

THE GASTONIA GAZETTE.

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POINTS AND PARAGRAPHS ON TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Under this head will be printed from time to time noteworthy utterances on themes of current interest. They will be taken from public addresses, books, magazines, newspapers, in fact wherever we may find them. Sometimes these selections will accord with our views and the views of our readers, sometimes the opposite will be true. But by reason of the subject matter, the style, the authorship, or the views expressed, each will have an element of timely interest to make it a conspicuous utterance.

No Dallying With Vice.

New York Times July 30.

Many public men make the mistake of using a charge of bird-shot where what is needed is a bullet. * * * Bribery and corruption are not matters to be argued. The more one discusses them the more one rubs the color out of them, and changes them from insults to be resented to theses to be debated.

Night in New York.

Thomas Dixon, Jr. in "The One Woman."

The avenue was a blaze of light. Its miles of electric torches flashed like stars in the milky way. * * * New York, proud imperial Queen of the Night, seemed just waking to her real life, a strange new life in human history—a life that had put darkness to flight, snuffed out the light of moon and star, laughed at sleep, twin sister of Death, and challenged the soul of man to live without one refuge of silence or shadow.

Some Explaining in Prospect.

Charlotte Presbyterian Standard.

They are not doing any fooling with Christian Science in Canada. A man has just been tried, convicted and the judgment affirmed by the court, the judgment being manslaughter and the crime his allowing his sixteen-year-old boy to die of diphtheria. The plea was that the father had treated the boy according to the tenets of the Christian Science sect, but it was of no avail. And to think that we actually license that kind of murderous fraud in North Carolina, by act of Legislature! One of our candidates for Governor will have some explaining to do along that line.

At Eventide.

James Lane Allen, in "The Mettle of the Pasture."

A shower had fallen early in the day and the grass had been cut afterward. Afternoon sunshine had drunk the moisture, leaving the fragrance released and floating. The warmth of the cooling earth reached her foot through the sole of her slipper. On the plume of a pine, a bird was sending its last call after the bright hours, while out of the firs came the tumult of the plainer birds as they mingled for common sleep. The heavy cry of the bullbat fell from far above, and looking up quickly for a sight of his winnowing wings under the vast purpling vault she beheld the earliest stars.

Nearing the Tropics.

Thomas Dixon, Jr. in "The One Woman."

In all this crash of brute forces I see beauty in ugliness, innocence in filth. Here one is put to the test. Here the great powers of Nature have gathered for their last assault and have challenged man's soul to answer for its life. Dark spiritual forces shriek with battle cries over the din of matter. The swiftness of progress, crushing and enriching, the mad greed for gold, the worship of success—a success that sneers at duty, honour, love and patriotism—the filth and frivolity of our upper strata, the growth of hate and envy below, the restlessness of the masses, the waning of faith, the growth of despair, the triumph of brute force, the reign of the liar and huckster—all these are more real and threatening here, as beasts and reptiles increase in size as we near the tropics. We are nearing the tropics of civilization. We must not forget that the flowers will be richer, wilder, more beautiful, and life capable of higher things.

More Daring Than Jasper.

Chatham Record, 23rd.

The bombardment of Fort Fisher was the heaviest since the invention of gun powder. Many acts of heroism in its defense have never received the praise which they so much deserve. Indeed they are known to very few persons. For instance, scarcely any one has heard of the heroism of Private Christopher C. Bland, of Company K, Thirty-sixth North Carolina Regiment. The flag-staff was unprovided with halyards and when the order was given to raise the battle flag young Bland promptly volunteered to do so. He seized the flag and began climbing the staff under a heavy fire from the enemy's feet. Undismayed by the shrieking of shells which fell around him he climbed the staff and fastened the flag at the top. Just as he came down a shell tore loose one end of the flag, and at once this young hero again climbed the staff, while shells fell around him almost as thick as hail, and again fastened the flag in its place, and strange to say he escaped unscathed. History has taught every schoolboy the heroism of Sergeant Jasper at Fort Moultrie, when his flag staff was shot down by the British fleet, but not a schoolboy has probably ever heard of this more daring feat of Christopher C. Bland.

Life's Building and Unbuilding.

James Lane Allen, in "The Mettle of the Pasture."

