

# The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the Ends thou Aims't at, be thy Country's, thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHERN, Established June 66

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SUMTER, S. C. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1902.

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## The Watchman and Southron.

Published Every Wednesday,  
—BY—  
N. G. O'Leary,

SUMTER, S. C.

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### TERRIBLE WORK OF BITZER.

#### Shoots Five Persons and Kills Two.

Turner's Falls, Mass., Dec. 31.—Louis Bitzer, a jeweler of this place, today shot five persons, two of whom, his clerk, Miss Ida Columbe and Bitzer's five year old son, are dead. His other victims were his wife, Christina, and his two daughters, Annie, about 16 years of age and Carrie, 12 years of age. It is thought they will recover. There is evidence that it was Bitzer's purpose to take his own life, but his prompt arrest apparently prevented him from carrying out his purpose. He is about 35 years of age.

From a note left in his store by Bitzer, it appears that while he was cleaning a revolver the weapon was accidentally discharged and the bullet hit Miss Columbe in the head, killing her instantly. Overcome by the situation, Bitzer apparently rushed to his home, hatless and wild with excitement and began the work of exterminating his family.

The little boy, ill in bed with the measles, was shot and killed.

The 16-year-old daughter, Annie, was wounded through the left hand and in the ear. The 12-year-old daughter, Carrie, was shot through the neck. Mrs. Bitzer was hit in the face, the bullet passing through the nose.

The sound of the shots brought neighbors into the house and Bitzer was arrested.

The police believe that Bitzer is insane. The note which they found in his store after the affair was almost an incoherent jumble of words. After telling of the shooting of Miss Columbe, Bitzer wrote that he had determined to go to his home and end the lives of his wife and children and his own. "Nearer, My God to Thee," he sang. He wished that his property should be given to his brother and to his mother, and ended the letter with an expression to the effect that God would not blame a man for doing what he had done." Substantially the same story was told by Mr. Bitzer after his arrest.

### GUNBOATS FOR LIBERIA.

Washington, Jan. 2.—W. B. Matchett of this city representing the government of Liberia, called on Secretary Long at the navy department today and made a formal request that the action of congress, as embodied in the act of April 17, 1866, providing for the relief of Liberia, be carried into effect. That act, which was introduced in congress by Senator Sumner and Representative Banks of Massachusetts, provides that there shall be transferred to the government of Liberia one of the government gunboats of the United States navy, acceptable to the government of Liberia, and which in the opinion of the secretary of the navy could be spared conveniently for that purpose. Nothing was done in connection with this legislation until President Cleveland came into power when Secretary Herbert of the navy department set aside the old wooden warship Swartara for the use of the Liberian government. For various causes, however, the order for the transfer of the vessel was never carried into effect.

The proposition now made by Mr. Matchett is that the navy department set aside another vessel on the same conditions. Secretary Long requested Mr. Matchett to put his request in writing in which event the matter would receive due consideration.

### Cuban Elections.

Santiago de Cuba, Dec. 31.—The elections passed off today without notable incident in this district. The Nationalist was the only ticket in the field and consequently it was elected. Very few votes were cast in this city and little interest in the proceedings was apparent. The day was unusually cold and rainy.

Habana, Dec. 31.—Elections returns have not yet been received here. The indications promise a light vote. The partisans of Gen. Bartilome Maso in Habana did not vote.

### Blue Ridge Leases Anderson Branch of Southern.

Anderson, Dec. 31.—The Blue Ridge Railroad Company today leased the branch of the Southern from Belton to this place. The lease goes into effect tonight at 12 o'clock. The papers were signed today at Washington. There will be no immediate change in employees of the road, although it is expected there will be later. Freight rates to this place will not be affected but an improved passenger service will be inaugurated.

The Southern passenger due here at 3.45 this afternoon was derailed near Broadway trestle and several cars badly wrecked. The wreck occurred on a sharp curve and was caused by a coal car jumping the track. The engine remained on the track.

### State's Liquor Business Good.

Half Million Net Profit—Schools Get 6 per cent.

Columbia, Jan. 2.—Late last night the annual report of the State board of directors of the dispensary for the year just closed was made public by the chairman of the board, Mr. L. J. Williams. It reads as follows: To His Excellency, M. B. McSwain, Governor of South Carolina: We have the honor to submit to you, for your information and also that of the general assembly, this our report of the business done by the dispensary during the fiscal year closing Nov. 30, 1901.

Examination of the various accounts attached hereto, will show that the total amount of cost of liquors, wines, and beer, etc., purchased during the year, has amounted to \$1,617,973.47 and that our gross sales have amounted to \$2,328,681.21 (exclusive of sales of fresh beer by beer dispensers.)

