

nor our good friends shall speak for us. They do not understand us, often, and so God expects us to tell of our own deeds. In this connection, the evangelist said "Sometimes the world thinks we are bad when we are good, but more often it thinks we are good when we are bad—this is a charitable old world, after all. God knows us, and we must have a settlement for every sin we have ever committed. We are accountable for our character, not our reputation. There is a great difference between what many a woman really is and what society thinks she is. The same rule applies to a man and his wife, a mother and her daughter, a mother and her son. But the important thing is "What are you tonight in the presence of a Holy God." Not only are we accountable to God for our thoughts, but our deeds as well, for "back of every tragedy in human character, there is a long slow process of thinking. "You can never be any better than your thoughts."

We must also account to God for our words. And if the human inventiveness has been able to record a man's every word on a graphophone, certainly God has recorded every word in heaven that we have ever uttered. "In heaven's graphophone, God catches every whisper of your lips, and you've got to meet them there." "Let me hear you talk," said Mr. Jones, "and I'll tell you what you are."

We are accountable for our influence. A man can send his very children to hell by exerting a bad influence. And there is no such thing as a good man having a bad influence, as some say.

This is a lawless age we are living in. There is a wave of lawlessness in the home, in the churches, all over the country. "America will be damned by the lawless spirit in the country in 50 years if it is not checked." We are accountable for our relation to God's laws; he made them to be kept, but we don't keep them to be saved but because we are saved. Your God is the thing that holds first place in your life, whether it be money or what not. "There are men in this city who are worshipping idols as much as any heathen ever did."

Some men outwit others because they exert a master mind for selfish interests and this is breaking a law of God. We cannot commit adultery, violate the holiness of the Sabbath, kill, or break any other of God's laws without having to account to God for it at the judgment bar. And, by the way, Mr. Jones said, there are more ways to kill than the average man thinks; the cruelty of a man can kill his wife, the meanness of a son can kill his mother, and very often the doctor calls it "heart failure."

God's law is the standard by which he will judge us. God sees us all as sinners, and no matter what our record, in God's sight we are condemned already. How then can we hope to appear at the judgment bar and receive mercy? The answer is Jesus Christ. If He is there to "stand for us," the gate of heaven will open to receive us, but "Jesus" is the only name that can be sponsor for us. And the way to have him stand for us is to accept him as our Saviour and give our lives into his keeping.

Service for Colored Folks Saturday Night.

The tabernacle meeting for colored people was held Saturday night, as scheduled, but it was a great disappointment so far as attendance was concerned, the crowd numbering only about 450, with a choir of about 75. The choir was directed by C. A. Lawson, principal in the Lincoln school of this city, and did some remarkably good singing. In fact Mr. McKenzie remarked to them in humorous vein "You all are singing too much like white folks, sing some old time songs for us." Mr. Jones said, in this connection, that he hoped the colored people would not drop the old time songs, that there was plenty of music and plenty of good religion in them. About this time, someone in the audience started the refrain to "Swing low, sweet chariot" and as the volume increased, it proved to be a song of the genuine "old time quality" and was much appreciated by a good number of white spectators, as well as being an enjoyable feature for the negroes, themselves.

Mr. Jones said that he had understood on coming here that Sumter had a good colored citizenry, as a whole, and that he was glad that so many colored people had homes of their own and were trying to lead decent lives. He said that the negro and the white man in the South understand each other as no other two races in the world do, and that the negroes of the South as a whole knew that the white people were their friends and were willing to assist them when they showed the right spirit in trying to be thrifty and to be law abiding. Of course, conditions are not perfect just as they are not perfect in any community in the world, there is room for improvement and it is up to the colored race for the sake of themselves to put their shoulders to the wheel in bringing about a better state of affairs.

Mr. Jones told of how Paul, looking

FIRE SWEEPS ELLOREE BLOCK

MAIN BUSINESS SECTION OF TOWN WIPE OUT BY FLAMES.

Loss by Flames Estimated at \$11,000 With Small Part Covered by Insurance—Six Stores Burned in Worst Fire in History of Town.

