

THE LAST OF THE LEGISLATURE.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WINDS UP ITS BUSINESS FOR THE SESSION.

An Honest Month's Work—The Cream of What Was Done During the Last Week—Legislators Leave for Home.

COLUMBIA, December 24.—Both houses of the General Assembly accomplished a large amount of solid work during this, the last week of the session. While the fate of most of the big measures had been determined before, the events of the past week have not been devoid of interest. A resume of the proceedings is given below.

COMPTROLLER-GENERAL.

The election for Comptroller-General resulted as follows: On the first ballot the vote stood: Verrier 52, Coit 43, Thomas 38, Withers 29; and there was no election.

The second ballot resulted: Verrier 59, Coit 40, Thomas 36, Withers 20. The name of Mr. Withers was then withdrawn.

Third ballot; Verrier 75, Coit 41, Thomas 37. Then came a number of changes, and the President of the Assembly announced the final result: J. S. Verrier 90, J. C. Coit 41, J. P. Thomas 24, and Mr. Verrier was declared elected.

THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

The election for ten members of the Board of Agriculture resulted as follows: For the State at Large, Gen. Johnson Hagood and Col. D. P. Duncan; for the First District, J. S. Porcher; Second District, John Lawton; Third District, J. S. McCutchen; Fourth District, H. L. Buck; Fifth District, W. A. Acornum; Sixth District, R. A. Love; Seventh District, T. J. Moore; Eighth District, B. F. Creighton.

THE UNIVERSITY.

Mr. W. B. Wilson, Jr., nominated Hon. W. H. Brawley, of Charleston, to fill the vacancy in the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina University, created by the death of Mr. Paul Hammond, and Mr. Brawley received the whole vote of the joint assembly for that office.

THE APPROPRIATIONS.

There was some fighting over the appropriations in both houses, but they went through—members evidently thinking that the Legislature having adopted certain measures, should furnish the money to carry them out. The figures of the original estimates, as already published, were not much changed. No specific appropriation was omitted.

STATE HOUSE REFORM.

Senator Rhame started a lively fight by moving to strike out the proviso attached to the House to the State House appropriation—mainly on account of the speech of Mr. Toole, of Charleston, as to the bad work on the building—that the amount expended under the personal supervision of a competent architect, who shall reside in Columbia during the progress of the work. The Senator considered it a reflection on the State House commission to allow this proviso to remain in the bill. If it were retained it would prevent the re-engagement of the present architect, Mr. Neilson, of Baltimore, or some one equally competent. Such architects could not afford to come and live here on the salary which could be paid.

Senator Howell indicated improper work which had been put on the State House, and gave several strong arguments for the retention of the proviso. Senator Buist thought that this was an effort to get rid of the present architect, Mr. Neilson.

Senator Howell retorted that if the statements he had seen published were true, and the purport of the proviso were what the Senator assumed it to be, he thought that by all means the proviso should be retained.

Senators Murray and Smythe made forcible arguments in support of the proviso. Senator McIlwaine also advocated it as a good thing.

The defence of the amendment fell to Senators Rhame and Buist. They indicated that the State House commission would regard the adoption of the proviso as a reflection on them and dwell on the necessity for Mr. Neilson's experience and talent in the completion of the work. The other side disclaimed any reflection whatever upon the commission but insisted that it was necessary to have a supervising architect who would give his whole time to the work and prevent the introduction of poor materials into the building. The Senate, without a division, refused to strike out the proviso.

THE WINTHROP SCHOOL.

The following is the text of the Act to establish scholarships in the Winthrop Training School of this city: Section 1. That, for the purpose of improving the common schools of the State and providing trained teachers therefor, there shall be appointed annually from every county in this State one young woman, who has not the necessary means, to a beneficiary scholarship in "The Winthrop Training School for Teachers," at Columbia, which scholarships are hereby established, such appointments to be made by the State superintendent of education upon a competitive examination held by a board of three persons, to be named by him, in every county of the State, under such regulations as he may prescribe: Provided, that the applicant shall have attained the age of 18 years; and provided, further, that no scholarship be allowed to any person for over one session.