The net profit to the State for account of the school fund is \$120,962.25. The net profits that have accrued to the counties and towns, divided equally, are \$424,285.87, which makes a total net profit of \$545,248.12 for the year, on account of the school fund and towns and counties.

We have for some time felt a serious need of more warehouse and office room, and also a safe and commodious fire proof vault for the storage and preservation of our permanent records. Consequently we have had constructed more storage capacity, and also a convenient two-story office building with a commodious and up-to-date fire-proof vault, which has cost \$14,494.81, besides other petty improvements.

The act approved Feb. 19, 1900, forbids us to make more than 10 per cent profit on account of the school fund, and the past year we have made on that account in round figures 6 per cent, which leaves only a very small margin with which to run the business and while it is true that the school fund is considerable, amounting at present to \$611,354.38 it is available very slowly for payment to the schools, as that is our only working capital.

We are gratified to be able to show such a high percentage of net profits on the business done, especially as the price of liquors have been very high on account of the high rate of grain, while we have not made any advance in the price to the consumer.

The system seems to be in very thorough working order in all its details.

Respectfully submitted,  
L. J. Williams, Chairman,  
H. H. Evans,  
A. F. H. Dukes,  
State Board of Directors.

### Congressional Salaries.

Prosperous times bring demands for better salaries. The United States government has been doing "mighty well" during the past three or four years and some of its servants are aspiring to better pay.

There are many unofficial citizens who believe that some of these officials should be paid better and we may look for bills at this session of congress to carry out this theory.

It is proposed to increase the pay of United States judges, members of the cabinet, representatives, senators and several other classes of government employees.

Members of the senate and members of the house receive equal pay now, \$5,000 each, though there is a general impression that senators receive more.

This is much more than members of congress received at first and is the highest pay they have ever received. They get \$5,000 a year now and 20 cents a mile for their trips to and from the capital.

This compensation was provided in 1865. Before that time members of congress received \$3,000 a year and 40 cents mileage, which they had been getting since 1855.

The first congress paid its members \$6 a day and 30 cents mileage. This superb compensation was increased in 1795 to \$7 a day.

In 1815 a salary of \$1,500 was fixed and provoked such a vehement protest from citizens of all parties, two years later the salary was cut to \$1,300 and thus obtained, until the act of 1875 gave congressmen \$3,000 a year.

Everybody remembers what a scandal was raised in 1873, after the first Grant administration had disgusted and alarmed the country and the second had started on what promised to be an even more reckless career of extravagance, when the back salary grab was made by congress.

The country rose in such wrath against this raid on the treasury that many of the participants in it hastened to return their booty to the public coffers and many of them, even making this restitution, were driven out of public life.

The plea that a congressman cannot live on \$5,000 a year has not impressed the people. They consider it quite enough with its extravagance and feel that a very large proportion of our federal legislators get quite as much as they are worth.

The passage of a bill by the members of congress increasing their own pay would raise a howl and justly so.—Atlanta Journal.

### Embezzler Set Free.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 31.—Gov. Sage to night granted an unconditional pardon to Joseph S. Brantley, former State treasurer, who five years ago was sentenced to 20 years in the penitentiary on conviction of having embezzled \$210,000 of State funds. The pardon was delivered to Mrs. Brantley by the governor's private secretary. Later, with his family and lawyer, Brantley was brought in a carriage to his home in the city.

### New Year's Reception at White House

Largest in Years—Eight Thousand People Attended.

Washington, Jan. 1.—President Roosevelt's first public reception was attended more largely than any year's reception in a number of years. In all 8,100 persons went through the White House and shook hands with the president. Mr. Roosevelt, on being apprised that the crowd in line outside the White House was unusually large gave orders that the gates should not be closed until the last person desiring to do so, had an opportunity to pay his respects. The reception began promptly at 11 o'clock and it was 2.30 o'clock before the last person in line had been presented to the president, and a quarter of an hour later, before the reception came to an end, the weather was delightful, being clear and crisp, so that no hardship was suffered by the throng that waited for hours before being admitted to the White House. The reception was in every way successful, the attendance not only being large but the decorations really beautiful. The arrangements were perfect and the president in excellent spirits. To every person he extended a cordial "Happy New Year," and Mrs. Roosevelt was equally pleasing to each of those who filed past in the blue parlor, where the reception party stood. Miss Alice Roosevelt was conspicuous among those assisting at the reception. A party of her young girl friends, by invitation, also participated in the function. The interior of the mansion was aglow with myriads of electric lights and to this was added the beauty of a profusion of flowers, plants and vines banked about the mantels and draped from chandeliers and walls. The floral decorations reached their height of effectiveness in the east room. Here the great crystal chandeliers were looped with smilax while the recesses of the chamber were banded with roses, begonias and tall ferns. In the red and blue parlors there was the same effective disposition of flowers and plants. In the outside corridor just within the entrance, the band of the engineer corp, U. S. A., 70 strong, in their brilliant uniform was arranged in tiers, where further along in the conservatory was the full membership of the marine band in bright red uniforms. While the musicians were taking their places the Roosevelt children were having a merry time through the corridors and one of them could be heard playing the Kangaroo march in the private apartments of the presidential family. Shortly before 11 o'clock, the throngs of distinguished callers began to assemble in the main corridor. First came the members of the diplomatic corps in their rich court uniform, resplendent in merits and decorations, it was a most cosmopolitan throng with the oriental silks of the Chinese minister and his suite, the red fez of the Turkish minister and the more modern but equally gorgeous attire of the Japanese minister. The members of the corps gathered in the red parlor preparatory to being presented to the president and those about him.

