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**Thanks, Thanks, Thanks**  
Our greatest of all sales is ended and I take this method to thank the trading public for their patronage. While we have sold so many goods we still have on hand a great many winter goods that we are determined to close out and for the remainder of the winter season we will sell for cash all Clothing, Overcoats, Heavy Shoes, Dress Goods, Ladies Cloaks, Skirts, Blankets, Underwear, and hundreds of odds and ends, etc., at cost and less. We guarantee to save you money on anything you may want in regular stock.  
**J J BAXTER**

**Interesting Facts of the Literary Department of the Woman's Club.**  
The last meeting of the Literary Department of the Woman's Club was of more than ordinary interest as the study of Poe was concluded by a general discussion on various subjects concerning his poetry and prose, and the reading of two papers by members of the club. Mrs. John Hollister read extracts from his life and some of his most interesting letters and then read a most appreciative sketch of his life. After considerable discussion of several points in the life of the poet brought out by Mrs. Hollister the leader of the department read the following paper:

**POE AS A WRITER:**  
There is, perhaps no more difficult man to write about in literature than Poe, for his works conform so seldom to any set standards and his subjects are so ethereal and unearthly that usual words of criticism fail to convey any idea of his writings. Poe is one of the many men of letters whom one must read carefully to understand and to appreciate, then one's understanding and appreciation just is, and is extremely difficult to explain. Poe's very irregular and dissipated life has caused no more controversy than have his works. He has always had ardent admirers and equally as ardent detractors both as to his character and his works. He made bitter enemies during his short life doubtless caused largely by his eccentricities of temperament. He probably was not in yet sympathetic appreciation. There are many people who are unable to separate a man from his works, therefore because they cannot admire Poe as a man, they fail to appreciate his power as an artistic writer. In addition to these facts Poe's subjects are so foreign to everyday American life that one must have imagination cultivated considerably to enjoy such flights as Poe's into the realms of the fanciful and terrible. Yet it is a significant fact that Poe is more generally known and admired by foreigners than any writer that America has yet produced, and of all foreigners, the French are his most appreciative readers.  
Poe is usually considered among the writers of the South, but he has few, if any characteristics or other writers of our land. He draws no distinctive northern pictures as do Lanier, Timrod, others nor does he portray any northern character as Thos Nelson Page or Joel Chandler Harris do in our own time. As for that matter neither his characters nor his backgrounds can be placed anywhere in any precise sense; they all belong to a queer dream-land often a place fascinating but awful.  
Poe claims the attention of the student of American literature in three different lines of work, viz: as a critic, as a writer of prose tales, and as a poet. Poe's critical works are read today, chiefly by the student who wishes to make a thorough study of all that this man of curious genius wrote, not especially for their inherent value as criticism, for as Lanier once said Poe did not know enough to be a great critic in the modern sense of the word. Poe was no scholar, he did not submit to sufficient training to be such. He was a crank on the subject of plagiarizing, and was constantly on the look out for someone who might be guilty of this form of theft. He once accused the poet Longfellow of plagiarizing and was very bitter and railing in his denunciation of him; afterwards he tried to make amends by over-praising him. He was frequently biased in his critical opinions by personal likes and dislikes; he overpraised many women writers of his time whom he happened to admire at the time and failed at times to give due credit to others for more deserving. In more instances however he showed remarkable insight as in the case of his early predictions concerning Hawthorne and Tennyson at a time when neither of these justly famous men were widely known. Undoubtedly Poe was an influential critic in his time for his name on the editorial staff of a magazine counted considerably in its favor with the reading public.  
As a poet Poe is neither profound like Browning nor varied like Tennyson. Unlike these two great poets he is powerless to uplift, to inspire or to console. He has no helpful message concerning life or death or immortality or any of the absorbing themes of which all great poets of all times and of all nations have sung. His range of thought and theme is narrow; he has only a few subjects which he sings the changes upon both in poetry and prose. Tennyson and Browning look out upon life and they too sing of its weary burdens, yet they, as all true seers, look beyond this place of strife and turmoil and sin and explain the apparent tragedy of this life in view of another larger, more abundant life. In reading Poe lately, I have looked in vain for any bright description of nature, any joyful character, any hope or love or life after. Powerful as his nature descriptions are, they all represent the dark, gloomy, solitary side of God's beautiful world. Like Byron, nature seemed to impress Poe only with its terrible, awful black side; he seems to have actively missed the sun behind the clouds. In spite of all these facts which are very apparent Poe is extremely attractive. As a man and as a writer, Poe's name reads to someone his soul, and on his ability to do many things, but on his personality power to do a few things well. In his own chosen field of the awful, the grotesque and terrible he is supreme in prose and poetry. Such is his power along this line that I am sure there are few women at least who would like to read "The Fall of the House of Usher" or "The Conqueror Worm" to select two out of many such, at midnight and alone.  
