

# The Smithfield Herald.

Price One Dollar Per Year

"TRUE TO OURSELVES, OUR COUNTRY AND OUR GOD."

Single Copies Five Cents.

VOL. 28

SMITHFIELD, N. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1910

Number 50

## TAIL OF COMET MAY REACH US.

**French Astronomers Discuss the Effect if it is Composed of Poisonous Gases. Not Much Alarm Shown But, Physiologist Says, if the Gas Entered Our Lungs Prussic Acid Would be Generated With Fatal Effect.**

A special correspondent writing to The New York Times from Paris says:

The possibility of disaster befalling the earth and its inhabitants through the extraordinary proximity of Halley's comet in April is seriously discussed by French astronomers. Although none of them admits that there is really any cause of apprehension, nearly all are in doubt as to whether the comet's gaseous tail may not come in contact with the earth's atmosphere.

The question, then, of very great importance is whether the tail consists of poisonous gases. The theory is general that one of its constituents is cyanide of potassium in gaseous form. Dr. Guillaume Bigourdan of the Academy of Sciences says:

"The comet's atmosphere may touch that of the earth, but people will not be troubled thereby any more than they were when the comet was near the earth in 1819, and in 1861."

Edouard Ballaud, director of the Paris Observatory, says:

"The gases which form the tail of the comet are so rarified and extend over such immense distances that it is probable that the shock by the two atmospheres coming together would damage the comet more than the earth."

Henri Deslandres, the director of the observatory at Meudon, declares:

"The spectroscopist has proved the existence of enormous quantities of cyanogenic gas in the tail of the comet. I don't think, however, that the contact of the comet with the earth's atmosphere would be dangerous. In the eighteenth century the earth was swept by the tails of comets. The world was greatly afraid, but no cataclysm occurred. More recently, on July 19, 1886, a comet almost touched the surface of Jupiter, but no perturbation seems to have taken place on that planet."

"There will, no doubt, be electrical and magnetic changes in the terrestrial atmosphere."

Dr. Dastre, the noted physiologist and a member of the institute, on the other hand says:

"Even a feeble proportion of cyanogen mixed with air would be transformed into prussic acid the moment it entered our lungs and have a deadly effect."

Prof. Haller confirmed Dr. Dastre's opinion.

## LOOK OUT FOR METEORS.

**Earth Will be Bombarded When Tail of Comet Rakes Us.**

Boston, Feb. 5.—That on or about May 19, of this year, the earth will probably be bombarded with meteors from the tail of the famous Innes comet, which is now tearing through space at a terrific rate and is headed in our direction, is the prediction made today by Prof. Edward C. Pickering of Harvard.

"The earth is due to pass through the tail of the comet on May 19th," said Prof. Pickering, "and at that time the earth will probably be pelted with flying meteors as it has been several other times when comets have approached."

Prof. Pickering does not believe that the meteors which fell in Illinois were parts of the comet's tail.

"I attach no significance to these meteors which fell at Peoria," he said. "The tail of the comet is now many million miles away from the earth, and the fact that the tail is turned away from the earth discredits any belief that these meteors were parts of it."

## Embroidery Club Meets.

The Embroidery Club met with Mrs. L. E. Watson on Thursday of last week and spent a very pleasant afternoon. The threatening weather prevented a very large attendance but did not chill the geniality of those who did go. Delicate and delicious refreshments were served during the afternoon.

## GENERAL NEWS.

Wireless telegraphy saved the lives of the captain and crew of the steamer Kentucky Friday. The ship's signal of distress was picked up at Cape Hatters Friday morning, and in a few minutes the steamship Alamo's reply was heard. The Alamo reached the Kentucky before 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and took off the forty-seven men on board. The Kentucky was sinking rapidly, and was expected to go to the bottom before midnight.

A receiver was appointed in New Jersey last week for the Mexican National Packing Company. The total liabilities, including stock, are approximately \$37,000,000.

