

The County Record

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY AT
KINGSTREE, S. C.

C. W. WOLFE,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
One copy, one year, - - - \$1.00.
One copy, six months, - - - .50.
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ADVERTISING RATES:
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C. W. WOLFE,
Kingstree, S. C.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1900.

A SENSELESS SCREECH.

We are entirely in accord with the refusal to re-establish the postoffice at Lake City, in Williamsburg county. A negro was appointed postmaster there, which was a criminal blunder. Nevertheless, many southern communists have had negro postmasters forced upon them and have submitted to the infliction. If some enraged citizen of Lake City had walked out in broad daylight and killed the offending official it would have been bad enough. As it was, the man's house was set afire at night and he and his wife and children were shot down by concealed assassins as they ran out. When no attempt was made to punish this crime by process of law, the entire community showed its sympathy with the criminals by combining to protect them. The government says to Lake City: "You have undertaken to force the government by incendiarism and murder to conduct the postoffice at your town according to your wishes. Therefore you shall have no postoffice." That is right. It is rather cheeky for people who have murdered a government official and his baby in a peculiarly cold blooded and horrible way to complain because another official is not sent to be murdered, or because the government declines for them the purpose they ostensibly had in committing the murder.—Greenville News.

The foregoing screech from the Greenville News is one of several gibes by that newspaper at the unfortunate town of Lake City, in reference to its postoffice troubles. To one who has read the News' editorials of late the mean spirit of the above extract is by no means surprising, for they have contained the strangest doctrine ever advanced by a white editor in the State of South Carolina. Posing as the only democratic daily in the State our misguided contemporary seems completely saturated with McKinleyism, Imperialism and every other "ism" upheld by the republican party. In voicing its sentiments it has degenerated into a common scold, blindly striking at everything not in accord with its own erratic notions.

When the whole State is in sympathy with a town deprived of its rights by a despotic government simply because it has the power to thus oppress, the attitude of the News is a slap in the face to its native State; and (which Heaven forbid!) if influential newspapers pursued its course our most sacred institutions would be imperiled.

The News admits that the appointment of the negro postmaster was a criminal blunder. It denounces his murder as an outrage. And the government com-

mits a third wrong by depriving the town and hundreds of people in the surrounding country, as innocent of the murder as an infant or the News' editor, of rights declared to them under the constitution of the United States, inasmuch as they are taxed to help maintain a postal system whose advantages are denied them. It would have been as just and sensible to deprive the whole State, including the city of Greenville, of the postoffice system, as the hundreds of unoffending citizens who are now affected. Or it would have been as just and sensible because a whiskey constable was shot down in the streets of Greenville, to deprive that law-abiding town of what Editor Williams pleases to term the "Great Moral Institution."

We do not attempt to convince a chronic kicker, and one so entirely out of accord with the white democracy as the editor of the News; but we do want to set this matter straight before the public. For Lake City we ask nothing more than that justice to which she is entitled under the laws of the republic.

THE LAKE CITY POSTOFFICE.

Good Chance of its Being Reopened Before Long.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Special.—The matter of the reopening of the Lake City postoffice is again exciting some discussion. Congressman Norton, in whose district the office is located, has worked hard to get the Postoffice Department to consent to the reopening of the office, and a few months ago it looked as if his efforts might be successful. It was even said at the time that the Postoffice Department was considering the matter of the appointment of the postmaster at the office, but nothing came of it. Mr. Norton is still working for the granting of the mail facilities to the people of the town. It is thought to be doubtful, however, if anything can be done in the matter for the present. As far as can be learned here the matter is now out of the hands of the Postoffice Department in a measure, and is in the hands of the Attorney General's office. This is because of the fact that the indictments presented against certain citizens of Lake City for the killing of Postmaster Baker and child, are still pending, and the Department of Justice fears that the reopening of the office might interfere with the bringing of the alleged guilty parties to justice. The Congressman from the district has had frequent talks with the President and the Postmaster General regarding the matter, and they seem to be willing to open the office provided the Attorney General does not object.

KNIGHTHOOD IN FLOWER.

Indiantown the Scene of a Brilliant Christmas Tournament.

A tournament was "pulled off" near Indiantown church on Wednesday, December 27.

Both the steeds and their riders showed the need or lack of sufficient practice for doing good work, in holding to the track or getting the rings on their lances.

The exhibition, proper, began about 12:10 p. m. Mr. David E. McCutchen, with his chestnut sorrel colt, Lena, as his mount, acted as Herald; Messrs. A. D. Wilson, George J. Graham, and

W. C. Wilson, with the assistance of others, acted as timekeepers and Judges.

The knights, with the rings taken by each, were as follows:

Knight of Indiantown, George Graham, taken 2, lost 1; Knight of Poverty Row, Willie McCutchen, taken 3, lost 0; Knight of the Lost Cause, Clarence Daniel, taken 5; Knight of Lakewood, Tom McCutchen, taken 3; Knight of Long Run, Julian Hanna, taken 2, lost 1; Knight of the Red Cross, Johnnie Cunningham 6; Knight of Thaddens of Warsaw, taken 0, lost 1; Knight of the Lone Star, Melan Wilson, taken 4; Knight of "Santa Claus", Stewart Cunningham, just a few; Knight of the Indian Feather, Sam Snowden, taken 6; Knight of Frog Level, Luther Wilson, taken 7; Knight of the 20th Century, Lorrie Ervin, taken 2; Knight of "Have you seen George", Robbie Ervin, one or two.

The Red Cross and the Indian Feather having tied for second place, were required to run over; after the second tilt showing three rings for the former, and four for the latter. The promised and expected speaker, from your city, Mr. H. W. Wilson, having failed to appear, no attempt at oratory were made by others, so that very important part of the programme had to be dispensed with. We know "Harve" was either sick, or had a logical excuse, otherwise, for not being there. Luther Wilson crowned Miss Eloise Cooper Queen of Love and Beauty; Sam Snowden, Miss Janie E. Heustis, of Bennettsville, 1st Maid of Honor; Johnnie Cunningham, Miss Mary Snowden, 2nd Maid of Honor.

In justice to "Thaddeus of Warsaw," we would say that his filly was quite high-strung, and her fear of the crowd and bolting the track was much in evidence. Also that "The 20th Century" had not decided to run until that morning, neither "Judge" nor his nag being in practice. "Santa Claus" and "Have You Seen George" added greatly to the amusement and entertainment of the crowd. "Ben," one of the colored ring-placers, was in great awe or fear of "Santa Claus," even when not near him or running after him. As to the latter, it was a case of "Robbie" riding old mule "Bobbie." "Bob" might bolt, buck, or heel-up, but "Rob" would "sit dere jist de same."

After the tournament, and before the dispersion of the assemblage, five horse races were indulged in, with results as given below:

1 Gabe, Tom McCutchen, 1st, Dexter, Melan Wilson, 2nd; (2) Maud S, Willie McCutchen, 1st, Daisy, Georgie Graham, 2nd; (3) Morgan, Julian Hanna, 1st, Nancy Hanks, Lorrie Ervin 2nd; (4) Dexter, Melan Wilson, 1st, Thelma, Zeno Vause, 2nd; (5) Gabe, Tom McCutchen, 1st, Nancy Hanks, Georgie Graham, 2nd.


The day was not unpleasantly cool, and everything passed off smoothly, in good order and humor.

At night, a dance at the residence of Mr. R. D. Gamble, was the piece de' resistance, attended by most of "the younger set," and kept up by some into the wee small hours of the morning.

"Nemo."

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