The Advertiser

Subscription Price is $1.00 per Year Payable in Advance.

S. E. BONEY, Editor.

PUBLISHED BY
ADVERTISER PRINTING COMPANY
LAURENS, S. C.

RATES FOR ADVERTISING. — Ordinary advertisements, per square, one insertion, $1.00; each subsequent insertion, 50 cents. Liberal reduction made for large advertisements.

Obituaries: All over 50 words, one cent a word.
Notes of thanks: Five cents the line.

Entered at the postoffice at Laurens, S. C. as second class mail matter.

LAURENS, S. C., SEPTEMBER 15, 1909.

SERMONS AND BASE BALL.

Dr. Bruce Barton, an eminent Chicago divine, is out in the Home Herald, advocating short sermons to be delivered at all the ball parks on Sundays just before the beginning of the game. He argues that the vast throngs of people in the great cities who attend these Sunday games should be "preached to"; that they constitute fertile fields for audiences than afforded the up town churches, and that the opportunity should not be lost. He further insists that the preaching not and will not drive the church goers away and thinks the wide congregation at the ball parks on Sunday afternoons should be excited to hear the gospel.

Every year and then, remarkable health loses in Chicago. Not that we are surprised at all, for Chicago is a great, growing city and is bound to be heard from. In the course of the wonderful progress some ridiculous things must come to light, among which we class this new departure by Dr. Bruce Barton.

We are fully aware that all of our old-fashioned notions of right and wrong, of expediency and practicability, influenced by our environments, will not properly apply to cities the size of Chicago or New York. The great population of those congested centers gives rise to many conditions that would utterly confound the deepest thinkers of this section. But there are principles that should hold the world over. Right is right here in Laurens; it is the same in Chicago. The question of whether or not the base ball game should be preceded by a short sermon rests primarily upon the answer to the question, "Is Sunday base ball right"? Settle that and then the other may be discussed as to its advisability or effectiveness.

In our opinion Sunday base ball is altogether and utterly wrong. It is simply an amusement, and not at all necessary to the comfort of the people. Numbers of men perform their regular day's labor to furnish this amusement, thus violating a divine command. They sin far more, we think, than the cook who gives us hot Sunday dinners, or the electrician who furnishes light for Sunday night services. There are some labors that must be performed on Sunday, but playing ball for the amusement of the people is not one of them.

Believing then that Sunday base ball is in itself wrong, the holding of a divine service under such circumstances is not only out of place but sacrilegious. It cheapens, degrades and lowers holy things, bringing them to the common level with the everyday and even the unholy. Bishop Potter opened a saloon with prayer in New York some years ago. Did that prayer prevent the evils common to saloons? Not at all. It cheapened the value of prayer and doubtless destroyed in some degree the reverence with which many regarded holy things. Such ideas as that advanced by Dr. Barton are cutting at the very foundations of the church.

Dr. Barton complains that the people will not attend church. The fault is with the church, not the people.

* * *

PRESERVE THE PROPERTY.

In his address to the teachers, pupils and patrons of the city schools Monday morning, Mr. C. C. Featherstone, chairman of the board of trustees, said: "The board has given you the finest school building in South Carolina, and the board has a right to expect that it be properly used and preserved".

There is none among us who does not know and recognize the disposition on the part of school children to tear up, to break, to destroy every destructible thing about a school building. They love to cut and mark the desks; and the window glasses are an especial joy to the boy with a stone in his hand. Why this almost universal disposition should exist is beyond us to tell, unless it is an inherited trait handed down to us our fathers who did not care nor was there any need of care, whether or not they cut up the desks in the old school buildings. As a matter of fact, the desks and stools they had, looked about as well hacked up as when perfectly new and unscarred. Anyhow, school children are prone to destroy; the spirit of vandalism goes even into the colleges. But this does not make the habit a good one, nor remove the obligation on the part of the authorities to exert every effort to stop or curb it. Mr. Featherstone is right; the board of trustees has a right to expect that the new and magnificent school building be not abused. The board should demand severe punishment for any offenders.

And in the same connection, with reference to the school grounds, we earnestly urge that steps be taken at once for their beautifying. Naturally, these grounds are magnificent; they are capable of wonderful improvement, and it is obligatory upon the authorities to fulfill the possibilities. There is one thing that at the very outset should be stopped, and that is the hitching of teams on the campus. There is ample room for numberless hitching posts on the pavement touching the school grounds, and the teams should not be allowed on the grounds. This will work no inconvenience to anyone, and will aid materially in beautifying the place.