Representative William C. Lovering, of Massachusetts, died at his home in Washington at 9:29 o'clock Friday morning, aged 45 years.

Mrs. Elizabeth O'Neil, seventy-one, who has lived alone for thirty years, froze to death Monday night in her bed in her home at Miami, Ohio.

Twenty-six manufacturing firms of the Paper Board Association, indicted by the Federal grand jury in December last as members of an illegal combination in restraint of trade, took the easiest legal course Monday and entered a plea of guilty as an association in the United States Circuit Court. Fines of \$2,000 each—\$52,000 in all—were immediately imposed and in all except one case were paid in cash.

Memories of the war between the sections were revived Monday when Senator Heyburn, of Idaho, in a speech in the Senate bitterly opposed a loan of tents by the Government for use at the annual encampment of Confederate veterans at Mobile, Ala., next April. Incidentally the senator strongly condemned the acceptance by Congress of a statue of Robert E. Lee as a contribution by the State of Virginia for statutory hall. At the conclusion of Mr. Heyburn's remarks, Senator Bankhead of Alabama, called for a vote, every Republican present except Mr. Heyburn voting for the bill authorizing the loan of tents.

## Board of County Commissioners.

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session in the Superior Court Room Monday with all the members of the board present. Several petitions for special elections were filed with the board, together with several petitions for the establishment of new roads in the county. One of the most important questions to come before the board was that of putting Automatic Gates on certain rural routes, which was caused by an order from the post office department that these Automatic Gates must be put up on the road covered by the rural route or it would be discontinued. This question of putting up gates is one of no little moment. Only a few years ago the county commissioners had erected on the most frequently travelled roads twenty-five automatic gates, at a cost of nearly \$1,000.00 and to-day there is only three or four in working condition. It is claimed that heavily loaded wagons break the mechanism that causes the gates to open automatically. If this is true it is the duty of those driving the heavily loaded wagons to open the gates without running over any part of the mechanism. No honest citizen in the county wishes to see the rural routes discontinued, but the county cannot afford to keep up these gates unless they are taken better care of in the future than they have been in the past.

## Switches From Wet to Dry.

Indianapolis, Feb. 5.—Wayne County, the first in the State to vote "wet" under the local option law, nominated a "dry" candidate for the legislature over Walter S. Ratcliff, who voted for the repeal of the local option law. Lee J. Reynolds, the "dry" candidate, won over Ratcliff by a majority of 1,400. The nomination pledges the Republican party of Wayne County to make the fight for local option.

Miss Dabline Williams, of Clayton, spent Saturday here the guest of Mrs. J. M. Beaty.

Mr. A. M. Noble went to Micro Wednesday.

## FOUR OAKS SCHOOL CLOSE.

Exercises to Take Place Next Thursday night, Friday and Friday night. State Auditor Dixon to Deliver Educational Address. Junior Order to Present Flag and Bible.

The Four Oaks Graded School will have its closing exercises next week, beginning Thursday night, with songs, recitations, dialogues and a play, entitled "That Rascal Pat." Friday morning at 10:30 the exercises will begin with a song after which the Junior Order of Smithfield will present a Bible and Flag to the school, the presentation speeches being made by Mr. L. H. Allred, of Selma, and Mr. A. M. Noble, of Smithfield. These will be received by Rev. Mr. Sutton, of Four Oaks, and Mr. O. A. Barbour, of Benson.

Immediately after dinner, Rev. R. P. Ellington, of Smithfield, will deliver an address on the Objects of the Junior Order.

"The Four Oaks School" will be the subject of an address by Supt. J. P. Canaday, who will introduce Hon. B. F. Dixon, State Auditor, who will deliver the educational address.

The exercises will close Friday night with a nice program of recitations, songs, plays, etc. Music will be furnished by the Kenly Band.

## TEACHERS' PAY RAISED.

**Chicago Distributes Increase of \$240,000 According to Years of Service.**

Chicago, Jan. 27.—An advance in the salaries of public school teachers in Chicago was voted by the Board of Education yesterday. The increase which is in effect from January 1, 1910, will mean the disbursement of \$240,000 a year more for salaries than last year among the 6,000 teachers.