Section 2. That in case the person appointed shall fail to pass the examination prescribed by the board of trustees of said school for admission thereto, or shall fail, from any cause, to attend the session of said school, the State superintendent of education may appoint another to fill the vacancy.

Section 3. That there shall be paid out of the State treasury the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars per annum for every beneficiary so appointed, thirty dollars thereof to be paid at the commencement of the school year to the board of trustees of "The Winthrop Training School for Teachers" to cover tuition fees, books and other necessary school expenses, and the remaining one hundred and twenty dollars to be paid to the beneficiary in three equal installments, the first at the commencement of the school year, and the other two at the

expiration of three and six scholastic months respectively, to cover board, such sums to be paid upon the order of the State superintendent of education; but no order for board shall be issued except upon the certificate of the superintendent in actual attendance upon said school and is maintaining herself with credit therein.

Section 4. That upon the completion of their course such beneficiary students shall be required to teach for one year in the common schools of the respective counties from which they are appointed: Provided, positions are offered them as first grade teachers in such schools.

Section 5. That the State superintendent of education shall be ex-officio a member of the board of trustees of "The Winthrop Training School for Teachers."

THE WESLEY CLAIM was next taken up on the majority report of the ways and means committee recommending that the matter be referred to the attorney general to report to the next General Assembly. A minority report was submitted by Messrs. Brown and Pope objecting to such reference and pronouncing the claim fraudulent and void. This latter report was adopted by a heavy majority.

The following is a bill of some interest: Section 1. That no person shall sell, exchange or dispose of any article of food, or attempt to do so, upon any representation, advertisement, notice or inducement that anything other than what is specially stated to be the subject of the sale or exchange, is or is to be delivered or received, or any way connected with or a part of the transaction, as a gift, prize, premium or reward to the purchaser. Any person violating any of the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars or by imprisonment not exceeding thirty days.

Section 2. This Act shall go into effect from and after the date of its approval.

THE COLUMBIA CANAL.

The Columbia Canal bill was reached on Tuesday night. There was a fight, a very hot fight, in which a good many hard words were said and a good many votes were cast, even after the House had voted 74 to 30 to refuse to strike out the enacting words of the bill. The opposition came principally from Edgefield, Sumter, Newberry, Spartanburg and Darlington. Some of the speeches were very bitter.

Dr. Pope led the attack and charged the supporters of the bill with springing a mine on the House. This was denied by Colonel Haskell in equally emphatic terms. Mr. Haskell charged the member from Newberry with making charges, which existed only in his imagination. Just about the time when the discussion was getting red hot another vote was reached on a motion to amend the bill in such a way as to give the trustees the right of way instead of "the lands," as was expressed in the bill as it came from the Senate.

The amendment was adopted—yeas 88, nays 45—and was amended so as to give the trustees the right of way, and the earth, stones and other material necessary for the construction of the Canal and banks. This latter amendment being accepted by the friends of the bill, the House adjourned without reaching a final vote on the bill. Next day (Wednesday) the bill passed the House, with some unimportant amendments; and it has since become a law.

PRIMARY ELECTIONS.

The House bill to prevent and punish frauds in primary elections elicited a spirited debate. Messrs. Hamilton, of Chester, the two Thomases, Gray and Blackwell, of Edgefield, opposed the measure, which was roundly denounced as an unwarrantable attempt on the part of the Legislature to control the party machinery with which it had nothing to do. Messrs. Brawley, Hyde, Wilson, of York, Rutland, of Fairfield, and Dantzer, of Orangeburg, advocated the bill on the grounds of good public policy. The bill was finally recommitted by a vote of 61 to about 30, the negative vote not being counted. To recommit the bill at such a stage of the session was virtually to kill it.

