

FIENDS AND ROBBERS.

UNDER THE GUISE OF STATE CONSTABLES.

They Shoot Down a Man, Rob and Plunder His Home, and Curse and Abuse Defenseless Women.

(Correspondence of The Ledger.)

WILLIE, S. C., Dec. 20.—J. T. Sims was shot to death last Friday. The 18th inst. by a posse of fiends and robbers, under the guise of State Constables. It was perhaps the most cowardly and brutal murder that has ever been committed in this section, if not in the county, which I am satisfied that the facts as developed at the coroner's inquest will fully prove to an unbiased mind.

Coroner B. R. Pollard came up yesterday morning and held an inquest over the body of the deceased, the facts of which, as brought out, were about as follows: The posse drove up to Sim's house in a hack and without any preliminary or the showing of any authority, and expecting to find only Mrs. Sims at home, they rushed into the house against the entreaties of Mrs. Sims, and shoved her almost across the house swearing that they were going to search that house.

Sims having stepped behind the door at which the spies entered. They ran to the other side of the house, picked up a jug, gave it a shake and finding nothing in it, jerked one of the beds out towards the middle of the floor and looked under and behind it, but found nothing there. Up to this time they had not discovered Mr. Sims who was standing behind the door at the opposite side of the house, but they now turned their attention to the other side of the house, and, discovering Mr. Sims, immediately opened fire on him without a word of warning. Sims, seeing that they intended to kill him, broke away to try to save his life by flight, but the fiends didn't intend to spare his life. They pursued him, shooting him all the while until one of them caught him by the arm and shot him until he fell, shooting him twice after he had got hold of him. Mr. Sims was shot seven times, inflicting four slight, two serious and one mortal wound. He lived about six hours after he was shot. One of the posse shot at Mrs. Sims twice while she was standing with her baby in her arms, and for no other provocation than she was in the doorway trying to get her little children out of the house and prevented him from getting out as soon as he wanted to. After Sims had been shot down he called to his sister-in-law for some water and one of the posse cursed her and told her if she gave him any water he would kill her. Mrs. Sims, howling and screaming, started to her husband, and one of the men said to her, "G—d—n you, if you don't stop and shut your mouth, I will shoot you." Mrs. Clayton, the mother-in-law of Sims, asked one of the posse, as there were no other men present, to help them get Sims into the house. His answer was that "I have helped you all that I can, I have killed the G—d—n rascal."

But it was not enough for them to kill the husband and make a widow and two little orphan children; they ransacked the house and stole twenty dollars in money, a pistol and a gun—the two worth about twenty dollars, and on their way off they tried to hire a young man to go back and steal a belt off the body of deceased, but he refused their offer.

The names of the posse, as given by themselves, were: May, Buice and Crofford, and in justice to Crofford, I will say that the evidence before the coroner's jury showed that he had at least some gentlemanliness about him, and enough humanity so at least have some respect for women and children, although he was in very bad company. Anyone that may take any exceptions to the above report, is referred to the testimony as taken by the coroner at the inquest for proof of every assertion that I have made.

The deceased was buried this afternoon at Holly Springs. The funeral services were read by the Rev. J. B. Underwood, and witnessed by a very large concourse of friends and relatives.

Deceased leaves a wife and two small children for their mother to rear without any way of supporting them except by her labor. We extend to the bereaved wife, relatives and friends the most profound sympathy of this entire community, and I almost feel justifiable in extending unto them the most profound sympathy of the entire host of THE LEDGER readers.

Now I want to say that if the laws made by the reformers of South Carolina are going to permit men to shoot their fellowmen down like brutes and go unpunished for it, the quicker we reform our reformers the better it will be for the state.

Whether the dispensary law has been a benefit to the towns or not, I don't know, but I do know that it has been the greatest curse to this section of any law that has ever been enacted by a South Carolina Legislature. There has been at least ten times the amount of whiskey made and sold in this section since the enactment of the dispensary law

as there was during the same length of time before.

Married on the 13th inst., Earl Hammett to Miss Ola Keller; Ed Cooper to Miss Grace Williams, and Tom Gary to Miss Jennie Burrell, all of this section.

We are having a great deal of sickness now in our section, especially among children.