The Horrible Tragedy at Robbins.

Barnwell, Jan. 2.—Information was received here yesterday of one of the most shocking tragedies that has ever darkened the history of the county. At the home of Mr. J. C. Griffin near Robbins station, at a New Year's dance, one Hobbs trod upon the foot, or in some way fell against Heyward Dunbar. Hobbs apologized, but young Dunbar was not satisfied and went to his father, George R. Dunbar, telling him that he had been insulted. Mr. Dunbar at once drew his pistol and advanced towards the room where Hobbs was. As he was in the act of shooting, a bystander struck the pistol up and the bullet, going wide of its intended mark, struck Mr. Fletcher Bennett, one of the many guests in the room, and who was in no way connected with the disturbance. Falling to the floor, Bennett drew his pistol and returned the fire, shooting Mr. George Dunbar, who fell dead with a bullet in his heart. Resting on his elbow Bennett continued firing and killed Mr. Dunbar's son, Harry, a 16-year old boy, and perhaps mortally wounded another son, Arthur. Mrs. Dunbar, the wife and mother, was struck in the abdomen by a stray ball, which rebounded from her corset thereby probably saving her life. George Dunbar Kirkland, a nephew of the deceased now rushed upon the scene and drew his pistol upon the wounded Bennett, who was lying on the floor supported by the arm of his brother. The brother entreated Kirkland not to shoot—but, with an oath, the latter ordered him to move and threatened to kill him also. Without any further effort to save his unfortunate brother, he sprang aside, leaving him to his fate. Kirkland put two bullets into the forehead of the prostrate man, who died instantly. The coroner and sheriff were at once summoned and an inquest held. Kirkland is in the county jail having surrendered to the sheriff.

### The Waters Are Abating.

Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 1.—The Chattahoochee river which has been out of its banks for several days, has materially subsided. The washouts on the Atlanta and West Point lines between this city and Montgomery have caused the most serious interruption ever known to the traffic in that part of the State.

Augusta, Ga., Jan. 1.—The flood in the Savannah river today covers the lowlands on the South Carolina side, opposite this city. A negro boy was drowned last night by the overturning of a wagon on a road near the river.

Roanoke, Va., Jan. 1.—A special from Bristol says: The Virginia and Southern railway which suffered from the late storm will have their line in operation today to Mountain City. Trains will leave Bristol on regular schedule for all points in Tennessee except Elizabethton. They expect to be running into Elizabethton by the end of the week.

Montgomery, Ala., Jan. 1.—Schedules on railroads entering Montgomery which were interfered with by the recent floods have, with the exception of the Atlanta and West Point, been resumed. Later reports from Tallahassee say that the damage by high water will exceed first estimates. The loss by the breaking of the power company's dam will fall on the contractors, as the work had not been turned over.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Jan. 1.—The Tennessee river began to fall here at 8 o'clock tonight. The highest stage reached is 40.8 feet. The river is falling at all points above Chattanooga and the fall began here about midnight. But little damage has been done here by the flood.

Richard Croker now declares that the nomination of Perry Belmont for congress will be fought in the courts but if the decision is in Mr. Belmont's favor he and Mr. Tammany will turn in and work for Mr. Belmont's election. Mr. Croker evidently sees that he has made a tactical mistake in countenancing a "bolt." As head of the organization which demands regularity from all its adherents he cannot afford not to be always "regular" himself, and as it seems certain that the courts will declare Mr. Belmont entitled to the nomination the Tammany leader is preparing to get into line. He may knife Belmont secretly but will not dare to oppose him openly. It strikes us that Mr. Belmont, who has bid defiance to Croker in the plainest terms, has much the better of the situation and that he has now a victory that may have results still more damaging to the "boss."—The State.

