

The Easley Messenger.

Truth, like a torch, the more it's shook, it shines.

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THE WIFE.

His house she enters there to be a light
Shining within when all without is
night;

A guardian angel o'er his life presiding,
Doubling his pleasures, and his cares
dividing;

Winning him back, when mingling in
the throng,

From a vain world we love, alas! too
long,

To fireside happiness and hours of
ease.

Blest with that charm the certainty to
please,

How oft her eyes read his! her gentle
mind

To all his wishes, all his thoughts, in-
clined;

Still subject—ever on the watch to bor-
row

Mirth of his mirth and sorrow of his
sorrow.

—ROGERS.

[For the Messenger.]

The Usury Law.

MESSRS. EDITORS: I would be glad if you would publish a few thoughts for me on the Usury Law. I look on it as one of the vexed questions in political economy which no man can solve, notwithstanding some are so positive that man can pay only 7 per cent. interest. Let us see in the first place what per cent. man does pay. All who use manufactured goods pay a tariff of over 40 per cent. on woolen goods 70 per cent.; on some drugs about 200 per cent.; and on bibles 25 per cent., etc., etc., all this to the manufacturer. Does the merchant put on anything? I suppose that he adds something over 25 per cent., besides the freight.

I think I know some three score who are trying to make a living by the profits on an hundred dollar stock of goods. I am not prophet enough to say how large the living will be; but I hope, for the sake of the customers, it will be moderate.

The Internal Revenue on whiskey and tobacco is pretty heavy on the users of these articles. Where a man takes it by the drink, especially, say 60 drinks to the gallon, at 10 cents each, \$6.00.

The farmer loses at least 10 per cent. annually in death of stock, such as hog and chicken cholera, cow and horse diseases, etc., with many other

ways and places of loss and wastage. The average man makes 150 bushels of corn (the whole crop). His horse and dogs eat 100, leaving 50 for bread for family. As for meat, clothing and all other bills, I know not how he pays them. I confess the more I look at this subject the less I know of it.

I would not be surprised if Virginia, Massachusetts, Maine, Connecticut, Florida, etc., made a pretty good guess at what interest a man can pay when they said by their laws we do not know, and fixed no limit.

Now, have these men who are so emphatic in their assertions that man can only pay 7 per cent., solve the problem? or are they simply tickling the populace? Ye earthly Gods, who can show by demonstration that you have mastered the problem? Please step out, and let the world lift you to your proper human sphere. It rather strikes me the average man ought to draw a bounty of about 207 per cent. Why fix a limit to money, the most steady in value of any commodity we handle, and allow men to sell blind horses 20 years old for young and sound colts, and mean whiskey that cost about \$1.50, for \$6.00 per gallon, and many, many other such things for 100 to 1,000 per cent. profit?

Please Messrs. Editors, get some one who can handle this subject to let us know if there is any other chance than living, as far as it is concerned, in a befagged ocean without a compass. I am no advocate of neither high tariff nor interest.

SUBSCRIBER.

AN UNUSUAL NOISE.—The unusual noise created by the steam escaping from an engine which was left on Sunday night, upon the side track of the Air-Line Railroad, created the wildest excitement in the neighborhood around our town, to the distance of five miles. Many were so badly frightened that they aroused their children and engaged in fervent prayer. There was a general shaking of hands and bidding good bye among those who had seen the prediction which has been going the round in our newspapers, in reference to the world coming to an end during the present month. One of the oldest men in our community was consulted, and he declared that in his long life he had never heard any noise resembling it, and it must be Gabriel's trumpet ushering in the last great day. Some thought it would be best to assemble the neighbors together while others suggested it would be better to go into Seneca and be with the multitude of the town, and a number did reach it about daybreak. The excitement continued till the engineer took charge of his engine early Monday morning. The purpose of this is to bring to the notice of the authorities of our orderly town this unpardonable negligence of the Railroad employees, with the request that our Chief of Police will never permit it again to create so great a disturbance.—Seneca (S. C.) Free Press.

—A ghastly story comes from Bohemia. A man at Uscheno who was apparently dead had just been lowered into the grave when the mourners were horrified to see the coffin lid begin to move and the linen shroud gradually appear, until the corpse at last sat up. The man said that throughout his illness he had heard all that had been said. He was aware that they thought him dead, but was unable to make any sign. He was taken home, and there is now every prospect of his recovery.

More Encouraging.

