

THE LEDGER.

THURLOW S. CARTER,
EDITOR AND MANAGER.

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Information Wanted by the Dispensary Investigation Committee.

All persons in this or any other State are requested to send any information in their possession relating to the affairs of the South Carolina State dispensary, which is the cause of any complaint. They are also requested to state fully any facts that they have as to irregularities, mismanagement or corruption therein, or of any one connected therewith, with suggestions as to how the truth of the same may be properly ascertained.

No communication will be considered unless signed by the parties sending it, but the name of the sender will not be given to the public if such be desired.

Communications should be sent to either of the undersigned: J. T. Hay, Camden; Cole L. Blease, Newberry; Niels Christensen, Jr., Beaufort; A. L. Gaston, Chester; T. B. Fraser, Sumter; D. A. Spivey, Conway; J. Fraser Lyon, Abbeville.

A Distressing Death.

The only son of Mr and Mrs Eph McKeown, of Rockton, aged about four years, died under most distressing circumstances last Sabbath and the remains were brought up to Bethlehem Methodist church Monday for burial. The little fellow was subject to croup and syrup of squills was used as a remedy. He came in coughing and asked his father to give him some medicine. The bottle was sitting on the mantel but seeing a bottle on the washstand with a spoon by it Mr McKeown thought it was the medicine and gave him a dose. It proved to be carbolic acid which Mrs McKeown had been giving her chickens and had forgotten to put away. A physician was summoned at once but he died in twenty minutes after the acid was taken.—Chester Lantern.

Shortly after the war the late T S Jefferys offered some shares of the Equitable Life Assurance society in Yorkville at 75 cents on the dollar. Mr Jefferys was at that time local agent for the society and his offerings were in pursuance of an effort to popularize that institution in the south. The stock was offered quite freely but there were no purchasers. Shares which could have been bought then for \$75 each are now worth \$80,000 each and can be sold more readily for \$80,000 now than for \$75 then.—Yorkville Enquirer.

—Chester special of March 16 to Columbia State: The Chester chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, at their meeting this week arranged the programme for the exercises of laying the corner stone of the Confederate monument here on the 11th of April. Judge William H Brawley of Charleston, a native of Chester, will deliver the principal address. Dr J S Clifton of Orangeburg, also a Chester county man, has been invited to attend and make an address in the afternoon. Judge Brawley was a member of the Sixth regiment, South Carolina infantry. Dr Clifton of the First regiment of cavalry.

"The dispensary has put gray hairs on my head in three years." —H H Evans.

And in three years it has brought down the gray hairs of many a father and mother with sorrow to the grave.—Chester Lantern.

Crime in South Carolina.

Good Work of Pulpit and Press Said to be Bearing Fruit—Seven Men Now Under Sentence of Death in the State.

Special to Charlotte Observer.

Columbia, S. C., March 19.—Juries in criminal cases in this State have been notoriously lax for the past quarter of a century with the result that murders and other forms of violence have increased steadily and the State has gotten an unenviable reputation abroad. But owing to the good work of pulpit and press, there has been substantial evidence recently of the pendulum swinging the other way not only in those counties which have a large number of homicide cases, but through out the State generally. Spasmodic change of sentiment has manifested itself in this matter through juries in particular sections—in Pickens, Greenville, Oconee and Spartanburg counties, for instance—a number of times. But a general change of mind throughout the State has just begun to show itself.

There are just now seven men under sentence of death in this State, with the strong probability that four of these will be hanged within the next few months. Four out of the seven are white men, and two of these are men of means and influence.

The first hanging will be that of Marion Parr, the cotton mill operative of this city, who while his case was about to be taken to the Supreme Court confessed freely to his preacher, acknowledging that he was guilty of murder, saying he deserved to and was ready to die. Parr is to be executed here on the 14th of next month, and it will be the first legal execution of a white man this county has seen in 40 years.

R A Adams, the Colleton white man who escaped jail after the Supreme court refused his appeal for a new trial, but who was recaptured after the Governor offered a reward of \$1,000, is to be resented at Walterboro next week. He is an ignorant, but a rather influential and well connected man in his county. He killed Jacques in a rage after looking him up to quarrel with him about a piece of property. Adams will hardly get a commutation.

There are two hangings set for the 5th of May at Florence, and it is not unlikely that both of these will take place, although the Supreme court has not passed on the fate of the white man convicted there a few days ago of the murder of a negro. The time in which he had to perfect his appeal having expired, it is presumed that nothing will be done to save him. Marks, the negro who had to be brought here pending his appeal to the Supreme Court to prevent him from being lynched, is to be hanged at Florence on the 5th of May for the murder of the white man, Hill Langston.

