# THE TIMES-VISITOR

No. 9,059. RALEIGH, N. C., TUESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 2, 1900. 25 Cents a Month.

### LEADS TO SUICIDE

**The Concession of Rapid Fire Guns Produce Acute Melancholia Leading to Insanity.**

Hartford, Conn., Jan. 2.—William Graves, a gunner on the cruiser Brooklyn during the American-Spanish war, has killed himself by taking strychnine. He worked in Colts Arms Factory after his enlistment expired.

Dr. Root and Dr. Stern said, when they learned that Graves had been an enlisted gunner, that they were not surprised that he suicided. These physicians said that it had been demonstrated by scientific teachers that certain temperamental defects among naval gunners were always certain to be intensified by their work. The concussion of the rapid fire guns act in superinducing acute melancholia, which leads to suicide. They say that many such cases of suicide have lately been observed.

### COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

A Committee Appointed to Confer With The City of Raleigh.

The Board of County Commissioners met again today. The session throughout the morning was devoted entirely to approving accounts and transacting routine business, except in one instance. Upon motion the board appointed a committee composed of County Attorney Armistead Jones and Chairman Julius Lewis to confer with the city of Raleigh with reference to the care of small pox patients if the disease should appear here. Thus far there has been no small pox in Wake county since last spring.

### RECEIVED BY SPANISH ARCH-BISHOP.

Manila, Jan. 2.—Arch-Bishop Chapelle, papal delegate to the Philippines, and Father McKinnon, late chaplain of the First California regiment, but now chaplain in the regular army, arrived here today. The Spanish Arch-Bishop of Manila entertained them at a luncheon.

### PARTNERSHIP DISSOLVED

Mr. Ralph Barnes With Capital Printing Co., Mr. King Goes to Wilmington.

Mr. Ralph Barnes and Mr. T. La Fayette King, who have been in partnership in a job printing establishment, have dissolved partnership and Mr. Barnes is now in charge of a department with the Capital Printing Company. Mr. King will leave tomorrow for Wilmington, where he will open a job printing establishment. Mr. King is an excellent young man and his departure from Raleigh is to be regretted.

### SUCCESSFUL KEY HOLDERS.

The following persons unlocked the money box yesterday at Messrs. Sherwood Higgs and Company's store, and each received five silver dollars as a gift:

Mr. C. H. Younger, 511 W. East street.

Mrs. J. E. Blaison, Shotwell, Wake county, N. C.

Catharine Jones, colored, E. Morgan street.

J. E. Hinnant, North Harrington street.

T. L. Gardner, New Hill, N. C.

There are a few outstanding keys which will unlock the box and all holders of keys are requested to bring them in and try their keys any day during this month.

### A POPULAR FLOUR.

The North State flour is growing more popular every day with the house-wives of Raleigh.

It is one of the best and sweetest flours on the market, and is made in this city by the Farina Roller Mills Company. To show its superiority, cakes, rolls and bread made from it, took the first premiums at the State Fair.

All those who have tried the "North State" flour join in testifying to its richness and sweetness. If you have not tried it ask your grocer to send you a sack. You will be thoroughly pleased with it.

The Farina Mills is a Raleigh enterprise, and it is a pleasure to note its great success.

### CROKER'S LEG BROKEN.

Wantage, Jan. 2.—Richard Croker is getting along as well as can be expected. He has a broken leg.

### THE SALVATION OF JIM.

A prisoner received this cheering intelligence from a friend on the outside recently:

"Jim—Your case won't come up fer a good while yit. I am happy to inform you that a hoss run away with the judge an' broke his two legs. Besides that, the doctor say Complication may set in. Now, Jim, ef Complication comes on time, as expected, you kin throw up your hat an' hooray in jail all winter. Providence is on yer side, Jim!"—Constitution.

Sadly the old year draws towards its close;
We scant the record of the days now past
To seek encouragement—but, ah! who knows?
The year that comes to us may be our last.

The joys and sorrows as the year glide by
So interwoven are, we would not stay
The solemn march of Time, nor will we try
To build od plan for future weal, but pray

That To who marks the sparrow's fall will still
Our footseps guide through all life's troubled way,
Guarding and blessing year by year, until
We reach the gate that leads to endless day.

—G. C. W.