We wish all our readers a merry Christmas. Cherokee County will please accept the congratulation of JARRIS.

PERSONALS.

People You Know and People You Don't Know.

Capt. J. J. Magness, of Spartanburg, was among his many friends in the capital of Cherokee county last Saturday.

Representative C. W. Whisonant, of Wilkesville, was in the city Saturday shaking hands with his many friends and transacting business. Calvin is a hustler.

Miss Carrie Sams arrived in the city Saturday. She comes home to spend the holidays.

J. Claud Jefferies was among the arrivals Saturday. Mr. Jefferies contemplates making this his home in the near future.

Gad Wright, from over on the Broad, was in town Monday. Gad is mighty proud of being a resident of Cherokee county.

C. M. Lipscomb, of White Plains, was among the crowd in the city Monday.

A. A. McAbee, of Clifton, was in the city last Sunday visiting his brother.

Worth Sanders, of Asbury, was in the city Saturday and paid THE LEDGER a pleasant visit.

Gus Mentz from across the river, was in the city Thursday.

Miss Effie Hopper is in the Queen city visiting Miss Willie Hill and other friends.

I. M. Smith, of Thickety, was in the city Friday on business.

Julian N. Ross, of Blacksburg, was in the city Thursday on business.

Capt. A. H. Propst, of Concord, N. C., has been in the city this week looking after the work on the city hall and the new Presbyterian church, both of which he is building.

R. E. Enloe, of Wilkesville, was in the city Thursday on business. Mr. Enloe joined the THE LEDGER brigade while here.

Mrs. H. E. Wood, of Maud, was in the city last Thursday shopping. Mrs. Wood is not only a staunch new county woman but a great friend to THE LEDGER.

Barney Clary went down to Lancaster last week. There is a little mystery about the case—there being a lady in it. It seems as if Barney left her in Blacksburg on the return. At least that is what they tell on Barney.

J. T. Morehead, and his daughter, Miss Essie, of Gowdeyville, Cherokee county, were in the city Friday.

Lee Patrick, who has been in business in North Carolina for several months returned Tuesday to spend the holidays with his family at Wilkesville.

R. F. Gibson, from down on the Broad, was in town Tuesday. Mr. Gibson has recently appointed Notary Public, so he is now fully qualified to tie the knot for any Cherokee braves who might need his services.

Waddy Osment and Jimmie Strain, two Cherokee braves from the lower section of the county, were in the city several days this week.

Miss Ida Wood has returned home for the holiday. She has been attending college at Nashville, Tenn.

John McKown, of Smiths Ford, was in the city Tuesday.

T. W. Hendricks, who moved from here to Spartanburg several months ago, has moved back to Gaffney.

B. P. Robertson left yesterday morning for a short trip to Spartanburg.

Tom Brown leaves tonight for Baltimore to spend Christmas.

Miss Lula Luttrell, Wilkins Bros' milliner, leaves tonight for Baltimore. She will be gone a couple of months.

H. A. Tate, of Webster, was in the city yesterday on business.

W. W. Hoard left yesterday for Martinsville to spend the holidays.

"Boss" Fowler, of Union, was in the city yesterday.

H. R. Smith, of Wrights, was in the city Tuesday. Mr. Smith is one of the oldest residents of the new county. He joined THE LEDGER brigade while here.

Townsend Dawkins was in to renew his allegiance to THE LEDGER Tuesday. Townsend is one of Cherokee county's up-to-date colored men—a good farmer and a good citizen.

The Colored Folk's Day.

The colored folks of Cherokee county are arranging for a grand celebration of the emancipation of the race on Friday, Jan. 1, 1896. An excellent program has been arranged and they will have a royal time. All the colored people of Gaffney City and Cherokee county are invited to take part. The following is the committee. Rev. F. V. Richardson, W. D. Archer, J. A. Hall, A. L. Richard, B. F. Bridges and P. M. Alexander, Rev. R. C. Campbell, is chairman of the day.

Beware of Ointments for Catarrh that contain Mercury.

As mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completely derange the whole system when entering it through the mucous surfaces, such articles should never be used except on prescriptions from reputable physicians as the damage they will do is ten fold that of the cure you can possibly derive from them. HALL'S CATARRH CURE, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O., contains no mercury, and is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. In buying Hall's Catarrh Cure be sure you get the genuine. It is taken internally and is made in Toledo, O., by F. J. Cheney & Co. Testimonials free. Sold by Druggists, price 25c per bottle.

