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The Lantern, Chester S.C.- January 14, 1898

J T. Bigham

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The governor, in his message, deals largely with the liquor question. He can see no remedy for the evils that now exist except in an amendment to the dispensary law eliminating the profit feature.

Strained relations exist in a number of towns, perhaps most of them, between the boards of health and town councils. If both continue, their respective duties and jurisdictions should be more clearly defined. We believe there is little if any advantage in having two separate bodies. Throw powers and responsibilities all on one.

A week ago, when the newspaper head-lines proclaimed that Hanna's defeat was assured, we said it would be well to keep an eye on Hanna till the last. In our last issue, referring to the statement that Hanna lacked one vote, we remarked that that one was probably in Hanna's pocketbook. Both these remarks have been justified. Hanna got there by one vote.

Hardly any one who has given any attention to the matter can have failed to notice the defect in the organization of the institutions of higher education in this State which Gov. Ellerbe has had the courage to comment upon in a candid way, viz., separate boards of directors, each pulling its own way, regardless of the effect upon the other institutions.

Lancaster nominates for judge Col. R. E. Allison, if you want an elderly man, and Ernest Moore, Esq., if you want a young man. Fairfield offers C. E. McDonald, Esq., or Mr. Ragsdale, whichever you choose. All of these are men of high character and legal attainments. Chester presents Mr. Geo. W. Gage, who combines in one just the right age and the proper moral, intellectual, and legal qualities.

Gov. Ellerbe has had more real difficulties to contend with than any recent governor, and yet he makes no flings at his opponents who have caused much of the trouble. There are, however, some remarks about United States judges—for which he has indubitated precedent—but they are indignant and we believe they have a bad influence. We would prefer to have our governor deal only with conditions imposed by Federal courts, and leave criticisms to another time, or to other persons.

Separate coaches for the two races is a popular demand, yet it has been defeated by every legislature thus far. It is one of those luxuries which, while very desirable, would be very expensive, and the people would have this extra expense to pay, in the long run. It is said that if submitted to a popular vote the measure would be overwhelmingly carried, and we believe there is no doubt of it, but the people at large look chiefly at the desirable features on the face of the thing, and do not have their attention called to the expense and other objections, nor do they feel responsibility as a comparatively small body of legislators do. A great majority of people do not enjoy the privilege of riding on trains very often, and even then it is only occasionally that any unpleasantness arises from this source. If the expense of separate coaches can be afforded, we believe most people, when they look at it squarely, would prefer transportation rates.

On this page we print the serio-comic comments of *The State* on our plan for suppressing the concealed weapons evil. Our plan was written in such haste that we did not have time to explain fully or point out the good effects that

would follow. *The State*, however, has, to a certain extent, done this very clearly for us. We regret that with so clear a view of the matter in most respects *The State* on the track so unnecessarily in others, and then by its own confession runs into a hole and cries for help at last.

It is surprising to us that one so well informed should attribute the practice of carrying concealed weapons to the suppression of duelling, when that practice was almost, if not quite, as prevalent before the suppression of duelling as it is now, except perhaps among the negroes, and who ever heard of duelling among them. But even if the suggestion were correct, it would be no argument against our remedy.

But we must not leave our contemporary in the "cal-de-sac." If the writer had gone just a little farther at the end of the preceding paragraph he would have been out. By a glance he could have seen the light. "Cure the candidates and you will cure the white population, cure the white population and there will be no trouble about curing the colored." Any one can easily see what stands in the way of prosecuting this crime among the colored people. Men with pistols in their pockets are not in a position to prosecute others.

In the Bottom of a Bag.

Now comes the Chester LANTERN with the most deceptive device for abating the concealed weapons evil that we have yet seen. Here is its plan:

1st. Have a law against carrying concealed weapons, with a reasonably severe penalty. Perhaps the present one, with slight modification, would answer.

2nd. Insert in every oath of office a clause to the effect that the person assuming the duties of the office has in no case been guilty of carrying concealed weapons (properly described) since the passage of the act, until the law has been in force two years, then let the time specified be two years preceding the time of taking the oath.