FORFEITED LANDS.

There were three bills relating to forfeited lands on the Calendar. Two of these were left over from the last session. One of them, known as the "Murray bill," proposed to remedy the trouble by bringing suit in the Courts of Common Pleas against delinquent taxpayers, recovering judgment and issuing execution thereon. The Patterson bill, which was passed by the Senate recently, authorizes the issuing by the sheriff of distress warrants (without a suit at law) against the personal and real property of delinquent taxpayers. The third bill was not considered.

A motion was carried to take up the Murray bill first, and Mr. Burke, of Charleston, fired the first gun with a motion to strike out the enacting words. Then followed five-minute speeches by Messrs. Parker, of Abbeville, Simpson, of Spartanburg, and Haskell, of Richland, in favor of the Patterson bill. Mr. Pope, of Newberry, holding up the Murray bill end of the debate.

Finally Mr. Brawley called the attention of the House to the necessity of deciding which plan he preferred—the Murray or the Patterson, and in order to get at a sense of the House, moved to indefinitely postpone the bill under consideration—viz, the Murray bill.

This motion was carried without a division and then the Patterson bill was taken up. There was no further discussion, but Judge Maiter got in a number of amendments which it is thought will perfect the scheme embodied in the bill.

Briefly stated the provisions of the bill in its present shape are as follows: 1. Hereafter immediately upon the expiration of the time for paying taxes in any year the county treasurer of each county is directed to issue in the name of the State a warrant of execution in duplicate against each defaulting taxpayer in his county, (this in the nature of a distress warrant.) Upon this warrant the sheriff is directed to levy upon the personal property of the delinquent, if it is sufficient to pay the taxes, if not, then upon the real estate.

2. The sheriff is authorized and directed to take possession of so much of the defaulter's estate, personal and real,

as may be necessary to pay the taxes and penalties and costs (the costs are fixed in the bill at an aggregate of \$8.50, with 5 per cent. added,) and to sell the same at public auction, giving in case of a sale of real estate a proper title.

3. In case there is no bid for an amount sufficient to cover the taxes and costs on the land offered for sale, the sheriff is directed to execute a title for the land to the selling fund commission and to put them in possession. The sheriff need in all cases, to be held as prima facie evidence of a good title. Action for the recovery of such property sold and conveyed are barred at the expiration of two years from the date of the sale and conveyance.

4. Defaulting taxpayers may stop such sales by paying to the sheriff the amount of taxes and costs named in the warrant, with an affidavit setting forth the facts.

5. All the forfeited lands now on the record are to be restored to the tax list with only the taxes for the fiscal year beginning November 1, 1887, charged against them.

6. The State renounces all title by forfeiture for non-payment of taxes to each and every said parcel of land, and will treat them hereafter as the lands of the former owner, his heirs or assigns; but this renunciation of title is upon the reservation and condition that the State may hereafter collect by suit at law, or other legal method, from said lands a sum equal to the aggregate amount of all annual assessments for taxes, with the penalties that might and would have been assessed and charged against the said lands in case the same had never been declared delinquent and forfeited; and the retention of the possession and use of said lands for ninety days after the approval of this Act by said former owner, his heirs or assigns, shall be deemed sufficient evidence of his or their acquiescence in and acceptance of the reservations and conditions of said renunciation of title.

7. The sinking fund commission is given the right "to compound with the former owners, their heirs or assigns, for all such taxes as described in last section at one-half part of the whole sum so due, without penalties, provided the money is paid into the hands of said commission on or before the expiration of one year from date of approval of this Act, and the receipt of said commission for such part thereof shall discharge the said taxpayer and his said land from any further liability to the State on that account." The commission is also authorized to bring actions against all owners of forfeited lands for the full amount of costs, taxes and penalties when such lands have been conveyed to them by the sheriff under the terms of this Act, and any judgment obtained by them in such suits is made a lien upon the land in question. The sale having been effected the proceeds are to be applied, first to the payment of the taxes, costs and penalties, and the surplus, if any, is to be paid to the former owners of the land.

