

**A Pay Sermon on Hell.**

S. B. V., In Charlotte Observer.

There is no sadder and more indisputable truth than the sin carries its own punishment; that a man is his own judge; that he must inevitably pay as he goes; that as he sows so shall he reap. Needs no preacher to prove to us this proposition. It is written large in every human experience. It is not a law of the church; it is the unalterable decree of Nature and Nature's God. To say nothing of the hell hereafter, of which we know so little and, talk so much understandingly; the man who fails to maintain his moral perpendicular and, sinks his soul to planes of uncleanness carries an unending perdition in his own heart. Its burnings are unquenchable and eat their lurid way into every fiber of his being. Its marks are left ineradicably upon his countenance, the scar is deep upon his soul. The self-condemnation, the loathing of heart, the quailing of spirit, the sickening of mind, the losing of the power to make a worthy fight, the feeling of being overcome, the sense of utter defeat—is this not hell? The power that we call the Devil for want of a better name, begins to get in its work long before the king called Death sets in. And death does not begin with the grave always. There is a death in life, when the finer powers and forces are subverted to ignoble uses and no longer assert themselves. Moral decay is death. The process is only continued after the dissolution of the physical being and the kind of hell a soul makes for itself here is enlarged and made more utterly hopeless beyond the charnal house of the body. "A hell that burns forever?" Yes it burns and tortures and consumes and destroys without even making destruction complete. And the flames are something lighted in this world; to what extent they may go is another, only the All knowing may know.

"Go to hell when I die!" a fine young fellow once said to me. Why man, I've been in secret hell, with raging fires of hot despair for ten years or more. The best part of me is already dead. I fear that there is no resurrection for the good and pure in me. I may suffer more in some future state. I ought to and doubtless will, but my mind cannot conceive of a more torturing punishment than that which already has me in its grasp.

And as I saw the lines of weakness about his once superb face, the scars which his own cruelty to himself had left upon him; the indecision and the fear and the doubt that had taken the place of the early straight gleam in his eye; the very cringing of his soul—I was horribly sure that he was right. It only remains to put on the finishing touches that never finish; to meet the flames with a little more despair; to give the spirit a little more of the realization of supreme defeat and desolation, a consciousness of final separation from the things that are lovely and of good report, from the All-pervading Life and Light to which instinctively turns—and the work is done, or rather just fairly begun.

It is not hell! The literal blazing fire may be there; we do not know and it is not necessary for us to know, but it is hell!

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**Water-Works Again.**

Mr. EDITOR,

Some one signing his name "C. F. Wagner" has assumed the task of answering our letter in the News of the 16th on the Water Works. He says he has no "resident interest" in the town and that we used his name in our article and misquoted him; he then proceeds in a general way to say that we are "no engineer no how" cause we presumed to criticize this water system; and that we got our figures mixed up; and that he knows this is the best system in the Southeast; cause the Southeastern Tariff Assn. said so. Then he proceeds to enlighten us benighted citizens of this country town and tell us that the elevation of our public square is only 1158 feet. Six feet lower than the Bank at Hickory. The U. S. Geological Survey Bench Mark on the old Court House was 1180. The ground is two feet lower.

Now the name of C. F. Wagner was not used in the article. We were not aware of the fact that he had the contract to do the engineering for the town; this we thought was the job of J. B. McKary & Co. of Atlanta, and it was from the assistants of this firm while making their report after their preliminary surveys that we took the figures on the elevation of the Freedman tank. We supposed them to be correct, and if this statement as to the elevation of the Freedman tank is no more accurate than is his statement of the elevation of the public square, it may reasonably be doubted. And if true it does seem that the pressure at the Archer fire would have been better. But suppose this tank is 163ft. above the square. Then the Storage Reservoir is 451 feet above the square and 555 feet above Craddock's mill. This represents a static pressure of 240lbs. to the inch, at Craddock's or 195 at the square. Now it would take more than the space in one issue of the Topic to satisfactorily explain how he is going to work this pressure without constant and useless expense caused by "blow outs" in the mains and plumbing, besides a double force on the water lines, looking after relief valves and "other features" along the lines.

It is admitted that the plans for present system were made only for the present water supply of the town! This is an unexpected admission. But the people of Lenoir were promised before the election and voted sufficient bonds to have paid for a gravity water system with supply sufficient for a town of three times its present size. The storage reservoir of which was at just the right elevation to give ample pressure in case of fire without resort to the wasteful and uncertain valves mentioned.

The Morrow branch would have given twice the volume of water, with fully as much storage, all of which would have been available in case of fire, with a Steel stand pipe, which would have been no experiment as the present one is, all for the same or less money than the present system will cost.

As the "Topic correspondent has no "resident interest" with us he is likely not bothering his head about future expenses in operating the system, taxes nor insurance rates.