When we fall asleep, we do not lay aside the thoughts of the day, as the hand the physical work; nor upon awakening return to the activity of these as if to the renewal of its toil, finding them undisturbed. Our most piercing insight yields no deeper conception of life than that of perpetual building and unbuilding; and during what we call our rest, it is often most active in executing its inscrutable will. All along the dark chimneys of the brain, clinging like myriads of swallows deep-buried and slumbrous in quiet and in soot, are the countless thoughts which lately winged the wide heaven of conscious day. Alike through dreaming and through dreamless hours Life moves among these, handling and considering each of the unreckonable multitude; and when the morning light strikes the dark chimneys again and they rush forth, some that have entered young have matured; some of the old have become infirm; many of which have dropped in singly into a company; and young broods flutter forth, unaccountable nestlings of a night, which were not in yesterday's blue at all. Then there are the missing—those that went in with the rest at night fall but were struck from the walls forever. So all are altered, for while we have slept we have still been subject to the onmoving energy of the world which incessantly renews us yet transmutes us—double mystery of our permanence and our change.

BECKER, KING OF FORGERS.

He will Walk out of San Quentin Prison, in California, Next Month—A Criminal for Forty Years—Big Checks He has Forged.

New York Sun.

San Francisco, July 20.—Charles Becker, known to detectives the world over as the king of forgers and to criminals as "the Dutchman," will walk out of San Quentin State prison on August 10, after serving a seven-year sentence for the forgery of a \$22,000 check on the Crocker-Woolworth National Bank, of San Francisco, which was cashed at the Nevada Bank. His term was reduced to four and a half years by his good conduct.

Becker has been a model prisoner and has never betrayed the wild beast that is under his calm exterior except at times when he has talked with James Cregan, his pal, who squealed. He has amused himself while in prison by drawing designs for entertainment programmes, and other ornamental work which shows plainly that his hand has lost none of its cunning.

To look at Becker one would never imagine that he was a criminal. He has a well-shaped head, a full intellectual forehead, German features, and hands that any woman might envy for the long supple fingers and the artistic nails.

All one need do is mention Cregan. Then in a moment you get a glimpse of the real man who has dominated some of the fiercest and most desperate criminals in this country, whose reputation for nerve and skill places him among the masters of criminal craft.

There was a report a few months ago that the American Bankers' Association would pension Becker liberally when he came out of San Quentin, but James R. Branch, secretary of the Association, denied this, as he said the Association depended upon its detectives to protect its members and not upon subsidizing criminals. Despite the denial several detectives here declare that Becker can command a handsome salary if he will agree not to forge any more bank paper. When a man is so expert that he can turn out bank bills better than the originals or can raise a check so that only the bank expert with powerful glasses can detect the fraud, he is worth bribing to restrain his skill.

The crime for which Becker has just paid for four and a half years in San Quentin was the raising of a check from \$12, to \$22,000. Frank S. Seaver, alias, A. H. Dean, was the crook who planned the job.

He came out here from New York in December, 1895, and with him were Becker, James Cregan, of New York, and Joe McCusker.

Dean had about \$2,500. He opened an office in this city, deposited most of his money in the Nevada Bank, drew small checks, made new deposits and in a skillful way became known to the bank officers.

Then he went to Woodland, near the State Capital, and bought a \$12 draft from the Bank of Woodland, drawn on the Crocker-Woolworth Bank of San Francisco. This draft he brought to San Francisco and it was turned over by Cregan to Becker, who in five days altered the date and raised the amount from \$12 to \$22,000.

On December 17 Dean deposited this draft at the Nevada Bank to his credit, and on the following day drew a check against it for \$22,000 and received the entire amount in cash. There was no suspicion excited by such a transaction, as Dean was supposed to be a mining man and many such men paid their hands in coin and drew much larger sums to meet the monthly pay-roll.

The forgery was only discovered at the end of the month, when the Crocker-Woolworth Bank sent its monthly account to the Woodland Bank. By that time the spoil had been divided among the four men and they had scattered.

Dean and McCusker were soon caught in Minneapolis and Becker and Cregan were arrested in San Francisco. The latter were released, as no charge could be made against them. They were prepared to go to Guatemala, when Dean, who had made a vain appeal to Becker and Cregan for more money to hire a lawyer, confessed to Captain of Detectives Lutz, of this city.

Thereupon Becker and Cregan were arrested in Newark, N. J., and were brought here for trial.

