

The Watchman and Southern

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PERSONAL MENTION.

Mr. L. B. Lesesne, of Atlanta, Ga., is in the city to spend Christmas with his father, Mr. J. I. Lesesne. Mrs. Lide and her daughter, Miss Annie May Lide, will spend the Christmas holidays in Manning. Mr. John Hook, of Virginia, is visiting his brother in the city. Mr. H. C. Parrott, of Columbia, is spending Christmas with his mother. Mrs. C. B. Huff has gone to Fountain Inn to spend Christmas with her parents. Misses Irene and Abbie Bryan are at home for the holidays. Miss Genevieve Randle is spending Christmas at home with her parents. Mr. James Chandler is at home from Baltimore Medical College to spend the holidays. Miss Margaret Cheyne has come home from Hickory Grove to spend the holidays. Miss Rebecca Hall, of Columbia, is spending the holidays with her sister, Mrs. L. R. Williamson. Mr. Ansley Yates is at home from Richmond to spend the holidays. Miss Julia Wright is at home from Hollins College, Va., to spend the Christmas holidays with her parents. Mr. J. C. Dunbar, of Dalzell, was a visitor to the city today. Mr. E. W. Dabbs, of Salem, spent Friday in the city. Miss Lucile Randle is at home to spend Christmas with her parents. Mr. Harold C. Smith, of Greenville, is spending Christmas in the city. Mrs. Smith and son have been visiting here for some time. Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Earle, of Greenville, are spending Christmas in Sumter with the latter's parents. Miss Lucie Johnson and Mr. Edwin Johnson, of Manning, and Mr. E. J. Myers, of Columbia, are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Johnson during the holidays. Mr. Mack Stubbs is at home from Washington and Lee University to spend the holidays. Mr. Julius Alfred Stubbs, who is attending Wofford College, is spending the holidays at home. Miss Marian Satterwhite, of Winthrop College is visiting in the city during the holidays. Mr. Harold Moise is spending the Christmas holidays in the city. Mr. Richard Hood, Jr., is at home spending the Christmas holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Hood on North Main Street. Mr. Hood has been with the Westinghouse Electric Company for nearly two years now and this is the first time he has been at home in that time. Mr. John D. Gillespie of the Columbia Theological Seminary at Columbia is spending some of his holidays in the city. Miss Kathleen Moore, of Columbia, who is now a teacher at Fayetteville, N. C., is visiting Miss Teresa Chandler. Mr. Richard Mood Dollard left this morning for Augusta, where he will remain for several days visiting friends. Mrs. Mills, of Statesville, N. C., is visiting her daughter, Mrs. M. W. Seabrook. Miss Margaret Bryan spent Christmas at home from Columbia. Mrs. J. A. Middleton and little daughter are spending several days in Darlington visiting relatives. Mr. S. L. Roddey is in Rock Hill, where he went to spend Christmas with his parents. Messrs. Wilson Green and Alonzo Forester spent Sunday in Florence. Rev. Harry D. Bull, of Kingstree, was in the city today. Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Moise are spending the holidays in Newberry. John D. Lee, Esq., of Columbia, is spending a few days in the city. Mr. William Winn is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. Jas. Winn. Misses Eileen and Mildred Hurst are spending the holidays in Savannah visiting their sister, Mrs. Hubbard. Messrs. James Pitts and Ansley Hurst, are at home for the week from Mussey Business College, Richmond, Va. Mr. Eugene Jones spent Xmas at home, returning to his business in Richmond, Va., last night. In The Police Court. Dave Sanders, colored, was up on the charge of discharging firearms in the city limits, disorderly conduct, carrying concealed weapons, and vagrancy, and upon his entering a plea of guilty was given a sentence of 30 or 30 days on each charge. Sanders shot Alex Wilson, another negro, shooting off one of the latter's fingers. The shooting took place at Mr. Gregg's store on Manning Avenue Wednesday afternoon. Ed Fontaine, petty larceny, bond of \$7.50 forfeited. Cotton seed hulls are now selling at \$15.00 a ton—more than the average price of seed in former years.

HEALTH OF CITY GOOD.

Less Sickness This Fall and Winter Than in Many Years.

