we were correct in our opinion.

This week a number of persons have spoken to us and agreed in the statement that intemperance is on the increase in perhaps every part of the State. And men who have heretofore appeared somewhat unconcerned about the matter now seem alarmed at the threatening evil to the country, which comes from the almost unbridled sway of king alcohol.

For several years we have seen the black cloud of evil that threatens to pour down a deluge of ruin upon the people, and we have spoken against it, and written against it, and worked against it in whatever way we could, regardless of the fact that it is considered by many rather impolitic for the secular press to say anything against men's habits of intemperance or the State's mode of dealing with the evil.

We trust we are patriotic enough to forget personal interest, (even if by the longest stretch of imagination there could be any personal interest to us in keeping silent) when the welfare of more than a million and a half persons in North Carolina is concerned in the fearful sweep of ruin that the liquor traffic is visiting upon our people. And we do rejoice in the fact that the good people of the State are becoming aroused to the importance of checking the evil in some way.

It is a shame upon a so-called Christian civilization that human life should so often be sacrificed as a result of this growing evil; and that the soil of this, the greatest and grandest country under heaven, purchased by the life-blood of our fathers, should so often be stained with the blood of the victim of this great evil of intemperance.

How a man with one spark of humanity in his soul can be willing to be a party to the evil in any way we can not understand; and how the people who suffer from the effects of the evil can linger be silent we cannot see.

We heard conservative men say this week that in some parts of Halifax county they regard it unsafe to travel after dark, because of the recklessness that grows out of drunkenness.

Then, is it not time for the matter to be considered seriously? The law makers now in Raleigh were elected on a plea for a suffering people. What heed will they give to this viper that is sucking the very life-blood of the land?

You can't be well if your blood is impure, but you may have pure blood and good health by taking Hood's Sarsaparilla.

THE NEW YEAR.

THE COMMONWEALTH lets Nemo's contribution on the first page serve as the New Year reflections for its readers. We only take space to say that we trust the holidays have been pleasant to all our readers, of whom this paper now has a larger number than ever before in its existence.

We trust also that the new year has opened pleasantly to all and that prosperity may bless the lives of every one of them during the present year. We trust that success may crown their efforts in the field on the farm, in the store, in the shop, in the counting-room, in the office, in the home and wherever they may chance to labor.

And while some of us may feel inclined, under the depressed condition of the business world, to look gloomily to the future, we all do well to remember that we can not afford to slacken our pace in our chosen work, whatever it may be, nor lose one spark of our enthusiasm in our hopes for better things ahead.

Disappointments at times have been the lot of humanity all down the ages, but hope has always done its blessed and smiling work by shining away the clouds of gloom that disappointments have flung across our way; and we must needs let it into our lives still, and shall as long as we labor in the earth; for as sleep, "fired nature's sweet restorer," invigorates the body for new energies on the morrow, so hope brightens and enlightens the pathway ahead of us for the year that lies ahead.

And in this spirit THE COMMONWEALTH again greets its readers, after a week of rest, and hopes to do them better service than it has ever done in the past.

So, here's good cheer and a happy new year to them all.

The Norfolk Pilot says that work is being pushed on the Dismal Swamp canal. Two suction dredges are constantly at work and the company is now engaged in building four scoop dredges to be used in widening the canal where the old stumps would interfere with the suction dredges. The purpose of this company is to make the canal ten feet deep from end to end and twenty feet wider. This will greatly improve the farming land in that section as well as reclaim much that is now entirely unfit for use by draining it into the canal. The land along the canal is very fertile and the great drawback to its cultivation in the past has been the difficulty in securing proper drainage for it. The deepening of the canal will give the farmers just what they have wanted for this purpose.

The Arena for January is, as usual, filled with choice reading on up-to-date subjects. Among the interesting papers is an article on "Daniel Webster's School Days", by Forrest Prescott Hill. Every page is full of interesting reading and the student of current events will find it worth much to him.

Saturday's Wilmington Messenger stated that Mr. John W. Sherman, a well known newspaper man of Lynchburg, Va., disappeared Dec. 17th, and any information concerning his whereabouts will be gladly received at the Bonitz Hotel, Wilmington.

One of Wm. J. Bryan's Christmas gifts was a magnificent, coal black, Kentucky thorough-bred, saddle horse, the gift of Gov. Stone, of Missouri.

Among the postoffices to be advanced to Presidential offices this month is Warrenton, N. C.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTIONS.

Correspondence to THE COMMONWEALTH.