## WITH INTENT TO KILL

**Agnes Utley to Answer in Superior Court**

**ATTEMPT TO GIVE POISON**

**Family of Mr. R. C. Batchelor Brought Charges—Small Number of Matches Found in Coffee Pot by Judge Roberts.**

This afternoon at one o'clock Agnes Utley, colored, was arraigned before Justice H. H. Roberts to answer to the charge of administering poison with intent to kill Mr. R. C. Batchelor, his wife, Mrs. Sarah Batchelor, his daughter, Minnie Batchelor and Harry Wait, an employe of Mr. Batchelor's, at his home on South Blount street on the evening of Sunday, December 31st, and for this she must answer again in the Superior Court next week.

Mr. J. C. L. Harris appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Moses Bledsoe for the defendant. Only witnesses for the prosecution were heard, the defense and prosecution both being willing to rest the case with the court.

R. C. Batchelor, who runs a saloon on East Martin street, was sworn, and testified that Agnes Utley had been employed as cook at his home; that she had made no complaints until Sunday morning when she was told to build a coal fire. At that time she stated that she had never built a coal fire and knew not how to do such work, and was not employed for that duty, whereupon she was informed that she could stop work when she chose. The girl, he said, continued work until after breakfast, when she was dismissed by his wife. Mr. Batchelor testified that, after breakfast, Agnes Utley cleaned the coffee pot and otherwise arranged the kitchen furniture and utensils in proper order before her departure. Isaac Bell colored, who lives on the premises, made the coffee Sunday night and that when it was brought on the table matches were found floating on the liquid. As soon as the discovery was made he swore out warrants before Justice Roberts for the arrest of the girl.

Deputy Constable Olmstead testified that he arrested the girl at church and that before the warrant had been read to her or the charge against her stated, she said, "I didn't make the coffee tonight. Isaac Bell made it."

This evidence of Mr. Olmstead was probably the most damaging offered by the prosecution, and effected the decision of the court to bind over the prisoner.

Isaac Bell testified that the coffee pot was clean when he found it; that he ground coffee and placed it in the pot; that he poured boiling water in, but did not see matches.

It was agreed that the coffee should be poured from the pot by the court, and about a quart of liquid and two pounds of ground coffee were taken therefrom. Twenty-one matches and the pasteboard box thoroughly soaked with liquid coffee were found between layers of coffee grounds.

The match box bore the printed advertisement of "The Diamond Match Company, of Baltimore." It was not shown in court what amount of phosphorus exists in twenty-one matches or in a box of matches made by the Diamond Match Company, or what the effect of drinking a cup of coffee with its proportion of phosphorus from this pot would be. An analysis of the contents of the pot will be made by expert chemists.

Justice Roberts, after hearing the evidence, and a few words from Lawyer Bledsoe, bound the Utley woman over to court on a bond of $100, in default of which she was sent to jail.

### FEDERAL COURT

The Federal Court met again this morning after the Christmas recess, Judge Thomas R. Purnell presiding. The trial of the negro postmaster Hargett was to begin today, but was deferred until tomorrow. Only one minor case came up today and that was nol prossed by the government.

The trial of the attorney from Wilmington, Mr. A. J. Marshall, for counterfeiting, will begin January 4th. It will be a hotly contested case.

### LEO NAMES HIS SUCCESSOR.

Cardinal Gotti is Stated to Have Been So Designated.

Rome, Dec. 31.—It is asserted that the Pope, after the recent ceremony of opening the Holy Door at St. Peter's Cathedral, addressed his intimate entourage and said:

"I thank Divine Providence for granting me the grace of being able to celebrate this great function, and I wish for my successor grandeur and a long reign, to the greater glory of God.

"My star will be young, as compared with my own age, and will have time to see many glories of the papacy and the church."

Later Leo clearly designated Cardinal Girolamo Maria Gotti, prefect of the congregation of indulgencies and secret relics as his successor.

Cardinal Gott, the famous Genese monk, is a man of great piety and modesty. Now about sixty-four years of age, he has always lived the life of an ascetic; and, despite the dignity of a Prince of the church, he always sleeps in a cell and on a hard mattress.

### BOSTON COMPANY REFUSED.

Halifax, Jan. 2.—B. W. C. Morrison, of Boston, who offered to the Boers the company that was raised in Boston to fight in South Africa, was informed by the recruiting officer of the Boers that he could not accept the company, as it would be a violation of the laws of neutrality.

### STREET GOSSIP

**Comments Gleaned from Chats by the Wayside.**

Mr. William Allen has returned from a visit to Wadesboro.