Laurens has one of the finest sites for a school and one of the best plants to be found anywhere. It is the duty of every one interested to see that it is preserved; to do otherwise will be criminal.

* * *

MR. T. BACON.

In the death of Col. Jas. T. Bacon, editor of the [illegible], the press fraternity of the state has lost one of its most [illegible] and honored members. Col. Bacon has adorned the profession in a way and manner all its own, and [illegible] a vacancy that can be filled by no one. Singular and distinctive to excess, he occupied a position that no other has ever held or may hope to hold.

Clear, strong and pure was all his thinking; and nothing that he ever wrote was calculated to do harm to the humblest or the poorest. Possessed of a fine spirit and a genuine love for humanity his entire life was a blessing to all who knew him. He has made many people happy—a eulogy that all may not claim.

There are a host of mourners in South Carolina today; those who knew and loved Col. Jas. T. Bacon.

* * *

THE BIGHAM TRAGEDY.

The public are shocked every little while by the news of some awful tragedy; some fearful accident, a wilful and malicious murder, or some calamitous occurrence. So broadened are the sympathies of the people that they feel, even afar off, any and all kinds of sorrow and woe. But much greater is the shock when the tragedy is brought close home.

Seldom have the people of this county been so saddened as by the news of the tragic death of Mrs. Ruth Crisp Bigham near Georgetown several days ago; and the sorrow is deepest in the Mountville and Waterloo sections where she spent her girlhood days and where her parents and relatives now live. The bereaved ones have the sympathy of all the people.

The circumstances of the killing are not understood up here. While the newspaper reports and the statements of Dr. Bigham and Mr. Avant have been given full consideration, the people are not satisfied, and mystery enshrouds the whole affair. But that is not for us to argue; Mrs. Bigham is no more, and her story is never to be told on earth. The people must accept the result of the law's inquiry, and this they will do murmuringly.

But what is out the law's investigation? We heartily commend the coroner for issuing warrants, causing the arrest of both Dr. Bigham and Mr. Avant, charging them with murder. As a matter of fact, according to their own statements, these men are guilty of violating the criminal code. If Mrs. Bigham had been the lowest, most desperate burglar, these men would not have had the legal right to shoot her down under the circumstances that marked the deplorable killing. The idea that they thought she was a ghost is ridiculous, and not to be considered. Will a man who is a believer in ghosts and afraid of them, run after one and shoot "it" in the back? But taking their statement, that they supposed the retreating figure to be that of a burglar, these men have committed an act that the law forbids, and should be tried for it.

If, as they say, the act was an awful mistake and they were entirely innocent of any design, they must let a jury decide how reprehensible was the accident.

The situation is simply this: a woman has met tragic death at the hands of her husband and his friend; what is to be done to satisfy the law's demand?

* * *

Just praise should never be withheld, hence the following in reference to Rev. W. E. Thayer of this city: "Sometimes I almost envy you the privilege you have of often hearing him preach. He is such a good man, so genuine a christian, and such a fine preacher." The quotation is from a letter to a citizen of Laurens from a relative, living in a distant city.

* * *

The Advertiser has received a copy of the Montreal (Canada) Gazette, with the compliments of the "Laurens Canadian Touring Party," for which we extend thanks.

* * *

It is up to Attorney General Lyon to make good in the prosecution of the dispensary grafters.

* * *

The school days are here, the very best of the year.

* * *

By the way, the school campus is not a fit place for hitching horses.

* * *

The police have a fine opportunity to do some excellent work on the public square Sunday afternoons. Last Sunday there was a regular carnival of the negroes on the north side, over the negro automobile track, and the laughing, loud talking and even yelling, amounted to a public nuisance. We are urging the proper observance of Sunday in this city; this negro monopolization of the square is about the most serious disturbance to a quiet Sunday now. It is up to the police to stop it; they can, if they will; if they won't they are neglecting their duty.

* * *

The News and Courier, in a local article, tells of some blind tigers being "temporarily" arrested. How delicious to be "temporarily" arrested.

* * *

William Jennings Bryan is just the man for governor general of the south acquired Algeria possessions; we guess his appointment is at once.

* * *

Weaver Felt that a little scolding and then behave themselves to keep in.

* * *

The world moves on in spite of the fact that E. H. Harriman is dead great though the loss may be.

FOR THE NEW RAILROAD.

Mr. Woods Wants People to Put Their Shoulder to The Wheel.