Elloree, May 6.—Fire broke out here Tuesday night about 10 o'clock, almost sweeping an entire block on Main street, entailing a loss estimated at \$11,000, with only a small amount of insurance. The fire originated in the kitchen of the two-story store of Mrs. Linnie E. Bair, occupied by her as a millinery store on the first floor and dwelling upstairs, and its cause is unknown. The flames had gained considerable headway before being discovered and a strong wind aided in the quick destruction of all adjoining properties. Several hundred people had gathered soon after the alarm was sounded and through heroic efforts the brick mercantile building of Harbeson & Rickenbaker, frame store of Dr. P. L. Felder, dwelling of Col. B. A. Shuler, frame stores of Mrs. Minnie F. Bardin and furniture store of Hungerpillar & Fogle and several other small buildings were saved with small losses.

Six frame mercantile store rooms, together with almost their entire contents, were reduced to ashes, and had the wind been blowing in a southern direction the whole town would have been in imminent peril.

The wires of the electric light and telephone plants were badly damaged, and it will be several days before either will be in commission.

All the burned buildings were of frame structure and, owing to the long dry weather the fire fighters, who did excellent work, were at a great disadvantage in checking the flames. Several parties are heavy losers, as they carried no insurance and saved nothing.

The following is an estimate of losses: M. G. Arant, building and stock, valued at \$3,500, insurance \$1,000; William I. Harbeson, two-story building and household furniture, valued at \$2,500, total loss with no insurance; Mrs. Linnie E. Bair, two-story building, stock of millinery, household furniture, valued at \$2,000, total loss with no insurance; Joseph V. Bull, store building, valued at \$900, total loss with no insurance; Raymond J. Gates, two-story mercantile building, valued at \$1,000, with insurance at \$500; Raymond J. Gates, stock, \$500, no insurance; Mrs. Minnie F. Bardin, damages store building \$100, no insurance; B. A. Shuler, two frame mercantile buildings, valued at \$700, total loss with no insurance; small damages to brick mercantile building of Mrs. E. W. Jones, frame store of Hungerpillar & Fogle, brick building of Dr. P. L. Felder, furniture of J. A. and Mrs. M. F. Bardin.

Elloree is noted for its good fire record and the loss last night is one of the largest in its history. Had it not been for the heroic efforts of the volunteer fire department the damages would have been much more.

Columbia, May 7.—A. S. Johnstone of Greenville was today elected secretary of the State Board of Charities and Corrections at a meeting here this afternoon. The position carries a salary of \$2,500. Mr. Johnstone is peculiarly fitted for this position. He was secretary of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce and has been in charge of several college Y. M. C. A's.

about a wicked city, expressed his opinion on the existing conditions, and pointed out the need of higher standards, and he went on to show how in this day and time, those who had high ideas and were living right should not hesitate to get others to follow in their footsteps.

By simple illustrations, convincingly told, Mr. Jones pointed out the leading sins of the colored race as drinking, gambling, lying, dishonesty, extravagance and impurity.

The evangelist said that it was not his desire to do anything but call attention to facts that no man could dispute, and that he did so with the idea of showing the colored race their outstanding faults, so that, for their own sake, they could unite in a joint effort to bring the commitment of these faults down to a minimum. "Now, honest," said Mr. Jones, "you know you can't, except in a few cases," tell your church members from those who don't belong to the church." A voice of assent was the answer to this statement. The only cure for this state of affairs, then, is to give God first place in your lives, and live so that folks will know this. The invitation for converts was given and 47 responded. Mr. Jones gave those who promised to read it, a little booklet containing either the entire epistle of St. John or St. Luke. His talk seemed to make an extremely favorable impression on all present. The prayers of the evening were made by two well known negro divines, the Revs. C. C. Jacobs and I. D. Davis.

PICNIC AT PLEASANT GROVE.

MESSERS. J. H. HAYNSWORTH, E. I. REARDON AND J. FRANK WILLIAMS MAKE AD-DRESSES.

School Closing is Made Occasion of Merry Gathering, as Well as Time for Instruction of Farmers—Young Teachers See That All Enjoy Event. Pleasant Grove School, one of the smallest but progressive rural schools of Sumter County closed its scholastic year Thursday with one of the most delightful picnics of the season which was attended by several hundred of the patrons and pupils of this institution besides a number of invited guests from Lee and Sumter counties.