The health officer reports that the Christmas season will find the city of Sumter free from sickness to a greater extent than at any Christmas in a number of years. In fact save for colds and such minor ailments there is no sickness in town worth talking about. This morning a physician stated that there had been less sickness this fall and winter than at any time in the past fifteen or more years that he had been practising here, and Sumter was to be congratulated on its freedom from all forms of disease. These reports are indeed encouraging to the people of Sumter and indicate that the Board of Health and Health Officer are looking out for the best interest of the city in its most vital department.

Torrensward.

(From the Wall Street Journal.) A twelfth State, Nebraska, has adopted the Torrens system of land title registration, and by an overwhelming majority, a thirteenth, Pennsylvania, has just passed a Torrens amendment to its constitution. Importance in this fact lies not so much in the acceptance of a plan for land conveyancing that passes for new, and revolutionarily so, although it is almost 60 years old, and based upon an idea centuries older, but in that, after twenty years of criticism such as few reforms have had to pass through, two sovereign States have found fit to adopt such a system. This alone is large answer to the objections that have been brought against the system. And it is to be noticed that no State, however much opposition and interested control over the law may have nullified its operation and success, has finally abrogated the law when once passed. In Virginia, Maryland, Louisiana and other Commonwealths there is active effort tending toward Torrens legislation. Opposition comes from patently interested parties and financial institutions and from sections of the legal profession wedded to ritual and to routine, conservative to the danger point, delighting in the scare-crows of antique procedure and fearing that the flesh-pots of conveyancing may be taken from them. If the Torrens law has achieved one paramount success it has been in its triumphant progress through Courts attesting its constitutionality. As say the commissioners on uniform State laws: "Few members of the American Bar have taken the time to study the provisions and operations of Land Registratic. Acts," and "Every Act bears on its face the scars of desperate conflict. It is doubtful whether any legislation has ever been assailed with more bitterness or greater persistency than this; and, unfortunately, its antagonists have generally succeeded in marring the Act even when they have been unable to defeat it." The statement that it is a local law is answered by the uniform law just drafted by these commissioners. This can take its place with the Bills of Lading Act, the Certificate of Stock Act, the Negotiable Instruments Act and other titles of personal property. For sixty years dire prophecies have been made. It has been predicted that in Torrens procedure assurance did not assure that the State could not guarantee indefensible possession of land and that terrific consequences would follow the adoption of such a law. "In point of fact, in the practical operation of land registration, none of the terrible predictions of its opponents has been verified."

Torrens laws are making permanent progress despite frenzied efforts at scotch or nullification. Reasons for this advance are manifold. Torrens procedure means security, cheapness, common sense dealings, ultimate reduction of the overweening charges for conveyancing, through lawyers or companies. It means State guarantee. It appeals to the business sense of the community by its speed and simplicity. It will make land as rapidly negotiable as any other asset. It will reduce interest charges on the reality of the poor man. And, as said of it by Lord Chief Justice Coleridge, of Great Britain: "The man who denies the practicability of applying it might as well deny that two and two make four." Mr. Geo. H. Hurst, Jr., was one of those who recently stood the examination before the State Board of Embalmers and was admitted as a licensed embalmer and undertaker. Mr. Hurst took a course in embalming at Cincinnati a year ago and could have passed the State examination then, but was too young. Since then the rule not to license undertakers under twenty-one has been changed and he therefore took the examination and is now the youngest licensed embalmer in the State, and probably in the South, as he has yet one or two years before he becomes of age.

CHRISTMAS A VERY QUIET ONE

Popping of Caps and Few Fireworks Only Methods of Enlivening Day.

