

SABBATH SCHOOL

DECEMBER DOINGS.

The Latest News From a Trio of States.

Interesting News Items From Many Points in Our Own and Neighboring States.

VIRGINIA.

E. E. Meredith is elected Congressman in the Eighth District to succeed Gen. Lee, deceased, and about the same majority as his predecessor.

A colored woman one hundred years and one day old was buried in Clarence last week.

Robert E. Cooke and Miss Mary Scarce, of Danville, eloped across the Carolina line Thursday and were married at Pelham.

The Grand Lodge of Masons, which convened Tuesday in Richmond, is meeting in the 13th annual convocation.

The State of Virginia owns about a million and a half acres of oyster lands. The question of managing these oyster beds so that they shall yield a proper revenue to the State is to be taken up by the Virginia Legislature now in session.

Gen. Scott Shipp, superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute, is making arrangements to build a memorial hall to Stonewall Jackson. The estimated cost of the building is \$40,000, \$10,000 of which, it is said, has been secured.

The revival of some of John Randolph's duelling exploits recalls to many Virginians the beauty of his famous plantation, Roanoke, which was situated near the confluence of the Roanoke and Staunton rivers. It contained 7,000 acres and was divided into quarters, each designated by a name of its own and managed by its own owners. On a commanding eminence overlooking a smiling valley and well-tended hills the mansion house reared its ample proportions. In June, 1846, by the provisions of Randolph's remarkable will, all the slaves were freed. Even in those days there were will contests, but the slaves at last got their liberty and made their way to Mercer county, Ohio, where homes had been purchased for them.

The new union passenger depot at Raleigh is being finished.

The cotton receipts at Raleigh (local) this season to date are 15,338 bales against 26,613 last season.

At Shore's Ferry on the Yadkin river Thursday the wreck, letting the boat and its cargo float down the river. The stream was swollen and the ferryman in his endeavor to save the men and team which were crossing over, sustained painful and perhaps fatal injuries. Both arms were broken, besides being otherwise bruised.

News is received of a heart-stricken family at Ladford on the Roanoke and Seaboard railroad. Ped Turner, an esteemed citizen, a son and daughter all died of pneumonia and another child the following day. The wife and mother died a few days ago.

At Elizabethtown James Johnston, colored, was hanged in the presence of 3,000 people. Johnston committed a criminal assault on Florence Sutton, a colored girl ten years old, and then murdered her. He confessed the crime when arrested, but protested his innocence on the gallows.

The wood pulp mills at the falls of the Neuse have begun work. There has been expended on these mills, and on the new plant for the paper mills there, \$22,000. The company owning the property propose to open very valuable and extensive granite quarries at that place, and to secure a branch railway from the Raleigh & Gaston, some three miles in length. The water power is very great. The turbine at the wood pulp mills is 350-horse power.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

A survey is being made by Major Lee, of the Eastern Barwell and Western Railroad towards Waterboro. It is said that this road will be built.

A bill was introduced in the Legislature Thursday, to require railroad companies to furnish separate coaches for white and colored passengers.

The America, U. S. light-house supply steamer, touched at Charleston a few days ago, on her annual tour of South Atlantic light-houses to which it carries the yearly supplies. The steamer has a capacity for 100,000 gallons of oil.

The total taxes for York county this year will amount to considerably more than \$100,000, and not more than \$200,000, has been collected up to this time.

The steamship Yemassee, which arrived at Charleston from New York, week, brought the first instalment of iron for the new West End Electric Railway Company. Caskets have been hauled to the corner of Spring and Ashley streets, and the work on the line has begun.

The recent two days' communication, at Charleston, of the Most Worshipful Chapter Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina, was attended by the very large attendance that the Masonic grand has a deep root in the entire State. The amount of business transacted in the two days' session was surprising, but the efficient officers had so systematically mapped out the line of work that there was no necessary delay. The next annual communication will be held in Charleston.

As the result of the confession of a negro named Henry Suber, to the effect that he murdered Thornton Nance some months ago, ten persons who had been sentenced to hang October 24th last, at Greenville, but whose execution was stayed by an appeal to the Supreme Court will now be released. Suber confessed that he alone committed the deed and he makes a clean breast of it. He does not want to see his innocent men suffer for his crime.

OTHER STATES.

