

CURRENT TOPICS.

SYNOPSIS OF THIS WEEK'S CONVERSATION.

The Social Events--Personal Paragraphs--New Postage Stamps--Other Interesting Items.

Easter falls on the first Sunday in April.

Mr. J. G. McCown left last week for Atlanta.

Mr. Harry F. White left on Monday for Wofford College.

Mr. Howard Edwards moved into his new house on Tuesday.

Sheriff Scarborough went to Columbia last week on business.

The fee for registering a letter has been reduced from 10 to 8 cents.

Mrs. Jane Wardlaw, of New Orleans, is visiting Miss Eallie Wardlaw.

Mrs. W. J. Binford, of Richmond, is visiting her uncle, Dr. B. C. Norment.

Mr. T. Walter Norment is home after an absence of four or five weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Halford, of Sumter, are visiting Mrs. R. A. Smith.

Mr. C. T. Smith, Jr., of Liberty, N. C., is visiting his brother, Mr. R. A. Smith.

The Darlington postoffice authorities have ordered a supply of the new postage stamps.

The engine house is being laid with a cement floor. This will be a great improvement.

Mr. B. G. Briston, of the "Toy and Book Store," has returned from a visit to Lake City.

Messrs. John McSweeney and D. H. Traxler, of Timmonsville, spent Monday last in the city.

The young folks had a Valentine party at the residence of Mrs. A. M. Woods on Tuesday night.

Mr. Weinberg is having the front of his new block, that was damaged by the recent fire, repaired.

Chief of Police Dargan is off on a short holiday. Policeman Hart acts as chief during his absence.

The public roads would keep in much better fix if the farmers would see that their plows don't run over the line.

Mr. E. A. Mims, of Augusta, Ga., representing the Manchester Life Insurance Company, of New York, is autographed at the Cleveland Hotel.

The railroad are hauling a great many cars of fertilizers, and it looks as if the farmers are determined to try another big cotton crop. A great many of them seem unable to learn wisdom from experience.

The famous fishing boat, "Norjinn," is being thoroughly overhauled so as to be in good trim for the fishing season. We are requested to state that the "Norjinn" is not for hire, but is kept solely for the pleasure of its owners.

The warm weather will soon be here and we take the liberty of suggesting that the council have some new mosquito netting put round the trees on the square. If it does not protect them from damage by vehicles it will be some security against mosquitoes.

There was a Valentine dance at the Florence Opera House on Monday night. Darlington furnished the following contingent: Messrs. Annie, Meta and Nannie Williamson, Messrs. Bright and Ben Williamson, Robert and Walter James, William Edwards and Harry Smith.

A man is never well dressed without a stylish hat. Messrs. Edwards & Co. have just received a handsome line of the "Alpine Tourist" hats in all the correct spring shades. The "Alpine" will be the hat worn this season, and a more comfortable or stylish headgear cannot be had.

There was a large attendance at the meeting of the Tennyson club on Friday night, at the residence of Mr. Ward. Mr. R. L. Dargan entertained the club with a very interesting essay on Southern literature, for which he received the thanks and congratulations of those present.

We have a splendid steam fire engine, new hose and plenty of water, but we need a hook and ladder company. At every fire time is lost in hunting for ladders. We are that the aware council have

a great many expenses to meet, but \$25 would give the fire department a good supply of ladders.

In a week or two we hope to give our readers a description of a model farm, situated about five miles from the city, and in doing so furnish conclusive proof that stock raising can be carried on with profit right at home. The gentleman who owns this farm does not raise cheap horses, as that would be hardly profitable, but keeps fine mares, and they give him valuable colts. We will give a detailed statement of this farm in order that our farmers may see how easy it would be for them to raise their own stock.

The hill at the foot of Cashua street is in a very bad fix and well high impassable. The work heretofore done on it has been practically useless, and some steps ought to be taken to put it in permanent repair. The street, at this point, is crossed by a strata of soft clay and in wet weather there is nothing to prevent vehicles and horses from sinking prettily deep in the soft mud. At a comparatively small cost it could be made perfectly firm. If we can't do more we ought at least keep our streets in good order, especially those that are the main thoroughfares for the people who come to town.

A Missionary Service.

Rev. W. D. Powell, D. D., who for some years has been a Baptist missionary in Mexico, will preach in the Baptist church on Sunday morning.

