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## I. O. O. F. BANQUET AT POCAHONTAS

Visit of Grand Warden Roland E. Chase, of Clintwood. Personal Mention.

Pocahontas, Va., Feb. 15.

On Friday evening at the Masonic Hall an elegant banquet was given by the Pocahontas Lodge No. 118, I. O. O. F., in honor of their visiting guest, Grand Warden Roland E. Chase, of Clintwood, Va. The members and guest assembled at the hall at 9:30 p. m., where the following menu was served, one hundred and fifty covers being laid: Celery, olives, pin money pickle, oysters, turkey, ham, tongue, chicken salad, cream cake and coffee. Mr. V. L. Sexton was the toast master, and the following responded to toasts: Odd Fellowship—Grand Warden Roland E. Chase; Pocahontas, Mayor William R. Graham; Pocahontas, Its Future—William Leckie; Relation of Fraternal Organizations to the Church—Rev. S. W. Moore; Our Motto, Friendship Love and Truth—Rev. W. M. Minter; The Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man—Rev. Custis Fletcher; What Oddfellowship has done in the past and is doing now—District Deputy Dr. George H. Zimmerman; Pocahontas Lodge, No. 118, Grand Herd, Geo. L. Landon.

## The Chaplain's Cleverness

By C. B. Lewis. Copyright, 1904, by C. B. Lewis

One day at the Third National bank, in the city of Cornopolis, a stranger walked through the president's room and past the bookkeeper's and took from the pile of money stacked at the paying teller's right hand four packages of \$1000 each. He was coolly walking out again when stopped by the president and a guard.

The man was known to the police as "Slick Charlie," and to tell of all his adventures would fill a book. It was for his attempted theft of the \$4000 that he was sent to the Woonson penitentiary for five years. The officer who delivered him behind the doors of that institution said to the warden:

"Here is a man you want to keep an eye on. Don't lose sight of him day or night. He is bold and nifty on the one hand and slick and sly on the other. Don't trust him for an hour, or he'll beat the game."

The warden was a new man at the prison; but, having been sheriff of a county, he thought he knew about all sorts of criminals and replied that No. 870, as "Slick Charlie" was recorded, would have to get up early in the morning to hear him.

If a prison chaplain were to be questioned about religion in a prison he would answer that scores of prisoners lived up to it and were earnest and devout. If an experienced warden were to be questioned, he would answer that just when a prisoner began to "get good" he should be watched the closest. The chaplain at Woonson was a good man and one who had faith in himself. He thought his advice and appeals to burglars and murderers produced the desired effect. Among the prisoners he was known as an easy mark.

The new warden was wary of antagonizing the chaplain and a man not well posted on the tricks of criminals, so No. 870 found things easy for him when he entered prison. When he had had full opportunity to size up the chaplain he began to "get good." He was as earnest about this as he had been in appropriating other people's goods. He became contrite and humble, and he wanted to be turned from paths of wickedness. Of course the chaplain did his best. When the police officials heard that "Slick Charlie" had been converted they notified the warden in writing that he would be

had secured his man with ropes and locked the door behind him as he emerged. Shambling down the corridor to the first guard, he had said: "James, I came away today with only a dime in my pocket. Can you lend me a dollar until tomorrow?" "With the greatest of pleasure, chaplain." And the money had been handed over.

The same game had been played on the two others, and then the "chaplain" had entered the warden's office. He could have passed right through, as the official was busy, but instead of that he took a chair and waited for ten minutes. When the warden was at liberty he was asked for a loan of \$10, and the "chaplain" reported to him on the welfare of three or four different prisoners before saying good night. Fifteen minutes after leaving the prison the disguised prisoner entered the largest store in the town and borrowed \$20 of the merchant and then disappeared.

When the library door was broken open at 6 o'clock and the real chaplain found there was a great commotion. Three gatekeepers were ready to swear that the clergyman had passed out, taking a dollar from each as he did so. The warden had seen and talked and loaned money to the same man. Two guards had also seen him. Here were six prison officials who could swear to a thing, and yet that thing was not a fact. No. 870 had simply imitated the chaplain down to a line—his voice, gait, speech and general look.

At 11 o'clock the next forenoon the president of the Third National bank of Cornopolis was called out of his room for a moment. During his absence a man dressed like one of the clerks in the bank entered the room and bore away a package of bonds of the face value of \$18,000. "Slick Charlie" wanted to be revengeful upon the bank, and he wanted money with which to leave the country, and he tarried in the town to get both. The president of the bank is sure of this, because a note left on his desk told him so.

**Bargains.** 15 prs Ladies Shoes, cost from \$1.00 to \$2.50, will close out at half what they cost. 15 prs. Misses Rubbers, will close out at 20c pair, as we must make room for our spring goods. We have a great many bargains that lack of space won't permit us to mention. Call at store and ask for bargains. We have them.

