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THE GASTONIA GAZETTE.

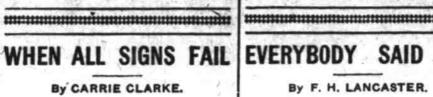
Useful and Beautiful Presents



Keeping abreast of the times with our finger on the pulse of the trading public, we see that the people are more and more demanding articles of real merit and usefulness, as gifts for friends and loved ones.

Heeding this demand, our entire Christmas and Holiday gift goods offering will constist of articles combining both usefulness and beauty.

Our stock is too varied and extensive to list here, but our word for it, you will be amply repaid for a visit to our splendid displpay of appropiate gift goods, consisting in part of:



Helene Ramsey was extremely superstitious, and had every omen of good or bad luck sytematically catalogued in the pigeonholes of her memory, and her days were spent trying to offset any calamity predestined by the ill omen. Strung about her neck were several Egyptian amulets of good fortune: a four-leafed clover reposed in the left shoe; a rabbit's paw occupied the inside pocket of her jacket; on her right hand was worn a moonstone ring; the god Billiken grinned his approval of her devout worship at the shrine of luck from his throne on her dressing table.

Helene was a fair vision as she stood before the oval mirror drawing a comb through her wavy bronze hair. She was dressing to receive Billy Paxton, who came twice a week to "bring a box of candy and pay his respects to mother," as Helene would tell you should you display curiosity enough to ask her.

The last hairpin was finally placed in position, and Helene raised the comb to arrange a few refractory tresses, when it fell from her hand to the floor. "A disappointment," she said almost tearfully, and, going to the door, called: "Betty! Betty, come here, I want you!'

"Her younger sister appeared. "Please, dear pick up that comb for me."

Betty did as she was bid, grumbling the while. "You and your old superstitions! I thought by your tragic voice something dreadful had happened, or I never would have come." Then she left the room with this parting shot of sarcasm: "Be careful tonight, Helene, dear, for it is new moon, Look at it over your right shoulder-or is it the left? It keeps one busy to remember correctly all the unfailing signs. I'll not see you any more this evening, so pleasant dreams. I am going to read."

Helene donned her frock and looked critically at her reflection, and knew that she was looking better than usual. Blue always was becoming, and Billy admired this more than any of her other gowns. Helene wondered if he cared very deeply for her. It would be such a satisfaction to know, for during the three years of their friendship Billy had never once become sentimental enough to declare his devotion, but week after week maintained that comfortable, intimate, heart-stony affection which is very gratifying, but which no girl of normal discrimination could mistake for love. Helene had reached a stage where Billy puzzled her, and she wanted to know what thoughts, concerning herself, lurked behind his gray eyes and placid countenance. In the midst of these reflections the doorbell rang, and she de scended as the maid ushered Billy Paxton to the drawing room. Helene found him ensconced in his customery armchair, but he arose to greet her as she entered. After the usual pleasantries had been exchanged, he said: "Do you mind going for a walk, Helene? The night is glorious as only a June, rose-scented night can be. I want you to come unprotestingly to wherever I care to lead you. Do you consent?"

SO By F. H. LANCASTER.

GASTONIA IS A BUSY TOWN.

"Without a wrinkle." That is what the teacher said about her school when she wrote to the superintendent. "Everything smooth as a summer sea. Sans pli." She was rather proud of the French she had picked

It was this way, mon ami. Somebody had been cutting logs off the public land. Old man Nadjarow said it was Esed Spiridion, and everybody said old man Nadjarow ought to know. Didn't he live right next to that piece of land?

It was Esed Spiridion who had cut the logs off the public land. Everybody said so, everybody but the 12 little Spiridions that came stepping lightly to school over the pine straw. Rain or shine, never late, never noisy, Brown by the sun, healthy with hard work, lean from light feeding.

"Troncon." Everybody boy in the school had been fought for that. It was worth just one bloody nose to say "stump" to one of the little Spiridions.

But Lucie Spiridion did not fight. She was not even disdainful-save toward Luc Nadjarow, who sat next to her in class-she was always head -and who worshiped her utterly from the sole of her slim bare foot to the topmost of her tossing curls. Small joy did he get of his love affair.

Ha, the poor Luc! He wanted to knock down every boy in the school, to slap the face of every girl-save Lucie. He wanted to tell Lucie that he loved her. And all he did was to lose his pencil. And little Esed found it!

Luc's little brother arose in his seat at the sight of that long, red pencil

Miss Nell, Esed stole my brother's pencil," he cried.