Mr. A. W. Haywood has returned from Haw River.

Assistant District Attorney O. J. Spears is in the city.

Mr. Henry DeRoy left yesterday for Savannah, Ga.

Miss Margaret Moring returned to Laurinburg last evening.

The Ministering Circle met this afternoon with its President, Mrs. McAden, on North Blount street.

During the month of December there were 169 arrests made by the Police Department.

Mr. Jim Royster returned today to his duties at Wake Forest College.

Miss Pritchett left today for Monroe on a visit.

Mr. Fred Mahler left this afternoon on a business trip.

Mr. Fink Ray is back from a big hunt.

Collector F. C. Duncan returned this evening.

Mr. McDuffy, a prominent Populist of Cumberland county, arrived today.

Olla Podira Club met this afternoon at 4 o'clock at Mrs. J. R. Chamberlain's.

Capt. W. H. Hood, who has been confined to his home by sickness for two weeks, is able to be out again.

Mr. Fred Lamb and Mr. Grimes Haywood have returned from Elizabeth City, where Mr. Haywood spent the holidays with Mr. Lamb.

Miss Birdie Dunn went to Swepsonville this afternoon to nurse Mrs. E. M. Cooke and child, both ill with pneumonia.

Miss Conyers Pritchett, of Atlanta, who has been in Raleigh spending the holidays with her brother, Prof. C. M. Pritchett, of the A. and M. College, returned home this afternoon.

C. L. Loop, of Memphis, General Traffic Manager of the Southern Express Company, arrived this afternoon to appear before the Corporation Commission on business connected with his company.

Phillip Busbee, Will Battle, and John Hinsdale left this afternoon for Chapel Hill to resume their work at the University.

Miss Helen Kirby left this morning for Goldsboro, where she is attending school.

Miss Helen Primrose left this morning for Clayton to attend a dance there tonight. She will be the guest of Mrs. Charles Horne.

Mr. George Syme, who has been engineering in Ohio and Indiana, returned home today to spend several months.

Mr. Fred Leady, of Winston, who has been a student at the A. and M. College, is in Raleigh. He will attend the University this spring.

Mr. George Nottingham, who has been living in Portsmouth, has returned to Raleigh and is again to be found at his old stand at McGee's drug store.

Miss Minnie L. Reid, who has been the guest of Miss Ella McGee, returned to her home in Greensboro this afternoon.

Mr. C. H. King, of the Oettinger Soap Company, of New York, has gone to Goldsboro after spending the holidays here with Mr. H. E. King.

Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Carter have returned from a visit to friends at Haw River and Greensboro, and after a brief visit to Mr. and Mrs. F. O. Moring, will leave Raleigh.

Mrs. John W. Brown went to Goldsboro today, where she will attend the marriage of Miss Belle Atkinson and Mr. Carl E. Stanley, which will be solemnized in that place tomorrow evening.

Miss Edna Earle Walters entertained her little girl friends from four to six o'clock at a New Year's afternoon tea. Chocolate was served and other refreshments.

Capt. and Mrs. W. R. Kendrick report that Mr. Hugh Kendrick continues to improve. Capt. Kendrick says that they appreciate the numerous kind letters received, but as yet it has been impossible to answer them.

Mr. C. T. Bailey, postmaster of Raleigh, has gone to Greensboro to attend a meeting of the State Republican executive committee this evening. This meeting is for the purpose of naming a time and place for the next State Republican convention. It is said that the convention will probably be called for the last of April or first of May.

Mr. Edward Teasley is busy receiving congratulations of his many friends in Raleigh and even from other cities. For fifty years, it is said, Mr. Teasley has been confidently predicting that he would pass from this world on the first day of the year nineteen hundred. However, he has passed the danger point, and The Times-Visitor joins in congratulating Mr. Teasley. A telegram was received by Mr. John W. Brown this morning from Charlotte inquiring how Mr. Teasley had spent the fateful day.

The Capital Club gives its New Year's German this evening in the Club building, corner Martin and Salisbury streets. The german will be led by Mr. R. W. Baker and will be attended by a large number of visiting young women.

The New Year's receptions last night were taken advantage of by all the beaux of Raleigh. Those receiving at the various homes were mentioned in yesterday's Times-Visitor. The revival of the custom of New Year's calling has given a new stimulus to social life here, and is cordially welcomed, generally.