**J. H. WHITLEY & SON**  
North Tazewell, Va.  
Phone No. 42.

## A PLEA FOR COMPULSORY LAW

A Correspondent Shows Where Compulsory School Law is Necessary.

Tazewell, Va., Feb. 10.

Mr. Editor:—

Beginning with the inauguration of the free school system—as we have it,—in 1870, under Dr. Ruffner, first State Superintendent, the writer served, and continuously, for more than twenty years, as Secretary of County and Clerk of District Boards in the primary schools of the county, also, for more than half of that time as, Chairman or member, of our High School Boards, and has always been an earnest advocate of the system, and having very naturally picked up, through experience as well as observation, in the regular discharge of the duties pertaining to these offices, a good deal of, more or less, valuable information, relative to both the organization and operation of the system for the past 33 years. It will be conceded, that when the old State, wasted, desolate and bereaved by years of battle and strife, just emerging from the dark shadows of reconstruction, took upon herself, notwithstanding her impoverished condition, with a magnanimous courage rarely equaled, never surpassed, this Herculean labor, one of her grandest efforts for rehabilitation was directed to the uplifting through education of her citizenship, by taking upon herself the tremendous task, as a duty, of putting a fair business education within the free reach of all of her children, rich and poor, white and black, "regardless of color or previous condition of servitude," and for more than thirty years she, with hard earned resources, has pushed this most important work, although handicapped most grievously by a self evident and almost fatal mistake, in the organic law, under the provisions of which she has operated. I mean the omission of a compulsory feature properly guarded, as a part of that law, that would put the children into the schools, without which feature both experience and observation has abundantly proven, that in the main, the primary object of her (the States) effort, viz: to educate the poor and helpless, has resulted in a large measure in signal defeat. Through the conspicuous absence of this very class of children, from attendance upon the schools, as is unmistakably shown by statistical reports, more clearly and distinctly however from the un-abstracted, un-sound in the offices of County Superintendents, and upon the desks of teachers. If I may be pardoned the free use of a little candor, I should like to suggest right here, that there has been,—unfortunately—is now, too much high shooting going on, firing over the heads of rank and file. Why not get down to a level with the object to be effected? If we want to operate the system for the good of those who are most needy, why not begin on a plane with the system, and work from the bottom upward, and not from the top downward? Master builders begin with foundations. The foundations of a successful free school is pri-

marily dependent upon the attendance of children regularly upon the schools. The elevation of its citizenship to the highest conditions of morality, intelligence and usefulness, should be the highest duty of the State. To do this, all of her children, her sons and daughters, an aggregation of whom is the State, should not be by any chance within the control of the State deprived of the opportunity she has put within their reach of securing this first step in the work of uplifting and improving her citizens, by educating them. We are pleased to notice that the education of the whole people is being freely agitated, more freely perhaps, than ever before in this country, but this appears to be too general in its scope, and on a plane too elevated for the primary schools. Let us get down to details, said details to be obtained as already suggested, in the detailed reports of the schools themselves, and through an intimate acquaintance with their daily, weekly, monthly and term operations. This accomplished, this indisputable fact will appear out of the tremendous list of absentees constituting more than half of the school population of the State, that ninety per cent belong to that class for whom a system of free education was primarily established, and who are in the absence of a compulsory feature. Through the careless negligence, ignorance or worthlessness of parents or guardians, kept for their own selfish purposes, out of the schools, and permitted so to remain by our law makers, mainly as the result of party expediency, partisan greed or political cowardice. It has been objected, as to a compulsory law, that it is "paternal" in character, also "that it would crowd the present accommodations, strain the finances, etc.—all of which I propose to notice, with your kind permission, briefly hereafter.

A. J. T.

**Taborville Dots.**  
Taborville, Va., Feb. 14.

The groundhog has certainly got up his rep this year.

There has not been anything at all done in the way of plowing, cleaning up, etc. for the the spring crop on account of the extreme bad weather.

Mr. Andrew Belcher of Littleburg, W. Va., passed through Taborville one day last week.

Robert Vernon, who has had a serious case of Pneumonia, we are glad to say is improving fast.

S. T. Belcher went to Pocahontas last week.

Jos. French has sold his farm to Frank Hill, of Cooper, W. Va.

I. H. Harry has had nine cases of grip in his family. All are better at this writing.

We are glad to report our postmaster, A. W. Taber, able for his post of duty after a severe attack of grip.

H. S. Perdue has been confined to his room for several days with grip, but is better now.

H. J. Tabor is getting in lumber to build an addition to his house.

Mr. Ransie Dudley, of Bluefield, spent several days with home folks at this place last week.