To say that the picnic was a most delightful affair would be putting it mildly indeed. Pleasant Grove school district is peopled by men, women, and children famous for their hospitality, and Friday's reception and treatment of the many fortunate invited guests served to emphasize the kind of welcome extended by the big hearted people of this section of the Game Cock county, Sumter.

This was a typical country picnic in every respect. Everybody felt at home. The young folks enjoyed themselves in many ways. There was string band music, songs, games, etc.

The old folks had a delightful, but busy time entertaining each other and laying out the hundreds of appetizing things to eat.

The tables were set in the shady and delightful grove from which this school and the church derive their names.

It would require much space and time to give an adequate description of the magnificent and bounteous bill of fare which the guests were served with. It is sufficient to say that the patrons of Pleasant Grove school were the hosts. That insures a satisfactory guarantee of a splendid picnic dinner. If President Wilson, Secretary William Jennings Bryan, and other noted optimists could have partaken of this varied and delightful dinner they would have splendid grounds for proclaiming anew that permanent prosperity had never been retarded in Sumter county.

Misses Sally Ellis and Nan Watson, the popular, efficient, and hospitable teachers of this school exhibited the most delightful spirit of welcome imaginable, and they contributed largely to the pleasure of the guests and their pupils.

After dinner a great many of the men, women, and school children assembled in the church to listen to several addresses. Rev. J. F. Sanders presiding over this meeting. Mr. Sanders made a short but interesting and appropriate address and introduced the speakers.

County Superintendent of Education J. H. Haynsworth was the first speaker. He dwelt interestingly and somewhat at length upon the many themes incidental to education and pointed out clearly the importance of cooperation between teachers, patrons, and pupils for the highest possible degree of efficiency in the school system. He gave timely advice to the pupils.

E. I. Reardon, Secretary of the Sumter Chamber of Commerce, followed Superintendent Haynsworth in a talk which he termed "A Message from the People of Sumter to the People of the Rural Districts. The executive officer of the organized business interests of Sumter told of the great interest which the business men and other citizens of Sumter felt in the rural schools of this county, and in the development of the agricultural districts, and the health, happiness, and prosperity of the country people. He emphasized the fact that we are interdependent upon each other, and pointed out how the city people appreciated the importance of prosperity upon the farm as necessary to general prosperity and the very existence of the nation.

Mr. J. Frank Williams, resident of the Sumter County Farmers' Union, and Farm Extension Demonstrator, was the last speaker. Mr. Williams' talk was replete with many practical suggestions along the lines of general and rural school agricultural endeavor. He also told in an interesting way just how it pays to make farm life attractive for the boys and girls, and wherein it is financially advantageous to the young men and women of the country districts, and to the nation at large to equip the boys and girls to remain upon the farm.

He emphasized the value of utilizing nature's forces, connecting them with practical and scientific farming, conducted upon business and economical methods, and referred to the way in which the social environment of rural communities may be made attractive to young and old.

The speakers were given a cordial welcome, close attention, and were frequently applauded.

The trustees of this school district, who took a great deal of interest in the schools, are Messrs. H. T. Coleman, R. H. Whitehead and M. D. Weaver. Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Cun-

CHARGED WITH FORGERY.

EIGHT WARRANTS WERE ISSUED AGAINST W. S. JONES ALLEGING CRIMINAL INTENT.

F. E. VanderVeer of Equitable Life Assurance Society Had Papers for Arrest Taken Out, and He, Dr. Archie China and Others are Named as Witnesses—Warrants Served This Morning and Jones Released on Bond of \$5,000.

From The Daily Item, May 10.

Warrants were served on W. S. Jones this morning charging him in eight cases with forging the names of different parties to checks issued by the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States, of which company he was an agent. The checks were generally for \$1,000, and, it is alleged, that Jones forged the names of the persons to whom they were issued and collected the amounts of the checks himself. The warrants were sworn out by F. E. VanderVeer, a physician of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, and Dr. VanderVeer, Dr. Archie China and others were cited as witnesses in the different cases.