But the insurance rates have NOT been reduced in Lenoir and the local agents say there will likely be no reduction unless there is a paid fire company. So, we have no credit for this splendid system at all. Now, when Lenoir is given the lowest insurance rate of any town in the Southeast, then we will think the Southeastern Tariff Association BELIEVES we have the best system, not before. If the priggish little man who wrote for the Topic is half as honest as he thinks he is wise, he will admit that the present system has not over half the commercial value that a system would have with the Morrow branch supply and a steel stand pipe.

When a man selects an agent, furnishes sufficient money and asks him to buy for him a solid gold, full jeweled watch and the agent returns to him a "waterbury," or a "filled," or a silver timepiece, if you please, will he choose the same agent for his next purchases?

The money is gone; we have half the water we bargained for, no water on East Spring St. and

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## DULA, THE JEWELER

Dula Building, Lenoir, N. C.

Powellton road, and no water and sewers in several other parts of the town that were to have had this service. J. R. ERVIN.

**Fined \$400 For Selling Liquor.**

Salisbury, April 22.—By an agreement between counsel for Charles and Fayette Allman and Claude McInturf, charged with retailing liquor, and fined \$700 by Judge B. B. Miller in Rowan county court here last week a compromise was made yesterday in which the defendants pay a fine of \$400. It was also agreed that the defendants close their place of business in Salisbury where soft drinks have been on sale. This marks the first real break at liquor selling in Rowan.

**"I'd Rather Die, Doctor,**

than have my feet cut off," said M. L. Bingham, of Princeville, Ill. "but you'll die from gangrene (which had eaten away eight toes) if you don't," said all doctors. Instead—he used Bucklen's Arnica, Salve till wholly cured. Its cures of Eczema, Fever Sorek, Boils, Burns and Piles astound the world. 25c at J. E. Shell's.

**Mrs. W. M. Fraley Thrown From a Buggy and Seriously Hurt.**

Statesville Landmark.  
Mrs. W. M. Fraley, of Cool Springs township, was seriously hurt and her daughter, Miss Gertrude, slightly injured in a runaway accident early Thursday afternoon. Mrs. Fraley and daughter had started to the home of Mr. C. R. Beard, to see Mrs. Beard, a friend, who was critically ill and who died later in the afternoon. They had gone but a few hundred yards when the horse they were driving took fright at a disc harrow near the road and ran away. Mrs. Fraley was thrown out with considerable force soon after the animal started and the bone of her left thigh was broken near the hip joint. Miss Fraley managed to keep her seat in the buggy when her mother was thrown out, but the horse had run but a short distance before she, too, was hurled to the ground and badly bruised, but not seriously hurt.

The horse was caught by two men, who hurriedly drove back and found Mrs. Fraley and her daughter, where she had fallen. She was carried to her home and physicians called. Mrs. Fraley is getting along as well as could be expected.

Mrs. M. C. Boyden, of Boone is reported seriously ill at this time. Her brothers Dr. Jeff Council of Salisbury and Judge Council of Hickory with Mrs. Emma Taylor her sister have been called to her bedside.

**DECORATING ALREADY BEGUN**

Preparations Being Made for the Largest Gathering Ever Seen in Charlotte.

Special to The Lenoir News.  
Charlotte, N. C. April 29—It has been arranged definitely that President William H. Taft will deliver his address on the Twentieth of May, at which time this city will celebrate the 134th, anniversary of the signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, from the reviewing stand which is now being erected in front of the Mecklenburg county court house and surrounding the monument commemorating the signing of this immortal document.

The committees in charge of the celebration are making every effort to arrange for accommodations for the entertainment of the thousands of visitors who will be here on this historic occasion. With the excellent hotel facilities of the city in addition to the several hundred boarding houses there is no fear on the part of the central committee that Charlotte will be amply prepared to care for all who will come. Already the city has begun decorating for the event, the prospects being that several days before the celebration the streets will be a blaze of glory for the reception of the troops who will reach here several days before the arrival of President Taft.

**Fed Child to Hogs; Used Axe on Others.**

New Orleans, April 26.—Incensed because his step mother had left him at home, near Opelousas, La., in charge of his young step-brother and sisters for the day, Tom Godfrey, a 12 year old negro boy, fed the youngest one of his charge to the hogs, and later with an axe, inflicted what will probably prove fatal wounds on the heads of the other children.

Three children were injured. The step-mother reported the triple crime today to the parish authorities, and Tom was placed in jail at Opelousas. She says she found the baby in the pen with the hogs when she returned home late yesterday. Its hands and feet had been eaten off, but it was still alive.

She straightway whipped Tom and when she went for a doctor to attend the baby, Tom seized an axe and attacked his six year old step brother, inflicting several deep wounds. His young step sister interfered and he crushed her skull with the axe. The girl is dying and the other two children have little chance for recovery.

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