## Home Mission Matter.

Mrs. Geo. Peck, Editor.

Our goals for 1905 are: First, a deeper consecration of self and substance to God. A more earnest desire to know and to do His will. Daily, systematic study of the Bible. A careful cultivation of the one talent or many talents the Lord has bestowed. An intelligent knowledge of the needs and conditions of our country. Wherever practical a Home Mission Society in every church and every woman a member. Every auxiliary meeting during the year well attended, spiritual, helpful and interesting. The Reading Course well established in each conference. A sum corresponding to one dollar per member from each auxiliary throughout the connection. Enlarged growth resultant from increased membership and liberality. An experimental knowledge of the fact that in Home as well as Foreign work it is true that Missions mean the mind, the motive, the might of the Master multiplied by his messengers.

The collections this quarter are \$20,089.04. The total collection for the year up to date is \$52,238.41. This sum places us \$13,429.75 ahead of the collections of the three quarters last year. While this increase should encourage us and stimulate our faith, yet the growth of the work calls for a larger outlay, so let us press on and attempt greater things for God.

Dr. Strong says, "There is money enough in the hands of church members to sow every acre of earth with the seed of truth."

## Dance at Shraders

Shraders, Va., Feb. 13.

Your correspondent in the Cove has just returned from a visit to the "North Pole."

Our school at this place closed last Thursday.

Mr. Harve Fruit, who was crippled in the mines, still continues very low. It is feared he will not recover.

Miss Venie Gillespie is going to school at the Sayersville Academy.

Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Sayers have returned from Abbs Valley. They attended the burial of Will Harrison.

A dance was given at the home of J. F. Gillespie on Dry Fork last Saturday night. Those present were: Margarita McGuire, Byrdie Schrader, Venie Gillespie, Bruce Gillespie, Ada Gillespie, J. B. Johnson, B. F. Johnson, G. W. Johnson, J. V. Johnson, R. Brewster, Joseph Riey, Newton Hunt, Henry Hunt and Albert Hays. They all report enjoying themselves to the fullest extent.

## Fire at Big Stone Gap.

Noton, Va., Feb. 14.—

The destruction early this morning of its magnificent public school building was perhaps the most serious loss which the town of Big Stone Gap could have sustained. The fire originated in the basement, it is supposed from the furnace, in some manner not yet accounted for. It was at an early hour when the alarm was turned in, about 5 a. m., and owing to the extreme cold and frozen condition of everything the fire company, although splendidly organized and equipped, could effect very little toward controlling the flames. The entire interior at this hour was burning. Evidently the blaze started about 3 a. m.

It will be remembered that this splendid structure was completed about two years ago, and was pronounced one of the finest public school buildings in the Southwest. It was built of beautiful gray stone, at a cost of \$25,000. The equipment was the very best that could be obtained. A phone message late this afternoon says that the heat was so intense as to ruin the walls of the building and that they are falling in. The insurance amounts to \$15,000.

## Death of James Monroe Kitts

James Monroe Kitts, one of the best known and most popular men in Tazewell, died at his home on Mechanics Avenue at this place last Monday morning about 3 o'clock. His death was a surprise to a large number of people of the town and community, who were not aware of his serious illness. The cause of his death was pneumonia. He had only been confined to his bed about a week. The deceased had not entirely recovered from an attack of pneumonia, which he had last spring. The deceased is survived by his wife and five children. His children are Frank D. Kitts, of The F. D. Kitts Insurance Agency, Mrs. E. P. Stroman, Beckley, W. Va., Miss Jennie Kitts, of Bluefield and Messrs Fred Kitts, a student of Roanoke College and Walter Kitts, of Richlands, all of whom were present at the funeral except Mrs. Stroman.



HE WAS COOLLY WALKING OUT AGAIN WHEN STOPPED BY THE PRESIDENT.

The deceased was twice married, his first wife being a daughter of the late Francis Jones, of Botetout county, whose death occurred in this town several years ago, and sister to W. D. Jones, Esq., of Grattan. Mr. Kitts was a native of Wythe county, and moved to Tazewell about 36 years ago.

Funeral services were held at the home at one o'clock Tuesday, conducted by Rev. T. J. Eskridge, pastor of the Methodist church, and interment was made in the old cemetery. The extreme cold weather prevented a large attendance at the interment. A beautiful floral wreath was received from the Bluefield Coal and Coke Co., which attested the high esteem in which he was held by the company with whom his daughter held a position. Another tribute of esteem was received from a fraternal unit of Roanoke College, of which his son, Fred, was a member.