This is in brief the bill as it passed the House. The synopsis given above only gives an outline of the features. Should it become a law (and there is scarcely any doubt that it will) it will have to be republished in full. An amendment was adopted directing the comptroller-general to furnish a copy of the Act to each county auditor and treasurer in the State.

THE LAST DAY.

The General Assembly adjourned this morning between 4 and 5 o'clock, after a month of solid work.

Yesterday was taken up in disposing of third reading bills. There are fifteen second reading bills remaining on the House calendar, which are left over for consideration next session. Most of the members will leave for their respective homes on the outgoing trains to-day. They deserve the commendation of the State for the able manner in which they have dealt with questions of great public moment.

A TERRIBLE EXPLOSION.

And Huge Loss of Property—Fatalities.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., December 21.—About half past 3 o'clock this afternoon a terrific explosion occurred in front of Peole's flour mill, in this city. Only a few seconds after the first explosion another followed, and two others in rapid succession. Instantly flames burst from Peole's mill. The fire burned with great fury, and it is feared that some of the workmen perished in the flames. The cause of the explosion was that the sewers in the vicinity were filled with naphtha. To-day 14,000 gallons of naphtha were pumped from the Vacuum Oil Works through the pipe line in the bed of the old canal. It was intended for the Municipal Gas Company, but breaks in the line allowed the naphtha to escape into the adjoining sewers, and from thence into the mills and there exploded, and afterwards in the sewers in the streets, throwing out the man-hole covers and tearing up the roadways. The amount of damage cannot be calculated at this hour. People in the vicinity for a distance of three quarters of a mile were panic-stricken from the frequent explosions. (One man was seen to jump from the second-story window to the river bank, a distance of fifty feet. There are several persons missing and it is supposed they were caught by the falling walls.)

An Important Arrest.

The arrest of a suspicious character upon his general appearance, movements or companionship, without waiting until he has robbed a traveler, fired a house, or murdered a fellow-man, is an important function of a shrewd detective. Even more important is the arrest of a disease which, if not checked, will blight and destroy a human life. The frequent cough, loss of appetite, general languor or debility, pallid skin, and bodily aches and pains, announce the approach of pulmonary consumption, which is promptly arrested and permanently cured by Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery." Sold by druggists.

Getting married seems to be dangerous now.

No fewer than seven brides have been accidentally killed on their wedding day this year. One (inconspicuously) But no true woman will shrink her duty. Tom, through a craven fear of death.

Bride (exchanging bridal costume for traveling suit)—Did I appear nervous at all during the ceremony? Clara? Bridesmaid (nervously)—A little at first, dear, but not after George had said "yes."

The latest fashionable whim, or "fad," in modern style, is the collection of old silver. It is said to be raging with greater intensity than the ceramic fever of a few years ago.

BRIDE EXCHANGING BRIDAL COSTUME FOR TRAVELING SUIT.

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THE DEATH OF A BRIDE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Mr. L. Mayer of New York, who was married on Sat. day last to Miss Elegenheimer, came to this city on Monday with his bride and register at the Arlington. Last night, while lying on the bed, his wife being in an adjoining room reading, he suddenly called out to her. She hastened to his side, and at once saw that he was seriously ill; she rang the bell for help, and bathed his face with brandy. A doctor was hastily summoned, but just as he entered the room the unfortunate bridegroom expired.

The blow to the bereaved woman was very great, and she passed the night in a fitful slumber. It is said that some doubts were entertained that her reason might be affected by the strain. This morning her two brothers arrived and made preparation for the funeral services, which were held this afternoon.

PLACING DRUGGISTS.

GLENN MILLS, TENN., Dec. 22.—A big riot occurred here Tuesday night when some colored and white workmen became involved in a quarrel following pay-day and too much indulgence in drink. Over two hundred shots were fired. One man and one boy were killed and others injured.