Poe had in a marked degree the power of close analysis, the purely mathematical mind. His ability to solve puzzles, riddles, cryptograms, and the like was little short of marvelous. He once made the boast that he had never seen a puzzle that he could not solve. This became generally known and he was overwhelmed with all sorts of curious things to straighten out and it is said he failed on two out of a hundred and they afterwards were found to have been fixed to catch him and there was no possible solution to them. The Gold Bug, one of his best tales illustrates admirably his powers along this line. He was the inventor of a certain kind of deductive story, somewhat similar to the Sherlock Holmes variety so popular at the present time. "The Purloiner better" is an extremely clever example of this style and "The murder in the Rue Morgue" is a marvel along the line of deductions from close run perceptions. Another kind of story made popular by Jules Verne, the quasi-scientific story, was used admirably by Poe and he may be said to be the forerunner of this kind of narrative. Beyond any doubt Poe had unusual gifts as a story teller, he never fails to live one's attention, but strange to say he used pure narrative seldom, his very frequent custom was to reveal a certain mood rather than to unfold one plot. To this end every description, every detail works until one finds oneself almost as if in a trance fascinated, filled with terror and unspoken awe, and the most frequent mood of mind which Poe produces is passionate and hopeless sorrow for the death of a young and beautiful woman. This theme runs through his poetry as well as his prose. It is the theme of "The Raven" and "Ulalume" and that exquisite lyric "Annabel Lee" in his poetry and of "Legeia", "Berenice" and "The Fall of the House of Usher," in his prose. Another gift which Poe forewent in an extraordinary degree was his musical utterance. As has been suggested Poe's poetry and prose is shallow in thought, narrow in range and has a fascination which can only be even partly explained by its haunting melody. Both his prose as well as his poetry can be better appreciated when read aloud for the reason that he was often striving after a musical word or phrase than for conveying any definite idea. After a close reading of "The Raven", "Annabel Lee" or "The Bells" the melody rings in one's ears for days and the wretched spell is difficult to shake off.  
A close study of the technical structure of the poems reveals the part that this spell which Poe casts over his readers especially in his poetry is due mainly to his continual use of two peculiar devices known as the refrain and the repetend. The refrain ending, "never more" is constant in "The Raven" and "In a kingdom by the sea" in "Annabel Lee." In "Ulalume" the refrain is, "in the ghoul haunted wood land of Weirid" and the repetend so curious but charming.  
The leaves they were craped and were. The leaves they were withering and were. It is however rather a useless task to try to explain an account for the inimitable charm of these poems. Poe's use of the repetend was original and he may be said to have given this new form to English verse. Poe's verse has a strong and decided note of individuality, even stray lines seem in a disconnected way may be easily recognized by one who knows Poe at all, not long ago in the library of the University of Virginia on the fly-leaf of an old book, there were two verses found unsigned, yet several persons looked at them, and almost instantly all agreed that they could be none other than Poe's.  
In American literature there is no man who had such wild power of imagination. To attempt to follow Poe, for instance in "The Descent of the Maelstrom" or in "The Pit and the Pendulum" makes one dizzy at the very strain on one's imagination. Finally one's estimate of Poe or any other poet for that matter must depend upon one's ideas about the mission and function of the artist. In the words of Mr. Pancoast, "Poe believed that the artist's brightest work and mission was to give pleasure; he defines poetry as the rhythmic creation of beauty, and declared that unless incidentally it had a concern whatever with duty or with truth, he put forth all the resources of his genius, his intellectual subtlety, his feeling for the weird, the sublime and the grotesque, his sense of color, his sense of sound, he manipulated all these as a skillful craftsman for the building of works of wonder and beauty. He probably did all that was in him to do. If we are satisfied that he was right in his aims and in his theory of art we can ask nothing more. But if we believe that the spiritual and the moral are vital elements in the greatest art, if we think that sometimes and truth and duty have their place in its temple we are forced to conclude that the limitations of Poe's own nature, the painful consciousness of the man who would have left indelible marks upon the quality and character of his works and prevented it from reaching an exalted plane to which it might otherwise have attained, were the chief reasons why he did a few things well.