Upon the ground that a teacher is better qualified after several years of service, Supt. Mrs. Ella Flagg Young has distributed the increase so that the larger part falls to the share of those who have taught more than seven years. Primary teachers from the third to seventh and subsequent years of service will receive an advance of from \$25 to \$40. Eighth grade teachers will receive \$50, beginning with their first year of service.

Seventeen High School Principals will receive an advance of \$100. The present maximum of \$3,200 is increased to \$3,800. No increase is arranged for the first six years of service among High School Principals. The lowest salary is \$650, paid to teachers for their first year's work in the primary grades.

The medical supply department of the United States army was burned in New York, last week the loss being nearly \$1,000,000.

## Free Seeds from Government.

We are in receipt of the following from the Private Secretary to Congressman E. W. Pou, which will no doubt interest many of our farmer friends:

"I will thank you to insert in this week's issue of your valued paper and continue for a week or two to make mention of the fact that Congressman Pou will be glad to send vegetable seeds first of all to those persons in his district who really have need of them. Any person in the district who cares to receive seeds and will take the trouble to drop Mr. Pou a card will receive an extra allotment of Government seeds. After special requests are filled Mr. Pou will then distribute generally the remainder of the seeds allotted to his district."

"You might also make mention of the fact that the seeds to be distributed this year are of the most improved variety and were gathered from last year's crop."

The United States Senate has passed the urgent deficiency and the army bills carrying a combined appropriation of \$102,000,000. The postal savings bank bill was discussed at length. A bill exempting certificates of indebtedness and requiring the payment of the principal of Panama Canal bonds, previously passed by the House, was acted upon favorably.

## AN ORCHARD DEMONSTRATION.

Will be Held Friday, February 18, At the Farm of Mr. J. M. McLamb Near Benson, by an Agent of the N. C. Department of Agriculture.

We had a pleasant call Tuesday from Mr. S. C. Clapp, Orchard Inspector of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, of Raleigh. Mr. Clapp informed us that he will hold an Orchard Demonstration, under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture, at the orchard of Mr. J. M. McLamb, one mile west of Benson, on Friday, February 18, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

The object of his meeting is to show how to prepare and apply the home made Lime Sulphur Mixture for the treatment of fruit trees of any kind that may be infested with the San Jose Scale, and to discuss pruning, and spraying for various insects and diseases of fruit trees. Not only are commercial fruit growers invited to attend the demonstration, but also any who may have a limited number of trees for domestic purposes will be welcomed.

## KENLY NEWS.

Mrs. Dora Gilbreath went to Smithfield Saturday.

Mrs. Mary Chase is spending this week at Goldsboro.

Mrs. John G. High left to-day for Middlesex.

Mr. Charlie Pierce, of Smithfield, was in town today. We are always glad to see Charlie.

Mr. Stigma Lewis, of Middlesex, stopped with his aunt, Mrs. John G. High Saturday.

Mrs. Millard Hales, of Wendell, has been spending a few days with her sister, Mrs. W. F. Bailey.

Miss Katie Woodall, of Smithfield, spent Sunday with her sister, Mrs. Oscar Aycock.

Prof. S. G. Bollings spent Friday and Saturday at Goldsboro.

Mr. George Sasser and wife, of The Wells Grocery Co., Wilson, is spending a few days with Mrs. Wiley Howell.

Miss Lela Dees, of near Princeton, and Miss Woodard, of the Pine Level section, spent Saturday and Sunday with Miss Woodard's sister, Mrs. Alvin Hodge.

Messrs. J. C. Casper & Bro., have bought out the Kenly Grocery Co., and consolidated it with their market and are doing business at the store of the Kenly Grocery Co.

We are sorry to note among our sick Mr. R. A. Hales' child and Mrs. J. C. Grady, who are very sick.