The old notes—Maad (awakening suddenly) at 3 A. M.—Mother, there's a man trying to break in the house. Mother (wearily)—Hush, my child; it's your father; he's afraid to ring the doorbell.

FOURTH-CLASS POSTMASTERS.

Somebody at the Bottom of an Ingenious Scheme, Which May Help the Postmasters, but Will Certainly Pay Money in Somebody's Purse.

WASHINGTON, December 18.—Congressman Tillman, of South Carolina, claims to have discovered what he terms a "gigantic attempt to make a raid on the treasury," by a combination or syndicate, supposed to be working in the interest of fourth-class postmasters. Since the meeting of Congress Senators and Representatives have received by almost every mail numerous printed petitions, with long lists of signatures attached, urging Congress to pass a law to increase the salary of fourth-class postmasters, according to the following scale:

1. The postmaster who opens and closes one mail per week to receive \$20 per quarter; two mails per week, \$25, and so on, increasing quarterly salary of \$5 for each additional mail opened and closed per week, until the limit of \$250 per quarter is reached. The petition further states that "when the salary of a postmaster as fixed by this law exceeds the amount of stamps sold at his office, the postmaster shall retain to the credit of his salary the amount of stamps sold, and the department shall, on the adjustment of his account, issue him a check on the treasury, for the balance. If the amount of stamps sold should exceed the salary of the postmaster he shall, after deducting the amount of his salary, deposit the balance in the treasury."

Mr. Tillman says he has received several hundred of these petitions from almost every postmaster in his district, and he probably would not have made the discovery had not the postmasters in forwarding his petition sent "too much." What he terms "too much" is a printed circular of instructions prepared and distributed among fourth-class postmasters by the party or parties who are leading in the proposed raid on the treasury, and which gives the movement in favor of the proposed increase very much the appearance of an organized "job." The "instructions" are in substance for each postmaster to get every signature he can to the printed petition, "regardless of race, color or sex," and then "write a short personal letter" to his Congressman, saying that the applicant has got "the most prominent citizens of the vicinity" to unite in petitioning for the increase and asking for the matter the "due consideration it so justly deserves."

The circular calls for a contribution of twenty-five cents, or more, in pursuance of an "agreement," plainly referred to, to pay the expenses of the getting up of the circulars, etc., and the postmaster is enjoined to send the money in silver in a registered letter, as he will "get the cancellation of the stamps," and be at no cost therefor sending it. The tell-tale document closes with the confident assurance that "if we will all do our duty we can get our bill through Congress," which remains to be proved.

Mr. Tillman exhibited a copy of the above to many of his Congressional associates, and while a majority of them are disposed to assist overworked and poorly paid postmasters, they seriously object to aiding the authors of the circular, who are evidently making a harvest of twenty-five cent pieces.

Nothing Like Lemons.

Every part of the tree is valuable in medicine, though we rarely employ any of it but its fruit—that is the lemon itself. And every one knows how to employ this in a lemonade. To squeeze the juice into cold water (this is the shortest way) or to cut it into slices and let soak in cold water, out it into slices and then boil it. Either way is good. Lemonade is one of the best and safest drinks for any person, whether in health or not. It is suitable to all stomach diseases, is excellent in sickness—in cases of jaundice, gravel, liver complaints, inflammation of the bowels and fevers. It is a specific against worms and skin complaints. The pippins crushed, may also be mixed with water and sugar and used as a drink. Lemon juice is the best anti-scorbutic remedy known. I not only cure the disease, but prevent it. Sailors make a daily use of it for this purpose. A physician suggests a rubbing on the gums daily with lemon juice to keep them in health. The hands and nails are also kept clean, white, soft and supple by the daily use of lemon instead of soap. It also prevents chillblains. Lemon is used in permanent fevers, mixed with strong hot black tea or coffee without sugar. Neuralgia may be cured by rubbing the part affected with a lemon. It is valuable also to cure warts, and to destroy dandruff on the head, by rubbing the root of the hair with it. In fact, its uses are manifold, and the more we employ it externally the better we find ourselves. Natural remedies are the best, and nature is our best doctor, if we would only listen to her teaching. Rub your hands, head and gums with it, and drink lemonade in preference to all other liquids. —Farm and Fireside.