Little Esed jumped up. He could not speak English. He pointed helplessly at the road. "Je trouve," he whimpered.

Luc spoke up promptly. "That's all right, Miss Nell, I give it to him."

"May I speak?" asked Lucie, and barely waiting the teacher's consent, she was across the room and had robbed little Esed of his beautiful find. And Luc's pencil was on his desk again.

Luc stood up hotly. "May I speak?" he demanded, and before all the school he said to little Esed: "That's yours. Keep it."

The little fellow looked at his sister, his lip quivering with the bitter pain of renunciation, but he returned so haughtily as a baby may: "Je n'en ai pas besoin." And Luc went back to his seat with his pencil. Ha, slapped in the face by a baby-before the whole school. It made him mad. He headed Lucie off on the home. "What for you didn't let Esed take



Every life has its December. Every man is looking forward to a comfortable old age; for when the STOLMS OF ADVERSITY come, we wish to feel that we are in, out of trothle. Old are must come, and old age with adversity is a very DISMAL PROSPECT for anyone. If you want to be comfortably cared for when you grow old, begin caring for yourself now. Start a bank account with us NOW.

Do YOUR han ing with US.

Citizens National Bank

ANDREW E. MOORE, Pres. A. G. MYERS (Active) Vice-Pres. W. H. ADAMS, Cashier.

Depositary

United States State of North Carolina. Gaston County. City of Gastonia.

5 PERCENT INTEREST PAID ON CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT.

MARRIAGE LICENSES.

Colored.

During the first fifteen days of December Register of Deeds, A. J. mith issued manylage license no wenty couples, fifteen white and five olored.

Following is a list of the white ouples:

Claude Braswell and Sudie Bumardner, of Gastonia.

Burton Clark, of Bessemer City, and Della Howey, of Crouse. Robert S. Dixon and Eunice

leatty, of Belmont. L. C. Dellinger and Sudiè Han-

ell, of Lowell.

Mason Glover, of Yorkville, and lara McGinnas, of Gastonia. Jerry Harris and Iva Byers, of

astenia.

K. J. Ledford and Emily Poteat, f Kings Mountain.

Paul P. Murphy and Virginia H. oblason, of Lovell. Morgan and Bright, of Lowell. Gilbert, of Mountain Island. M. L. Ramsey and Lessie Eisk, of Jastonia. J. J. Riddle and Etta Clark, of Kings Mountain. O. C. Rayheld and Davie Robinson, of Crouse.

my mind. Give to my vision that I may grasp a life purpose, and that Iwenty Issued During First Half of my life may be dedicated to worthy December-Fifteen White, Five achievement. Save me from being a spendthrift of time, of strength, or reckless of opportunity. Let me take now into my life a true estimate of spiritual and eternal values. Make me an inspiration, a wholesome influence, a power for good and not for evil. May 1 so live that I should not be ashamed to have a mother's or a sweetheart's eye look into my soul.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1913.

O Lord, for the days as they pass thank Thee and for the promise of the days that are to come I also give Thee thanks. For a chance to work at the world's tasks, for the sheer joy of living, for fellowship in labor and in pleasure, for opportunity, gratitude fills my heart. "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

МАУ АТТАСК ТАМРЮО.

Rebet Forces Crowding Close to Tampico and a Formal Attack is Expected.

Toilet and Maincure Sets, Smoker Sets, Shaving Sets, Collar and Cuff Sets, Dolls, Water Sets, Cake Plates, Berry Sets, Fancy China Cups and Saucers, Holiday Neckwear, Suspenders, Hankerchiefs, Silk Hosiery, Handbags and hundreds of other articles combining beauty, usefulness and intrinsic worth.

Morris Bros.

Department Store

ON COTTON GOODS.

Mr. Ralph Odell Will Speak at Greater Charlotte Club 29th. Charlotte Observer.

To enable American cotton manufacturers to obtain at first-hand information regarding the market for their goods in foreign countries, the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, has arranged that Mr. Ralph M. Odell, one of its commercial agents, shall visit the principal cities of the country in order to meet the manufacturers, discuss with them the special features of the markets and methods for obtaining a larger share of the trade.

Mr. Odell has just returned from a second trip abroad. On his first goods trade and industry in Spain, Portugal, Italy, Russia. the Balkan States, and parts of Turkey. His second journey took him to Egypt. the Red Sea markets (Arabia, Eritrea, Somaliland, the Sudan, and Abysinnia), British East Africa, Uganda, German East Africa, Portuguese East Africa and the Union of South Africa.