The regular services at the Black Creek and Swift Creek Baptist churches will not be held on that day and their congregations will join with the one in Darlington. Dr. Powell is the special agent of the Centennial Mission Fund and his visit is in the interest of this cause. He will be at Hartsville on Sunday night and at Society Hill on Tuesday morning. Our Baptist friends are very liberal in their support of missions, as well as all other church enterprises, and Dr. Powell will receive a cordial welcome from the church here.

A Valentine Party.

There was a very large and pleasant Valentine party at Early's Cross Roads on Tuesday night. It was held in the hall over Mr. Early's store, which was kindly given for the occasion. The dancing was kept up until a late hour and everybody was sorry when the time for departure came. The following young folks from the city were present: Misses Mammie Kelly, Rosa McCown, Alice Parrott, Lilah Kelly, Alma McCown and Maggie Burch, Laura, Ida and Corrie Shaw; Messrs. W. A. Parrott, Charlie Burch, O. O. Biddle, Eugene Vaughn, Lawton Dargan, Ben Smoot, Harry Smith, Charles DuBoise and Frank Martin, Fred and Charlton Law, Willie McCown, Harry Andrews, Dargan Montgomery, Eugene Hendell, R. D. Blackmon, W. S. Garner, T. J. Boatright.

Grand Ball.

Our Hebrew friends will celebrate the feast of Purim by a grand ball on Thursday, March 2, at the Cleveland Hotel. The ball last year was a great success and most thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. No pains or expense will be spared to make the occasion a notable one. A fine band will discourse sweet music, and those who enjoy the misty mazes of the dance will have the fullest opportunity to enjoy themselves.

The committee of arrangements

are Messrs. S. Lewenthal, S. Mame, A. T. Levy and D. Witcover. Reception committee, S. Tombacher, H. Lewenthal. Floor manager, C. Alexander.

There will be quite a number of visitors from abroad who will have an opportunity of enjoying the hospitality of their friends in Darlington.

Amusement Notes.

The popular comedy, "The Colonel," will not, as has been announced, appear here on the 21st. For some reason the company will not be able to fill their engagement at the time advertised.

Wilfred Clarke will be here on the 27th and everybody is looking forward to the time with a great deal of pleasure. The reserved seats are nearly all sold and those who wish to secure one will do well to hurry up.

THE RAILROAD CITY.

Florence Will Soon Have a Street Car Line--Other News.

FLORENCE, Feb. 13.--The cars for the City Railway Company arrived on Monday last.

The Moncrey Medicine Company will manufacture their medicine in the Dixie Steam Laundry building for the present.

A monkey grinder, with music attachment, gathered in a few dimes here this week.

The new prescription counter of Gregg & Lynch, made by Mr. C. Mooney, of Darlington, is said to be one of the finest in the State.

Operations on the artesian well have been resumed.

The Court of Common Pleas adjourned last Friday.

Cotton poured in quite lively last week.

Mr. John P. Coffin has sold his residence in East Florence to Mrs. Leila McKenzie, of Howe's. Mr. Coffin has purchased the new cottage in front of Capt. J. S. Beck's, from Mr. Z. V. Taylor.

Drs. Hamilton & Gasque, of Marion, have opened a dental office over Gregg & Lynch's drug store.

Two small shafts near the Coast Line depot were burned last Wednesday night. The loss is very slight, and the origin of the fire is not known.

The new residence of Mr. Wash M. Waters, on Dargan street, is one of the handsomest in the city.

Not Caused From Starvation.

Some days ago Rev. J. T. Attaway created quite a sensation by the publication of a card in which he stated that Rev. A. M. Attaway and his wife had been driven insane by slow starvation, and indirectly charging the circuit, which Mr. Attaway served, with neglect. This publication has brought out several denials, in which it is clearly shown that Mr. Attaway had never suffered for the necessities of life and that there was no foundation for this serious charge against the people whom he served. Rev. J. B. Campbell, the presiding elder of the district, who is well known here, is the writer of one of the cards of denial and his statement should be accepted without hesitation. During the session of the conference here in 1891, Mr. Attaway gave strong evidence that his mind was unbalanced, and his insanity is not a surprise to any of his acquaintances. It is very unfortunate that his brother should have published the card charging that his insanity was the result of starvation, especially when there was no foundation for the charge. We are candid enough to say that we believe that Mr. Attaway's unfortunate condition is largely traceable to the work of those whose fanatical teachings have worked such injury to the cause of religion.

A Board of Health.

