

Dr. Wall, One Of Uncle Abe's Preacher Boys, Pays Tribute To Brave Christian Soldier

In his beautiful sermon Saturday afternoon at Zion church Dr. Zeno Wall, one of the "preacher boys" converted and baptized by the lamented Prince of preachers, Rev. A. C. Irvin, took occasion at the funeral to pay a tribute of respect to his wonderful service of a half century in the ministry during which time he baptized 3,000 people and probably married and buried as many more. In part Dr. Wall said of "Uncle Abe" Irvin:

"Can you realize my friends, that we have gathered here today to pay our tribute of love and respect to Brother A. C. Irvin? I am frank to say that I cannot, for it is almost impossible for me to think of him as being other than alive—being present on an occasion like this to speak comforting words himself to the sorrowing hearts—a service which he could always render so appropriately and beautifully. But he has gone from us to be with his Lord, and we are compelled to give up, for a while one of the most beloved and honored men of our denomination in Cleveland and Rutherford counties, and one of the most faithful and useful and powerful gospel preachers that the rural section of North Carolina has ever produced. He was, in a word a prince of country preacher—clean in life—sacrificial in work, earnest in prayer and at times eloquent in speech. Some of the most powerful sermons I ever heard as a boy were preached by this godly—this gifted man.

Was Converted by Him

Thirty years ago he was the beloved pastor of Old High School church in Rutherford County. This was my home church—the church where I found the Savior. Under his ministry and the powerful preaching of Brother L. R. Pruett, Pastor, Ninth Street Baptist church, Charlotte, who as I recall now, was helping during our annual meeting—a meeting which turned out to be a gracious revival—one that mightily stirred our hearts. I was "born again." At the close of the meeting 36 of us were buried with Christ in baptism in a beautiful pond which the brethren had made in the small stream which flowed by our home and church. To me it was a glorious sight, a most meaningful occasion! I shall not, while memory lasts, forget those days and hours and men, especially the life and labors of Brother Irvin who served our church so acceptably for more than a dozen years, and has been a warm friend of our people for more than half a century. He and cousin Aaron Wall fought together in the same brigade during the civil war, and but a few days ago they talked for more than two hours about their experiences during those trying days. It was an inspiration to hear them talk about their trials and triumphs—struggles and successes—dangers and delights—conflicts and conquests, for though they were captured they were never conquered.

The task that you have asked me to perform at this hour is a farmore difficult one than you realize, dear sorrowing friends, for the reason that he was, and is, my spiritual father, and one that I loved very dearly, and esteemed very highly. My proper place, therefore, is logically beside you to weep rather than here in this place which is so sacred to you and him—because he stood here so often and preached Christ and him crucified. But I shall, the Holy Spirit helping me, do the best I can.

As I stand here today, and look at him through the years that lie back of us, several thoughts—several impressions—regarding him and his wonderful life stand out before me like mountain peaks clamoring for recognition and utterance. They are: his clean life, his prayer life, his preaching, and his pastoral duties.

His Clean Life

The first, and highest of all the peaks, is that of his clean life. From the beginning of his ministerial life to its close he lived right. He, to be sure, was a human being, and as such had his fault—made some mistakes, but as I look back over his long and useful life no black cloud of sin settles down over it to cripple its usefulness and cause his brethren to have regrets. Gladstone used to be fond of saying that "one good example is worth a thousand arguments," and so it is. One clean, true, transparent life is the most powerful apologetic for the reality, vitality, genuineness, and beauty of Christianity that the world knows anything about. When a minister goes wrong, oh, how it hurts all of us, but when one lives right, and dies right, oh, how it helps all of us! Recently we have been compelled to bow our heads in sorrow because of the inexcusable conduct of one of our brethren, but when a good man like Brother Irvin dies—dies triumphantly as he did, we can all lift up our heart, and sing, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," for such a noble life and such a beautiful death. He died singing the "Song of Zion."

His Sociability

The second peak in his noble life is that of sociability. He was a very social man. He knew how to walk with the old prophets in the Lord's house, and he knew how to laugh, and talk, and joke in our house. No visitor's announced coming was ever

hailed with more joy than that of "Preacher Irvin's." We were happy to have him come, and sorry to see him leave, for we loved him—were taught to love, and honor and respect him,—and never criticize him. I have just been wondering what this teaching in my home had to do with my being called to preach? Can you tell?

Recently I carried Brother Irvin with me up to the old home place, and as we drove along he would say: "I have spent the night there, and there, and there," until I felt that he had stopped in nearly every Baptist home in this entire section—and he had, too. We will have to wait till we get "over yonder" where we know as we are known before we will be able to fully appreciate the meaning of his visits in our homes—his earnest prayers, his wholesome advice and his helpful expositions of the scriptures, for those were the days of "the family altar," the days of "family worship."