SPLITTING LEGAL HAIRS.

Tale by a Philadelphia Lawyer Which Would Puzzle One to Decide.

This is an after dinner story told by a well known lawyer the other evening, illustrative of legal difficulties that may arise even in the carrying out of the most amicable contracts:

There were once four brothers, who had inherited a storage warehouse from their father and who equally divided the property among them. Among the appurtenances thereto was a cat, a fine animal, excellent for mousing, and this, too, was divided, the elder brother owning the right front quarter, the second brother the left front quarter and the younger brothers the two hind quarters. Now, unfortunately, the cat in one of its nocturnal prowls injured the right front paw, and the elder brother attended to that portion of his property by binding the injured member with a greased rag. The cat, thankful for this relief to its suffering, went to sleep contentedly before the fire, but in the midst of its slumbers a falling coal ignited the rag, and the animal, howling with agony, dashed through the warehouse, and, coming in contact with some combustibles, set the building on fire.

When the loss came to be figured out, the three younger brothers wished to throw it all upon the elder, upon the ground that had he not tied up his part of the cat with the inflammable rag the building would not have been destroyed. He, on the contrary, contended that had the cat only been possessed of the front right paw—his property—it would have stood still and burned to death. It was the three other paws that caused the damage. The brothers argued the case until they died, but could never reach an agreement.—Philadelphia Record.

THE OLDEST KNOWN BIRD.

It Had Teeth In Its Jaws and Was Otherwise Elegant.

"The Solenhofen slate of Bavaria," writes Professor H. G. Seeley in his recent little volume, "The Story of the Earth In Past Ages," "makes known numerous insects and other forms of terrestrial life of this period, including the oldest known bird. A bird is known by its feathers, though there is no reason why the covering to the skin should not be as variable in this group of animals as among reptiles or mammals. It is, therefore, remarkable that the oldest known bird, the Archaeopteryx, has feathers as well developed as in the existing representatives of the class and similarly arranged.

The animal is an elegant, slender bird, which is chiefly remarkable for showing teeth in the jaws. About 12, short and conical, occur on each side of the upper jaw. The bird was larger than the robin in its body and had a tail of which there was a bony core some six inches in length. The wings were quite as well developed as the legs, and there are some evidences that the former could be applied to the ground, as are the fore legs of quadrupeds, although the feathers show the wings to have been constructed on the same plan as the birds of today. The Solenhofen stone, in which so many of the remains of fishes, reptiles and insects are found, is the same as that used for lithographic purposes, being of exceeding close texture and of remarkable smoothness when prepared for its work."

When His Nerve Failed.

The cruelties of the French revolution lose nothing by the manner in which Baron Ferdinand Rothschild has described them in his book:

"By far the most wantonly savage of the Republican commissioners was Lebon, who exercised the powers of a proscription at Arras. The Marquis de Vielfort was lying bound under the knife of the guillotine when Lebon, who was looking on from the balcony of a neighboring house, made a sign to suspend the execution. The mob, fancying he meant to pardon the condemned man, were greatly surprised at such unwonted clemency on his part. Lebon, however, took a newspaper from his pocket, read out a long account of a victory the Republican army had just gained and ended by shouting to the marquis, 'Villain, go and inform your friends of the news of our victories.'

"Michelet relates that a man known for his colossal strength and iron nerve betted that he would stand by and see the executions from first to last without faltering. For some time he unflinchingly bore the sight, but when a young girl named Nichole, a mere child, stepped forward, lay down on the plank and gently asked the executioner, 'Am I right this way?' his brain reeled and he dropped in a dead faint."

Wonderful Figures on Sunlight.

From a comparison of the relative intensity of solar, lunar and artificial light, as determined by Professors Euler and Wollaston, it appears that the rays of the sun have an illuminating power that is wonderful in the extreme. According to their deductions, the illuminating power of the "great day star" is equal to that of 14,000 candles at a distance of one foot, or of 3,500,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 candles at a distance of 95,000,000 miles. From the above figures it follows that the amount of light which flows from the solar orb could not be produced by the daily burning of 200 globes of tallow, equal to the earth in magnitude.—St. Louis Republic.