THE SCRIVEN COUNTY SCRIBE WHO "GETS THERE, EIL."

The Scriven County Scribe Who "Gets There, Eil." (From the New York Tribune.) Mr. Cox must look to his "Sunset" laurels. There is a man writing just now in a Georgia paper, "The Scriven County Watchman," who, as an all-round observer and reporter of the circumstances attending a really superior sunset, also a really superior sunrise, bids fair, if his health is spared and the paper doesn't change hands, to make his mark in this fascinating department of literature. Here is a sample of what he is equal to. We quote from a late number of "The Watchman."

"Those who noticed Day's great lord as he followed his appointed course through the skies, on Tuesday last, saw a rare and wonderfully beautiful sight. He rose and sunk to rest, seemingly, in a sea of blood. There were no signals of his approach, no bright streaks in the east to betoken his arising, for Aurora seemed to have forgotten to open the gates of the morning and herald to a sleeping world the coming of its king. But suddenly he had mounted above the horizon and into the heavens a dull red ball of fire. No glare, no brilliancy, no rays, but merely a lurid orb standing out in bold relief against a hazy, leaden background—a painted sun upon a painted sky! Gradually, silently, raylessly, the king of day moved onward and upward. As he cleared the trees and hilltops, struggling toward the zenith, there came into his cheek a healthier hue, but not that gorgeous brilliancy that usually screens him from the eye of mortal eyes, for at almost any time of the day his dull, dead face could be gazed upon without any discomfort to the eye. Having struggled in vain at noonday to redeem his unpromising morning, he seemed from that time to journey more eagerly toward his home in the West, growing darker and darker as each minute fled, and finally sunk sadly to rest in the lap of night! Vesper threw her mantle over his retiring course and soon shrouded the world in her sable robe."

One cannot fail to be convinced on reading the above that the New South has come to stay. A section that furnishes such smiles and sunsets ought to find no difficulty in disposing of all the real estate it can place on the market.

BOYS AS INVENTORS.

Some of the most important inventions have been the work of mere boys. The invention of the valve motion to the steam engine was made by a boy. What left the engine in a very incomplete condition from the fact that he had no way to open or close the valves except by means of levers operated by hand. He set up a large engine at one of the mines, and a boy was hired to work these valve levers. Although this was not hard work, yet it required his constant attention. As he was working these levers he saw the parts of the engine moved in the right direction, and at the exact time he had to open or close the valves. He produced a long, strong cord, and made one end fast to the proper part of the engine and the other to the valve lever. Then he had the satisfaction of seeing the engine move off with perfect regularity of motion. A short time afterward the foreman came around and saw the boy playing marbles around the door. Looking at the engine he soon saw the ingenuity of the boy, and also the advantage of so great an invention. Mr. Watt then carried out the boy's inventive genius in a practical form, and made the steam engine a perfect automatic working machine. The power loom is the invention of a farmer boy who had never seen or heard of such a thing. He cut out one with his knife, and after he had got it all done he, with great enthusiasm, showed it to his father, who at once kicked it to pieces, saying he would have no boy about him who would spend his time on such foolish things. The boy was afterwards apprenticed to a blacksmith, and he soon found that his new master was kind and took a lively interest in him. He made a look of what was left of the one his father had broken up, which he showed to his master. The blacksmith saw that he had no common boy for an apprentice, and that the invention was a very valuable one. He immediately had a loom constructed under the supervision of the boy. It worked to their perfect satisfaction, and so the blacksmith furnished the means to manufacture the looms, the boy to receive one-half the profits. In about a year the blacksmith wrote to the boy's father that he should visit him and bring with him a wealthy gentleman who was the inventor of the celebrated power loom. You may be able to judge of the astonishment of the old man when his son was presented as the inventor—who told him the loom was the same as the model he (the father) had kicked to pieces a year before. Smatson, the great mechanic, when a boy, disdained the ordinary playthings of boyhood. One day, after having watched some millwrights, he was discovered to the great distress of his family, in a situation of extreme danger, fixing a window on a top of the barn. He afterwards built the Eddystone light-house in the midst of the waves. Cyrus H. McCormick was not twenty-two years old when he produced the first practical reaper the world ever saw.—Youth.