His Prayer Life

The third peak which appears as I look back over his long and useful life is that of his Prayer Life. He was a man of prayer. He knew the language of heaven. He, seemingly, was familiar with every rung of Jacob's ladder. I am thinking now of one of his prayers out in the grove at my old home church during one of the hours of intermission—an hour when all of the "seekers at the mourner's bench" had gone to be prayed for—to ask the Lord's forgiveness of our sins. He and Brother Abe Hollifield were there that day, and both led in prayer, and oh, how they prayed—so earnestly, unctiously, compassionately and unceasingly! Both were weeping when they got up from their knees. On that memorable day—that never-to-be-forgotten-day—some of us "found the Lord precious to our never dying souls—Truly, brethren, "Heaven came down" our souls to greet.

His Gospel Preaching

The fourth peak which stands out clearly in my mind as I look back over his long, and strenuous and useful life, is that of his preaching. He was gospel preacher of great power. He was, as I recall, the outstanding gospel preacher in our section during my boyhood days. In searching through the chambers of my memory I have been unable to recall a greater one. Oh, how he loved the Lord, and His Word, and could preach it! And he believed all of it—"from cover to cover"—and taught us to thus believe it, a teaching away from which I have never departed. I am glad to say, I can all but see him—a quarter of a century ago—in our pulpit: from erect, eyes sparkling like diamonds and face all aglow with divine light as he, mounting with wings as eagles" would preach "the unsearchable riches of Christ." Multiplied thousand, my brethren, heard his clear, strong voice as he "told the old, Old Story of Jesus and His Love." Over three thousand were buried with Christ in baptism by him, and uncounted thousands were comforted by him during hours like these, and a number of preachers heard and responded to the call of God to preach the gospel under his ministry; and some of his "preacher boys" as he loved to call them are standing here today with sad and yet thankful hearts—sad because "we shall see his face no more" on this earth, and glad because God sent him to us while we were yet sinners and used him in leading us out of "nature's darkness into the marvelous light as it is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

"Faith of our fathers! living still In spite of dungeon, fire and sword; Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy When'er we hear that glorious word Faith of our fathers! holy faith! We will be true to thee till death!"

Upholds Quality of Shelby's Water

To Editor of The Star: In regard to the criticism in the Cleveland News of the pump station and the city water, let me say, that the water of Shelby is as pure as most towns and cities of North Carolina.

The Board of Health knows more about the water than the Cleveland News as they test the water each month. The News said the water is not fit to drink. The water is all right to drink or for cleaning purposes for people. It is not guaranteed to kill flies or lice either. If the news wants this kind of water, look some where else besides Shelby. As for chemicals in the water, if there was as much alum in the water as the News said, it would draw him up so little that you could not find him with magnifying glass.

As for the taste in the water, it is chlorine gas to kill the germs and will not harm anyone.

If the News will come to the pump station I will show him how the water is worked as he does not know what he is talking about.

As for the pumping station, the only thing wrong with it is too small for the town.

F. CRANE.

81x90 Mohawk Sheets
The Very Finest Of Quality Bed Sheets
Snow white and beautifully made. A wonderful buy. Now is the time to make your dollars work on both sides

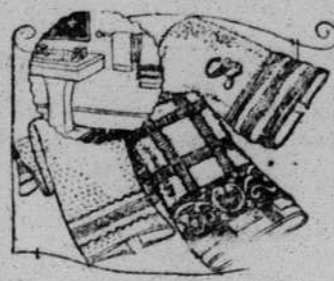
\$1.39



Novelty Krinkle Bed Spreads
Extra heavy plain and scalloped edges, Well bleached. Extra special for White Sale \$1.98

January Clearance and White Sale

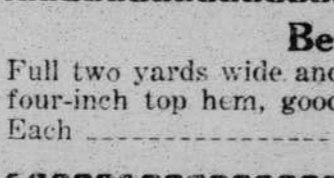
—BEGINS FRIDAY, JANUARY 15TH LASTING THROUGH SATURDAY, JANUARY 23RD—



Turkish Bath Towels
Our regular 25c seller. Special for White Sale. In plain white, with colored borders, also in large colored plaids. Extra heavy. Each \$1.19c



Bed Spreads Special
66x84-inch Crochet Bed Spreads, medium weight crochet in pretty Bed Spread designs. Very special for White Sale only. Heal values, each \$1.00



Bed Sheets
Full two yards wide and two and one-half yards long, four-inch top hem, good weight. Each 98c



Fine Dimity 36-Inches
Wide, extra fine quality, bleached snow white. Priced low for White Sale. Yard 15c



Flaxon Cloth
32 inches wide, in plain and small checks. Extra fine quality. Yard 25c



