W. F. MARSHALL, Editor and Proprietor.

## THE GASTONIA GAZETTE.

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DEVOTED TO THE PROTECTION OF HOME AND THE INTERESTS OF THE COUNTY.

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#### A COURT THAT WAS BUSY.

Reminiscences of a Gaston County Court Fifteen or Twenty Years Ago.

J. T. BIGHAM, IN CHESTER LANTERN, FEB. 2.

tive of the dilatory practices of our courts, explaining the cause of the crowded dockets and the apparent need of more circuits, without increase of number. We did not say that even a majority of our present judges, however excellent men they may be, can apply the remedy. We doubt that we could ourself, if we had the necessary legal qualifications; we hardly think we could. It was cheering to see how business went through, and all parties seemed unusually mell-activities. But men should be elected judges who can answer the require-ments. If they could not be be necessary to supplement quality with number.

In the article referred to we

Court was coming on, and John Doe was defendant in a case which had been continued case which had been case which ha a time or two, and Major Jones was his attorney. The latter wrote Doe an urgent letter and sent him messages by neighbors to come to town at once, as he must see him on important business. The client promptly obey-ed the summons and hurried to his lawyer's office. Maj. Jones laid down his pen, turned on his chair scarcely waiting for an exchange of greetings, said, John old fellow, you'll have to get up your witnesses in that case and have them all here promptly at the opening of court.

Doe: What do you mean?

Jones: I mean that we've got to go to trial with that case at this term of court and if we don't take every advantage possible you'll be breaking rock down youder at Raleigh before a

mouth. Doe: Why, you told me I needn't bother about it; that you'd have it put off again and let it rock along till all the witnesses on the other side were

dead or in Texas. Jones: Yes, I know, but when I told you that I thought Judge Blank was to preside, but old Clark is to be the judge, and that case is going to be tried as sure as the sun rises on the first Monday in October. I know it will put you to some trouble to get ready but better that than the penitentiary. Clark is impartial and all right but he's not Just then the missing attorney the sort of a judge we need in

our business just now.

Doe had seen all his witnesses before he got home and they all answered when called in court. At the opening of court the jurors were called, and one having failed to answer, the crier was directed to call him. He started for the door, but was promptly stopped by the indge, who said firmly, "Stand within the bar and call in a tone distinct enough to be heard over the room. There will be no calling from the door or windows. These seats are for the accommodation of persons who have business with the court, and must be reserved for them as far as necessary. They must be here when called. They are here when called. here to attend to public business and not to trade or lounge around town. Every moment of our time is paid for and it is an injustice to the county that one man be allowed to detain the whole court while waiting for him to be called in from the streets. Mr. Sheriff, you will see that there is no noise or confus-

of business. The juror was called again as had been directed, and having failed to answer, the clerk was ordered to enter "judgment nisi" with a fine of \$10.

ion to interfere with the dispatch

Several spectators tip-toed out of the room, evidently for the purpose, as appeared later, of warning friends who were witnesses or otherwise connected with the court, and soon a dozen or more men entered, with the tread of a cat, and took seats.

The electrical effect of the judge's little speech was seen in the calling of witnesses. It pro-

ceeded thus;
"John Johns-" "here!" And

A few days ago we made some had answered and was chasing remarks in this column descripwas on the move. Witnesses, jurors, lawyers and all who had duties to perform seemed to vie with one another in expediting and contending that the remedy is in the hands of our judges, defendants appeared as if they the business in hand. Even the had caught the spirit and were content to compromise on get-ting even justice, some of them

well satisfied with results. We add an incident or two. Jonas Hoffman, the wealthiest found in the state, then it might man in the town and father of one of the leading lawyers, was a juror or a witness, we have forgotten which. He kept a hoexpressed a purpose to refer in tel, and having many guests at a subsequent issue to examples that time, he tarried a little too we had seen of the dispatch of long after the recess for dinner business which were complete one day. When he failed to proof of our contention. Here answer to his name, a fine of \$10 was promptly imposed, and the judge refused to modify the sen-