The most important matter is that coming out of Oconee county, where the case of Hoyt Hayes, whose commutation created so much feeling there against the Governor originated. Earle Rochester, a leading Oconee farmer of that section and considered a fine citizen and desirable neighbor, is under sentence of death for doing a neighbor to death with a shot gun. He and this neighbor quarreled about the neighbor's cattle getting in Rochester's crops, and matters went from bad to worse until Rochester met him in front of his (Rochester's) home and waited for him with a shot gun. The matter is now pending in the Supreme Court. It is said

that on the morning Special Judge J A McCullough, of Greenville, who presided at the trial, was making his way to the court room after the verdict had been rendered against Rochester he met and stooped to caress a beautiful child, playing joyously and with light heart in front of the court house. He is very fond of children and a pained and shocked look came into his careful eyes when he asked her who her father was and she lisped, "Mr. Earle Rochester." The night before he passed sentence he did not close his eyes, and it is said that he voluntarily promised to assist the attorneys for the defense before the Supreme Court or the Governor or both.

The case against the two desperate blind tiger negroes, who killed Magistrate Cox when he went to arrest them from Fountain Inn last May as they were hauling a load of liquor in a buggy and who have been in the penitentiary for safe keeping, is still hung up in the Supreme Court. The appeal came near being abandoned for want of funds, but in the eleventh hour a negro preacher scaped up enough to base a promise of more upon and the negroes have a good lawyer. The appeal is to come up for a hearing at the April term and the decision will therefore not be out until some time next summer. The negroes have small chance of escaping the gallows.

Terrible Explosion.

Shoe Factory at Brockton, Mass., Blown up.—Sixty Killed and the Wounded Suffered Awful Injuries.

Boston, March 20.—Many lives were lost in the R. R Grover Shoe company's factory at Brockton this morning, as the result of an explosion of a boiler. Three floors above the boiler collapsed. Several hundred at work it was feared were buried in debris, but the loss of life was not so serious as at first thought, though it was bad enough.

There were about four hundred persons at work when the explosion occurred. The loss of life is estimated at over fifty. All doctors in the town were called to the scene. All ambulances of the city are out, and hacks are being pressed into service carrying away the injured. The wreckage fired, which communicated to the Dahlburg block and to houses in the vicinity, which are now burning. Seven houses, together with the block, are gone. Some of the people are penned in and are unable to get away and will burn to death. A part of the exploded boiler landed into a house some distance from the factory, partially wrecking it.

Doctors returning from the scene say the accident was the worst in all their experience; that injuries to so many of the survivors are the most terrible they had ever seen. The company manufactured the Emerson shoe.

Soon after the search of the dead began eighteen bodies were recovered. It is estimated that the number of dead at noon was between fifty and seventy-five. The fire was gotten under control at 11 o'clock.

A Disaster to Texas.

Houston, Texas, March 18.—There was a terrific downpour of rain all over Eastern and Southeastern Texas today, and every community reports damage to bridges, newly-planted crops, fences, ect. It is reported generally that the extraordinary wet season has resulted in the rotting of seed potatoes and that crops have been damaged already more than 50 per cent.

Many farmers had planted potatoes as a substitute for cotton.

Eyes Open, Everybody!

A great reduction in prices

For The Next Thirty Days

in all Winter weights, so govern yourselves accordingly. Everyone come and take advantage of these slaughtering prices.

THE HEATH-JONES COMPANY.

We will offer to the trade for the next month the following goods at cost, as we want to make a clean clearance of Winter wear in order to make room for Spring goods. So come at once and inspect our stock, even if you don't wish to buy, for it is a pleasure to show our customers what startling values we have in store for them

All Winter weights in Clothing---Suits, Pants and Overcoats, at actual cost. Also Capes, Jackets, Furs and Muffs accordingly. Blankets, Comforts and Lap Robes, the same way. A big assortment of Knit Skirts at your price.

We have 150 pairs of Shoes to offer very cheap and which are of the very best that is manufactured. But, after breaking the boxes in removing from one store to the other, have decided to place them on the Bargain Counter and let them go at a great sacrifice. Our entire line of Shoes will be knifed to the core, as we have entirely too many.

Remember, these Prices are for the SPOT CASH, and no charging will be listened to. Come everybody and bring your purse, and we will give you the cheapest and best merchandise that has EVER been offered YOU.

We have just received a pretty lot of Spring Goods such as Gingham, Nainsooks, Swisses, Piques, and lots of other styles.

We have the largest and best selected stock of Ladies' Collars that has ever been shown on this market.

A pretty line of Mohair tailor made Skirts in all the leading shades. Also a large assortment of black mercerized Sateen Petticoats very cheap.

We have the swellest and nobbiest line of Spring Silks in all the up-to-date shades, so come at once and take a look and you will be pleased with prices, pattern, and quality.

Laces and Embroideries! Knowing that ladies have a perfect mania for such, we have bought extensively the best and cheapest that money could buy, and feel assured that we can please the most fastidious.

The most up-to-date line of CRAVATS, in all colors. Ascot's Four-in-hand and string ties. International and United Shirts and Collars, the very best to be had, and also our fifty cent line can't be duplicated.

Several dozen HATS to be turned loose, name **20** Dozen Soiled Linen Collars, the price and let your cranium be covered. **20** the very best, 5 cents each.

We have several rolls of CARPET that we will close out at cost. Also a small stock of Furniture that we will sell at cost.

THE HEATH-JONES COMPANY.