McCusker was acquitted as nothing could be proved against him. Dean turned State's evidence, and Becker and Cregan, on the first trial, were convicted of forgery and sentenced to life terms.

On the second trial the jury disagreed, and on the third Cregan "squealed" and was allowed to go free. Becker saw that the game was up and pleaded guilty, with the stipulation that he was not to get more than seven years' imprisonment. The Court kept faith with him.

Throughout his last trial he maintained the same calm as in previous trials, except on one occasion, when a newspaper artist attempted to get a sketch of him in Court. He became wild with rage when he saw the artist drawing outlines of his head, and, picking up a large inkstand, threatened to hurl it at the offender unless he stopped his work. He was quieted by his counsel, who feared the effect on the jury of this savage outburst of rage on the part of his client.

Becker is proud of his skill as a draughtsman, but it was only an accident that made him a forger. He was born in Germany and came to New York with his parents when he was 10. That was in 1857.

He developed so much skill at school with pen and pencil that he was apprenticed to an engraver. He soon developed great skill, but the criminal was in him, for he was in love with a girl and he forged a check to buy her an engagement ring.

His father was able to square this and because of his youth he escaped prison. But his sweetheart deserted him, his sister whom he loved, died and he consorted with a gang of desperate criminals. His first exploit was in 1872, when with Joe Elliott he succeeded in robbing the Third National Bank of Baltimore of \$150,000.

Becker fled to France, where he met the very girl for whom he forged a check to buy a ring. She had married a rich jeweller, but Becker induced her to elope with him and together they went to Turkey, where Becker and several others, including Joe Chapman, of London, spread forged paper in many cities and cleaned up a large sum.

They were caught and placed in prisons, but all escaped except Chapman, who was basely deserted by his pals. They had the nerve, however, to return to London and seek the hospitality of Chapman's wife. They told her a fairy story about her husband being put in a dungeon, and a few days later she was found murdered in her rooms and all her fine jewelry gone.

Becker returned to New York in 1876 and married a Brooklyn girl, who has remained true to him ever since. In 1877 he robbed the Union Trust Company, of New York, of \$94,225 by one of his famous forged checks and was caught with his pals. He saved himself by turning State's evidence. Then he went abroad and left a trail of forgeries in Italy.

He returned to New York, but was caught while forging a 1,000-franc note of the Bank of France. When one of these notes was sent to the bank it was declared to be more artistic than the original. He got six and a half years for this offence.

Becker has a genius for manipulating bank checks. With acids he erases any writing or figures and with specially prepared paper pulp he fills up perforations, ironing the paper afterwards so that often the change cannot be detected with a magnifying glass. He also was able to imitate water-marks in paper and to reproduce the most intricate lithographic designs. Becker has described in one pretty sentence how he has risen to the head of the craft as forger:

"A world of patience, a heap of time and good ink—that's the secret of my success in my profession."

What Becker will do when he leaves San Quentin prison is a problem in which all American bank presidents are very much interested. The man is so skillful that he can outwit any paying teller and he has a way of using lesser criminals as his tools which makes it difficult to reach him. That he will reform is not believed by any one who knows him.

For thirty years he has been the king of his profession and to lapse into obscurity would hurt his vanity and pride. He has saved nothing out of his recent forgeries, as his legal expenses have been very heavy, so that the need of money will probably drive him to exercise his wonderful pen.

IS IT CUPID OR HEREDITY?

Facts About Marriage Set Forth by a Genealogist.

Chicago Inter-Ocean.

"The marriages of a family are a good guide to go by in determining its characteristics," said a woman whose business it is to hunt up pedigrees. "I should warn any girl who has many old maid aunts and bachelor uncles not to dally with her first proposal if she would not be an old maid herself. Likewise, I believe that a girl's chances for remarriage, if widowed early, can be judged pretty accurately from the annals of her family in this respect."

"Just as a certain sort of eyebrow or cheek or chin formation is to be traced throughout an entire family, so the attitude of the family toward marriage seems to be handed down."

"When in the course of my work I am in doubt about the identity of a family I am guided a good deal by the character of the marriages set down. For these illustrate the dominant family traits, which govern as much in love matters as in other concerns of life."

"In some families early marriages predominate. The men invariably marry before they are 25 and the women at a correspondingly early age. Again, late marriages will be the rule with members of either sex."