Criticism.

"I'm told you were at the theater last evening. How did you like it?"

"No good."

"Well, what did you see anyhow?"

"Oh, I saw a dozen imbeciles on the stage who were trying to amuse the audience, which consisted of a dozen idiots.—Figaro.

The trade dollar was originally coined for foreign use, particularly in our eastern trade. It was authorized by act of congress, passed Feb. 12, 1873, and its coinage was begun in 1874.

Election of Officers.

At a regular convention of Limestone Lodge No. 74, K of P which was held Dec. 21, 1896, the following officers were elected to serve for the following year:

- W. H. Ross, S. C.
J. D. Jones, V. C.
J. G. Wardlaw, P.
L. G. Byars, M. E.
W. J. Wilkins, M. F.
W. M. Webster, K. of R. S.
B. S. Lipscomb, M. W.
A. C. Pridmore, M. A.

The installation will take place at their next stated convention on Jan. 4-1897.

At a regular communication of Grand Lodge No. 186, A. F. M. the following officers were elected to serve for the next insuring Masonic year.

- R. M. Gaffney, W. M.
B. F. Camp, S. W.
W. H. Ross, J. W.
L. G. Byars, Sec.
W. W. Thomas, Treas.
H. F. Gaffney, S. D.
L. R. Ross, J. D.
D. W. Cooper, Steward.
B. T. Porter, Steward.
John T. Wood, Tyler.

A special communication was held on Tuesday Dec. 22, at which time the above officers were regularly installed by Past Master H. Fay Gaffney.

A Call.

Chairman Hardin, of the Board of trustees, issues the following call by order of the board. THE LEDGER has but one suggestion to make, and that is this: Select your very best men for this work. It is necessary that we have good, pure men, so be careful. Honest men is what you want. Let us start out right and there will be no trouble to keep right, but if we start wrong it will be uphill work to get right:

The citizens of each township in the new county of Cherokee are requested to meet at their respective voting precincts on the 30th day of December, 1896, at 11 o'clock, a. m., in mass meeting and elect delegates to a convention to be held at Gaffney, S. C. on Friday, January 1st, 1897, for the purpose of drafting the act to incorporate the county of Cherokee; the trustee of the township will act as chairman of said mass meeting and report the delegates elected to the convention. One delegate for fifty voters or fraction thereof should be elected in each township. The convention will begin business at Gaffney, S. C., at 12 o'clock, m., on January 1st, 1897.

By order of the Board of Trustees. N. W. HARMON, Chairman. Blacksburg, S. C., Dec. 21st, 1896

Closing for Christmas.

Both the banks will observe Christmas by closing. No banking business will be transacted.

The postoffice will observe Sunday hours Christmas Day. The mill will shut down this afternoon at 2:30 and not resume operations until Monday, thus giving the operatives a good rest.

Let all who can close for the day and give their help a holiday.

STATE OF TRADE IN DIXIE.

Demand For Southern Iron Not So Great. Textile Industries Booming.

CHATTANOOGA, Dec. 15.—Southern manufacturers report healthy conditions to the Tradesman, but the lull incident to the holidays is approaching and no special activity is expected until after the first of the year.

The iron and steel market is somewhat demoralized by the uncertainty regarding the combinations. The Bessemer Steel association has released its members from the arbitrary price list until market conditions become more favorable, but the combine continues intact. The effect of this release will probably be the bringing of buyers into the market for future requirements.

The demand for southern iron in eastern centers has been a little more quiet during the past week, though a fair movement is reported. The export trade continues active and a British steamer which has just arrived at the Mobile port will take on 1,500 tons of Birmingham pig iron for Liverpool. The wharves at Mobile are lined with pig iron awaiting ship room to take it to foreign ports. Reports from the lumber districts of the south are encouraging, indications all pointing to higher prices and more active demand.

Textile industries are working larger forces, but the demand is not yet what it should be, and at some mills stocks are beginning to accumulate. A heavier movement is expected after Jan. 1.