Christmas 1915 has come and gone. Many small hearts were made glad by gifts of toys, candies and other things that are so much in evidence especially at the Christmas season. Everywhere good tidings and cheer seemed to reign and only happiness and pleasure was to be seen on the countenances of those persons on the streets during Saturday and Sunday. Christmas this year was not as dull as some, but it was a quiet one. The brisk wind tended to keep people from wandering about the streets during the day and a quiet, for Christmas, reign such as has not been known in Christmas in a number of years. On Friday night and Saturday the popping of caps was the only source of amusement indulged in to any great degree by the young folks, and many seemed to enjoy this form of amusement. Friday night there were few fireworks and the high wind on Christmas night prevented those who had them from sending off their fireworks. In fact fewer fireworks were sold this Christmas than at any time in many years—at least this is the report of the merchants. The belated Christmas trade was much better than was expected, say the merchants, and this helped the shopkeepers, although they were tired out by the close of Friday night. Saturday practically all of the business houses were closed and everybody observed the day as a holiday. Services in the various churches commemorated the anniversary of the joyous event which was being celebrated. Others less sober minded spent the day at home or sought pleasure by other means. A few of the more hardy hunters ventured out, but the wind was too high to find or kill much. Sunday was clear and beautiful, after the windy cloudy Christmas day, and everybody enjoyed the magnificent weather. Today business was resumed as usual with a clear sky overhead. Many of the merchants were preparing to take stock and have already started out in this tedious undertaking, preparatory to starting business for the New Year. As an indication of the orderliness which has reigned in the city during the past three days, not a single arrest was made by the police and reports show very little disorder of any kind in or near the city. Only one fire, on Sunday morning, just outside the city limits, marred the period of rest and peace.

Talks on Thrift.

Harry Lauder, the famous Scotch comedian, who has made millions laugh, and who commands a fabulous salary for his vaudeville sketches, believes in thrift. He wouldn't be a Scotchman if he did not. "Easy come, easy go," is the rule in professions where big money is made for little effort. The theatrical profession is noted for its spending propensities, but Harry believes in saving. Out of his earnings he accumulated enough to subscribe \$50,000 to the British War Loan—patriotism at four per cent. Harry has a few homey maxims on thrift that have been widely circulated during the war period, in the hope that his followers would profit thereby. "Mither wadna waste" says Harry "and I would be disgracing her memory if I wasted." Here are some of his rules: Behave toward your purse as you would to your best friend. View the reckless spending of money as criminal and shun the company of the reckless spender. Dress neatly, but not lavishly. A bank pays a higher rate of interest than your bank. Take your amusements judiciously. You will enjoy them better. Don't throw away the crusts—eat them. They are as nourishing as beer. It is more exhilarating to feel money in your pocket than beer in your stomach. Remember it only takes twenty shillings to make a pound, and twelve pennies to make a shilling. You can sleep better after a hard day's work than after a hard day's idleness. Get good value from your tradesmen. They watch out that they get good money from you. A bank book makes good reading—better than some novels.

Death. Mrs. E. Brown died on Wednesday afternoon at his home at Shallop after an illness of several months aged 26 years. The funeral services and interment were held at 2 o'clock and burying ground on Thursday at noon. Mr. Brown is survived by his wife and one child.

CHEROKEES ON RAID.

Marching on Muskogee to Avenge Murder of Tribesman.

Muskogee, Okla., Dec. 27.—A posse of Cherokee Indians, is marching toward here from Talequah to avenge the murder of Policeman Neal, a fellow tribesman, whose alleged slayers were spirited out of jail during the night to prevent lynching. The militia is on duty. The time for paying State and county taxes is growing short, but there was no crowd of taxpayers at the treasurer's office today. The usual rush will occur Thursday and Friday.

WORK TO START.

Ground to be Broken for High School Building for Girls.

Tomorrow afternoon at 1 o'clock ground will be broken for the girls' high school building. There will be no formal ceremonies; but it has been thought best to have the ground broken by the boys of the Fourth Year High school. It will be an event to which they will look back with pleasure and as this building is to be used for girls, it is fitting that the boys should render this service. The members of the Board of Education will be present and, of course, the public is invited to be present. The exercises will be very brief and very simple—in fact nothing more than the actual breaking of the ground. Had school been in session the ceremonies would have been more elaborate. The workmen are now cleaning up the grounds to be used for this building and much material is already on the ground. Mr. Harby, the architect, states that he is determined that there shall be no delay on account of lack of material; that what usually delays the progress of a building is the steel to be used in construction. This he already has on hand. The contractor, Mr. Vaughn, says that he expects to push the building with as much haste as may be consistent with first class construction.

News and Views of Pisgah.