## MUCH WANTED NEGRO CAUGHT.

Houston Mathews, colored, said to be a much wanted man, was arrested at Pocahontas and brought here to jail Monday by Chief of Police George Mays. The negro was caught on a previous night stealing railroad tickets from the depot at Pocahontas by the agent, J. F. Ward. The negro was seen stamping tickets by the agent, who seized a poker and ran the negro some distance, but failed to overtake him. Policeman Mays was notified and after a search found Mathews in a cove oven, which was not in blast. The Chief says Mathews is one of a gang who robbed a hardware store at Pocahontas sometime ago and have committed other thefts in that town.

## Editor Eads Goes to Hospital.

Mr. W. H. Eads, editor of the Wise News, was in Bristol Saturday on his way to a Richmond hospital, where he goes for the purpose of having his right foot amputated. Some time ago a piece of mac anery fell on his foot, inflicting a severe injury, and making the present step necessary.—Bristol Herald.

## THAT OKLAHOMA TRIP!

Mr. Editor:—

The local in the Clinch Valley News of last week concerning my contemplated trip to Oklahoma, was inserted without my knowledge or consent by the enterprising Editor.

I have been asked by a number of my friends to make this trip to spy out the land and bring them information thereof. I have no idea now of leaving Tazewell for a home elsewhere.

I have a number of would-be farmer friends who realize that they cannot hope to obtain good lands in Tazewell at a price within their reach, who have determined to try to better their condition. If I can aid them to make a wise selection of a good locality in which they can better their condition, I shall be glad to do so.

Now Mr. Editor, if you will ask me to write you a weekly letter from the State of Oklahoma while I am there, I may do so. I have not forgotten how you abused me for my bad hand-writing when I used to write from Richmond. Therefore I will not write unless you ask me to. I will promise to write a better hand though if that is any inducement to you to ask me to write.

I expect to leave for the new State of Oklahoma March 5th.

Yours very truly,  
J. N. HARMAN.

## Wanted:

One thousand (\$1,000.00) Dollars—5 years time, 6 per cent on first-class real estate security. Address, Box 103, Norton, Va.

## Capt. T. W. Spindle Dead.

Capt. Thos. W. Spindle, Sr., died at his home in Roanoke last Sunday morning.

Capt. Thomas W. Spindle, Sr., one of the best known gentlemen of this city, died at his residence, No. 819 South Jefferson street, Sunday morning shortly before 2 o'clock. Captain Spindle had been in poor health for some time and his condition was considered critical several days ago, but on Friday he was reported better and there were strong hopes entertained for his recovery. There was a change for the worse Saturday night, which terminated in his death in the early morning hours of Sunday.

Captain Spindle was a native of Spottsylvania county, but before the civil war took up his residence in Montgomery county and was married there to a Miss Shelburne.

Captain Spindle was 69 years of age and is survived by his wife, three sons, B. L., Thomas W. and T. S. Spindle, and two daughters, Mrs. D. R. Cowle, of New York, and Mrs. Fred Cannady, of this city. He also has one brother and sister living in Christiansburg. R. B. Spindle and Miss Ella T. Spindle.

The funeral will be conducted from the Second Presbyterian church this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, conducted by Rev. Arthur Rowbotham assisted by Rev. Dr. Campbell. Captain Spindle was a prominent member of the Knights Templar and the services will be with Knight Templar honors, William Camp of Confederate Veterans will also attend in a body, Captain Spindle having been for a long time commander of the camp.

## When I have Time.

When I have time I'll pause and turn aside;  
I'll take the narrow way; forsake the wide,  
I'll shun the thoroughfares where traffic grinds  
Forever and anon.  
Where lucre's sheen the soul of mankind blinds,  
But drives and shoves him on;  
And guides his finger to his neighbor's purse,  
And sinks him to perdition's depths or worse;  
I'll quit these scenes some day—  
When I have time.

When I have time, at home I'll spend it more;  
I'll kiss the face that greets me at the door;  
And by my tired mother I'll take my place,  
Her burdens will I share.  
I'll smooth her way; I'll banish from her face  
The shad'way clouds of care.  
I'll hie me to the by-ways; the oppressed  
I'll aid; I'll comfort the distressed.  
These things I'll do, and more—  
When I have time.

When I have time I'll make my peace with God;  
I'll tread the paths that other saints have trod;  
I'll take my dusty bible from its shelf  
And read it through and through  
I'll learn to love my neighbor as myself  
(A precept learned by few)  
And then, some day, I'll lay me down to rest,  
Well satisfied that I have done my best—  
Some day; not now; not yet;  
When I have time.

## Notice.

Monday night, Feb. 20th, is the date for the next regular meeting of the Tazewell county medical society. All the members are urged to be present as an interesting program has been arranged.  
C. W. Greever, Pres.

**CASTORIA**  
For Infants and Children.  
The Kind You Have Always Bought  
Bears the Signature of *Wm. D. Druggist*