"Some family trees show few second marriages and rarely a third marriage, no matter how soon the married state came to an end. Other records are replete with second and third and even fourth marriages on the part of widows and widowers."

"Often it occurs that in families of nine or more brothers and sisters only two or three have married and the descendants of those two or three displayed a similar propensity to bachelorhood and spinsterhood."

"Our family are not great on marrying," a girl, one of four single sisters, remarked to me lately regarding the family likeness she was showing all grouped together on one wall panel.

"And I could not but feel that that array of contented looking single entities among her kinspeople must exert some influence on her own matrimonial prospects."

"Some families display a marked tendency to marry their kinsfolk, or the connections or relations of their kinsfolk. Others again seem by common impulse to have gone as far from home quarters as possible in search of mates."

"In records that go back only a few generations there are instances of men who have taken three sisters successively to wife and of women marrying their brothers-in-law and cousins-in-law, or their stepfathers, the same tendency to race affiliation cropping out again and again in the line. In other families living in the same neighborhood and environment not a single instance of marriage with relations or relations-in-law occurs."

"One comes upon families in which an unmarried member of either sex is a great rarity, and families in which marriage seems to have come easily, and, as a foregone conclusion, and in which none of the widows or widowers stayed single for any length of time."

"In studying our relationships to quality old-fashioned communities one runs upon families that seemed bound to marry at cross purposes, as it were, both as to the age and standing of the mates chosen. A widower takes for a third wife his son's stepdaughter or a widow marries the son of the man whom her daughter married. Just so there are family records in which a marriage at a very advanced age or with a partner of lower rank socially never occurs."

"I think fortune tellers could add to the effectiveness of their prophecies in love matters if they could have the advantage of scanning the family annals of the applicants."

"There is no phase of genealogical research so fascinating as noting the record implied by the marriage on a family tree. But the genealogist of the future will have more complicated work in tracing out lines and traits than exists now, on account of the divorces figuring in the matter."

Mecklenburg Must Save Her Trade.

Charlotte News.

Gaston county is going to vote next month on a three hundred thousand dollar bond issue for good roads. If the people of Mecklenburg want to keep up their trade with the western part of Mecklenburg county, the way to do it is to build the roads at once to the county line.

It is Your Chance.

FOULARDS—We have a few Foulard patterns left. They are worth 75c to \$1.00, but we are closing them out. They are yours for, each . . . 50c

FANCY WAIST SILKS—A few patterns, regular price, 75c to \$1.25, now only . . . 50c to 75c

WASH SILKS—Pretty line at yard . . . 39c

WHITE LACE STRIPE WAISTINGS—Regular price 25c per yard. To close out they will go right away for only, per yard . . . 10c

SWISS EMBROIDERY—Beautiful line, popular at the regular price, 55c and 65c per yard, now closing out at only, per yd. (10 & 12 ins. wide) 50c

FANS—Very pretty, in black, white, and colors, at . . . 25c to \$1

THEY MUST GO.

Our rule and custom to carry no trimmed Hats ever gives you yet an opportunity to please yourself at a mere trifle of expense. While they last, we are offering beautiful trimmed Hats at 75c to \$1.

J. F. YEAGER.

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THE GASTONIA SAVING BANK is a financial institution established for the purpose of helping the man, woman, or child who wants to get ahead by saving. Only one dollar is required to open an account, and we pay interest on savings deposits. Isn't that better than to have your money at home, insecure and idle?

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Finest line Bed Room Suits ever shown here, \$12.50 to \$300.

Just received a large number of handsome Parlor Lamps which are going at the right price.

Big line of Extension Tables, China Closets, Sideboards, and Dining Room Chairs.

We have something special to offer you in the way of Iron Bed Steads.

See our line of Mattresses, Hall Racks, leather Morris Chairs, and Leather Conches.

Always open to our friends. Come and let us show you through our store.

WILLIAMS FURNITURE CO.

Phone 211.

Craig & Wilson Building.

Craig & Wilson's

to buy your Vehicles. We have on hand now almost any grade one may call for. Our doors are always open during the day and we are always glad to have our friends call and see us and permit us to show them our stock of goods. Our prices are always made satisfactory with our customers. We still have in our stable some fine and nice BARBERS and HENSING MACHINES that we are going to sell.

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