Pisgah, Dec. 27.—Christmas day passed off quietly with no casualties that I know of. A large quantity of the one thing needful was laid in by the colored people, and some whites too, a few days before Saturday, but it was so good that it was all drunk up before the proper time, so there was nothing to feel rich or lively on. Only a few firecrackers and one or two guns were heard to disturb the quiet of the day. Now let the legislature cut out the gallon a month law or reduce it to one quart a month. As the law now stands the country is as full of whiskey as the ability of the people to get it. By ordering in different names it can be always on hand as long as there is any money to buy with. A legislator that is afraid to do his duty in correcting a public evil should step down and out as a signal failure. Ex-Gov. Blease and Jno. L. McLaurin will speak in West Wateree, Kershaw county, on January 1st. This is considered the opening gun of Gov. Blease's candidacy. A large crowd will attend. From indications the State will be in as great a turmoil as in 1890 when Ben Tillman stirred it up from the mountains to the seaboard. Blease says he will win. Kershaw county is hot for him. The killings in this State go on in a rapid rate. Kentucky used to be the dark and bloody ground but South Carolina has left her in the shade. Ford, who is the head of the Ford peace party, must be unbalanced in mind. What this government can't do towards peace, he certainly can't. Common sense should have shown the futility of such an effort. The war in Europe will go to a finish and may the best cause win whether it suits all or not. Now is the time to make manure for next crop and let guano alone. A small cotton crop will bring big money. One bale clear is worth more than ten belonging to some one else. The fall examinations at Miss Ella Evans' school, at Pisgah church, resulted very satisfactorily. Those who made high marks in the different grades were Misses Lula Baker, Dersie Hawkins, Vanray Kenney, Kerfoot Kenney, Carrie Baker, Ethel Watson, Hawley Watson, Annwell and Levi Elliott, Gertrude and Lula Gillis, Carlton Kenney and Levy Rogers. Miss Vanray Kenney and brother Carter have gone to Orangeburg to spend the holidays. If anything can be disgusting to the human mind, the continued writing about President Wilson's marriage should be. The president should have better sense than to be continually writing of it. Alice Roosevelt's marriage spoiled the nation wrong side down and now we have another repetition of it. No wonder as a nation we are called "sensational fools" and happy in some things.

SALEM SCHOOL WINS PRIZE.

Celebrates Christmas Season by Giving Tree for Pupils—News of Community.

Salem, Black River, Dec. 24.—The teachers and patrons of Salem school are very much pleased to win the \$25 State prize for improvement during the past year. If it had been known when the improvements were being made that prizes would be awarded, this school might have won a first prize. There was no thought of entering for the prizes until just in time to file the report, and even then the clean-up day report was not made out in time. Yesterday a beautiful Christmas tree marked the closing of the session. Some of the tots had never seen a Christmas tree and it was to them a peep into fairyland. Miss Mellette, principal, and Miss Shackelford, assistant, deserve much credit for the sewing lessons, domestic art and room decorations that they are training the children to be proficient in. Owing to a case of diphtheria in the school and one in the neighborhood, three weeks ago, the December meeting of the School Improvement Association was postponed to January or February, when Prof. Thompson of Winthrop is to make an address, and the children will give a play. Yesterday the new State flag presented by one of the patrons was hung to the breeze for the first time. We did not know before how pretty the State flag is. A 3x5 foot flag costs only \$2.14, postage prepaid from

Clemson College and is a wonderful addition to the appearance of a schoolhouse. Prof. Chas. S. Doggett of Clemson will send one to any school for \$2.14. We are publishing his address and the price because some patrons and trustees may not know how cheap it is. Saw mills galore are busy cutting the remainder of the pine timber of this section. A good deal of moving, as usual. Merry Christmas to the Watchman and Southern and them force from the Veteran Editor and Publisher to the newest newsy; also to Hard Times and all the readers. E. W. D.

Additional Christmas Contributions. Additional contributions to the Christmas charity fund are: Previously acknowledged...\$581.83 Charlie's Cafe... 2.00 S. B. Mitchell... 1.00 P. M. Pitts... 2.00 J. C. Phillips... 2.00 H. J. McLaurin, Jr... 1.00 Total...\$589.83

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