A WOMAN'S BRAVE ACT.

STANSHED, QUEBEC, Dec. 19.—About 1 o'clock this morning a bomb, so white a lighted fuse was attached, was thrown through a window into the dining-room of Dr. Ganfield's residence. Mrs. Ganfield, hearing the crash and hissing of the burning fuse, sprang out of bed, seized the bomb and succeeded in detaching the fuse. The bomb contained enough giant blasting powder to wholly demolish the house and kill the inmates. Dr. Ganfield's father, who is a bailiff, has been engaged lately in serving processes for violations of the Canada temperance law, and had been threatened with violence if he did not desist.

DYNAMITE IN THE STOVE.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 22.—Ed. Johnston, colored, living two or three miles west of this city, placed some dynamite cartridges in the oven of his stove to thaw this morning. Soon after a terrific explosion took place, nearly destroying his house, killing his eighteen-year-old daughter and an infant one year old, and seriously injuring Johnston and his wife.

PRAYER AT A LOFTY ALTITUDE.

A Crank's Narrow Escape from Death on an Ancient Tower.

A very ancient dismantled and tottering brick tower which reared its lofty head high above the tree tops on the line of the Greenwood Lake Railroad, between Arlington and Kearry, N. J., was the scene of a thrilling incident late last night, which almost resulted in the death of several persons.

A religious fanatic named Charles Sheppard was seen late last night wandering his way toward the big tower. He was muttering inaudibly and gesticulating wildly. Upon reaching the base of the tower, which swayed with every breeze, the "crank," to the horror of the rule and other outside stairway which led to the crown of the tower. He carried two lanterns which he lighted when about half way up, and swinging them around his head pranced wildly about the platform, which threatened every moment to crash downward under his weight.

Upon reaching the top of the tower, the fanatic placed one lantern facing the north and the other the south. Kneeling down with face toward the full moon he then prayed aloud.

A few bricks loosened themselves from the rotten mortar and fell with a crash. The platform upon which the crank had danced, next tore away from its fastenings and crashed downward bringing with it a section of the staircase, leaving the crank a prisoner.

George Oliver, a young man among the group of people who beheld with horror the crank's position, braved the danger of the old tower, and climbed to the top where he found the idiot deep in his devotions. Oliver tied the rope, which he had brought with him, around the fanatic's waist, and lowered him to the top of the disconnected stairway.

Oliver had no sooner followed and reached terra firma, when the old tower swayed violently and fell with a deafening roar and a crash upon the railroad tracks.

A north bound train was due in a few minutes. It was flagged further down the track and delayed until the debris was cleared away, which occupied over an hour. The bystanders miraculously escaped.

HENRY GEORGE AN HEIR.

But He Will Have to Fight for His Money.

A special dispatch from Trenton, N. J., says: "An interesting will case is now pending before Vice Chancellor Bird, and will be decided soon. It is interesting because of the strange manner in which the testator disposed of his property. George Hutchins was a prominent resident of Augusta, Camden county. Previous to his death, in the early part of the present year, Mr. Hutchins became deeply interested in the Henry George movement, and when his papers were examined after his interment, it was found that in his last will, after giving to his wife one-third of all of his property, and to Sarah Wood, a relative residing in Indiana, a sum machine with sufficient money for shipping purposes, he had willed all his property to the labor agitator to aid in circulating his literature.