**SOCIAL HAPPENINGS**  
**Delightful Terpsichorean Event**  
The regular monthly german of the Clarendon german club was given Friday night and was a most enjoyable affair. Although the weather was not all that could be desired the attendance was good, 31 couples being on the floor. Mr. Will Dunn Jr., led the german with Miss Octavia Hughes.  
The Boston Italian orchestra furnished the music in its usual high class manner and it was greatly enjoyed. Fruit punch and cake was served.  
Following are the names of those present: Misses and Messrs.  
Ettie Ayldett, of Elizabeth City, with A. F. Patterson.  
Bettie Tull, of Kinston, with Wm. Fields of Kinston.  
Mary Rouché, of Salisbury, with W. W. Fuller.  
Lucy Taylor, of Mt. Airy, with Dr. A. W. Disowsay.  
E. Perry, of Raleigh, with Sam Street.  
Octavia Hughes, with William Dunn Jr.  
Elizabeth Ellis, with J. S. Claypoole.  
Annie Foy, with G. A. Wood.  
Hattie Marks, with Frank Robards.  
Mary E. Street, with J. A. Nunn.  
M's Rebecca Street, with Blackwell Stith.  
Sophie Whitford, with Ed Street.  
Mary Rice, with O. G. Dunn.  
Miss Baldwin of Boonton, N. J. with Dr. Hand.  
Adeline Claypoole with B L Grinstead.  
Bessie Thrope, with Wallace Smith.  
Mabel Green, with George Dunn.  
Amy Guion, with Charles Wyatt.  
Lenora Greenbaum, with E W Dunn.  
Maye Moore and Mrs Faulkner with Mr. Benston of Norfolk.  
Miss Kelly, with S H Eaton.  
Nettie Rawlings, with Jesse Rawlings.  
Sarah Congdon, with E M Green.  
Bessie Dill, with A M Rountree.  
Mrs Benton and Mrs. Zidy of New York City, with T C Daniels.  
Margaret Yonge, with J P Rawlings.  
Eulalia Willis with C L Stevens.  
Mr and Mrs J G Dunn.  
Mr and Mrs H C Lumsden.  
Mr and Mrs Alfred Kafer.  
Mr and Mrs H Crowson.  
Chapmanes--Meadames A. H. Rawlings and D F Jarvis.  
Stages--Jack Street, Frank Prettyman, M C Dill, John Green, Arthur Rawlings of Lawrenceville, Va., F G Smith, Walter Chadwick of Beaufort, Ellis Williams, T W Waters, J V Blades, A H Rawlings.

**RECEPTION**  
One of the most brilliant social events of the season was an At Home given by Mrs. W. B. Blades Friday afternoon from four to six o'clock in honor of her sister, Mrs. John H. Long, of Frankford, Delaware. The magnificent home was made still more attractive by the floral decorations of palms, ferns, azaleas, and carnations in red and white. Master Willie Blades, in full evening dress, received the guests at the front door. In the front hall they were welcomed by Mrs. C. L. Ives, Mrs. Dr. Street and Mrs. Emma Powell. Mrs. Blades, in her usual warm genial manner, with her sister received in the parlor, Mrs. C. G. Blades, Mrs. Munger and Mrs. M. Evans in the drawing room. The guests were conducted in the dining room by Miss Lizzie Neal, where they were received by Mrs. H. M. Groves, Misses Hattie Marks, Fannie Cutler and Annie Foy served delightful refreshments furnished by Raleigh's Caterer, Dughi. Mrs. Uzzell in a most gracious manner presided at the table. The dining room was a scene of dazzling beauty with its handsome display of flowers in red and white carnations, ferns, cut glass and electric lights. Notwithstanding the wind and clouds that were at warfare when one entered the home it seemed a spring day, ladies with the sweet perfume of flowers. Mrs. Blades was handsomely gowned in champagne veil over taffeta. Mrs. Long, the guest of honor wore black silk and lace.

**TO MISS MITCHELL**  
One of the most enjoyable affairs of the week was the card party at which Mrs. Monroe Howell, of Boonton, N. J. entertained on Tuesday afternoon from 3 to 6 o'clock at her residence on East Front street. The affair was in compliment of her guest, Miss Henrietta Mitchell, of Whippany, N. J.  
The rooms were tastefully arranged and decorated in evergreen and red berries. Four hand euchre was the game played and the first prize, a silver hat pin holder with two silver hat pins was awarded to Miss Annie Foy. Miss Adeline Claypoole won the second prize which was a pretty hat box. A feature of the affair was the kind decoration with a miniature photo of the residence of the hostess.  
A three course supper was served at six o'clock.

**The Man Outside.**  
The Payton Sisters Stock Co., commenced a series of shows at the Opera House tomorrow night. The opening bill will be "The Man Outside" an exciting detective drama. The plays presented by this company are not the kind generally played by repetitious but are entirely new and are the kind that people like. Popular prices, 10, 20 and 30 cents will prevail. Matinee Wednesday and Saturday afternoons.