In addition to the fall convention of Littleton and Palmyra townships, Enfield and Brinkleyville associations have held winter conventions—on the 17th and 27th Dec. respectively. Attendance not so large as in warmer weather. Township officers and county president all on hand and active. Some speakers absent because of removals to other parts or conflicting meetings. Has good fruit been discovered from such meetings? Yes. Three Sunday schools formerly dead in the winter are going to keep alive and the children in one school hitherto financially a blank have contributed \$13.00 to its own denominational mission work. O, may God's people love each other and help on the work.

I have seen and heard of many Xmas trees during this tide; at Ringwood, Central Cross, Bradford's, Enfield, Fishing Creek, Weldon, Whitaker's Chapel, &c.

It has been a joyful time and recollections are being held here and there during this season of rest.

W. O. W.

TRAIN WRECKERS NEAR RALEIGH.

Dastardly Attempt to Wreck the Atlanta Special.

On Wednesday morning of last week at 12:30 o'clock about a mile from Raleigh a freight train was wrecked and the freeman killed.

It was clearly an attempt to wreck the fast mail, which was an hour late, and because it was an hour late the freight train had been ordered to precede it to Raleigh. The mail train had on about fifty passengers and if the freight train had not come ahead perhaps the entire number would have been killed. The wreck was effected by prizing the iron apart near a high embankment down which the long freight train plunged when it was thrown from the track.

It was thought that the train wreckers did their heartless work for the sake of plundering the express car and robbing what passengers they might kill. While every one deplored the loss of the freeman's life, it seemed fortunate that the passenger train was late, as perhaps half a hundred might have been killed had it been on time and come in ahead of the freight train.

The wreckers have not been caught.

CHRISTMAS TREES AND WEDDINGS.

Correspondence to THE COMMONWEALTH.

BIRKLEYVILLE, N. C., Jan. 18th, 1897.

The happy holidays have passed away and the new year has dawned upon us. The Christmas tree at Harris' Chapel was a grand success. Notwithstanding the bitter cold night the house was packed with people and for an hour and a half they were most delightfully entertained by the happy rendition of dialogues, recitations and inspiring songs led by the efficient superintendent of the school, Mr. W. T. Mabry. After this Santa Claus distributed the presents—300 in number—making glad the hearts of the little ones, as well as grown people. The pastor was lovingly remembered.

Mr. A. H. Overman, president of the Overman Wheel Co., of Springfield, Mass., has been spending the holidays in our "burg", the guest of Mr. J. H. Norman. He leaves for his home today.

Rev. G. L. Finch, of Williamston, made us glad by calling on us a few days before Christmas.

On the 23rd of December at the home of the bride's father, Mr. J. J. Cullum, Miss Lucy Cullum and Prof. Lucas of Bethel Hill Institute were married. Rev. W. R. Cullum, the bride's brother officiating.

At Bear Swamp church on the 30th of Dec. Mr. W. M. Sledge and Miss Annie L. Conwell were pronounced husband and wife by Rev. A. G. Wilcox. The house had been beautifully decorated for the occasion. A large crowd gathered at the hospitable home of the father of the bride where a beautiful supper had been prepared, which was greatly enjoyed.

A happy new year to you and your many readers.

CHURCH BURNED—OTHER MARTIN COUNTY NEWS.

Correspondence to THE COMMONWEALTH.

WILLIAMSTON, N. C., Jan. 4th, 1897.

The Smithwick's Creek Primitive Baptist church about ten miles from town was burned on the night of Dec. 27th. The fire is supposed to have originated from a defective stove or pipe. Services had been held there in the morning of that day.

The Baptist Sunday school gave a delightful entertainment on the night of Dec. 23rd. The singing, recitations, dialogues, &c., were splendidly rendered by the children of the school and reflected credit on the ladies who trained them so thoroughly for the occasion. The music was just excellent, being in charge of Miss Pattie Hardison, the accomplished organist of the Baptist church.

Our whole town was shocked on last Thursday morning to learn that Mrs. Dennis Simmons had been suddenly stricken with paralysis on Wednesday night. She has been in a critical condition ever since. At this writing she shows some signs of improvement. Mrs. Simmons is a most excellent Christian woman and is much loved by a host of friends who are anxiously praying for her speedy recovery. For her devoted husband the deepest sympathies are felt by his friends both here and elsewhere.

At one o'clock last Monday morning the fire alarm was given and it was found that the store of Mr. Mizelle and the Christmas store of Mr. Hodges were in flames. At one time it was thought the whole business part of the town would be burned, but by strenuous efforts the rest of the buildings were saved. The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary, as several recent attempts to burn the town have been made by malicious persons. The losses were considerable, but partly covered by insurance.