The money is to be known as "The Hutchins Fund," and is to be used "for the express purpose of spreading the light on social and political liberty and justice in the United States of America by means of the gratuitous, wise, efficient and economically conducted distribution all over the land of said George's publications on the all-important land question and cognate subjects, including his 'Progress and Poverty,' his replies to the criticisms thereon, his 'Problems of the Times' and any other of his books and pamphlets which he may think it wise and proper to gratuitously distribute in this country, provided that Henry George, his heirs, executors and administrators, furnish annual reports of the disbursements and management of the Hutchins fund to the Irish World and American Industrial Liberator, and send a paper containing such reports to the wife of the deceased and to William S. Wood."

William S. Braddock, of Waterford, Camden county, was appointed the executor of the estate. When he found out the contents of the will he refused to distribute the estate in the way designated, and filed a bill in the Court of Chancery setting forth that the gift was not legal and valid, there being nearer relatives, and if it was legal he held that it was void for uncertainty. The papers have been in the hands of the Vice Chancellor since May last. Henry George, through his counsel, has filed an answer to the bill, in which he holds that he has a right to the money, and says he will contest the action of the executor.

PRINCE JONES ON COTTON.

The "First Bale" Man in Georgia Tells How He Raises Cotton.

ALBANY, GA., December 19.—"How is it possible for you to have made twenty-eight bales of cotton per acre upon your plantation this year?" was a question of Prince Jones Jones, the first bale man of Baker county.

"The easiest thing in the world," was the reply. "If I live ten years longer I expect to make fifty bales to every acre. Fifty acres is the average number tended by a man, and it will be a simple matter for me to bring my hand up to a high state of cultivation that each and every acre planted will produce its bale of cotton. As I said before, intensive farming is going to become the salvation of this country."

Colonel Jones believes in heavy fertilization. He has an immense shed 102 feet long by 62 feet wide, in which he pens up his stock at night and in which he makes up the compost. The lumber in his shed alone, exclusive of nails, shingles, etc., cost him over \$800.

A new wheel in bull fighting has been developed in Mexico. The arena is filled with electric light, which seems to fairly craze the animals, making the contest but a howling terror. The light also gives added splendor to the gay uniforms and decorations of the matadors and the gladiators of fair spectators.

Time rolls around rapidly and many of our subscribers doubtless think they are a year older when they are a year behind. The black ink and white paper tell the story of fleeting time.

OUR MEXICAN TRADE.

Efforts to Increase it by Means of a Monetary Treaty.

(From the Macon Telegraph.)

The desire of American manufacturers to secure markets for their goods in the countries south of us has grown more intense year by year, as over-production has increased. The desire to gain these markets, while retaining the present tariff and the resulting high cost of production has caused the idea of reciprocity treaties to be received with favor in many quarters.

That negotiated with Mexico by General Grant several years ago, however, has never been ratified by Congress, and probably will not be. The proposed admission free of duty of certain Mexican products which would compete with like articles made in the United States has aroused the opposition of special interests.

In anticipation, perhaps, of the failure of this treaty, another plan to increase trade between Mexico and the United States is now being considered. It has not yet become a subject of negotiation, but it is reported that the Mexican Government is very desirous of making a monetary treaty with the United States which will provide for the acceptance by each government of the silver dollars coined by the other in payment of all customs and taxes at their par or face value. It is proposed to extend the same privileges to the silver certificates issued by the United States and intended to be issued by Mexico. Then, at stated periods, to be agreed upon in the treaty, the two governments would make a settlement by an international clearing-house, at which the balances due from one country to the other would be adjusted. The effect of this, it is expected, would be to add 33 per cent. to the purchasing power of the Mexican money in the markets of the United States over its value in any other country in the world, while the value of our silver dollars in Mexico would be raised to par and the rate of exchange upon Mexico would be determined