**Wood's Seeds.**  
**Second Crop Seed Potatoes**  
Go further in planting than other seed potatoes, yield better and more uniform crops, and are in high favor with truckers and potato growers wherever planted.  
Our stocks are of superior quality, uniform in size, and well out in full-size barrels.  
Write for prices, and Wood's Book Seed Book, giving full and interesting information about Seed Potatoes.  
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**CHILDREN OF THE CONFEDERACY ENTERTAINMENT.**  
The entertainment given by the Children of the Confederacy Friday evening, was repeated yesterday afternoon and a highly pleased audience greeted them.  
The children were skillfully trained and directed by Mrs. Emma Powell, Miss Annie Green assisted in training the choruses. The net proceeds, \$20.00 realized from the entertainment, is to help pay for the piano at the Daughters room.

**Ensnaring Victims.**  
Steps Should be Taken at Once to Prevent Further Trouble.  
Here in New Bern, as in other cities and towns, dyspepsia or stomach troubles are ensnaring victims in a most insidious way.  
Use MFO-naw now and soothe the irritated walls of the stomach and strength on the gastric follicles so that they will pour out their daily supply of digestive materials with regularity. Then the headaches, sleeplessness, specks before the eyes, poor appetite, tired feelings and nervousness will disappear, and you can eat what you want at any time you like.  
Just one little tablet out of a 50 cent box before meals, for a few days, and you will soon regain perfect health and strength, and have no fear of indigestion or stomach troubles. Ask F. S. Duffy to show you the guarantee under which he sells this remedy.  
Men are judged by the company they keep, but isn't it easy to size up a woman by her hat. Judge her by the amount of Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea she takes. 35 cents, Tea or Tablets. Sold by F. S. Duffy.  
Some extra fine dressed wild turkeys, also wild geese at Oaks Market today.

**GROVER CLEVELANDS DOWNFALL.**  
A Colored Man Whose Surname is the Same as the Illustrious American Citizen in Trouble.  
Grover Cleveland Taylor, was arraigned before Mayor Patterson last night on the charge of stealing two bales of cotton. He is the son of Henry Taylor, a well known and very worthy colored man who has worked for many years on the farm of Mr. W. H. Bray. Grover was born on the night that ex-President Cleveland was first elected and he was given that name in honor of the event.  
Yesterday morning Mr. Walter Bray discovered that a bale of cotton was missing from his shed. He at once telephoned to Mr. Meadows to look out for the bales and stop the sale describing the marks. Between 10 and 11 o'clock Mitchell Bryan, an elderly negro drove to the cotton platform with the bale and as Mr. Smith was weighing it, Mr. Meadows identified the bale and gave the weigher a tip. Bryan had agreed to take cotton to the platform and knew nothing of the theft and was merely hired. Taylor was at the platform looking after the deal but when he saw Mr. Bray driving down Craven street he ran off. Officer Howard arrested him before he had gone very far.  
Mr. Bray had a talk with him just before the trial and the man confessed to taking the cotton. A bale of cotton belonging to Mr. J. J. Price was taken from Mr. Bray's shed a week ago and Taylor is charged with the theft of that bale also. But thus far they have not been able to identify that bale.  
The defendant was bound over for trial in the spring term of of the Superior court for the trial of criminal cases under \$100 bond. The young man comes of a respectable family and has not been known to be guilty of anything before.

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Remember I will call for your work, repair it and return it. Work on Watches, Clocks and Jewelry always guaranteed. Am still at 59 Broad Street.  
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**Special to Farmers!**  
We would advise all who contemplate using lime on their land this season to try granulated oyster shells, the new and convenient way of preparing shells for quick results and lasting effects, to use with fertilizer distributor. This form preserves all the virtue of the original shells, which is known to be lime, ammonia, nitrogen, and salt, besides much animal matter, easier and safer to handle than quick lime, and costs less and lasts longer, packed in 200 lb bags. The output of this plant limited, so would advise your ordering a trial lot at once. The leading Farm Journals of the country are strongly urging the use of lime and certainly you can't go astray in buying this product of which every farmer in eastern N. Carolina knows the merits.  
The Fertilizer, Shell and Bone Co. of New Bern, N. C. can furnish further information.

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No 101 Hancock St.  
No 196 George St.  
No 20 King Street  
No 25 Johnston St.  
One Lot George St.  
One lot Riverside.  
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The new Children's Magazine.  
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**FOLEY'S HONEY**