Mr. Joseph D. Biggs took charge of the sheriff's office of Martin county today, his bond having been accepted by the county commissioners. Ex-Sheriff Hardison, the retiring officer, has discharged his duties with efficiency, and has many warm friends in every section of the county.

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER BURNED.

Last Saturday night at 7 o'clock, when the force on the Charlotte Observer had just commenced work for getting out one of that paper's splendid Sunday editions, an explosion occurred in the office of Mr. Blakey, the manager of the book-binding department on the second floor, which threw the employees throughout the entire magnificent plant into great consternation.

Investigation showed that the safe in Mr. Blakey's office had been blown by safe robbers, it being possible for one to get into his office at that hour unobserved. Such was the force of the explosion that almost the entire plant was soon threatened with destruction. The employees on the third floor had to flee for life, leaving hats and coats behind. The typewriter machines suffered greatly by the fire and much of the book and job-machinery was destroyed. A car load of fine paper had just been stored in the building, which was all lost.

The loss to the plant, which was one of the most complete in the South, was covered by insurance. Despite the disastrous fire, which occurred so near the hour for printing, the Observer came out as usual Sunday morning. The Charlotte News did the press work and more help was offered the Observer than it could utilize.

The people of the State generally, and especially the State press, deeply sympathize with editor Caldwell in his great loss and inconvenience. His paper said Sunday morning that every thing will soon be running smoothly again, which THE COMMONWEALTH is glad to learn.

The work of getting out a paper in the face of such difficulties was heroic indeed. We doubt if there is any other class of men engaged in secular work the world over that is so indomitable and so keenly alive to responsibilities, under such emergencies, as the newspaper fraternity. And the heroic work of the Observer Saturday night faithfully served its readers Sunday morning, as usual, is one of the most marked illustrations of the assertion.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

The county commissioners were in regular monthly session Monday and Tuesday. All the members of the Board were present the following accounts were allowed:

L. D. Browning, county home \$41 25
Moses Williams, jail account 132 00
J. H. Alshook, building bridge 130 00
C. W. Dunn, conveying prisoner 7 00
J. P. Daws, holding court 65 67
W. R. Shaw, work at court house 3 00
W. F. Parker, lumber for county 9 40

Clerk Gary presented his half fee report for criminal court, which was approved. The Board ordered that all paupers and old soldiers be granted the same allowance they have heretofore received until April 1st. Eleven new paupers were allowed \$2 a month each until April 1st, and one was allowed \$4.

Treasurer W. E. Bowers, whose bond was presented to Judge Robinson a few days ago, and declared by Judge Robinson to be sufficient, was accepted by the Board.

The Board ordered that C. W. Garrett & Co. be allowed to erect a telephone line along the public highway from Littleton via Albion and Brinkleyville to Meade, specifying that the county is to be exempt from any damages to property caused by the erection of said line.

The commissioners had quite a number of accounts to pass upon, but didn't get to them at Tuesday's session.

There was a great press of papers around the commissioners, asking for help—perhaps more than for many years.

There were granted thirty-five liquor licenses to retail liquor in the county.

ACHING JOINTS.

Announce the presence of rheumatism which causes untold sufferings. Rheumatism is due to lactic acid in the blood. It cannot be cured by liniments or other outward applications. Hood's Sarsaparilla purifies the blood, removes the cause of rheumatism and permanently cures this disease.

This is the testimony of thousands of people who once suffered the pains of rheumatism but who have actually been cured by taking Hood's Sarsaparilla. Its great power to act upon the blood and remove every impurity is the secret of the wonderful cures by Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Good Family Flour.
HARRILL & SHERROD.

See Here!

I can save you from 30 to 50 per cent, when you wish to purchase ornamental, fruit and other trees, berry plants, &c. My specialties are: Lady Thompson's Strawberries and Palmetto Asparagus. Orders taken for Spring or Fall.

J. Y. Savage,
Scotland Neck, N. C.
Agent for Emporia Nurseries,
Emporia, Va. 17 1y

BUCKLEN'S ARNICA SALVE.

The best salve in the world for Cuts Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns, and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by E. T. WHITEHEAD & CO.

Wanted—An Idea Who can think of some simple plan to prevent the loss of five hundred dollars? Write JOHN W. WOODRUFF & CO., Patent Attorneys, Washington, D. C. for their \$1.50 price book.

HOMICIDE AT TILLERY.

Machinist Spain Shot and Killed.

On Christmas eve at a barroom kept by Cornelius Tillery on the railroad about half mile from the town of Tillery, a colored man named Jeff Davis shot and killed a white man named Spain, the master machinist at the North Carolina Lumber Company's lumber plant at Tillery. It seems that Spain and the colored man had had some difficulty of words and as Spain was going along the railroad from the barroom towards Tillery some one shot him from behind, the shot striking him in the head just behind the ear.