Col. Sandifer had the largest

practice in the county, and was

attorney for one of the parties to a snit which was on trial at the time for the noon recess on another day. It should be said that Judge Clark always required a clock to be placed in the court room, and when the time for the order of the day arrived that meant the prompt suspension of everything else, and when the time for the regular business arrived, it was resumed on the minute. On the day mentioned, Col. Saudifer was not in his place at the minute court was called to order. The judge directed that the trial proceed. His attention was called to the absence of the attorney who alone represented one of the parties. The judge said that the business of court could not be delayed by the tardiness of persons whose business it was to be there. That if those who occupied prominent positions were not required to be prompt it would not be reasonable to require the less favored to be in their places, therefore they should go on with the trial. The opposing counsel then plead with the judge, saying that this would place him in a very embarrassing position, that Col. Sandifer was in very delicate health indeed, and he was sure he would be there just as soon as he could. was seen coming and the judge. somewhat reluctantly, consented

to wait until he got to his place.
It was credibly reported of Judge Clark that on one occasion when he went to Rutherfordton, perhaps it it was to hold court, he reached the court a few minutes late, on account of a train's delay. His first act on taking his seat was to direct the clerk to enter a fine of \$50 against the presiding judge. The unanimous voice of the bar was raised in his behalf, but he promptly refused to hear any appeals in his own behalf. He said a time was set for court to open and it was the duty of every one who had business there to be on time, and above all, the presiding judge. He had taken the risk of depending on a train's schedule. That was his concern, not the county's, and he must pay the penalty as he would require others to do.

Some unfortunate persons felt that Judge Clark imposed hardships, but perhaps no judge ever gave more general satisfaction. He put through the work of two or three average judges, and it was done incomparably better. Witnesses and jurors felt that they were in an atmosphere where law was supreme, where prevarication was transparent and perjury dangerous.

It is worthy of remark that though apparently not concerned about "making a fine impression" while on the superior court bench, Judge Walter Clark is to-day chief justice of North Carolina.

The case of John Doe first above related is an imaginary case based on substantial facts. The incidents related are actual facts with real names and can be substantiated by numerous

BOUGHT ELEPHANT CHEAP. Farmer Found Beast Undesirable for Plewing.

Chicago News.

"There was nothing to it," said the senior clown. "I guess any gent that has been in the profession long enough to give any sort of standing knows what it is to gaze into the cold, un-feeling face of a Deputy Sheriff and scan the hard lines of a writ of attachment. That's what Barker did, and its what I've had to do before now. I was with him at the time.

"He had no luck to boast of at the beginning of the tour-just enough to carry us along nearer to our doom. When we'd got beyond the reach of human aid as you might say, it came on us thick and fast. We struck the warm ashes of two county fairs and a revival meeting, which seemed to go beyond the needs of the natives in point of excitement. At another town they wanted \$100 for liceuse and \$50 for the grounds. Barker com-compromised at \$15 and free tickets for the members of the village board and their families and \$5 and tickets to the owner of the grounds, but that was bad enough right then. After that Barker quit paying salaries and the next thing the advance agent telegraphed back for funds two towns ahead, and because he didn't get 'em he went off with a Hungarian hand concert company, and by the time we worked up to the little blot on creation where he had been stranded we found nothing there but his hotel bill, with bar attachments, and a lack of enthusiasm on the part of the people that was marked. Barker made the best of it, as he did of everything. He put on his plaid vest and an air of prosperity and hustled around among the influential business men, and it being publication day he got in reading notices and cuts and editorial indorsements in the two newspapers. But it wasn't no use. We hadn't finished the first performance when they came in and attached the whole show, receipts first. There wasn't a chance to hold out.

"Barker explained right there that it was a foolish proceeding and that if they allowed the performances to go on that he could satisfy all claims, but they were not open to conviction. Then Barker had a talk with a bright young lawyer there and he got the monkeys out as the individual property of Joe Simmons, and it seemed that the horses and the costumes were all owned by the performers. I found I owned two of the best in the outfit that I'd forgotten all about purchas-ing from Barker, besides my trick mule. But where Barker fell down was on the elephant, which, as he said, was almost as bad as if the elephant had fallen

on him. "That there animile,' he says. belongs to that gent there, as is a Prince in his own country and owns herds of 'em". He points to Ali Baba, the saddle-colored Hindoo that took care of the ele-

"I guess you don't own none of this show,' says the sheriff kind o' sareastic.

"Yes,' says Barker, 'I own the tent and that there stuffed lion. That ought to be enough to sat-

"If he can show the papers for it it's all right," says the sheriff. Here, you dago, does that elephant belong to you?"
"Ali Baba shook his head sort

of monrafully.

"'That settles it' says the sheriff. 'I guess we'll take the elephant."