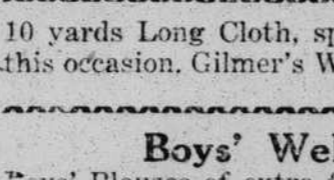
42x36-inch Pillow Cases, hemmed ready for use; of good quality. Each 19c
36-inch Picket Bleachnig, finished, soft for the needle. Very Special. Yard 15c



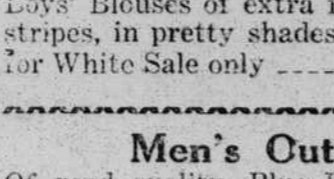
Irish Linen Dresser Scarfs
Buffet Sets
Round Table Covers
Torchon
Lace Edges \$1.00 Each



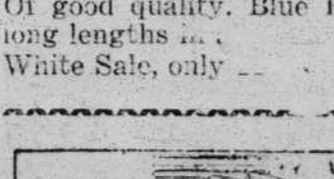
10 yards Long Cloth, specially priced for this occasion. Gilmer's White Sale for \$1.00



Boys' Well-Made Blouses
Boys' Blouses of extra fine quality Percales and Madras stripes, in pretty shades. Special for White Sale only 98c



Men's Outing Night Shirts
Of good quality. Blue Bird Brand. These are full cut, long lengths. Low priced for White Sale, only \$1.00



Men's Fine Dress Shirts
In madras, percales and other materials, with and without collars. Values to \$2.48. Special for January White Sale. Sizes 14 to 17. Special \$1.00



Men's White Handkerchiefs
Very special for this occasion. In small stripes and checks. Each 10c



Men's Heavy Union Suits
Good quality Hanes seconds. These come in all sizes. Special for White Sale only \$1.29

White Goods



Every Day Nainsook
Full yard wide, for every day in the year. Very highly mercerized, soft finished for underwear, etc. Specially priced for Gilmer's White Sale, yard 39c

Baby Nainsook
36 inches wide. A well known product of King Phillip mills. Extra fine quality. Ideal for baby clothes or underwear. Priced special for Gilmer's White Sale. Yard 29c

U. S. A. Soft Nainsook
39 inches wide. A very soft fine quality, very highly mercerized. Very useful for the home at all times. Priced low for White Sale. Yard 25c

Gilmer's Fine Nainsook
Priced exceptionally low for this event. 39 inches wide, soft fine quality. A real Gilmer's special 19c

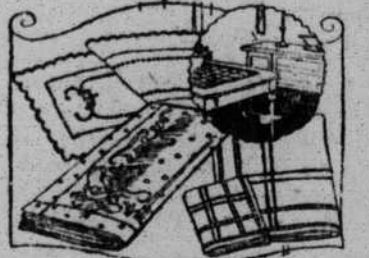
Women's Under Garments
Nainsook Teddies
With lace trimming in yoke, also around bottom. 36 to 42. White Sale \$1.69

Women's Princess Slips
Made of good quality, trimmed with lace and ribbon in yoke, also has hip hem. Sizes 36 to 44 \$1.98

Outing Sacques
Dainty outing sacques with pink and blue trimming 48c
Special lot of gowns for \$1.00

64x64-in. Tablecloth Patterns Very Special

In plain white, also colored borders, extra special for White Sale. Regular \$1.48 seller— \$1.00



Dinner Napkins Set
18x18-inch size, made of splendid quality, appearance of all linen. Priced very low for Annual White Sale. SPECIAL 75c SET OF SIX

54-Inch Table Damask
Heavy quality Mercerized Damask, beautiful designs. Priced very low for White Sale. Yard 48c

Heavy Outing
27-inch Heavy Outing, a splendid quality. Special for White Sale— 15c YARD



36-INCH FRUIT OF LOOM
Special 1 Yard 25c

8-4 Fine Sheeting, bleached, full 72 inches wide. Extra heavy quality. Yard 48c

9-4 Eunedia Sheeting, 81 inches wide, heavy quality, well bleached, yard 59c

18x36-Inch Bath Towels
Extra quality in plain white only. Very Special— 29c Each



Women's Outing Gowns
Of Heavy Quality \$1.50

Children's Union Suits
In long and short sleeves. Also knee and long lengths 98c

Women's and Misses Union Suits
In long and short sleeves, also knee and long lengths. Special for White Sale only \$1.29

Gilmer's Fine Sheeting For Friday Only
10c Yard

No Mail Orders — No Phone Orders
Gilmer's fine Sheeting, full yard wide. A well constructed, heavy quality. Special for opening day only, 10 yards to a customer. No mail orders or phone orders filled.

WHITE SALE VALUES

The Most Important Value Giving Event of the New Year

FOLLOW THE CROWDS