### CENTRAL CHURCH PARSONAGE

**Being Occupied Today by Rev. and Mrs. G. T. Adams**

Rev. G. T. Adams, pastor of the Central Methodist Church of this city, and wife are today moving into the new manse, near the church.

Rev. Mr. Adams is the successor to Rev. E. C. Glenn, who has left the Conference temporarily that he may pursue advanced studies which, he hopes, will better fit him for his work in the pulpit and congregation. Mr. Adams is a young man of force, and is equally gifted as pastor and preacher. His wife is a charming woman, and has been a great factor in making the pastor so popular at his former charge.

Mr. Adams is a graduate of Vanderbilt University, where he was one of the most popular students in his class. He graduated high up in the list of honor men, and has, since his entrance into the ministry of the Methodist church, reflected great credit upon his alma mater.

His last charge was at Fairfield, Hyde county, where he was universally loved by not only his own congregation, but by neighbors of all denominations. The congregation of the Central Methodist church is gratified that the Bishop should have chosen for them one so fitted for the work to be done in this church and Raleigh.

### MANSION BURNED

**Place Where Henry Longfellow Spent Many Summers Destroyed.**

Portland, Maine, Jan. 2. The Longfellow Mansion, built by Alexander Longfellow, a brother of the poet, in which the latter passed many summers, was burned this morning. The loss was four thousand, but the place was fully insured.

### MARRIAGE TOMORROW.

Tomorrow at half past ten o'clock at the residence of Mr. Joseph Gulley, father of the bride-elect, South Blount street, the marriage of Miss Josephine Bell Gulley to Mr. O. B. Harris will be solemnized. Both are popular young people of this city.

### THE GOLDSBOROUGH'S TRIAL.

Portland, O., Jan. 2.—The torpedo boat Goldsborough had its second trial trip from the Wolff and Sewicks Iron Works yesterday. The machinery worked perfectly, and during the eight minute run at a rate of thirty-two miles an hour against a two-mile current.

### KILLED BY DYNAMITE

Winnipeg, Jan. 2. While thawing dynamite at Sultana Mine Rat Portage Ole Olson, and Charles Thursedstrom miners were killed by the explosion. Great damage was done to the shaft house.

Chicago, Jan. 2. At nine o'clock this morning a fifteen foot wall of earth separating from Chicago the drainage canal, small portion which removed last night, completely cut away steam dredges and water turned into the immense new canal.

### THE WISCONSIN' STRIAL TRIP.

San Francisco, Jan. 2.—Work has so advanced on the battleship Wisconsin as to make it possible to have her trial trip within two weeks. She is expected to exceed the speed required by the Navy Department.

### CHICAGO'S ICE HARVEST.

Chicago, Jan. 2. The ice harvest began today. Twelve inches being taken from the lakes and the rivers of Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin in the vicinity of Chicago. Seven thousand men are employed in the work of cutting and removing the ice.

### BIRDSONG-NIEMYER.

The Times-Visitor is in receipt of the following invitation:

Mr. and Mrs. James C. Niemyer
request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of their daughter,
Annie Earle,
to
Mr. Edwin Grey Birdsong,
on Wednesday morning, January 17th,
at half past ten o'clock,
First Presbyterian Church,
Raleigh, North Carolina.

Mr. Birdsong is a popular and successful young man, being a member of the Bobbitt-Wynne Drug Company.

Miss Niemyer is one of Raleigh's most attractive young ladies.

### ROAD WORK.

Three Excellent Roads in The Last Twelve Months.

During the past twelve months County Road Supervisor McMackin has added three more thoroughfares to the number of macadamized roads in the county. They are Hillsboro, Holly Springs and the Asylum roads. This is an excellent showing, three more thoroughly macadamized roads, seven miles each, into the city in a year.

Berlin, Jan. 2.—The German second class cruiser Schwalbe has lef Dar Es Sa Laam, a seaport of Africa, twenty-five miles south of Zanzibar, for Lorenzo Marquez.

Your shoes repaired in first class style at the Harding Shoe Store. Telephone and they will be sent for.

Drop into the Harding Shoe Store and tell them to get your shoes and repair them. Work first class.

For fresh sausage go to C. O. Ball's stall in the market.

This bad weather reminds you to send your shoes to the Harding Shoe Store to be repaired.

