

### Two Fires at High Point.

Charlotte Observer.  
High Point, Dec. 16.—Early Sunday morning fire destroyed a negro store in the eastern part of the city. It was located beyond the water limit and consequently the firemen could do no good.

Another serious fire occurred this morning about 5 o'clock when the large barn of Mrs. E. C. Farabee burned to the ground. In the stables the Beeson Hardware Company kept its horses, as also did Mr. Jess Harrison, who runs a transfer business here.

Going to feed early this morning, Mr. Harrison struck a match to light a lantern on the wall when the head of the match flew off and lodged in the hay, which caught fire immediately and so surrounded Mr. Harrison that he barely escaped with his life, his hair being burned on his head. The horses belonging to Mr. Harrison were burned the fire and as there was no door in the rear he could not get them out and two of them were burned to death. Also a carriage and a lot of rope and tackle and rough feed were consumed. The horses of the Beeson Hardware Company were on the other side of the barn and were gotten out.

### Alabama Mine Explosion.

Charlotte Observer.  
Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 16.—Advices early tonight from Yoland indicate that about 60 men met death by the explosion in the mines of the Yoland Coal & Coke Company at that place this morning. The work of recovery is very slow and while hundreds of miners from the adjacent mining camps are present to assist it is thought that all of the dead cannot be gotten out before tomorrow. Only 12 bodies had been recovered up to 6 o'clock.

The explosion occurred about 10:30 o'clock this morning and so far its cause has not been made known. Less than 100 men went into the mine this morning and this accounts for the fact that the loss of life was not heavier. The mine has in the past been pronounced free from gas by the State mine inspectors and it is supposed that the explosion was caused by dust. At noon it was impossible to venture even near the mouth of the mine so hot was the air that was rushing out.

The passing of the stately line of American Men of War out of the Virginia capes, led by the President on the Mayflower, sends a thrill through the nation. Pride in the great fleet is excusable. There is something in the consciousness of power that exalts an individual or a people. There is nothing, however, in this show of the nation's fighting strength that gives more reason for patriotic pride than the knowledge that America has never gone to war for conquest or to humiliate a weaker people. And once at least we fought to give another people independent national life. It is to be hoped that such high purpose will always be ours and that the man who gave the word of command for this movement of our fleet and the men who carry that command into execution will keep in mind this record. It becomes us to use our strength to preserve the world's peace. The talk of war with Japan is little less than criminal and it is to be hoped that the movement of our fleet will make such an event even more impossible.—Charlotte Observer.

Emmett Dalton, Oklahoma bandit, will start a tailor shop. Be really a continuation of the old business.—New York Telegram.

### Gov. Johnson to the Front.

H. E. C. Bryant in Charlotte Observer.  
There is more talk of opposition to Bryan among Democrats of all sorts than there has been for years. The Roosevelt announcement has made many of the leaders of thought in the party believe that there is a fair show to win with a man who has not been tried until the people are tired of him. Governor John A. Johnson, the Democratic Governor of the Republican State of Minnesota, attracted so much attention here at the recent meeting of the Rivers and Harbors Congress and at a banquet of the Gridiron Club by two speeches he made, that the saying of Colonel Henry Watterson, the brilliant editor of The Louisville Courier-Journal, in the summer, to the effect that he could name a man that could re-unite the party who did not live east of the Alleghenies nor South of the Potomac and the Ohio It developed that Mr. Watterson had in mind Johnson, of Minnesota who became Governor the first time in 1904 by a plurality of 7,800 and two years later by 72,000, being the only Democrat elected to a State office in Minnesota, having carried with him nearly 100,000 Republican votes.

Governor Johnson's parents came to this country in the 50's and settled near St. Peter's Minn., where the father worked at the blacksmith's trade until he became an inebriate and had to be confined. At the age of 14 the second son, John, became the head of the family and assumed the duty and labored to earn a living for his mother and the rest of her children. His first position was that of a clerk in a drugstore, where he washed bottles and mixed soft drinks. Later he became time-keeper for a railroad constructor. His spare moments were devoted to reading good and valuable books and educating himself the best he could under the circumstances. At the age of 21 he was a man of many friends, fixed purposes and much useful information. Everybody liked him. Four leading Democrats of his little town made him editor of The Herald, a local paper, and it was there that he began to show promise of extraordinary ability. He was interested in the welfare of every one. His neighbors respected and trusted him.

Johnson is but 46 years old; is tall, thin and wiry, almost gaunt, with light brown hair, deep blue eyes and a strong face, that bears lines that come from toil. He may be a factor in the next Democratic convention. The people of the West love and admire him. Republicans who voted for Roosevelt would vote for him against any man that will be put out. His plain, simple, direct way of doing things makes him a man of great popularity with all classes. He is of the people and loves his neighbors, whether they be of high or low degree. His name is before the public and he may give Mr. Bryan a race for the nomination.

When winds shriek high in fiendish glee,  
And enters winter with his kiss  
Protect yourself, from disease be free;  
Take Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea.  
Dr. Kents Drug Store and Granite Falls Drug Co.

There are some briefless attorneys who would throw the world into the hands of a receiver if they could. That is where they live.—Dallas News.

Sunday closing has driven two Chicago saloonkeepers to suicide, but no prominent citizens have yet been reported as dying of thirst.—New York Telegram.