Editor The Advertiser:

Will you allow me space in your columns for a word about the proposed railroad from Greenville to Augusta? The subject vitally interests the people in this section, and I would if possible impress the importance of the matter. Now is the time; the opportunity is at hand, and we cannot afford to let it pass.

Years and years ago our fathers planned this road through our country and if we would see their hopes fulfilled, we must put our shoulders to the wheel and get busy. Princeton needs a railroad; we have talked of it for years; now is the time for work. Mr. J. P. Charles has been through our country securing the rights of way for the road, and he reports favorable results; our people seem to be thoroughly in sympathy with the movement and desirous that the road should run through this section. The giving of rights of way is all right, and our enthusiasm is good, but we must do more. The people of this section are expected, and justly so, to subscribe in cold cash for the enterprise. Why? Because it is the best investment they can make. A railroad through here will increase every man's property valuations, and add greatly to the comforts and conveniences of the people. Run a railroad through this country and you would not recognize it in three years. We ought to subscribe a large amount. The notes are not due until the rolling stock is put on and the trains are in operation. That is a fair proposition.

Let me urge our people to take the matter up and give the enterprise the support it deserves; we will receive the benefit in the end, and it is for our own interests that I plead.

W. M. Woods.

Princeton, S. C., Sept. 10, '09

Nomination Ballot

500 VOTES

GREAT POPULARITY CONTEST

I Nominate

_____

_____

_____ S. C.

(Only one of these may be cast for a candidate.)

Tetter, Salt Rheum and Eczema

Are cured by Chamberlain's Salve. One application gives relief in burning and bathing. 50 cents.

Press Comments on The Bigham Tragedy

Demands Rigid Investigation.

The killing of Mrs. S. C. Bigham, in Georgetown county, demands rigid investigation. W. B. Avant, who fired the fatal shot, and Dr. Bigham, the husband, should be arrested, indicted and tried by a jury. They should themselves demand, presuming that they are conscious of innocence, exoneration by a jury's verdict.

The laws of South Carolina do not permit a man to kill another who is retreating even though that other be acting suspiciously or be a trespasser.

While there is no disposition to suggest that the shooting of Mrs. Bigham was intentional the accounts of the deed so far given to the public contain neither justification nor sufficient excuse for it.—The Columbia State.

Was a "Terrible Deed".

The shooting of Mrs. Bigham, at Harpers, in Georgetown county, was a sad affair. She was shot at very short range by Mr. Avant at the suggestion of her husband, Dr. Bigham.

The lesson for all is this: Do not be too quick to pull the trigger at any one who happens to be near your house after dark. It must have been very evident to Avant and Dr. Bigham that Mrs. Bigham would be awakened shortly in the morning when they were shooting and [illegible] and [illegible] distance [illegible] feet. [illegible] Mrs. Bigham [illegible] shoulder dead—a terrible death.

The man who picks up his gun and does indiscriminately at any one on his premises at night is close akin to a murderer.

Better to let ten real burglars escape than to shoot and kill an innocent person by mistake or design.

There have been several cases reported in this state in which it seemed to be premeditated murder instead of shooting burglars.—Spartanburg Journal.

"They Should Be Punished".

We have never read of a more inexcusable tragedy than that which resulted in the death of that poor young wife of Dr. Bigham, in Florence county, last Saturday night—shot to death by her host, at the instigation of her own husband, because they thought it possible that she might be a burglar, though it was in the early part of the night and she was some distance from the house, and neither approaching them or making any hostile demonstration. They say they did not know who or what she was—and, therefore, blazed away with both barrels of a double-barrel shotgun.

If they had shot a real burglar under such circumstances—away from the house and making no demonstration—it would have been murder. If the victim had been the meanest negro in Georgetown county it would have been murder to have taken his life under such circumstances.

It is to be presumed that both men are very sorry; but that is not enough. They have committed a very serious crime, and should be held to a strict account for it. Human life is too sacred a thing to be sacrificed to the whimsical suspicions of nervous and excitable and reckless men.—Newberry Observer.

Court Inquiry Proper.

The coroner of Georgetown county is proceeding very properly in instituting an inquiry into the killing of Mrs. Bigham, whose death, according to the account given by her husband and his friend, at whose house they were stopping, was the result of a frightful mistake on the part of the two men in supposing that the woman was a prowler about the premises. That may be an absolutely true account of the tragedy, but the circumstances of the case are such that it should be established by judicial investigation, for the satisfaction of society and for the justification of the avowed authors of the poor lady's death. Whatever the standing of the principals to such a happening as this may be, the most rigid inquiry into all the occurrences should be made and a full account of the tragedy should be spread upon the public records, duly authenticated.—Charleston Post.