"'It seems to me as if dey'd have beld the horses too if dey'd had any sense. Dey ought to have made Barker show the papers for dem," observed

Prenchy.' "So they ought," agreed the senior clown. "Maybe they would have, only the bright young lawyer got 'em replevined without a bond and the boys hustled them 40 miles over the state line over night. They had to leave the elephant out on account of him not being able to travel fast enough. Anyway they sold Mr. Riephant at public auction, and he was bid in by a farmer for \$40. The farmer was under the influence. I guess, when he made the bid, but as soon as he sobered up he said he calculated he'd get that much work out of him.

"Barker and me and Ali Baba went over the day after to see how he was getting along with Johnson was out in the aisle and rushing toward the bar by the time the last syllable of bis name was pronounced. Before he got there, however, another witness the fall plowing. I was mad

name. 'Unless I should happen to meet with some of the boys with the horses at Topeka,' he says with a wink, and they should be kind enough to set up in business again with a

loan of their stock.'
"'As for that little trip out to the farmer, he says, 'I'm going to get pointers on the circus I've been talking with Ali Baba and I gather there,s going to be a circus there.

"When we left town Barker was carrying his valise and Ali Baba and me both had our bundles. We looked as if we were on the tramp, sure enough. "We won't walk far," says Barker as we got near the farm. 'Listen to that!'

'It sounded like a steam calliope gone crazy. Ali Baba's face curled up into a grin.

"'lt's begun already,' says Barker. 'It's the elephant trumpeting. Walk up, ladies and gents. Admission free for this occasion. Walk np! Walk

"We broke into a run and when we got into the farmer's barnyard there was a circus, sure enough. The farmer was up in a butternut tree and his hired man was climbing another and they were both yelling at the tops of their voices. There was a wagon box on the ground or some splinters that had been a wagon hox and the elephant was standing in the middle of them singing his song of

'Stop him before he does any worse, Ali', says Baker, and the Hindoo steps up and just addresses a remark to the elephant in his native tongue and he stops trumpeting and lets his trunk hang limp and stands there flapping his ears and looking as meek as skim

milk.
"You can come down out of that tree now,' Barker sings out to the farmer.

" 'Not while he's anywhere within a mile o' me.' says the farmer. 'Can't you take him farmer. You can have him cheap.

"'I ain't buyin' elephants, says Barker, 'but I'll take him away and off your hands for a dollar to you in hand paid, re-ceipt of which you will hereby acknowledge.'

"'It's a go,' says the farmer, but take him away first.'

"So Barker told Ali to move him off a piece and old mahog-any loaded on Barker's valise and the bundles and I got on behind and we proceeded down to the road and waited. In about 10 minutes Barker comes up waving a bill of sale to that \$2,-000 elephant which he'd got for a dollar. Yes, we rode 80 miles through the country to Topeka on that elephant, the three of us. When the elephant got

hangry we'd turn bim into a cornfield and let him browse off an acre or so and we bought grub at the farms we passed for ourselves. It took us four days, but we got in all right and we were the sensation of the hourseveral of 'em.

"Barker met a man he knew and gave him a choice line of talk and the next thing they went down to the bank and two days after we gave our first performance in a bran-new tent that was bigger than the other and didn't hold half the people that wanted to come in. We stayed a week and in that week we made good and squared up everything. I tell you Barker was a genius. But he would

Of the 43 applicants for law license before the Supreme court at Raleigh a few days ago. 36 successfully stood the examinaMR. WILLIAMS ON SILVER.

Minority Leader's Views Accepted as a Good Reffex of the Party Sentiment.

New York Times.

It is quite idle, though entirely proper, for Mr. John Sharp Williams, of Mississippi, to declare that he speaks only for himself and not as the leader of the Democratic party in the House in his statements as to the silver coinage issue. A man who leads, and whose avowedly personal declarations are received with applause by the Representatives accustomed to follow him, is in fact a leader. He may avoid formal responsibility for his party by disclaiming authority to speak for it in this matter. He did not and cannot escape acceptance by his party, and no one can rob him or rob his party of credit for sagacity and patri-otism in the position he has de-

That position is that the silver issue is dead. He does not confine himself to saying thatit is a hopeless issue for his party. On the contrary, we may infer that if he thought that the interests of the country and the rights of the people would best be served by the double stan-dard he would still press for it. But he avers his belief that "God in His Wisdom has fixed for silver and gold the same law that ruled with respect to the price of cotton, or corn, or a ballet dancer or a singer, and that is the law of supply and de-mand." Under the operation of that law the issue of the unlimited coinage of silver has been "relegated to the past" as completely as the issue of secession. That is equivalent to saying that the policy of free silver is no longer one that the country will have anything to do with, and is no longer one that could possibly benefit the whole country or any considerable section of it. This is not conversion in the ordinary seuse of the term, or anything like it, but it is a process that leaves Mr. Williams as good a sound-money man as he is a loyal citizen of the United coun-