Florida is probably the best timbered State in the Union. Out of about 38,000,000 acres, only some 3,000,000 are included in farms, the rest, nineteen-twentieths, exclusive of the tract covered by lakes and rivers, being covered with heavy forests.

Judge Ridley, of the Criminal Court, of Nashville, Tenn., a few days ago discharged the grand jury because they had disregarded his instructions in regard to indictments. The Judge had instructed them to include in one indictment all parties charged with gambling, but they returned separate indictments against each, saying that the Attorney General had instructed them to do so. The Court refused to receive the indictments, discharged the jury and refused to hear the Attorney General's explanation.

The great bridge in course of construction over the Mississippi river at Memphis, Tenn., is to be completed by May 1st of next year. Already a programme for a demonstration upon the formal opening of the bridge is being discussed, and the occasion will doubtless be made one of the most interesting in the history of the city.

An interesting little war story has Governor Jones of Alabama for his hero. At the time Gordon was resisting Sherman's advance, Jones, then a staff captain, was delivering a message from his chief, when he saw a little child, clad only in night clothes, hiding in terror behind a frame house in the direct tracks of the bullets from each army. Jones rode forward, took the child on his horse and galloped back with her to the Confederate line. When the Union forces saw the act they ceased firing, and there was an impromptu cessation of hostilities until the child had returned to a point of safety.

SUNBEAMS.

William Jackson, of Ellsworth, Me., is a lost six wives within the past 55 years, the last having died a few weeks since.

It is stated that in 1890 the number of persons killed in India by snakes was 21,412, while the number of snakes slain was 510,639.

The mandarin, banjo, and glass oils of Harvard University will give public performances during a Western tour in the last week of the year.

It appears that Sir Edwin Arnold tickled the fancy, raised the pride, and touched the heart of the Bostonians by the English speech he made at the American city.

At Santa Rosa, in the republic of Uruguay, 200,000 vine shoots were planted this year. Next year there will be twice as many planted. They grow luxuriantly and bear abundantly in that part of Uruguay, and are profitable to their owners.

The Australian city of Melbourne, which was founded less than 50 years ago, has already a population of nearly 400,000, and stands among the great cities of the British empire. It is now a great shipping port, and its slum quarters are small.

It appears by the report of the treasurer of Yale College, which has just been published, that the gifts received by the college during the year covered by the report amounted to the large sum of \$443,895. The gifts ranged from \$100 to \$50,000.

In Athens, Ga., a system of electric railway and a system of electric fire-alarm have been established this year. In the coming year a new system of street paving and a new system of waterworks are to be established. The introduction of small quantities of many kinds is to be encouraged there.

Judge Crisp's father and mother were members of a Savannah dramatic company in the days before the war, and the future Speaker, then a youth, sometimes appeared on the stage in minor roles. His brother, Henry Crisp, who died about ten years ago, was an actor of the same company, and had at one time been connected with Jno. T. Ford's company in Baltimore. Judge Crisp is said to have had a fine stage presence, but however that may be it is certainly a prominent figure now on the national stage.

It is not very often that a preacher of national reputation is met at a published appointment by a congregation of one but that is what happened to the famous Parson Br. Wadsworth in Greenville, Tenn., notoriously a Methodist town, he found himself with just one auditor. The sexton even had gone away after opening the doors and ringing the bell. The parson looked about him for a minute, then lifted his hands and said, "Let us pray." The prayer was long and fervent but nobody came. At the close of it the minister sang a hymn. Still there were no more listeners. Drawing a long breath the preacher said, "Sister, we will be dismissed," then repeated the benediction, grabbed his hat and overcoat, and took the next train home.

A CALL TO COTTON PLANTERS

To Meet and Consider the Reduction of Cotton Acreage.

MONTGOMERY, ALA., (Special.)—Commissioner Lane, of the Department of Agriculture of Alabama, has issued a circular to every State Agricultural Commissioner in cotton growing States for the purpose of calling a convention of farmers of the cotton growing States, for the purpose of considering the expediency and practicability of decreasing the acreage of cotton in the South.

He says: "Being deeply impressed with the conviction that this demand is most imperative and action ought not to be delayed. I respectfully ask immediate consideration and through you, of cotton growers, in reference to the subject and the urgent necessity of an early meeting for the purpose of discussing and, if possible, arriving at some conclusion that will accomplish the desired result."