The most important new industries reported are as follows: The Pine Bluff Power and Transit company, Pine Bluff, Ark., capital \$100,000; extensive electric plant at Salisbury, N. C.; the Pocahontas Guano company, capital \$50,000, Norfolk, Va.; the Empire Coal and Ice company, capital \$150,000, Marion, Ga.; the Minor Engineering and Construction company, Birmingham, Ala., capital \$25,000; cotton mills at McAdenville and Waxhaw, N. C., and Aiken, S. C.; a \$10,000 crate factory at Sunny-side, Ga.; the Fort Smith Lumber company, capital \$30,000, at Fort Smith, Ark., and other woodworking plants at Clarendon, Ark., Jacksonville, Fla., New Orleans, La., Dallas, Tex., and Richmond, Va.

Flour "Doctored" With Arsenic.

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 8.—Positive proof has been secured by detectives that Baker Figlethaler's flour was doctored with an ounce of arsenic, through which the lives of nearly 200 people were imperiled. It is said that two arrests will be made at once in connection with the poisoning.

HOOD'S Sarsaparilla has over and over again proved by its cures, when all other preparations failed, that it is the One True BLOOD Purifier.

Christmas.

This is the third Christmas THE LEDGER has greeted its patrons. We wish to remind its friends that in the three years of its publication it has never failed to make its appearance each week. Most weekly papers take a Christmas holiday by omitting an issue. We never have. In the three years it has never but once failed to get out on time to make the mail. We will endeavor to be as prompt in the future as in the past.

To all our friends, our subscribers, our advertisers, our correspondents and all mankind we extend the greeting of the season. May all have a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. May He who guides the destiny of man be as gracious to us in the future as in the past and may we, as individuals, learn to adore and reverence Him for his loving kindness and mercies. is the wish of THE LEDGER.

Our help in the office has been a willing help. At all times they have taken a deep interest in the affairs of the paper. Few papers are blessed with as good a set of workmen as THE LEDGER. They sometimes become weary and tired but are ever ready to do the work set before them.

Our correspondents must accept our heartfelt thanks for their assistance. They have had much to do with the success of the paper. Their letters have been newsy, crisp and bright bits of neighborhood gossip we could never have obtained but for them. We trust all of them will remain with us next year and that others will join the ranks.

We will close the office today and take a rest until Monday, but the paper will appear on time next week unless hindered by some unseen and yet to happen incident.

The Little Folks Entertain.

The Musical and Literary Entertainment by the little folks Tuesday night at the Gaffney Male and Female Seminary was a creditable affair to both the participants and their instructor, Prof. W. L. Johnson. The following program was rendered:

- 1. Old Love Waltz Orchestra.
2. Greeting Song Vocal Class.
3. Careless Elegance (Piano Solo) Miss Eva Ross.
4. Rosebud Schottische Orchestra.
5. The Tramp (Recitation) Mr. M. B. Sams.
6. Gladly's Gavotte Orchestra.
7. Follow Me Vocal Class.
8. Tarantelle (Piano Solo) Miss A. McArthur.
9. Charming Polka Orchestra.
10. An Old Man's Story (Recitation) Mr. M. B. Sams.
11. The Little Farm (Chorus) Five Little Girls.
12. The Sleeping Beauty (Recitation) Miss Bird Crawley.
13. Sabre Chorus Vocal Class.
14. Pauline Waltz Orchestra.

The evening's entertainment concluded with an amusing Ethiopian farce entitled "The Black Statue," with the following cast: Jake, Mr. W. Y. Wilkins; Pete, Mr. M. N. Inman; Pilgric, Mr. J. P. Scott; Mr. Squintem, Mr. W. D. Neves; Mrs. Squintem, Mr. W. T. McArthur; Rose, R. E. Fowler.

Index to Advertisements.

The following are new advertisements and changes for this week. You should patronize them as a preference. They are wide-awake and up to date. Tell them that you saw their advertisement in THE LEDGER, by so doing you will do us a great favor.

- H. L. Parks & Co.—The Bee Hive.
J. L. Alexander—Get ready.
Byars & Sparks—A merry Christmas.
J. R. Tolleson—Tolleson's cheap store.
J. S. Blanton—Notice.
Spake & Blanton—Dissolution.
O. S. Kendrick—Staple and Fancy Groceries.

Christmas at Limestone.