In each of these countries Mr Odell made a careful study of the market requirements, the competition among foreign countries for the trade, and the best methods of furthering the interests of American solton manufacturers. A particular-ly valuable feature of his work was

the collection of samples of cotton goods. Where found practicable, Mr. Odell will exhibit a number of the samples in the cities that he will visit.

Mr. Odell will be in Charlotte December 29, at the Greater Charlotte Club.

The State of Matrimony. Gaffney (S. C.) Ledger.

Where is the state of matrimony? It is in the United States. It is bounded by hugging and kissing on one side and babies and cradles on the other. Its products are populahe has visited, and suggest means tion, broomsticks, and staying out at nights. It was discovered by Adam and Eve while trying to find a northwest passage out of Paradise. The climate is rather sultry until you trip he made a study of the cotton , pass the tropics of housekeeping, when squally weather sets in with sufficient power to keep all hands cool as cucumbers. For the princtpal roads leading to this interesting state, consult the first pair of blue eyes you run against.

-The Christmas exercises Main Street Methodist church will be conducted tonight, beginning at 7 o'clock. There will be a program of songs and recitations, followed by the distribution of a Christmas treat to all the pupils of the Sunday school -The central office of the Piedmont Telephone Company will be closed on Christmas day from 11 a. m. to 3 p. m.

"Is this to be an adventure that you speak so gravely, sir knight? If so, I trust myself entirely to your protection and we will start immediately." And they suited the words to action.

When she reached the open Helene scanned the heavens for the moon, and saw it over the wrong shoulder; then a black cat ran across the path and an owl hooted mournfully in the sycamore tree. A queer creepy sensation danced up and down Helene's spinal vertebrae, and she felt her pocket to see whether the rabbit's foot was there. but it was not. Crossing the park they started the peacocks that had roosted for the night, and these disagreeable fowls rent the peaceful air with their demoniac shricks.

Helene clutched Billy's arm in frantic terror. "Let us return; I am really frightened."

"Nonsense," said the phlegmatic Billy, "you are coming with me."

On he led her, never pausing until they reached the hedge surrounding a pretty house. 'Then Billy spoke again. "This is the parsonage, Helene, and I have arranged for the minister to marry us tonight. For a long time I have loved you, but hesitated to tell you because I knew that you would never select a wedding day until all the signs pointed to luck, and that would mean months of waiting, for this is 1913-your objection number one."

"But I don't want to marry you," gasped Helene. "I am afraid."

"O, yes you do, and you must get over your fear. Give me your hand, Helene!"

She tremblingly obeyed, and over the third finger of her left hand he slipped a ring. Helene shuddered as she saw the opal surrounded with diamonds, but somehow the glittering band silenced her misgivings and a strange joy crept into her heart.

They mounted the steps to the veranda and Helene saw the number above the door-it was 1313.

Then Billy clasped her in his arms and kissed her lips and eyes. "Be brave now, dearest, I took this way because I love you and want to prove how foolish your superstitions are Ours will be a happy marriage, for mean to make it so."

Helene touched the bell ingly said, "This is the ti signs fail."

The door opened and within. It was Friday, C. that pencil?" he demanded, overtaking her. "Esed say he didn't want it," she

replied, without looking at him. "'Tain't me say your papa cut those

logs. "No?"

The blood ran up to the boy's hair at the slur in her voice. "I know, me, he ain't cut them."

"That's what I know," she cut in, coldly.

"If I prove your pap didn't cut those logs, you going let Esed keep that pencil he find?"

The girl's tone changed wonderfully. "May be I let him keep that pencilyou give him," she said, softly. Ha! But it would seem that all

the sweetness of that changed tone was lost on Luc. He said, stolidly. "You going be at the horse race Sunday? I prove it then."

"Begin." "I want you to take this now. Maybe I won't see Esed next Sunday.' She took it-the red pencil, looked at him wistfully, and started up the hill

Sunday! A long, straight track through the forest, and a crowd of happy people hurrying to the start or to the finish. Everybody had been to mass. Now for the horse race. Bien! Luc rode his own bay mare, a slim-necked little beauty, full of fire and long of wind. It was her first race. Dice rode the white horse, and the white had already been three times a winner.

There was a wild leap of excitement, a streak of red, and a cheer that shook the pines. Ha! and Lucie made herself look.

Dice was dismounting slowly from the beaten white horse, and Luc, hard and white at this proudest moment of his life, was pushing his winner a little closer to the cheering crowd.

"I want to tell you all something." he said, harshly, and there was silence, even among the lucky betters. "You all been saying it's M. Spiridion cut those logs. Des ain't so. It me cut those logs.