Rev. T. H. Spence filled his regular appointments at the Presbyterian church Sunday.

A joint debate between the young ladies and gentleman of the High School will take place Friday evening. Subject: Resolved, That Men of Thought are Doing More for our Country than Men of Action. The public is invited.

Plans have about been completed to have a public debate here Easter Monday between our High School and Benson High School.

There will be a meeting of the Sunday School teachers of the different Sunday Schools Thursday evening at Mrs. R. T. Renfrow's.

Our new policeman, Mr. Jesse Jones, made a raid on the blind tigers last Saturday evening, the results of which Gray Atkinson, colored, is under bond for his appearance in court next Saturday morning and the chances bid fair for him to have the answer in a higher court and do service on our county roads.

Thieves entered the houses of Mr. Jim Davis and Mr. J. S. Stancil, one night last week, taking about \$60.00 from Mr. Stancil. A strong clue was discovered and one Jim Hinnant, colored, made tracks and is wanted here now.

## REPORTER.

Senator John W. Daniel has been returned to Washington by the State of Virginia, for the fifth term of six years each. His new term will begin on March 4th, 1911. His reelection was without opposition, if we do not count the complimentary vote by the Republicans for Mr. Slemp. Senator Daniel is representative of all that is good in the old-time statesmanship, and in him Virginia has a man who is worthy of all the honors his State can heap upon him.—Charlotte Chronicle.

## CLAYTON NEWS NOTES.

Mr. Matthew W. Wall, of Selma, spent Sunday with relatives and friends here.

Miss Swannanoa Horne spent Tuesday in the Capitol city shopping.

Messrs. W. L. Stancil and Luther M. Barnes spent Sunday with relatives at their old home at Archer.

Mrs. T. A. Branham, of Raleigh, was here Sunday, the guest of her sister, Mrs. John I. Barnes.

Mr. Charlie Gulley, of Durham, was in town Saturday to the delight of his many friends.

Rev. George B. Starling returned Monday from Mt. Zion where he conducted services Sunday.

Representative J. Walter Myatt was in town Tuesday on business.

Messrs. J. G. Barbour & Son have begun the erection of three handsome brick stores on Main Street next to the Clayton Buggy and Furniture Co. Mr. George W. Ellis, one of the best contractors in Eastern Carolina, and our townsman, has the contract for the work and is pushing it rapidly on.

Messrs. York & Cobb, of Greenville, N. C., who have contracted to build the Pythian Orphanage at this place have commenced active operations. They have a full corps of men at work and the material is coming in every day in car load lots. They promise to have the building ready for occupancy by the 15th of June, 1910.

Mr. R. H. Gower is completing his new store in West Clayton. The carpenters are giving it the finishing touches and will have it ready for the West Clayton Grocery Co., in a few days. We understand that is the firm name of the new business that will be conducted here.

Mr. R. D. Knott, of Knightsdale, was here Monday buying material for a new residence which he is erecting at that place.

We are reliably informed that the Southern Railway Co. contemplates building a new passenger station at this place in the near future. This move will meet with the hearty approbation of every citizen of our town as well as the traveling public. The present one is very small and uncomfortable in many ways and we hope that the Railroad Co. begin this work at no distant day.

We are informed that Mr. Will Weathers will begin a new residence in a few days.

## WEDS HIS FORMER PUPIL

**Schoolmaster is 78 Years Old Now And Schoolgirl 70.**

Utica, N. Y., Feb. 5.—It became known at Illon to-day that Walter Green, a contractor and builder who has been a resident of Illon for more than fifty years, and Miss Maria Westphal of Richfield Springs, were married at Richfield Springs on Thursday. The groom is 78 and his bride is 70.

The ceremony was performed at the home of Miss Purchase, where the bride lived. Years ago, in his early twenties, Mr. Green was a school teacher, and one of his pupils was Maria Westphal.