There is nothing that retards the growth of a town more than to get the reputation of being unhealthy, and taking this into consideration we earnestly urge upon the council the importance of having a board of health; not one in name, but one that will be something else than ornamental. The thickly settled part of the city should be kept perfectly clean at all seasons of the year, and it will cost very little to keep it in this condition. A little superficial scraping in the spring will not answer, and will do nothing in the way of preserving health. This is a matter that admits of no delay and we insist that we have a board of health, but the council will please not go to the cemetery for the members of it. We want live men not dead ones.

The C., S. & N. Cars Released.

The sheriff has seized some of the cars of the C., S. & N. Railroad for taxes and has them side-tracked at the depot. The road made no fight about the matter, as the cars seized were some that could be spared. The sheriff showed the utmost consideration in the matter, having no desire to interfere with the regular traffic. The matter is now being adjusted.

LATER--Since the above was in type, we are informed by Sheriff Scarborough that he has released the cars of the C., S. & N. Railroad, the road having paid nearly the whole of the taxes due in this county.

TILLMAN TALKS.

THE RAILROAD TAX-QUESTION DISCUSSED.

He Defines His Position in the Matter--Several Erroneous Impressions Corrected.

From the New York World, Feb. 12.]

To the Editor of the World: There is so much of misinformation and injustice, based on falsehood, in your editorial of February 9, that I ask space to give a plain statement of facts.

It is nothing new for me to be misrepresented in "dispatches from South Carolina," and I have never thought it worth while to correct the erroneous statements sent abroad by my enemies in connection with local affairs and my acts as an officer or as an individual. I only make an exception in the present instance because the matter is one involving the rights of every State in the Union, and I do not care to have people outside of the State draw inferences that are not true.

The facts in the railroad tax muddle, now pending in the United States Court at Charleston, are as follows: Under the statutes of South Carolina railroads retake their property for assessment to the county auditors. These returns are passed upon by a State board of equalization composed of the Secretary of State, Comptroller General, Attorney General and State Treasurer, empowered to raise or lower the assessment to conform to the value placed upon other classes of property by the county boards.

In 1891 this State board increased the valuation of railroad property in the State about \$8,000,000 above what the companies had themselves returned their property. When time for taxing came some of the roads refused to pay more than was due on their own assessments, and the fight in the courts, which began in February, 1892, is for the difference between the State assessment and that made by the roads, the amount in dispute of State, county and school taxes being about \$80,000 on all the roads.

Injunctions were granted by the Judge of the United States Court, restraining the county treasurers from collecting their taxes, and after argument the Court claimed jurisdiction.

Appeal was taken by the State to the United States Supreme Court on two cases, involving less than \$2,000, and that Court decided about three weeks ago that the Circuit Court was in error in claiming jurisdiction where the amount was less than \$2,000.

In the meantime two railroads had failed to pay or tender taxes for 1892 (the other cases are for 1891) and executions were placed in the hands of the sheriffs, one of whom, Nance, made a levy on the trains of the Port Royal and Western Carolina Railroad.

A rule was issued by Judge Simonton against Nance to show cause why he should not be held for contempt, and, pending the decision, the "secret circular" which so excites your credulity was issued by me. When the time came for the hearing the rule was dismissed by request of the railroad's attorney, and that road has since paid in full, the excuse being given that it was a "bluff" to gain time.

Other sheriffs began at once to levy for the taxes of 1892 which had not been paid, and which, not amounting in any county to \$2,000, had just been declared by the Supreme Court as not being under Judge Simonton's jurisdiction. The sheriffs have been ruled again for contempt, and the cases will be heard on the 13th inst.

Now, please allow me to remind you that our people have been so persecuted by Federal Judges in the Kuklex trials and the political trials, growing out of the alleged infringements of the election laws, that they regard a summons to the Federal Courts with terror.

When the sheriffs were ordered by me that the executions must be pressed, without regard to the United States Court at Charleston or its orders, as in the Nance case, and the property held at all hazards, there was no purpose to put the State against the United States. I only intended to reassure the sheriffs and

remove the temporary paralysis occasioned by the "bluff" in the Nance case.

It was not "bluster," but a fixed determination to stand by the States, rights as declared by the United States Supreme Court, in spite of Judge Simonton, who had lent himself to the disgraceful proceeding.

Again allow me to state: First. That there has never been a decision as to the legality or illegality on the merits in any of these railroad tax cases.

Second. The cases now pending are for the taxes of 1892, and are for less than \$2,000 each.

Third. The purpose appears to be to prevent the collection of the taxes on the ground that property in the hands of a receiver cannot be levied on and sold for taxes even though the amount is less than \$2,000.