Spain said to a colored man who was walking with him that some one had shot him. He walked some paces, and finding that blood was running down from the back of his head he turned and walked back some two hundred yards near the barroom again, when the colored man, Jeff Davis, stepped from behind the house. Both had guns and both fired. When the smoke cleared away Spain had reached the side of the house and sank down on his hands and knees and died with his finger on the trigger and the gun sprung ready to shoot. It was found that three buck shot from Davis' last fire had taken effect in Spain's body, one in the hand, one in the breast and the other in the stomach. It was said on examination that either one of the two shots that took effect in the back of Spain's head from the shot fired at him while he was going towards Tillery, would have killed him.

Spain's body was left alone until the coroner could come and hold the inquest. Davis escaped. Hounds were brought from the State farm near Tillery but Davis could not be tracked far.

After Spain was killed his person was robbed by a colored man named George Hines, who took the dead man's watch and money. Hines was arrested and placed in jail.

There was no white man present when the killing occurred except Spain himself. It was pretty clear that liquor had much to do with the trouble. It has been impossible to learn full particulars.

Spain was 35 or 40 years old and left a wife and two children. His body was carried to Pitt county for burial the next day.

He had \$2,000 insurance on his life, \$1,000 in the Mutual Life of New York and \$1,000 in the Union Central of Cincinnati, Ohio.

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Great Sales

proved by the statements of leading druggists everywhere, about that the people have an abiding confidence in Hood's Sarsaparilla. Great Cures proved by the voluntary statements of thousands of men and women show that Hood's Sarsaparilla actually does possess Power over disease by purifying, enriching and invigorating the blood, upon which not only health but life itself depends. The Great Success of Hood's Sarsaparilla in curing others warrants you in believing that a faithful use of Hood's Sarsaparilla will cure you if you suffer from any trouble caused by impure blood.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the One True Blood Purifier. All druggists. \$1. Prepared only by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

Hood's Pills

are easy to take, easy to operate, 25 cents. Full line of Warner's Corsets. N. B. JOSEY. Special inducements offered on Dress Goods. N. B. JOSEY.

Rice's famous Goose Grease Liniment

for the cure of all aches and pains, croup, colds, &c. For sale by E. T. Whitehead & Co., Wholesale Agents, Scotland Neck, N. C. 12 17 3m

Sheriff's Sale of Land.

In order to satisfy an execution is sued to me from the Superior Court of Halifax County in favor of A. White and against Mike Hardy, I shall sell for cash at auction at the Court House Door in Halifax, on first Monday in February, 1897, being the 8th day of said month, the following described real estate of the said Mike Hardy, lying, being and situate in said county and State, to wit:—That land which was conveyed to said Mike Hardy by K. Leggett by deed of record in said county in Book 67 on page 261 to which reference is made and bounded by the lands of the late David Clark, the Urquhart land, and by Roanoke River and containing three hundred and seventy-five acres, more or less, and known as Buzzard Point and Hawkins land. That land which was conveyed to said Mike Hardy by Burwell and wife by deed of record in said county in Book 58 on page 132, and by deed of record in Book 66 on page 122 poles to a stake, thence S. 164 poles by a new made chopped line to Roanoke River, thence David Clark's line to the beginning, and containing one hundred and fifteen acres, more or less. And all that tract of land which was conveyed to said Mike Hardy by Burwell and wife by deed of record in said county in Book 58 on page 289, except that part thereof which has been allotted to said Mike Hardy as a Homestead, and containing forty acres, more or less. This January 4th, 1897. J. T. DAWSON, Sheriff. By C. W. DUNN, Dep. Sheriff.

New - Year's Announcement.

Having opened with a new stock in the Post office building one door above the Post office, on east side of Main street, I shall be glad to supply my friends and the public generally with

Groceries, FRUITS, CANDIES, Etc.

GIVE ME A CALL and save money. A. VAUGHAN, Scotland Neck, N. C. 17 4t

Heaters Below Cost.

Before you buy a Stove or Wilson Heater be sure to call on us as we are closing them out at less than cost. M. HOFFMAN & BROS. 10 22 3m

Booming! Booming!!

WHAT?

BOYD'S

Warehouse AND Tobacco, ENFIELD, N. C.

For the past week Tobacco has advanced on our floors and the Planters are going home with a smile clear 'cross their faces. We only need good Tobacco on sale to keep everything in good spirits on the floor, and after its over and you get your check you'll go home rejoicing.