3rd. Require every voter to take a similar oath.

4th. Make careful provision for cases of perjury, with disfranchisement as a penalty.

THE LANTERN goes on to say: If this oath was required of officials only, we believe the evil would be very largely abated, and it might be best to go no farther than this at first. It would tend to make the practice unpopular, place it under the ban. The law would execute itself very largely. Those who have an eye on office would not imperil their chances by violating the law, and their opponents would look after their records.

In all of which we concur. THE LANTERN has indeed shed a bright beam upon the pathway of the general assembly. If anything will cure the habit of carrying concealed weapons in South Carolina outlaws from office will do so. The oath of similar import against duelling ended that once valued privilege, and the suppression of it has promoted the carrying of concealed weapons and increased the number of homicides in hot blood the logical remedy—on the theory that the hair of the dog will cure the bite—is the adaptation of the same oath to pistol-bearers. As THE LANTERN says, the competitors of candidates who may have borne concealed weapons or sworn falsely to their observance, of the law may be trusted to look after their guilt; and we may add that the guilty would have more fear of the verdict of the people in an election than the verdict of a jury in court.

It may be argued that the number of officeholders is relatively small. True, but the number of the candidates for office and those who are thinking of becoming candidates when a good opportunity offers are as the sands on the shore. Cure the candidates and you will cure the white population.

But here a difficulty arises. The colored citizen has no expectations of office under the State government, and such a law will have no terrors for him. Even if the oath be required of every voter, it will not

concern one-fifteenth of the negroes of the State. How to make the proposed law have equal terror for white and black is a problem which seems to need to be solved. The whites will object to being disarmed if the negroes are not made to disarm also. This may stand in the way of the passage of the measure.

We began this article with the idea that the solution of a difficult problem had been discovered; but we find that we have run into a cul-de-sac. Who will help us out of it.—*The State*.

From Longtown.

Mr. John T. Stewart met with a painful accident during the holidays. While out on a hunting excursion with several friends, his gun was accidentally discharged, the load taking effect in his cheek, tearing a portion of it away. We are glad to report that he is getting along very nicely at present.

Mr. Weldon Dye and Howard Dixon, from Morgantown, are visiting in Longtown and vicinity.

Mr. Arthur Moblely, from near Blackstock, and Ed. Dixon, from Chester county, have been visiting relatives in Longtown.

Blackstock Items.

The farmers of our community have begun to prepare their land for another crop. Some are still sowing small grain. I think there are more wheat and oats sowed in this community this year than have been in a number of years previous, and I think there will be more cotton planted this year than there was last year. Our farmers are not taking much interest in the cotton growers' organization.

The boys of the High School have organized a foot ball team. It is getting rather late in the season for this sport, and sometimes it is dear sport to some of them.

Mr. S. D. Moblely has moved from the Hicklin house to Dr. J. B. Bigham's house.

Sacramental service was held in the Presbyterian church on last Sabbath. Preaching on Saturday before. Rev. M. R. Kirkpatrick did the preaching himself.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Mackorell spent Tuesday in Chester visiting relatives.

Miss Pet Mackorell is visiting relatives and friends at Lancaster.

Mr. S. B. Lathan, of Chester, was in Blackstock Saturday, on business.

Mr. W. B. Thompson is very sick.

Mr. Michael Grant and sister Mabel, of the Armenia vicinity, spent Friday and Saturday as guests of Miss Mattie Mills. M. L. L.

Letter from Lockhart.

It has been some time since I wrote you last, from the fact that there were not many happenings that would interest your readers.

Last month was a red letter month in the history of Lockhart. The production has been greater and everything is running smoothly. Since my last, the happenings among the Chesterites are about as follows: John Quintan had the misfortune to lose an infant child by death, and his wife now is dangerously ill.

J. M. Robinson, aged 36 years, died here recently and his remains were buried at New Hope church. He leaves a wife and child, who have returned to the home of her father, Mr. Wages, of Chester county.

Those who have cast their lots among us, not previously mentioned, are Tillman Gregory, of Wilksburg, Monroe and Thomas Woods, of Lowryville, and Irving Blair, of Kirkpatrick.