Mr. John Ferguson and Col. H. P. Hammett, who were delegates from this city to Aiken to attend the meeting of the Stockholders of the Cumberland Gap & Chicago Railroad, returned last night. A representative of the "News" interviewed Mr. Ferguson in reference to the result of the meeting and Greenville's prospects. He said that he had remained in Aiken until the 14th, while Dr. Mauldin, Col. Hammett and Mr. Carrier left on the 13th, the two first named gentlemen having gone to Columbia. Mr. Ferguson said that a number of delegates from other localities arrived on the 14th and also quite a large party of stockholders. All the stock was represented. Quite a voluminous report was received from the Agent of the Company in Europe. During the meeting a telegram was received from the Agent which stated that the money necessary to build the road would certainly be secured. No decisive action was taken by the meeting. The old officers were re-elected, with the exception of Col. King, Vice President who had resigned. Col. R. E. Bowen was elected in his place. One fact was established, Greenville will not get the main line. Mr. Ferguson says that the attitude of the directors and stockholders was very friendly toward Greenville. The Pickens representatives are thoroughly reconciled and harmony prevails, the relations between the Pickens and Greenville delegates being of a most pleasant nature. While Greenville cannot exactly obtain the main line yet her chances of securing a large share of the benefits to be derived from the road are thought by Mr. Ferguson to be much better than ever before as desirable connection can be made with the road. Mr. Ferguson will render a full and detailed report of the result of the visit of the delegates before the Council, in a few days, and until then he thinks it better not to publish a statement of Greenville's position in the matter. He is very much encouraged and expresses the belief that the road will certainly be built. He says that the directors fully realize Greenville's importance in a business view, and seem determined to give her a chance to reap the advantages which will accrue when the road is built.—Greenville News.

SOUTH CAROLINA JURORS.—Washington, November 16.—An evening paper publishes to-day a statement that there is now on file in the department of Justice a report, the contents of which have never been made public. This report is to the effect that it is impossible to convict anyone of an election offense in South Carolina. Men women and children are against it. No jury could be found that would convict. It is set forth that the wives and sweethearts of the white men drawn for jury duty say to their husbands and lovers before they go to the court: "You need not come back to me unless you do your duty." This means that unless you give a verdict for acquittal you can depart. This report was made by a special agent of the department of justice, indorsed by the U. S. District Attorney.

—The next house of Representatives will consist of 325 members, instead of 293 of the last house. The Eastern States have 75, as before; the Western States have 109 instead of 92, and the Southern States 121 instead of 106. The Democratic majority is 64.

A Batch of Fires.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Nov. 16.—A special to the "News and Courier" reports that a fire broke out in the town of Sumter last night and spread rapidly, soon involving in destruction the stores of Morris, Hughes, Pate, Hoyt, Desou, Snares, Bogin, Phany, O'Conner and Maxwell. At last accounts the fire was still raging. The loss already is estimated at \$50,000; insurance about \$25,000.

JACKSON, MISS., Nov. 16.—The stores of Williams & Williams and Blackwood & Co., at Bolton, were burned to-day. Loss \$45,000.

PITTSBURG, PA., Nov. 16.—The Newcastle paper mill was burned early this morning. The loss is estimated at \$50,000.

LAWRENCEBURG, Ind., Nov. 16.—Twelve thousand dollars worth of lumber was burned yesterday. Supposed incendiary.

A fire on Cemetery Avenue, Charlotte, N. C., on the 16th, destroyed five houses. Loss \$20,000, partly insured.

The Greenville Hotel, West End, accidentally caught fire on the 17th, but was extinguished with damages to the amount of \$50.

A BIG FIRE IN NORFOLK.—A fire broke out in Norfolk, Va., at the Norfolk and Western Railroad on Wednesday, the 14th, at 11 a. m., in a Warehouse of the company. The flames spread rapidly, and Warehouses Nos. 1, 2 and 3 were rapidly destroyed. The fire was not under control until about 2 o'clock in the afternoon in spite of the united efforts of the Portsmouth and Norfolk Fire Departments and harbor tugs. About 7,000 bales of cotton were destroyed, together with twenty-three cars of walnut logs and two trains loaded with soft coal. The loss on cotton will be \$250,000, and on Railroad material, freight and rolling stock, \$365,000. The entire loss is covered by insurance. The fire is supposed to have originated from a spark from a tinner's furnace.

—Mr. M. H. Majors, a young man of Anderson county, met with a serious accident on the 24th of October last, by having his left hand cut off in a cotton gin. He was assisting in running a cotton gin for Dickson & McElroy, near sandy Springs, and in lifting up the boxing that covers the saws of the gin his hand was caught and before he could extricate it, it was cut completely off and dropped under the gin. Mr. Majors' unfortunate condition being quickly made known, the hemorrhage in the arm was stopped by immediately tying a cord tightly around his arm above the elbow. He was then conveyed home and Drs. Pickens and Duck were sent for to fix up the mutilated limb, which had to be amputated again just below the elbow.—Keowee Courier.

—Among recent patents issued is one for the manufacture of paper from the common grasses of this country, and the inventor claims that paper made by this process will be softer, more transparent and much cheaper than paper made from linen stock. He estimates that an acre of ground will produce from 30,492 to 56,340 pounds of green grass, and this, in turn, will yield about 3,711 pounds of superior paper.

—The finest products of the loom go into this year's ball dresses.