All grades are bringing satisfactory prices and especially good Tobacco at the demand is very large for fine Wrappers and Cutters. We are wide awake and well open. Load up and drive straight to Boyd's Warehouse, Boyd & Young, Proprietors. We are anxious for personal attention and shall bring the Highest Market Prices at all times. We are Your friends,

Boyd & Young, PROPRIETORS.

Harness! Harness!!

CALL ON J. H. BROWN,

WHEN IN WANT OF Harness & Saddles. Repairing done any time on short notice. J. H. BROWN, FARRBORO, N. C. 9 3 6m

W. D. HARRISON'S 'BUS LINE

BETWEEN ROANOKE RAPIDS AND WELDON.

SCHEDULE AS FOLLOWS:

Leave Weldon daily at 12:30 p. m. Arrive Roanoke Rapids 1:30 p. m.
Leave Roanoke Rapids, 2:00 p. m. Arrive Weldon 3: p. m.
WILL MAKE SPECIAL TRIPS if necessary leaving Weldon at 8:00 a. m. and 4:00 p. m.

FARE for the round trip 75c. Fare one way only, 50c.
5 4 3m COMFORTABLE VEHICLES AND GOOD TEAMS.
Horses and Buggies Always on Hand for Hire at Reasonable Prices.

JAMES S. GROVES CO.,

Wholesale Fruit and Produce Dealers, AND GENERAL COMMISSION MERCHANTS. 120 WARREN ST. NEW YORK, 39 AND 41 ROANOKE SQUARE, NORFOLK, VA.

If you are shipping anything to Norfolk, ship to us. Or if you are shipping to New York, ship to us there. We are reliable and will treat you right.

We are HEADQUARTERS FOR ALL KINDS OF FRUITS. If you are a dealer write us for prices. 11 26 6m

POWELL BROS.,

GENERAL Commission Merchants. Cotton and Peanut Factors. STOCK, GRAIN, FRUITS AND PROVISIONS.

REFERENCES BY PERMISSION—Bank of Portsmouth, B. F. McLemore, Clerk of Southampton County, Va.; Dun's Agency, and Bradstreet's Agency, 11 26 6m OFFICE—31 & 29 ROANOKE SQUARE, NORFOLK, VA.

MRS. L. B. EVANS, SELECT Private Boarding HOUSE,

104 NORTH McDOWELL STREET, RALEIGH, N. C. ONE SQUARE FROM CAPITOL.

Good Accommodations at reasonable rates. 12 24 2m

New and Pretty Silverware

We have just received the largest and handomest shipment of silverware ever offered to our customers. Handsome Pickle Dishes; Orange, Coffee and Berry Spoons; Oyster, Fruit and Meat Forks; Tomato, Jelly and Cake Servers; Sugar Tongs; Cream, Gravy, Oyster and Soup Ladles, with many other pretty things. E. T. WHITEHEAD & CO.

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Heaters Below Cost.

Before you buy a Stove or Wilson Heater be sure to call on us as we are closing them out at less than cost. M. HOFFMAN & BROS. 10 22 3m

Sale of Drugs, Store Fixtures and Furniture.

By virtue of power in me vested by that mortgage which was executed to me on the 1st day of February, 1895, by John K. McIlhenny and T. C. McIlhenny, I shall sell for cash at public auction in the town of Scotland Neck, in the store house lately occupied by John K. McIlhenny, on the 23rd day of January, 1897, the entire stock of goods, wares, merchandise and drugs, store furniture and fixtures. The stock consists almost entirely of drugs. This is a good chance for some one to purchase a good business. Two drug stores in this town ought to be a booming success. C. A. CAMPBELL, Scotland Neck, N. C., Mortgagee. Jan. 2, 1897. 17 3m

MECHANICS and INVESTORS

UNION, OF RALEIGH, N. C., J. C. DREWRY, PRES. B. S. JERMAN, TREAS. GEO. ALLEN, Sec'y.

Have opened a branch for sale of Investment stock and for making

LOANS ON REAL ESTATE

IN SCOTLAND NECK. J. A. PITTMAN, President; S. B. KITCHIN, Vice-President; M. A. SMITH, W. H. ALLSBROOK, K. ALLSBROOK, Directors;

Jas. L. HARRISS, Sec'y & Collector.

This Company has been in operation over three years, has a fine surplus, and is

PREPARED TO MAKE LOANS

wherever 100 or more shares of stock are held. A payment of \$3.25 per 100 months will mature \$500 stock. Including Guarantee Fund Benefits. For further information address GEO. ALLEN, Sec'y. 10 22 3m