Luc laughed-bitterly: "Mey - Lucie would les little Esed keep that pencil

> was a caution half mad with ... his saddle at th) back to her what made yo Il them that

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Giles M. Shives and Bertha L. Carter, of Mount Holly.

H. Grady Williams and Neva Brittain, of McAdenville. Five colored couples purchased

marriage license.

Crop Estimate.

Washington, Dec. 12 .- The Amercan cotton crop for the season of 913-14 will amount to 13,667,000 bales of 500 pounds (not including inters), according to the first estimate made by the Government this year through the crop reporting board, Bureau of Statistics, Department of Agriculture, and announcec this afternoon. This compares with 13,703,421 bales of 500 pounds, exclusive of linters, preduced last year, when the total crop inclusive of linters was i4,313,000 bales of 500 pounds; 15.692,701 bales in 1911. which, including linters, amounted to 16,250,270 bales; 15,608,616 bales in 1911, which including linters. amounted to 16,250,276 pairs; 11.608.616 bales in 1910, which, in cluding linters, amounted to 12,005,-688 bales, 10,004,949 bales in 1909, which, including linters, amounted to 10,315,382 bales; 13,241,709 bales in 1308, which, including linters, amounted to 13,587,306 bates. and 11,107,179 bales in 1907, which, including linters amounted to 11.-375,461 bales. The average of the crops 1907 11 was 12,331,047 bales. exclusive of linters.

Taking Their Medicine.

Durham Sun.

"i am willing to take my medicine," Lays a "good fellow." wno went by the ways of vice, to crime. But he isn't.

Never believe, boys and young men, when the primrose path invites you, that you will be willing to take your medicine if you follow the path and it leads to destruction. You won't.

The cold gray dawn of the morning 'after your first spree will give you no taste of the horror of the cold, gray walls of the penitentiary. Take your medicine before you enter the primicase path. Then you won't enter it at all. Take your medicine of self-denial. Stick to your job. Learn to say "no."

Those are "prunes," you may say. All right-they are. But prunes are wholesome. And in this day of new freedom and new notions we need something more of the old diet for characte- building.

A Young Man's Prayer.

A. B. Storms. O God. I thank Thee for my youth, for the un-spent strength, the unconquered and unconquerable hope of a young man's heart. Help me to keep unsullied my hands, my heart, throwing out huge boulders.

An Associated Press dispatch Lemuel Nesimore and Louanna from Mexico City dated Sunday says that the rebel forces are crowding

close on Tampico and a formal attack soon may be expected. The report last night received by the Government that the assault had been begun was not questioned as it was assumed at the Palace that this was the rebel plan, but it has developed that the officer who made the report had become confused over a minor engagement at a point some miles from Tampico.

The war office has utilized the time since the last attack to strength en the garrison at Tampico, and professes confidence in its ability to resist the rebels. Forces under Gen. Panfilo Natera slowly are advancing on Zacatecas, capital of the State of Zacatecas and between Saltillo and San Luis Potosi, along the main line of the National Railway, rebels again have appeared in large numbers.

Two minor engagements have occurred between Tampico and Altamira, 23 miles to the north and the Federals, according to the war office, were victorious in both.

The Government and bankers have not been able to agree on the solution of the currency question. The committee of bankers who have been attempting to devise a plan met again today with the Subsecretary of Finance, but their suggestions were not accepted, chiefly because the bankers would not listen to the proposal that the guarantee fund should be deposited in the National Treasury. They insisted that it should be deposited in the National Bank.

Government officials express pleasure at the success of the negotiations for a loan in Europe. but the conservative and the unofficial elements profess to see in it little that will assist President Huerta in operating the Government for any great length of time, since this loan is to meet interest payments on the bonds.

President Wilson leaves Washington to-day for Pass Christian, Miss., on the Gulf Coast, where he will spend a three-weeks vacation in near-seclusion. During his vacation it is expected that he will select the men whom he will appoint on the Federal Reserve Board created by the new currency bill.

Subscribe to The Gazette.

An Associated Press dispatch from Sidney, New South Wales, un-der date of the 21st says that. Incoming steamers bring terrible details of the recent volanic eruptions on the island of Ambrim, in the new Hebrides group, in which 500 natives lost their lives. Witnesses of the disturbance describe it as having been so sudden and violent that they expected to see the whole western side of the island disappear. With a terrific roar, which was followed with a rapid succession of artillery-like detonations, all the craters of the volcano entered into full activity, spouting fames and lava, and

Riding away in his great loneliness,

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tears. "It