C. O. Ball has just opened a meat stall in the market.

## BULLER'S STRENGTH

**Heavy Reinforcements Sent Him at Estcourt**

**GERMANY SENDS A FRIENDLY CRUISER**

**The Schwalbe Leaves to be Near the Transvaal—Every Native Chief of India Offers Services to England in South Africa.**

London, Jan. 2. General French reports the casualties to his British force in taking Colesburg as three killed and several wounded. He says that Sunday morning, after a night's march, he occupied Kopje, overlooking west Colesburg. The enemy's outposts were completely surprised. The British shelled the Boers at Laager. The enemy [illegible] the Boers at Laager, the enemy replying vigorously, but the latter being silenced, retired northward, where he occupies the hill. Our position cuts off the enemy's line of retreat via road bridge. A force of a thousand Boers with two guns are reported returning to Norvals, a point on Orange river.

### COL. PILCHER'S VICTORY.

Cape Town, Jan. 2.—Col. Pilcher has completely defeated the Boer commando at Sunnyside near Belmont. He captured Laager after the Boers had suffered heavy losses. Col. Pilcher took forty prisoners. The British loss was [illegible] Australians killed and [illegible] wounded.

### BULLER REINFORCED.

Camp Chieveley, Jan. 2. Strong reinforcements have arrived at Estcourt and Mooi river. These will give General Buller a powerful army.

### INDIANS OFFER.

Calcutta, Jan. 2. Every native chief has offered himself to the English authorities for use in South Africa. Maharajah Patiala will send [illegible] chargers to Lord Roberts.

### CHIEF SURGEON.

London, Jan. 2.—Sir William Thompson, K. B., late president of the Royal College of Surgeons, has been appointed chief surgeon of the forces in South Africa.

### SIR HOWARD V NCENT REJECTED.

London, Jan. 2.—Col. Sir Charles Howard Vincent, commander of the Queen's Westminster Volunteers, who offered his services for the war, was today rejected after a medical examination.

### BIG FIRE

New York, Jan. 2. A five story tenement house on First Avenue was burned early this morning. A match thrown into a Christmas tree caught it on fire. The tenants were overcome by smoke and some of them will die. Two died from suffocation. Eleven were injured.

### OHIO' SVALUATION METHOD.

Far Reaching Effects of the Decision Respecting the Telephones.

The decision of the Ohio Supreme Court holding that the telephones of the Bell Company shall be taxed on their rental value instead of their actual cost, is one of the most important rulings on the subject of taxation that has been handed down since that which sustained the validity of the Nichols law, taxing franchises. The decision in the telephone case is, in effect, simply an extension of the general principles of taxation upon which the Nichols law is based. Manifestly it will be far-reaching in its effect. If telephones are taxed on their rental value, it is apparent the same method of valuation will apply to every device operated in a similar manner.

The Bell telephones are not sold outright. They are rented to the Central Union Company, which operates them in Ohio. The actual cost of each telephone is said to be about $3.50, and heretofore they have been listed at this valuation for taxation. The Bell Company exacts a rental of $14 a year, net, for each telephone, four times its actual cost. Computed on the legal rate of interest, the rental value of each telephone would be $233. Whether they shall be listed at this figures, or only two-thirds of it, in conformity with the general rule of appraisment of property for taxation, is not known. It is expected that this and other important points involved will be elucidated in the decision, which is to be reported fully.

Ohio has taken advanced ground upon the question of taxation, and it is notable that other States have followed her lead. Progress in this State has been along the line of equalizing the burdens of taxation. The Nichols law was a long stride in this direction, but it is obvious the limit has not yet been reached. The decision of the Supreme Court in the telephone case will remedy a manifest injustice not reached by the Nichols law. The general principle of the taxation of franchises has worked no hardships and will not so long as it is applied within the limits of sound business policy. On the other hand, it has increased the revenue of the State, placing its finances upon a solid basis, without increasing the burdens of the people.—Columbus (Ohio) State Journal.

### TEN VILLAGES DESTROYED.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 2.—An earthquake yesterday destroyed ten villages in Achalkalak district, government of Tiflis.

### COTTON.

New York, Jan. 2.—Cotton: Jan. 7.44; Feb. 7.46; March 7.50; May 7.56; July 7.58.

### MORE COLD

**Dr. Von Herrmann Keeps the Populace Shivering**

For Raleigh and vicinity: Fair tonight and Wednesday, continued cold.