As far as I have been able to discover, the matter has never been determined by the United States Supreme Court, and a Federal Judge is interfering with the State's officers and stopping the collection of taxes where he has no jurisdiction, unless by reason of the property going into the hands of a receiver.

I am resolved that the State's rights and dignity shall be maintained against this local judicial officer, and that if South Carolina must pass her accounts for taxes against insolvent corporations to a Federal Judge for approval, along with other creditors, her sister States shall suffer a like degradation.

The Supreme Court of the United States has sustained my Administration in every case which has been tried by it, and I will cheerfully abide its decision. We will resist unlawful interference with our affairs as a State, even by a United States Judge, and collect our taxes through our own officers in our own way.

Our laws give every taxpayer who feels he is unjustly dealt with a means of redress, and if bankrupters can hide behind a Federal Judge here, it must be so throughout the Union.

B. B. TILLMAN,
Governor of South Carolina,
Columbia, S. C., February 11.

A WONDER TO DENTISTS.

Teeth Extracted Without Pain by the Use of Algine.

Drs. Burton Bros., of Asbury Park, N. J., who have made for themselves an enviable reputation by the discovery of the now famous "Algine," arrived in the city on Monday morning last, and will remain only a short time. By the use of this "Algine," teeth are extracted without pain, and the patient suffers no bad effects. During their stay here their office will be in Early's new block, opposite the court house.

A Brilliant Wedding.

(From the Columbia State, Feb. 14.) At St. Thomas church, New York City, this evening, Miss Elizabeth Clarkson Thompson, daughter of Ex-Governor Hugh S. Thompson, of South Carolina, and James Greer Zachary were married. Mr. Zachary is a well known lawyer in this city, and is a member of the Manhattan and Lawyers clubs. The wedding ceremony was performed by Rev. Dr. John Wesley Brown.

Lieut. James H. Oliver, of the United States Navy, was the best man, and the ushers were Cary Hutchinson, W. W. Sharpe, Roland Conklin and Frederick McKeeney. Miss Carolina Thompson was maid of honor.

The bride is a sister of Messrs. H. T. and Waddy Thompson, and has a great many friends in Darlington, who will give her their kindest wishes.

A New Firm.

Messrs. Alva and Willie Coggeshall and Tom Rogers have bought out the fancy groceries of Edwards & Co., and will conduct their business in the store recently occupied by Edwards & Norment for their grocery department. Messrs. Edwards & Co., will occupy the adjoining store and will still continue to keep groceries as well as dry goods.

A Business Change.

Mr. Joseph Goldman, who has been running a general merchandise business on Pearl street for some time, has associated with him Mr. Samuel Harris, and the name of the firm changed to J. Goldman & Harris.

THE STATE'S PLAN.

HOW IT WILL CONDUIT THE RAILROAD CASES.

A Very Interesting Statement From an Official--The Railroads' Side. More Cases to Come.

[From the Columbia State, Feb. 11.]

The situation in regard to the railroad war grows more interesting every day, and the administration is now claiming that its defiance, as expressed through Governor Tillman, to the authority of the United States Court, is really only an unavoidable step in having a question of State rights decided by the United States Supreme Court.

Yesterday a representative of the State was enabled, through one of the most influential State officials, to secure an insight into the plans of the administration, which are quite interesting.

As previously surmised, the State will set up as its answer to the petition and rule to show cause, that the United States District Court is without jurisdiction in the matter. They will claim that the United States Court is trying to bring the State of South Carolina to the level of a common creditor, by interfering with the collection of its taxes, and that the United States Court has no right to shield the corporation behind a receiver appointed by itself.

They base their fight on the decisions of the two United States Supreme Court Judges, Blatchford and Brewer, centered some time ago in similar cases before they were elevated to the supreme bench. In these cases it was decided that the appointment of a receiver for a railroad did not interfere in any way with the collection of the taxes by the State. They will set up an answer that the sovereign State has a prior lien on all classes of property for the collection of taxes.

This official says that the governor had to make the fight, as the question has never been brought before the United States Supreme Court and has never been decided. If the State cannot collect its taxes it had better know it at once. No attempt had been made in the past which made it necessary to have the question decided.