### TRAGEDY AT ROBBINS.

Three Killed and Two Wounded—Prominent People Involved.

Augusta, Ga., Jan. 1.—Three people were killed and two wounded last night at Robbins, S. C., in a fight which occurred during a party given at the residence of Jesse Griffin. The participants in the fight were white people and well known in this part of the county. The dead are George Dunbar, Harry Dunbar and Fletcher Bennett. The wounded are Mrs. George Dunbar and Arthur Dunbar. A "watch party" was given at the residence of Jesse Griffin and during the evening William Cobb became involved in a dispute with George Dunbar. Cobb soon left the house. After his departure the quarrel was taken up by Fletcher Bennett and Dunbar drew his pistol. Griffin was the first one to interfere by taking Dunbar's pistol from him. Fletcher Bennett suddenly seized the weapon and shot George Dunbar killing him instantly. The latter's son, Harry Dunbar came to the defense, but was also killed by Bennett. Arthur Dunbar, another son, also joined in the fight and shot Bennett. The shooting then became general and Bennett received a shot which killed him. Mrs. Dunbar was also shot, but it is believed she will recover. Arthur Dunbar is fatally wounded.

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### Boers Want Opinion Concerning Their Troubles.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Commandant W. D. Snyman, who was a member of Gen. Dewet's staff in South Africa up to a year ago and who for some time has represented the Boer cause in the west, called upon President Roosevelt today. Commandant Snyman is a tall, fine looking Boer and talks English with a slightly broken accent.

"I called upon the president," said he, "to thank him for having sent to my wife, who is in South Africa, some money I desired her to have. I shall always feel grateful to President Roosevelt. I saw my wife's signature today for the first time in months."

"How did your wife get the money?"

"Through the United States consul at Cape Town and her answer to my letter was returned through the same channel."

Commandant Snyman did not talk with the president about the war in South Africa. He did not consider it a proper subject to discuss with the president of the United States. He simply wanted to thank him for getting the money to his wife.

"The Boers," said he, "can see easily that the president can do nothing to stop the war, even if he were so disposed. But we will appeal to congress for an expression of opinion. We hope that both political parties in this country will unite in such expression. We do not want the matter made a party question or to embarrass the United States in any way. I believe the English people would welcome an interference sufficient to cause the authorities to drop the war. We are willing to make some concessions."

### WRECK ON B. & O.

Train Left Track—Two Dead and Seventeen Wounded.

Pittsburg, Pa., Jan. 1.—As a result of a thorough passenger train on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad jumping the track today, two men are dead and 17 hurt, 5 of whom are considered seriously injured.

The injured were all taken to Meyersdale, as quickly as the relief train from Cumberland could get there.

The train which was derailed was the through passenger which left here at 8.40 this morning bound for New York. It was a full vestibuled train composed of engine, baggage car, postal car, two coaches, sleeper and Pullman chair car. In going down the steep grade one and one-half miles west of Glencoe, the engine from some cause as yet unexplained, jumped the track at the curve and the entire train piled on top of it. Probably the only thing that prevented a wholesale death list was the fact that the heavy vestibuled cars did not break up in going over the embankment.

The work of rescuing the injured had to be done quickly because the tanks in the cars exploded and set fire to the wreckage. The flames spread rapidly and in a short time the entire train was burned. The engine was completely demolished and the two dead men when taken from the debris were horribly mangled. Collins, who was by the nick name of "Katy," was one of the oldest engineers on the road. Soon after the accident physicians and nurses were sent to the scene of the disaster from Cumberland, and the injured were soon afterward taken to Meyersdale, Pa., where every attention is being paid them.

### Disgraceful Conditions in the Congo Free State.

London, Jan. 2.—Capt. Guy Burrows, who has just retired from the employ of the Congo Free State government, after six years service, declared in an interview today with a representative of the press that the conditions prevailing in the Congo Free State are a disgrace to civilization and far worse than ever before. He pictured atrocities of the most horrible character perpetrated on the natives by officials and whites who had concessions of rubber land. As a typical instance of the means employed by the Free State government Capt. Burrows corroborated the statement of an American missionary to the effect that the officials employed 500 cannibals to whom they issued rifles to "massacre and capture unarmed natives who had rebelled against their brutal methods."