This manly and wholesome talk from the leading Democrat of the South is particularly gratifying because it indicates that one more element of sectionalism in our politics is disappearing by the operation of benefi-cent forces. During the trying period from about 1877 to 1896 the silver issue was practically a Southern issue. That section alone was to all intents united with regard to it, and this unity was largely due to the relatively unprosperous condition of the South. The so-called "debtor class" was dominant in the politics of the section and hungered for "cheap" money in which to pay their debts. To-day the South is as prosperous as any part of the country, and insists that the debts due to it be paid in money of the best. The question of money and the question of the standard of value and the maintenance of national and commercial credit are no longer sectional. They have been set-tled, and the South is as glad of it as its best men are glad that the question of secession has been settled. Mr. Williams speaks the convictious of his people in his manly and sensible utterances.

S. Hill Terry, charged with the murder of his son-in-law, George Tate Bland at Wilmington last September, committed suicide in his cell in the county jail at Wilmington Wednesday afternoon using a case knife to cut his throat. His trial was to take place at an early date.

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JAS. F. YEAGER.

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REAL HERO.

Was This Miner, Who Save His New York Tribone.

William S. Cronch, who regis-ters from Tacoma, Wash., is staying at the Grand Hotel. The subject of beroic action in the presence of disaster being under discussion in the hotel under discussion in the hotel lobby a few days ago, Mr. Cronch contributed the details of an incident that came under his observation. "It was about three years ago," said he, "that three men were engaged in sinking a shaft on a mining claim in a district north of Spokane. Two men were at the bottom of the shaft, while the third was at a windlass used to hoist the ore. The windlass man had turned the crank until the bucket, weighing, with contents, 250

weighing, with contents, 250 pounds, had come above the opening, and while he was about to swing it out to the surface the windless crank handle broke and in an instant the bucket was started downward with seeming promise of certain death to his promise of certain death to his two trustiul 'pardners' at the bottom of the shaft. But the man at the windlass threw the brake, a crude device intended to arrest the progress of the whirling shaft and unwinding rope. It snapped and broke—it had failed, and at the crucial instant when the men at the bottom of the shaft must have felt the specter of approaching death near enough to whisper their mortal sentence, the man death near enough to whisper their mortal sentence, the man at the windlass thrust his fist into the whirring cogs, that mineed it into pulp and continued their revolutions. He was willing to give his arm if the sacrifice would save his comrades, and he fed it into the heartless teeth inch by inch, sutil he had thrust his aboulder against the biting iron and stopped the windlass. The mining hoss saw the closing scene of the heroic drama, and is tones of earnest sympathy he said, as he pointed to the bleeding wreckage of an arm and a shortened shoulder

GAERTIE.

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There are 204,000 miles of railroad in the United States owned by companies having a total capitalization of more than \$12,000,000,000, p a r value, affording livelihood to \$,000,000 of persons (employees and their families) and distributing \$15,005,950 in dividends to owners and \$610,713,701 in wages.

These railroad is the United States owned by companies having a total capitalization of more than \$12,000,000,000, p a r value, affording livelihood to \$,000,000 of persons (employees and their families) and distributing \$15,005,950 in dividends to owners and \$610,713,701 in wages.

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These railroad are nomine for a supplied to a

blade: 'Jack, that's too be And then, suiting his word the self-forgetfulness of his roism in action, the miner swered: "Oh, that is all right if only I have saved the boys." He had saved them, and such is a sample of some of the men to be met now and then is the bumble walks of western life. Some have achieved less whose praises have been sounded long and load."

Who Owns the United Stat

In his article on "Who Owns the United States, in the December World's Work Screen
S. Fratt, of the Wall Street
Journal, gives the following
table showing the influence of J.
Pierpont Morgan:

One-twelfth of the estimated wealth of the United Status is represented at the meeting of the Board of Directors of the United States Steel Corporation when all the directors are present. They also represent two hundred other companies operating one-half of the railroad mileage in the country and control corporations whose aggregate capitalization is \$8.000,000,000. Total ....

O00,000,000.

There are 204,000 miles of railroad in the United States owned by companies having a total capitalization of more than \$12,000,000,000, par value, affording livelihood to \$,000,000 of persons (employees and their families) and distributing \$15,005,350 in dividends to owner and \$610,713,700