He names the city of Montgomery, Ala., as the most available place, and Wednesday, the 6th of January, 1892, as the time of the meeting of the convention.

THOMAS INTEREST HAS CONTROL

Of the Richmond Terminal and a Secret Meeting is Held Without Final Action.

NEW YORK CITY, (Special.)—A report was prevalent that the Thomas interest in Richmond Terminal Company had been steadily absorbing stock for some time, and that having acquired a controlling interest they had notified the parties now in control that they desired to call a meeting for a special election according to the by-laws of the company. This report was confirmed when it was learned that secret meeting had been held, and the meeting adjourned without action to meet again the following day.

After the meeting, Directors Thomas, Warner, Moore and H. G. held a conference. The result could not be learned.

Virginia, "Mother of Presidents," is mother as well of Speakers of the National House of Representatives, since she has furnished as many sons for that honor as have been New York, Ohio, Maine and New Jersey combined. For thirty-nine out of one hundred and two years the Speaker's chair has been filled by either a Virginian or a Kentuckian.

ALLIANCE COLUMN.

Colonel Polk Interviewed About the Indianapolis Meeting.

Something Like the Sub-Treasury Bill Seems to Work in Russia.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

The Post has the following interview with Col. Polk, on his return to the city from Indianapolis:

Col. L. L. Polk was being congratulated by the National on his election to Presidency of the National Farmers' Alliance at the late Indianapolis convention. "The partisan press, as usual, misrepresented our meeting," he said. "Was the Indianapolis meeting harmonious?"

"Thoroughly so; and it will be productive of vast benefit. There was no effort to carry the Order into any political party. The Ocala demands were endorsed unanimously by all of the thirty-four States represented, and also by the delegates from the F. M. B. A., which practically merged it and the Alliance into one harmonious organization."

"Is there to be no political action, then next year?"

"Well, the meeting of February 23d will decide about that. It will be a grand convention, composed of twenty-five delegates at large for each order or organization represented, and one additional delegate for every 10,000 members of each order. The delegates to be selected by the organizations, but the others by a direct popular vote. The convention will probably be held at St. Louis or Cincinnati."

"I don't care to anticipate its action, but something of importance will come out of it. The old platform of the party of the people of coalescing. Read the editorials in the Democratic newspapers favoring the return of John Sherman to the Senate. Doesn't that look like coalition? I suggest that the Democrats should nominate next year Cleveland and Harrison, and the Republicans Harrison and Cleveland. The result of the election would be certain of compressing its ends, for both parties are under its domination."

SEEMS TO WORK IN RUSSIA.

The Charleston News and Courier has the following despatch from Washington, D. C.: Consul General Crawford, of St. Petersburg, has sent to the department of State a report on the system now in use in Russia (resembling certain plans advanced in the platform of the Farmers' Alliance in this country) of making advances on farmers' grain stored in warehouses or delivered to officials of the railways of the country.

Mr. Crawford says the advances on grain may be made by any railway company on account of the vast quantities of Russia, authorized by the ministry of finance. They must not exceed 60 per cent. of the value of the grain at the nearest market place, except in cases of loans of six weeks or less, when an 80 per cent. advance may be obtained. The usual interest is 6 per cent., payable in advance. The rate of interest is 10 per cent. on the account of sinking fund and commissions to railroads. The loans range from six months to one year, and if they are not repaid at their expiration the grain is sold at auction by the railroad company. Grain may also be sold in danger of rotting, or the farmer feared that the value will not cover the cost and expenses of storage. The railroad company bears the entire responsibility for the loan by the bank, and are required to settle their liabilities within seven days of settlement of a loan or auction sale of grain.

In calculating the percentage of advance the farmer is to receive, the cost of transportation is charged as part of the loan. No distinction is made between farmers and middlemen in making advances, the loan being made only on the grain.

In conclusion the consul general says: "This scheme went into effect June 14, 1888, and has since that time been generally adopted throughout the country, and business is carried on under it on a very large scale. I should also add that the scheme gives great satisfaction to the farmers, very many of whom declare it has been an essential feature of successful farming in Russia."