Mysterious and Sensational.

The mysterious and sensational killing of Mrs. G. C. Bigham by her husband, Dr. Bigham, and Wm. B. Avant, in Georgetown county is one of the most extraordinary cases that we have ever known. That the shooting is inexcusable, there is not the shadow of a doubt. The explanation offered thus far by Bigham and Avant does not explain it; and we are glad to know that the two men have been placed under arrest on warrant charging murder.

It will take a searching court investigation to clear up this mysterious case. It is unfortunate that Mrs. Bigham did not live long enough to give her version of the tragic affair.—Greenville News.

STATEMENT

Of the Condition of The Bank of Laurens, Located at Laurens, S. C., at the Close of Business Sept. 8, 1909.

RESOURCES:

Loans and Discounts	$205,349.05
Demand Loans	2,029.15
Overdrafts	2,116.82
Bonds and Stocks owned by the bank	7,000.00
Banking House	2,800.00
Furniture and Fixtures	1,714.00
Other Real Estate	500.00
Due from Banks and Trust Companies	19,505.79
Currency	550.00
Gold	2,300.00
Silver and other Coin	1,097.85
Checks and Cash Items	738.54
Total	$245,701.20

LIABILITIES:

Capital Stock Paid in	$50,000.00
Surplus Fund	30,000.00
Undivided Profits, less Current Expenses and Taxes Paid	7,652.12
Due to Banks and Trust Companies	1,349.57
Dividends Unpaid	56.00
Individual Deposit subject to Check	42,682.99
Savings Deposits	46,730.63
Time Certificates of Deposit	26,076.74
Certified Checks	75.00
Cashier's Checks	78.15
Bills Payable, including Certificates for Money Borrowed	40,000.00
Total	$245,701.20

State of South Carolina
County of Laurens, ss:

Before me came H. K. Aiken, Cashier of the above named bank, who, being duly sworn, says that the above and foregoing statement is a true condition of said bank, to the best of his knowledge and belief.

H. K. AIKEN.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 10th day of Sept., 1909.

A. J. Adams,
Notary Public, S. C.

Correct—Attest: C. C. Simmons, J. H. Sullivan, W. B. Leak, Directors.

KILL THE COUGH AND CURE THE LUNGS

WITH Dr. King's New Discovery

FOR COUGHS COLDS PRICE 50c & $1.00. Trial Bottle Free

AND ALL THROAT AND LUNG TROUBLES.

GUARANTEED SATISFACTORY OR MONEY REFUNDED.

Can Eat Now

Thos. F. Davis, Laurens, S. C.:

This is to certify that for the last 18 months I was so that I could not eat hardly anything without a great deal of misery. I had been treated by several doctors with little or no good till about seven weeks ago when I commenced to use water from your spring, and now I can eat anything that I want without any bad results; I can sleep well and can do my work all right—in fact I feel like another person.

Respectfully,
Mrs. J. H. S. Hipp.
Laurens, S. C., Rfd. 2.

If Interested In Flour

See us this Week, we will make prices very interesting.

For good Coffee see us,
for fine Tea see us,
for fresh Vegetables see us,
for seasonable Fruits see us.

J. W. Payne

The Cash Grocer

Next Door to Palmetto Bank.

PHONE, NO. 188

Easy To Break A Dollar

but how hard to get it together again. Here is one of the many advantages of having a bank account. If you pay by check you are not tempted to spend the small amounts—the loose change.

Why not deposit your earnings each month or with this bank—carry a check book to pay your bills and have a complete record of your expenditures.

THE BANK OF LAURENS
LAURENS, S. C.

The Bank for Your Savings.

Pianos, Pianos, Pianos.

Here is a help for all workers in The Advertiser's Popularity ontest. For the names of three prospective buyers this fall for Pianos, I will give 200, votes for every sale of a piano to any of the persons whose names have been sent to me, I will give 500 votes. Should all the prospective buyers, sent to me purchase a piano, I will give 3000 votes.

Listen?

This means much for every worker or their friends. My Pianos are equal(if not superior) to any pianos offered to the buyer and I sell for much less prices and on terms to suit you.

Free music lessons for 6 months to every purchaser of a piano. Teacher of your own selection, Music Teachers are requested to give me their address, it is to their advantage.

L. A. McCord

Laurens, S. C.