The conditions this morning indicate a continuation of clear, cold weather for some days yet. A severe storm center is central off the coast of Nova Scotia, which continues to draw in from the west masses of cold, dry air. Cloudy weather is reported only over the east Lake region, Florida and southwest Texas; elsewhere perfectly clear, cold weather continues. The lowest temperature is 10 degrees below zero at Bismarck.

### NO CHRISTMAS IN HIS

A despairing colored brother sounds this mournful holiday note:

"I don't keer fer de holidays
Fer dem hosh holly blossoms;
I slept away 'twell Christmas day,
En a nigger steal my 'possum!

"I had him cook en soak in [illegible]
Wasn't no 'possum fine ez dat?
I wonder whar dat nigger at?
A nigger steal my 'possum!

"I keep him at de sweetgum tree,
I tell him: 'You my blossom!'
He say he'll go long home wid me,
En a nigger steal my 'possum!

"He [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
Wasn't no 'possum fine ez dat?
I wonder whar dat nigger at?
A nigger steal my 'possum!"

F. L. STANTON.

### OLD FOLK'S DINNER

This afternoon at the Fayetteville Street Baptist church more than one hundred old people partook of a bountiful repast, spread by Mr. John T. Pullen, according to his custom for several years.

Tables were spread with spotless linen and dishes heaped with turkey and cranberries and other luscious eatables made many of the old people happy. With many of them it is only once a year that they see a bountifully spread table, and this occasion is annually given them by this noble benefactor. Mr. Pullen is noted for his many charities and the Old Folk Dinner is one of the most noteworthy.

### THE SMALLPOX SITUATION.

Every Precaution Being Taken by The Mayor and Board of Aldermen—The House of W. D. Morris Well Guarded—Vaccination Urged for Our People.

(Concord Standard.)

As stated just at press time last Saturday afternoon, there is a case of smallpox in Concord in the house of Mr. W. D. Morris at Forest Hill. The one who has the case is Mandy Morris, the young man who some weeks ago came down town complaining and was sent to his home. Dr. Henry F. Long, who is a smallpox expert, and who held that office with the State Board of Health, was here Saturday afternoon and says that it is a distinct case. The patient is now at the period where his skin is beginning to peel off.

As soon as Dr. Long pronounced it smallpox the mayor called a meeting of the board of aldermen and steps were taken at once to harness the situation. The house of Mr. W. D. Morris is now guarded well at all hours and no one is allowed to come in contact with this family. No one scarcely has been in contact in the last several weeks with the exception of Mrs. H. C. Morris, and she has not been there for more than a week. She was vaccinated Sunday morning and also the boarders at her house. The report that this young man has been visiting about at Forest Hill since he has been sick is untrue.

There is no reason for our people or for others outside of town to become alarmed over the situation as the situation was viewed beforehand and we are prepared to manage it. Four good comfortable pesthouses are now furnished outside of town waiting for any suspects that our physicians may find. Mr. H. McNamara has charge of the buildings and will take care of any of the sick ones.

One of the best steps our town has been advised to take is to get our people vaccinated, as was urgently requested in Mayor Means' card.

LATER

We learn today (Monday) from Mayor Means that there are five more new cases in the house of Mr. W. D. Morris at Forest Hill. This does not make the situation any worse for our people though as it is nothing more than is of course expected as this family of eight persons are confined here in the house in order to prevent the spread of the disease.

### THE WATCH NIGHT.

We's gwine ter have a watch night—wid experience, en all,
Fer tell erbout our doin's f'um de spring time ter de fall!
En I sorter feelin' skeery, en I in a shaky way,
Kaze, ter tell the livin' gospel, I des dunno what I'll say!

I don't lak' New Year meetin's, w'en de preacher make you rise;
I ruther read in private all my titles ter de skies!
Dey starts me on ter talkin' 'bout my Christian hope, en den
I sees de folks what knows me, en dey never says "Amen!"

Same t'ing wid all de brothrerin—Lor', knows 'um lef' and right;
En when dey go ter talking', don't dey shet dey eye up tight?
Dey can't see nuttin' roun' 'um whilst dey spoutin' by de yard—
Dey knows I lookin' at um, en I thinkin' mighty hard!

But we gwine ter have de Watch Night (I wish he come en gone!)
Ter sen' de ole year whirlin', an' he'p de New Year on.
I ain't in favor er it—I never t'ink it's wise,—
I ruther read in private all my titles ter de skies!

—F. L. STANTON.