The Alliance in Louisiana is doing as well as it can under the circumstances. Its growth has been obstructed somewhat by unavoidable circumstances, yet the brethren are in earnest, and are determined to place the Order on a permanent ground in the near future. It is a difficult State to organize, and those who have stood in the front have had a hard struggle. Within the past year a State organ, The Vidette, has been started, and a most excellent paper it is, which will doubtless aid materially in the prosecution of the work of reform. The Alliance in this State is fighting the lottery windmill, and as a result are meeting with all the opposition that a moneyed corporation can bring to bear. It is expected that the Order will succeed, which will place it on a high road to permanent prosperity.

That was a very good answer given a gentleman by President Elias Carr of N. C. when the man remarked that such legislation as the Alliance proposed would make him get only 80 cents for a dollar. Mr. Carr said that wouldn't be as bad as the farmer getting only fifty cents on the dollar for products of the farm.

At a mass-meeting of 20,000 working men held at Dammen, Norway, resolutions were passed, demanding that the government should buy the land of the country, distribute it among the laborers and advance them the money necessary to work it.

There are 12,000,000 workmen in this country adding to its wealth at the rate of \$7 per day, but they get less than \$1 each. Who gets the other \$6?—Knights of Labor Journal.

Four hours' daily work is sufficient to support any person if social conditions are just.—Benjamin Franklin.

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FLORIDA'S TRAGEDY.

A Whole Family Was Exterminated.

Defenseless Women and Children Brutally Murdered by Ruthless Hands. Looking for the Fiends.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., (Special.)

The latest developments in the horrible tragedy at New Smyrna, in which Mrs. L. D. Hatch (formerly of Maine), her young son, Miss Adelaide H. Bruce, of New York, and Frank Packwood, Jr., aged four, only make the case more mysterious than ever.

The scene of the murder is a beautiful and romantic spot, seven miles below Smyrna, or half way between Smyrna and Oak Hill. A gruesome fatality seems to have clung to it, for it was here that the Shives family—father, son, wife and baby—were murdered by the Indians in the war of 1856. The house where this later day murder was perpetrated is on the site of those ruins. It stands on a shell mound thirty feet above the Hillsboro river, and commands a magnificent view of the two graceful sweeps of that stream.

WHERE THE DEED WAS DONE.

On this mound are two houses; one a dining room and kitchen, the other a same size twenty steps away, where the deed was committed. These houses are shaded and surrounded by ancient cedars, fir trees, oaks, palmettos and palms, back of the house is a dense hammock with a few pine and bay trees.

Saturday at 10 o'clock in the morning the murder was discovered and a horrible picture it was. On her back by the window in a pool of blood, Mrs. Hatch lay with a pistol ball wound on the inside corner of her left eye. Her face was blackened with powder.

When the crash came she had evidently been near the window. When the murderer entered, her little son, frenzied with fright, had probably fled as a child would and had sought refuge in the bed clothes of a lounge at the end of the room. He was torn from there, shot over the left eye and his throat cut from ear to ear.

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Mr. Packwood had gone to Orlando, in South Florida, the day before. The murderers probably watched his departure.

A posse of one hundred armed men have been out since Saturday morning, but no trace of the murderers has yet been secured. It was first thought that the crime was the work of thugs, but this delusion was subsequently dispelled by finding a trail leading around the yard to the north and then through the hammock, south to the road, a path that none could travel unless familiar with the country. Mr. Packwood has since then been in the hands of the coroner's jury only, when it is expected that several arrests will be made.

FEDERATION OF LABOR.

Annual Meeting of The American Body For The First Time In The South.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., (Special.)—The annual meeting of the American Federation of Labor—the first ever held in the South—was called to order at 10 o'clock P. M. in the hall of the Hotel by President Samuel Gompers. Nearly one hundred delegates from all over the United States and Canada were in attendance. The meeting will occupy the entire week.

A fund has been raised by the local labor men and the merchants of the city for the entertainment of the visitors, and near the close of the evening a grand banquet will be tendered to the delegates at the Florence Hotel. The feature of the meeting will be a number of excursions given by railroads to mines, furnaces, and other industries in the vicinity.

The executive committee arrived here several days ago to audit the accounts and prepare the annual reports, which were submitted. One of the important matters that will come up will be the question of recognition of working cards by the Federated Labor and the National Labor Union. While the matter of paramount importance to come before the convention much work will be done.

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The Anti Free Pass Law.