Continuing the official said: "If this decision should be adverse to us and the Supreme Court decides that the sheriffs and treasurers have not acted according to law then I understand that the sheriffs will be turned over to Judge Simonton to do with as he will. But they are merely the servants of the State and cannot be held as individuals for contempt where they had no motive for contempt, and their imprisonment will be only a matter of form, a necessary step in the securing of a decision on this important question; for a decision could not be reached in any other way. But if Judge Simonton could get his hands on Governor Tillman, who issued the instructions, then it would be another matter. The State is not in rebellion to the authority of the United States Court; it only proposes to test the law and know what its power is. All they can do with the sheriffs and treasurers is to put them in jail and keep them till they are ready to purge themselves; this they can do by merely asserting they carried out the instructions issued by their superior officers of the State of South Carolina. We shall be very much disappointed if Judge Simonton don't put them in jail, for we want the opportunity of whipping him again, having already beat him out on the question of his jurisdiction where the amount of taxes involved in any one county is not \$2,000."

The administration seems to be desirous of gaining glory by bringing forth a decision on a question which has never been raised before. So the same official referred to above explains the administration attitude.

THE HEARING POSTPONED.

Governor Tillman yesterday morning received the information by telegraph that the hearing in all the contempt cases had been postponed till Monday. This was done in order that the Attorney General shall have full swing on the argument of the Port Royal Railroad case before Judge Aldrich to-day.

FROM A RAILROAD STANDPOINT.

From a railroad standpoint these cases are going to result in much

trouble for the sheriffs and treasurers. It appears from the assertions of a leading railroad man yesterday that the roads are going to bring suits against the bondsmen of the sheriffs and treasurers to recover damages for the locking up of their property. In rebuttal of this, the administration will set up a defense that the sheriffs were merely discharging their duties, and until they fail to discharge their duties their bondsmen cannot be held liable.

In regard to the contempt cases, this gentleman says the administration will be unable to take the equity questions involved in them to the United States Supreme Court, and the appeal will merely result in the charge of contempt being sustained and the cases being remanded to the lower court for contempt.

It is thought here that Judge Simonton will allow the sheriffs twenty-four hours to release the property of the railroads, and upon their failure to do so, will remand the sheriffs to jail for contempt.

OTHER SUITS LIKELY.

There are a great many parties to whom freight aboard the locked-up trains was consigned, who will be damaged extensively. These people, it is said, will enter suits for damages against the sheriffs and endeavor to recover from the bondsmen.

In one instance an engine and train belonging to a foreign road was levied upon and locked up. The sheriff released the cars, but held the engine. It is said that the foreign corporation will also bring suit to recover heavy damages.

SAVE YOUR EYES.

An Expert Optician at the Enterprise Hotel--Consultation Free.

Prof. W. G. Browne, practical and scientific optician for the Sherwood Optical Manufacturing Company, of New York, is at the Enterprise Hotel, where he will remain a week. All persons suffering from weak or defective sight can be properly fitted with superior spectacles and eyeglasses.

Prof. Browne is highly recommended by those who know him and by the press of North and South Carolina. Consultation free.

The Marlboro Democrat, of Bennington, says: "Prof. Browne, the well and favorably known optician, is at the Commercial Hotel, where he is fully prepared to give comfort and relief to all cases of weak and defective eyes. His work in this town heretofore is sufficient guarantee of his ability and fair dealing. Call and have your eyes examined free of charge, as his stay may not be longer than this week. Glasses when not on hand will be made to order with frames of every style and material. Save your eyes."

A NEWSPAPER CHANGE.

Our Contemporary, "The Darlington Herald" Changes Hands.

[From the Darlington News.] Mr. W. D. Woods has sold THE DARLINGTON HERALD to Mr. J. Shannon McCreight, late of Columbia. Mr. McCreight is a young man, but he has had considerable experience in journalism, having been employed for a number of years in different capacities upon daily papers in Columbia. He has more recently been connected with the Florence Messenger. To the new proprietor of our contemporary, THE NEWS extends its best wishes for his success. Mr. McCreight will have charge of the business department of THE HERALD while Mr. Woods will continue in the editorial management. The friends of Mr. Woods, and their names is legion, will welcome the news that he will continue in the newspaper business, in which he has labored so faithfully for the upbuilding of Darlington and the State.

To School Commissioners.

As the school commissioners seem to have forgotten some recent important changes in the school laws of the State, the State Superintendent of Education has issued a circular to this effect: There are several recent amendments to the school law; too many to quote the phraseology here. I respectfully suggest that you consult the acts. The law does not require the State Librarian to furnish you with a copy. You can find them in the office of the clerk of court. School trustees are not exempt from jury and road duty.