Cooper-Limestone suspended on Tuesday for the Christmas holidays. A few of the young ladies remained with Prof. Mack, and will spend Christmas at Limestone, though the most of them went to their homes.

The exercises of the school will be resumed on Monday, 4th of January.

Dissolution.

DISOLUTION.—The copartnership heretofore known as Spake & Blanton is hereby dissolved by mutual consent. All parties indebted to them will please come forward and settle at once. The business will hereafter be known under the firm name of Walter Baker & Co.

NOTICE.

NOTICE.—All persons are hereby warned not to trade for two notes given by J. S. Blanton to the New York Life Insurance Co. as they are void on account of non-fulfillment of contract by company. J. S. Blanton, Dec. 15, '96. It.

LIMESTONE * SPRINGS * LIME * WORKS, CARROLL & CO., Lessees. BUILDING, * PLASTERING * AND * AGRICULTURAL * LIME, Coal, Shingles, Lathes and Plater Hair. Dymamite, Blasting Powder, Fuse and Dynamite Caps.

Draytonville Dots.

(Correspondence of The Ledger.) DRAYTONVILLE, S. C., Dec. 22, '96.—Mr. Editor:—Hog killing and wood chopping and hauling are the order of the day in these parts.

Our people are preparing to meet Xmas and the smaller ones are preparing their stockings to meet Santa Claus. We hope he will not disappoint any of the children in Cherokee county.

Cleve Phillips is all smiles these days. Its a girl. Mother and babe are doing well. Cleve has been killing some very fine hogs. They would have weighed some where about four hundred pounds each.

A. J. Parker has moved to his new home on the lands he purchased from the Gaffney City Land and Improvement Company. Mr. Parker and family are well satisfied with their new home and we heartily welcome Mr. Parker back into our midst.

R. Roberts, of the Cherokee Falls Manufacturing Company, was in this section yesterday on business. We were glad to see his genial face and hope he may have occasion to come again soon.

Mr. Asgill Blanton has begun moving from the Lockhart place. Mr. Robert Blackwell will move to that place as soon as Mr. Blanton moves out.

William Pennington has moved on D. C. Phillips' place near the school house.

The boys in general are hunting up their shot guns and preparing them for some big shooting and rabbit hunting all of which will come off during Christmas times.

So I will close by wishing you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Respectfully yours, RAMBLER.

Death of a Young Lady.

Miss Florence Beacham died at the home of her parents in this city last Friday morning at 9 o'clock after a lingering illness of thirteen months. Miss Beacham was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Beacham. She was a member of the Methodist church and was a lovable Christian lady. The remains were interred at Limestone cemetery Saturday. The burial service was conducted by the Rev. C. E. Robertson of the Presbyterian church, on account of the absence of Rev. J. D. Croun.

Mr. and Mrs. Beacham have been living in Gaffney but a short while. They formerly lived in Spartanburg, but moved from there to Greenville and from Greenville here in the vain hope of finding a more suitable climate for their daughter. The bereaved parents have the sympathy of the entire community.

Another Election.

An election has been ordered by the Governor, to be held in the two townships in Union county, as to the name of the new county.

As all other Constitutional requirements have been complied with, we hope the voters will turn out and in deference to this old historical Cherokee district, and cast their votes in its favor.

The sections in Spartanburg and York county have already expressed preference for "Cherokee," and we hope old Union will join us in giving a name so well suited to our new county.

January 2nd is the day on which the question of a name is to be decided.

NO QUESTION ABOUT IT. The builder who uses the high grade woodwork manufactured by us need have no doubt in his mind of the ultimate satisfactory result. In our DOORS, SASH & BLINDS department we have found it necessary to enlarge our facilities to meet the increasing demand—and we are now preparing for the greater production of all kinds of ornamental woodwork, porch work, stair work, exterior and interior finishing materials, rough and dressed lumber, shingles, etc. AT LOW PRICES. AUGUSTA LUMBER CO., AUGUSTA, GA.

NERVOUS Troubles are due to impoverished blood. Hood's Sarsaparilla is the One True Blood Purifier and NERVE TONIC.

O. S. KENDRICK, DEALER IN Staple and Fancy Groceries, Country Produce, etc.

My prices are as low as the lowest. Give me a call.

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