COLUMBIA, S. C.—The House has passed the anti-free pass bill, which was previously passed by the Senate, prohibiting public officers from obtaining free passes.

THE KEY OF CHRISTMAS LAND.

Who has the key of the Christmas Land? Where the bonfire shines, And the holy tones, Carollers sing—a merry band—And stars are brighter 'ere that fair strand—Who has the key of Christmas Land?

Light are the hearts in Christmas Land; In each group you meet There are faces sweet, Bosoms young and guileless are there, And brows not yet wrinkled with care—Who has the key of Christmas Land?

Dear baby hearts in Christmas Land,

We want to be near, And join in your cheer, When the tree with its strange fruit bends, And you wait for what Santa sends—Who has the key of Christmas Land?

Love has the key of Christmas Land, Oh! come, O'er us love, With wings like the dove, Spread over hearts thy light of peace, Bow for a harvest full of increase—Open the gates of Christmas Land.

Open the gates of Christmas Land, There is much to do, And the days are few, Bid all men set Charity free; By thy grace, let us see there be, None of God's poor in Christmas Land.—William Lisle.

A MAD CHRISTMAS.

BY E. PHILLIPS OPPENHEIM.

If there is one thing more than another that a bachelor commences to doubt whether his state of blessedness is at Christmas time. The joys of the season are essentially domestic joys; and every one is either looking forward to convivial meetings with a circle of relations and friends or a happy reunion with his own family. At such a time a middle-aged bachelor with no relations feels rather out of it.

Now, although I must plead guilty to ten years of bachelorhood, I never was one of the misanthropical type. I was single (observe the past tense) not from principle, but merely from force of circumstance, and I was never addicted to shutting myself up with my books and a cat, and gazing cynical remarks at the glowing seeking world. On the contrary, I am of a somewhat jovial disposition, and was always fond of society. Christmas time I liked to spend at a jolly country house, and could turn my mind to charades, dancing, romping with the villagers or children, conjuring and other amusements. In fact, I never say with fine modesty that I once heard myself described by a country hostess as an "extremely useful sort of man."

WITH MY BACK TOWARD THE ENGINE.

The idea of spending Christmas in any solitary rooms, with only my landlady and her domestic to talk to was a contingency which I had never contemplated for a moment; but last year I was very nearly brought face to face with it. I generally had at least two or three invitations to select from, and chose the one where I should be likely to meet the most interesting set of people; but on this occasion my usual invitations did not arrive. The Harwoods, with whom I had spent the Christmas before, had lost a child, and were in mourning; the Howdens were wintering at Nice (Mrs. Howden was delicate) and I thought Gray and both the girls were married, and the Christmas house parties were things of the past. These were my stock invitations; and as I recollected others among my circle of acquaintances to whom something or other had happened since last year it slowly dawned upon me that if I desired to avoid a Christmas in London I had better make arrangements to remove myself either to a northern or drapery establishment which I had occasionally honored with my presence, or to a Bathon hotel, where I was sure of falling in with some pleasant company. Just as I had arrived at this melancholy decision, however, a letter arrived which afforded me the greatest satisfaction. It was an invitation to spend a week or two with my old friend, Fred Hallett, at his place in Leicester-shire; and with the vivid recollection before me of a pleasant Christmas spent at Gaultby Hall some three years ago, I lost no time in penning a cordial consent to the welcome invitation. A few days later he held me, followed by a porter carrying my various impediments, on the platform of St. Pancras, prepared to make my journey down to Leicester by the half-past three Manchester and Liverpool express. The Pullman was crowded with a pack of nosy school-boys, so I eschewed it and selected an empty first-class carriage. I took possession of my favorite corner seat, with my back to the engine, and wrapping my legs round my knees, I unfolded a newspaper glided away from the city of smoke in a remarkably good humor, partly inspired, no doubt, by a capital lunch, and partly by pleasurable anticipations of my forthcoming visit.

Fred met me at Leicester station, and I saw him and all much thinner than when I had seen him last. He seemed pleased to see me, however, and greeted me warmly.

During our drive to Gaultby I ascertained a few remarks, with a view to ascertaining what sort of a party there was expected at the Hall; but I got nothing definite out of him. He was quite unlike his old self, and I came to the conclusion that he must be ill. As we drove up the avenue I gazed out the window to gaze

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