### Newton Burglars Caught.

Charlotte Observer.  
Newton, Dec. 16.—To-day about 12 o'clock two white men were brought to jail here, who have proved to be the parties who last night broke into a store of Fowler and McDaniel, near the depot, and stole a lot of provisions. They are young men about 20 years old and give their names as J. W. Wood and Henry Carlisle, of Baltimore. They say they have been away from home seven days and being nearly starved is the reason they broke into the store.

After the discovery of the burglary this morning Messrs. Dan Misenheimer and Bod Sigmon, thinking the parties might have gone to Hickory, boarded No. 21 for that place. On the way the train overtook two men, who had been walking up the track and passed them. Thinking perhaps these might be the parties wanted, Messrs. Misenheimer and Sigmon left the train at the flag station Oyama, and walked back down the track. Meeting the tramps they at once covered them with their revolvers and made them surrender. Some of the stolen goods were found upon the men and they acknowledged breaking into the store.

### Boone Items.

Some work is being done in Watauga towards reforesting old land. Many farmers let their worn out fields grow up in locust. It has been thought that "old field locust" was worthless as a post timber but recently the people are beginning to think it is incorrect and are letting the trees grow. Perhaps the rapid growth has led to the conclusion that the timber is worthless. The old trees seem to have lasting qualities. Chestnut, poplar, cucumber and other rapid growing trees are being protected as never before.

Mr. Henry Miller, who lives 3 miles north of Boone, has recently planted several hundred black walnut trees on his land, and will put out more this coming spring.

The fall term of V. T. S. closes the 20th. One hundred and nine have been enrolled. Eighty six of these have been boarding students. Twenty of these have boarded at the Loyal Home for girls.

Prof. B. B. Dougherty is attending the meeting of the West Central Association of County Superintendents in Charlotte. This association includes twenty counties. A. H.

The recent Roosevelt's final statement of his intention to hold to his purpose of retiring to private life at the end of his present term of office, brings to our minds again the waste of power which our system of government makes necessary. That Mr. Roosevelt is all the better equipped for public service because of his experience in his present office, all will agree; and no one will deny that the nation needs the fearless strength of such a man. He will give that strength to the nation as a private citizen as best he can, no doubt; but there should be some way by which men who have gained such valuable knowledge of the nation's life, could be kept in the public service. It would mean much to have Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Roosevelt in the councils of the nation. What has become of the suggestion to make ex-presidents Senators at large?—Charlotte Observer.

About one woman in a hundred is fond of retelling a gossip. The other ninety-nine handle it at wholesale.—New York Times.

### A Giftless Christmas.

Savannah News.  
What would Christmas be without gifts; without those remembrances of courtesy and affection that have become so firmly affixed in association with the holiday? The Chicago Woman's Club has started a movement to do away with the giving of gifts at the Yule season. It will not succeed. It deserves not to succeed. The essential part of the spirit of Christmas is the giving of pleasure to others, and as yet human beings have devised no better scheme for expressing kindly sentiment than by the giving of gifts.

At the same time there can be no question of the need of reform in the matter of Christmas giving. The best gift is that which has real value; that is useful to the recipient of it. Millions of dollars are wasted every season in the purchase of of trinkets and fol-de-rols that are actually not worth the room they occupy. They may be pretty to look at for the moment, but they are without utility. The only possible good to them is the fact that their manufacture, sale and delivery affords employment to a certain number of working people for a short while. The articles themselves, after they have been delivered, represent only so much money that has been practically wasted. This does not refer to children's toys, which are unending sources of delight, and are probably worth all they cost. The pleasure that is bought for children at Christmas is beyond computation, and nobody wants to diminish it in the slightest degree. But we have in mind the presents that are exchanged between grown-ups. There isn't any good reason why they should be foolish or wasteful.

### Pioneer Library.

The following named attractive volumes have just been added to the library:

- The Doctor by Ralph Connor.
- The Lady of the Decoration—by Miss Frances Little.
- On the Mexican Highlands—by Seymour Edwards.
- The Other Wise Man—by Henry Van Dyke.
- The Yoke—by Henry Van Dyke.
- The Little Colonel Series, 12 vol. by Annie Fellows Johnson.
- Constitution with the Colonies—by Burke.
- So Kegerly DeCoverly, papers, Spencer's Farm Tales.
- Homers Odyssey.
- Miles Standish—by Longfellow.
- Essay on Milton—by Macaulay.
- Essay on Johnson and Goldsmith—by Macaulay.
- Ancient Mariner—by Coleridge.
- Juan of Arc—by DeQuincey.
- House of Seven Gables—by Hawthorne.
- Being a Boy—Charles Dudley Warner.
- Golden Book of Venice—by Turnbull.
- The Wanderer in London—by Luens.
- Dr. Lavender and his People—by Mrs. DeLand.
- Innocence Abroad—by Mark Twain.
- Pamdr—by Richardson.
- Paul and Christina—Amelia Barr.
- The Lives of the Hunted—by Seton Thompson.
- The last named book presented by Miss Sadie Jones.
- The Library now contains nearly 3000 volumes.

This is the season of decay and weakened vitality; good health is hard to retain. If you'd retain yours, fortify your system with Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea, the surest way 5c, Tea or Tablets. Dr. Kents Drug Store and Granite Falls Drug Co.

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