The warrants were taken out before Magistrate M. J. Moore, who turned three of them over to Sheriff Bradford on Saturday night and the other five this morning for service. Immediately after the warrants were served W. S. Jones was released on \$5,000 bond, W. H. Ruff, E. G. Jones and D. W. Ruff having signed as bondsmen. The bond was filed with Magistrate Moore, who stated this morning that he had until 10 days before court convened to file it with the clerk of court.

The warrants issued charge the forging the names of the following persons on checks:

State vs. W. S. Jones, forging name of Wm. J. Bennehaley, on or about July 22nd, 1912, check for \$968.26.

State vs. W. S. Jones, forging name of Hattie Jennings, on or about August 10th, 1906, for \$1,000.

State vs. Jones, forging name of Alice Goodwin, on or about February 8th, 1906, check for \$1,000.

State vs. W. S. Jones, forging name of Annie Webb, on or about August 8th, 1910, check for \$958.58.

State vs. W. S. Jones, forging name of Lula Flake, on or about December 24th, 1913, check for \$1,000.

State vs. W. S. Jones, forging name of Hannah Taylor, on or about April 2, 1912, check for \$1,000.

State vs. W. S. Jones, forging name of Agnes Evans, November 1, 1910, check for \$1,000.

State vs. W. S. Jones, forging name of Queen Tomlin, on or about December 10, 1912, check for \$1,000.

It is reported that other warrants will be taken out later.

The rumor that charges would be preferred against W. S. Jones caused a big sensation in the city and the case has been the chief subject of discussion since the news was learned. It is reported that the checks were sent to Jones as agent on the filing by him with the company of fraudulent death claims against the company.

NEGRO DIES OF WOUNDS.

Rainey Williams Dies of Wounds Alleged to Have Been Inflicted by Robert Grant and Edgar Rees.

From The Daily Item, May 10.

Rainey Williams, colored, who was alleged to have been shot by Robert Grant and Edgar Rees at a negro frolic on the 16th of September, 1914, died on Saturday morning at the Toumy Hospital, where he had been for treatment off and on ever since he was shot. Twice before it was feared that he would die and the two men were arrested and held, but later released on bond when Williams partly recovered. Death Saturday was said to be due to an abscess formed on the lung caused by a bullet wound. Two hours after the sheriff had heard that Williams was dead both the men alleged to have been guilty of causing the death were in jail, where they are now held. The coroner's jury was impanelled on Saturday night to view the body and the evidence will be taken on Tuesday at noon. One of the negroes was found in Sumter at the Penn-Sumter Lumber Company and Sheriff Bradford found the other near Brogdon, where he was employed.

ningham, who live opposite Pleasant Grove School house, kept open house to the guests and were exceedingly hospitable and pleasant. Mr. Cunningham, by the way has given a fine practical demonstration of up-to-date farming by turning a veritable wilderness into a fertile farm, and he has materially improved the surrounding neighborhood by erecting his splendid home here, and otherwise aided in building up a desirable community of thrift and progress.

POSITION REMAINS UNCHANGED

UNITED STATES REITERATES STAND FOR OPEN DOOR POLICY IN CHINA.

Has Been no Abatement of Its Interest in Welfare of China and Its Territorial Integrity Will be Maintained—Bryan Makes Statement After Long Silence, Although not Officially Notified of Japanese Ultimatum.

Washington, May 6.—The silence consistently maintained by the United States with reference to the Japanese-Chinese negotiations since they began nearly four months ago was broken tonight by the issuance of a statement by Secretary Bryan explaining the American government's position.

The statement was prepared earlier in the day after consultation with President Wilson. While press reports had told of Japan's decision to send an ultimatum to China, no official information had been received to confirm this tonight.

The American government, in its pronouncement, in effect, reiterates its adherence to the open door policy and the maintenance of the territorial integrity of China, and points out that there has been "no abatement of its interest in the welfare and progress of China."

The sole interest of the United States is declared to be that the negotiations between Japan and China "may be concluded in a manner satisfactory to both nations" and thus continue to keep the peace.

The statement was interpreted in some quarters as meaning that while no tender of good offices would be made by the Washington government the services of the United States were at the disposal of both countries should they desire the assistance of any third party to bring about a diplomatic settlement of the questions at issue.