## Nice Dividend Declared.

The stockholders of the Banner Warehouse held their annual meeting in The Herald office Tuesday afternoon and elected the following officers for the ensuing year:

President—T. J. Lassiter.  
Vice-President—W. M. Sanders.  
Secretary—Z. L. Lemay.  
Board of Directors—James A. Welons, W. L. Woodall and J. H. Pou.  
The By-Laws were changed so that the annual meeting will be held hereafter on the second Tuesday in January.

An annual dividend of nine per cent was declared and the Secretary-Treasurer was instructed to pay the same at once.

From its organization this company has been successful, having had no trouble in renting the house at a fair rental each year. Capt. H. L. Skinner has been a member of the firm renting this house each year since it was built and the success of the Smithfield tobacco market is due to a very large measure to his untiring efforts.

## COMET TO LOOK LIKE BALLOON.

**Scientists Say It is a Million Times Larger Than the Earth, and, Instead of Affecting This Planet's Orbit, Will be Affected by Us.**

Chicago, Feb. 5.—Prof. Edwin B. Frost, director of the Yerkes Observatory at Williams Bay, Wis., said to-day:

"Halley's comet, on which all eyes in the astronomical world are now centered, is about 1,000,000 as big as the earth. Yet, although the earth's gravity may change the orbit of the comet, the earth's path through the sky will be unaffected by the approaching proximity of the two bodies."

This supplements information contained in a circular respecting observation of Halley's comet, 1910, which has just been issued by the Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America. The circular says that an expedition to observe and photograph Halley's comet from the Hawaiian Islands is to be sent out by the society and sets forth that:

"In view of possible large perturbations arising from the close approach of the comet to Venus on May 1, and to the earth on May 16, meridian observations are especially desired during the period in which the comet is sufficiently bright for that purpose."

"What are these possible large perturbations?" Prof. Frost was asked. "That merely means," was the reply, "that on those dates the comet will be near enough the planets mentioned to be affected by their attraction."

"Will that affect their orbits?"

"It won't affect the orbit of Venus or of the earth, but it is likely to affect the comet's orbit. That is one reason why we want to get meridian observations, which will show almost exactly these orbital changes."

"There will be an interesting spectacle, by the way, on May 1, when the comet is near to Venus. The planet and the comet will practically be the same distance from the earth and every one will be able to see their relative size."

"The comet's bulk exceeds that of Venus about 1,000,000 times. It is gaseous, and its mass is comparatively slight. Therefore, its attraction will not affect the planet's, while the solid heavy planets are likely to affect it a good deal. The earth and Venus are about the same size, so that the earth, too, is about one-millionth the size of the comet."

Frederick Ellerman of the Solar Observatory at Pasadena, Cal., will head the Hawaiian expedition.

## A DARK CHAPTER IN WATAUGA.

**Man, Who Killed His Brother, Dies in Jail Without a Relative To Stand By Him in The Dark Hour.**

Columbus Triplett died here behind prison bars on the evening of the 14th inst., after days of indescribable anguish. This was the last scene in the fearful tragedy begun by the two Triplett brothers on Christmas day, in which Lum Triplett stabbed and almost instantly killed his brother, Marshall Triplett. After being badly beaten by a nephew, was brought to town, a pitiable object, and lodged in jail where he lingered for a few days, and died another victim of whiskey.

Summing it all up it was one of the saddest things that has ever occurred in our county. A man in middle life, who had reared a family of six children—all grown and residing in Texas—to die in a prison cell without a relative to stand by him in the dark hour, and even after death had set its seal upon him, no one to claim the lifeless body, certainly paints a picture that makes a dark blot on the civilization of our fair county. Unwept, unhonored and it seems, unloved. What a picture in this beautiful world, where there is happiness for every one. Shipwrecked on the beautiful shores of time so far as this world is concerned but he was in the hands of a merciful God.

The kind family who keeps the jail, Mr. and Mrs. Robbins, together with the county physician, do all they could for his comfort, much to their credit. A fellow prisoner also stood by him night and day until the end came.—Watauga Democrat.