"I have sworn testimony," said Burrows, "of the Belgians handing over natives to cannibals tribes for the express purpose of being eaten. Forced labor prevails everywhere and 'shotgun rule' is the truest description of the present administration. The companies deriving wealth from the collection of rubber are all more or less State enterprises, as a third or half of the shares in them are invariably held by the government. Lately King Leopold and the government have made some show of action against the agents of some of the upper Congo companies but only minor officials are ever touched and the so-called reforms are merely intended to throw dust in the eyes of the public, whose indignation has been aroused by the stories of the reign of terror. While the present systems for the collections of rubber and the recruitment of natives continue the Congo Free State will remain a disgrace to the white man's work in Africa."

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Constipation and health never go together. DeWitt's Little Early Risers promote easy action of the bowels without distress. "I have been troubled with constipation nine years," says J. O. Greene, De-pauw, Ind. "I have tried many remedies, but Little Early Risers give best results." J. S. Hughton & Co.

### Reciprocity Convention's Action.

New York Chamber of Commerce Does Not Approve.

New York, Jan. 2.—A meeting of the chamber of commerce was held here today. The committee on foreign commerce and the revenue laws presented a report and resolutions, disapproving the action taken by the reciprocity convention held in Washington. This report and the resolutions were adopted after considerable debate.

The resolutions read as follows: Whereas, this chamber has consistently favored the establishment through reciprocal concession in tariff rates of closer trade relations between the United States and the commercial countries of the world, and

Whereas, the national reciprocity convention, in its recent session in Washington, D. C., adopted a resolution recommending reciprocity through tariff modifications where it can be done without injury to any of our home interests of manufacturing, commerce or farming, thereby rendering any application of reciprocal tariff concessions impracticable, and

Whereas, the national reciprocity convention in a second resolution, recommended the establishment of a new commission to which shall be referred the consideration of all reciprocal trade agreements, thereby nullifying and disregarding the valuable and beneficial work successfully accomplished by the present commissioner plenipotentiary in the negotiation of important treaties, whereby a great part of the trade of these countries would be thrown open to us, therefore, be it

Resolved, That this chamber hereby expresses its disapproval of the action taken by the national reciprocity convention in Washington on Nov. 20, as subversive of all attempts to bring about closer trade relations with our sister nations and to open new and wider markets for our products, and be it further

Resolved, That the chamber views with apprehension the policy advocated by the reciprocity convention as likely to invite hostile legislation on the part of the other nations against this country to the great detriment of its commercial interests.

The following substitute for the report of the committee was offered, but was rejected:

Resolved, That this body recommend reciprocity in our trade with foreign countries where it can be done without injuring any of our own products or manufactures.

The committee report and resolutions were then adopted.

### REMARKABLE CURE OF COUG.

A LITTLE BOY'S LIFE SAVED  
I have a few words to say regarding Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It saved my little boy's life and I feel that I cannot praise it enough. I bought a bottle of it from A. E. Steere of Goodwin, S. D., and when I got home with it the poor baby could hardly breathe. I gave the medicine as directed every ten minutes until he "threw up" and then I thought sure he was going to choke to death. We had to pull the phlegm out of his mouth in great long strings. I am positive that if I had not got that bottle of cough medicine, my boy would not be on earth today.—Joel Demont, Inwood, Iowa. For sale by Dr. A. J. China.

### ENGINE EXPLODES.

Three Persons Killed and Nine Hurt.

Macon, Ga., Jan. 2.—A freight engine, just out of the repair shop, and fired up in the roundhouse of the Central of Georgia railroad, exploded without warning at 7.30 o'clock this morning, shaking the entire city. The report was heard seven miles away, and houses three miles distant felt the shock.

The news instantly spread that many were killed, and in a few moments there had gathered at the gates hundreds of people, including wives and children of shop employes, weeping and clamoring for information. The cause of the accident is not known, the coroner's jury failing to ascertain. It is supposed, however, that the negro had found the water in the boiler too low and had suddenly injected a stream of cold water on the red hot crown sheet. The engine was reduced to fragments, parts being hurled through the building two or three hundred yards. One piece weighing 3,000 pounds was thrown 150 yards.

### To Wipe Out the V.-G. Company.

Attorney General Bellinger Opens up the Fight.

Columbia, Jan. 2.—Attorney General Bellinger's long expected and very important report as to his investigations of the operations of the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company, the alleged fertilizer trust in this State, was made public today.

It covers with the exhibits, some fifty pages of printed matter, and it is a paper that is full of interest from first to last. The Attorney General details what steps he has taken and reports fully what he has discovered. He also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of certain proposed measures which he thinks will wipe out the trust evil from South Carolina.

It is the beginning of a long fight and one that will occupy much of the time of the General Assembly at its coming session. The Attorney General seems to have done what the Legislature told him to do in a most thorough painstaking and fearless manner. The paper is one that will probably attract national interest.