BISHOPVILLE PERSONAL NEWS.

Rev. L. L. Legters Goes to Georgetown to Assist at Meeting.

Bishopville, May 7.—Mrs. Lila B. Aman has returned from the Florence Hospital.

Miss Janie Green, of Lancaster, is visiting relatives in town.

Messrs. Hoyt Moseley and Lyston Weatherly attended the oratorical contest in Rock Hill last week.

Rev. L. L. Legters left yesterday for Georgetown to assist Dr. Parler in evangelistic work. He will return within a week's time.

Mrs. J. P. Kilgore is visiting Mrs. J. B. McLaughlin in Columbia.

Mrs. Grouge, of Allendale, is spending a while with her sister, Mrs. M. M. Benson.

Mr. John Myers and family have moved back to town, having lived in Hartsville for the past ten years.

Miss Louise Manning, who was taken over to Florence last week for an operation for appendicitis is getting on nicely, and will soon return home.

Dr. and Mrs. L. H. DuBose have been visiting the latter's parents at Sharon.

Mother's Day will be observed Sunday morning at the Baptist church with appropriate exercises.

TEN DEAD IN STORM.

TORNADO LEAVES DESTRUCTION IN ITS WAKE.

Twenty-five Persons Injured and Property Damaged to Half Million Dollars—Cotton Fields Flooded and Cattle and Mules Drowned.

Clarksdale, Miss., May 7.—Ten are dead, twenty-five injured and property damage estimated at half a million dollars by a tornado this morning. The victims are tenants on cotton plantations and a majority of them are negroes. Friarspoint was the center of the storm. Thousands of acres were flooded and many cattle and mules were drowned.

TORNADO KILLS TWO MORE.

Humboldt Suffers Seriously From Effects of Storm.

Humboldt, Tenn., May 7.—Mrs. Sarah Hayes was killed, her son Hardy Hays was fatally wounded and his wife was badly injured, fifty barns were razed, orchards uprooted and many homes unroofed by a tornado last night. Many buildings in Hokinsville, Ky., were unroofed.

A RECORD RAINFALL.

Workmen in Sewer Drowned by Heavy Rain at Atlanta.

Atlanta, May 7.—Two inches of rain fell in an hour and five minutes this morning, breaking a long drouth. W. L. Tressel, who was working in a sewer was drowned by the sudden deluge. This was the heaviest rain since the weather bureau was established.

LONG DROUGHT BROKEN.

Five Inches of Rain Fall after Six Weeks of Dry Weather.

Gadsden, Ala., May 7.—Five inches of rain fell between midnight and 9 o'clock this morning, breaking a six weeks' drought.

FIFTEEN LOSE LIVES.

Killed by Tornado Which Sweeps Louisiana.

Jennings, La., May 6.—Fifteen persons were killed and more than 40 injured by a tornado which passed through the western part of Arcadia parish, in the southern portion of the State, late today.

Only one white person is known to have been killed.

Nine negroes were killed and 25 persons are known to have been injured in Mermentau and vicinity. Among several whose injuries are believed to be fatal is John Broussard, a well known planter and a member of the Mermentau city council. At Egan five negroes were killed and 20 persons injured.

Rescue parties tonight were visiting all parts of the stricken district to ascertain the damage and to aid residents in the outlying territory, many of whom are believed to have been injured.

Columbia, May 7.—D. B. Johnson, president of Winthrop College, who was among the visitors in Columbia today, announced that A. F. Lever, chairman of the agricultural committee of the house, had accepted an invitation to deliver the commencement address at Winthrop college on the evening of June 1st. "The Needs of the Rural Woman," will be the subject. Diplomas, certificates and honors will be awarded on that date.

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Reasonable Rates

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THE HOME INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK.

All Losses Adjusted and Paid Promptly Through the Southern Office of the Co. in Charlotte, N. C.

The Home Insurance Company is 61 years old and has assets of THIRTY FIVE MILLION DOLLARS. The Home is the FIRST old line, legal reserve company to write hail insurance in the South-Eastern states.

Sumter Insurance Agency,

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