Mrs. Martha Wade and family are now moving out on the farm, to try their fortune in the tillage of the earth. The old Col. Chalk place is their destination.

Among the visitors from your side are Misses Bernice, McCollum and Lillie Waters, of Wilksburg, and Misses Sallie Brakefield and Rhoda Coln, of the New Bethel section.

Mr. and Mrs. John Gladden, Mrs. Winfield Darby, and Miss Eliza Gladden also made us a pleasant call.

Mrs. W. A. Cranford and Miss Janie Minter, of Olive, paid us a pleasant visit last Monday.

Martin Johnson, an operative from Spartanburg, dropped dead on his way to the mill recently.

Messrs. B. Moore and Wade Osborne have promised me some interesting traditions for my next letter.

Shot Himself when Caught.

FLORENCE, S. C., Jan. 7.—For some time mail has been taken from the lock boxes here. Last night Postmaster McKenzie stationed himself inside, after the mail had been distributed, and waited. About 10 o'clock a white man named Andrew Welch came in, unlocked one of the boxes and reached around and took a letter belonging to Johnsons & Wells, which had a small check in it, as was afterward ascertained. Mr. McKenzie came out and caught Welch and carried him in Dr. Covington's store, where Welch pulled his pistol, but Mr. McKenzie got the drop on him, so he turned his pistol and shot himself through the pit of the stomach. He died in about one hour. He preferred death to disgrace.—Special to *The State*.

New Art Studio.

I have opened a studio in Miss Kennedy's Gallery to teach my new system of drawing. By my method you can learn in two weeks to make life-size portraits, draw landscapes from nature or reproduce any small picture any size. A child eight years old can learn. Success is guaranteed and no money required in advance. The ladies especially are invited to visit the studio and investigate the system. Lessons given in crayon, pastel and oil. Jan 11 OTIS A. MILLER

PROFESSIONAL.

R. B. CALDWELL,

Attorney and Counsellor at Law,

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Prompt and careful attention given to all business. Will practice in this and adjoining counties.

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ATTORNEY AT LAW,
CHESTER, S. C.
(Office over BaVega Drug Store)

Prompt and careful attention given to all business entrusted to me. Collections a specialty.

PRYOR & MCKEE,

DRUGGISTS.

Prescriptions a Specialty.

Teachers and Others

Having official business with me will please take notice that my office days are MONDAYS and SATURDAYS.
W. D. KNOX,
County Superintendent of Education.

THEO. L. SHIVER,
POPULAR BARBER.

NEXT DOOR TO FAIRVIEW HOTEL.

J. W. CROCKETT,
BARBER AND HAIRDRESSER.

Next door to Stahn's Jewelry Store.

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Below Actual Cost, to close them out.
NOTHING NICER than a Nice Picture for a Christmas remembrance.
CHILDS & EDWARDS.
Dec. 7, '97.

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MELTON & HARDIN. Big Sale of CROCKERY!
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To move our large stock of CROCKERY, we will offer for the next thirty days—
Crockery, Glass, and Lamps at prices never before heard of in Chester. In these lines we have everything from the very finest to the cheapest. These goods have all been bought from Factories, and they will be sold at great reductions. We mean business.
Yours truly,
Melton & Hardin, CHESTER, S. C.
ROSSBOROUGH & McLURE . .

G. T. BRAKEFIELD NOTICE!
Has bought out the stock of Fancy Groceries of B. T. Byers, also his restaurant. I will endeavor to conduct the business in a way that will give satisfaction to all my friends and customers. I ask for the patronage of my friends and the public.
What is it? Why, it's a big rush to get to the KIMBAL HOUSE. Where is the Kimbal House? Down on Gadsden Street. What house is it? Why, at that noble—
Big Restaurant where meals and hot lunches are served from morning until night. The bill of fare hangs between the two dining rooms all the time. FRESH FISH and OYSTERS daily, and served on short notice.—Fancy Groceries and Confectioneries. We also keep ICE on hands all the winter. Your humble servants,
JOHNSON & CO.

