

THE GLEANER.

E. S. PARKER, Editor.
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FROM CHATHAM.

After an absence of a little more than a week, we are just at home from Chatham Court. There was considerable business, both criminal and civil, disposed of. Judge McKoy, though not a stranger to the good people of Chatham, was upon the bench for the first time in his midst. As a judge he is learned, polite and agreeable; content to hear counsel without forestalling them, and to decide questions before him, without evincing a disposition to show his own quickness of apprehension by catching at points before they are made, and jumping to conclusions before the case is sufficiently developed to warrant an intelligent opinion. He is patient in listening, impartial in considering, and firm in his opinion. He hears and then decides, and decides but once. In a word he is such a Judge as the man as so well calculated to make. To those who know him, nothing more in his praise could be said. Solicitor Strudwick was sick and left in the early part of the week. Prosecution in his hands will never descend to persecution, nor will the guilty find indirect means of escape from the punishment of crimes, while he represents the State. His disposal of the State docket is as rapid as the discharge of his duties will permit; his speeches to the jury are pointed and forcible, and his familiarity with the criminal law of the State is marked, for one so recently called to the position of prosecuting officer. He could not be convicted for want of ability before a jury of criminals. They dread him. Cases are not tried before the Solicitor at his room. For offenders to know this has much to do with the suppression of crime. Chatham sends three to the penitentiary, all colored, two men ten years each, and one woman three years. One of these is a doctor who, in vending his medicines, grew tired of walking from place to place, and so borrowed a mule, which he neglected to return, but instead, went to horse trading, with the mule as his stock in trade. The civil action, in which there was a wider field presented for the exercise of forensic eloquence, than in any other tried was a case of slander. The plaintiff was a woman who had been accused of concealing stolen peas by the defendant, who in so doing took occasion to say that the concealer was as mean as the stealer. The persuasive rhetoric of plaintiffs counsel was almost entirely wasted; the jury bringing in a verdict for five cents damages only. It is not unusual for counsel to charge half the damages recovered. We cant say that they did so in this case, though. We left on Sunday morning. The celebrated will suit, in which Dempsey Brown figures, was to have been tried on Tuesday of the second week, but was not, we suppose, on account of the unroofing of the Court House, which occurred suddenly on Saturday evening, during the severe storm of which we give an account elsewhere.

There is no more pleasant court to attend than Chatham, that we know of.

OUR PUBLIC ROADS.

The condition of our public roads, in many localities, renders them well nigh impassable, and scarcely any where, are they good. This is a matter worthy of serious consideration. The comfort in traveling is wholly destroyed, and the expense much increased. Transportation, by the farmer, of his produce to market is, in some places, at some seasons of the year, next to impossible; and, where hauling is done, it is at the risk of breaking vehicles, and getting fast in the mud, and with the certainty of carrying half a load at a greater strain and injury to the team than a full load would cost over roads even ordinarily good. The cost of bad roads to a county or community cannot be estimated. For this condition of affairs there seems to be no adequate remedy. Our judges charge grand juries until they are hoarse, and all to no purpose. Indictments against overseers are seldom found; and, if found, a conviction is seldom or never heard of. Our statute in regard to keeping up roads is a dead law. It is impossible to enforce it. The roads are growing worse every day, in the summer and fall, they may be firm, but the gullies washed, and deepened by the past winters rains are there. They will soon altogether cease to be roads, unless more work is done upon, and more attention given them. If our present system fails to keep up our highways, some other must, of necessity, be resorted to. If we are to have roads then that deserve the name, the method of proceeding must be changed. Our present system is as unjust too, as it is inadequate. Before the war, men who

were largely interested in good roads contributed, if not a fair proportion, at least something to make and keep them so.

Now, as a rule, those who have less use for them, and are least interested in their condition, must keep them in repair, if it is done. Take any piece of road in the country, and observe the hands whose duty it is to keep it up, and, in the light of your knowledge of the neighborhood, you cannot fail to observe the great injustice of the system. Roads, like all other matters for the common good, should be kept up by taxation, so adjusted as to make the burden bear equally. Look at the wagon of some one of our wealthy citizens, driven by one less fortunate, who has to toil from morning till night, for the scanty support of the bare necessities of life, for himself and family. The owner is the man interested in firm even roads, but he does not contribute one cent, in either money or labor, to make or keep them so, while his poor driver must work the road, at the overseers' bidding, and have his wages docked by his employer, for every day he loses for that purpose. There is no fairness, justice, or equality in it. The law that requires it is unjust and oppressive to the poor, and should not exist. The law was always unjust, but especially is it so since the war.

One class of men cut up and use the roads, another class has them to work and keep in order. We don't believe in it. Nothing more unjust and unequal could be. It is a violation of one of the first principals of just government that it is so. Keep up our roads by taxation, and then they will be kept up, and no hardship upon any one. Let the principal of equality and justice prevail in this as in other things. We don't believe in taxing labor in kind any how. Those most to be benefitted by the tax are usually exempt from every part of its payment.

ADJOURNED.

The Legislature, after a session of nearly one hundred days, adjourned on Monday the 22nd inst., at twelve o'clock. The session was a long one, and the members had many important, difficult matters to deal with. It meets no more, unless convoked by the Governor, which is not probable. It did the Legislature it deemed necessary for two years. What its short comings are, if any,—and it would be wonderful if there were not some, no one can yet intelligently see. That it did a vast deal that is good and proper, all must admit. The passage of the usury law, we confidently believe, is more in the real interest of our whole people than any measure passed by any Legislature since the war. This act alone, will cause its supporters to be long and gratefully remembered as wise Legislators, and will go far to excuse whatever else they failed in doing or did amiss. The State debt, that vexed question, that had perplexed and occupied two preceding Legislatures, was finally disposed of. For the honest debt of the State, a liberal compromise has been offered to creditors. In a former issue we gave the terms of settlement proposed. They are as liberal as our impoverished condition enabled us to make, and, as in justice, our creditors ought to demand. What is known as the special tax bonds are unprovided for, and ever will be. They are the offspring of fraud, corruption and dishonesty, and charity should ask no more than that they did in obscurity. If our State debt is not settled upon the proposed basis, it probably never will be. We can as patiently refrain from paying as the bond-holders can from receiving. The law, making the homestead a fee, is of the utmost importance to many of our people, whom misfortune has driven to its shelter to preserve a home for themselves and families. As the law stood, there was only a life estate exempt from the payment of debts, now it is, free from incumbrances, to the unfortunate man and his heirs forever. The Amnesty bill, though not important to so great a number, is of the greatest consequence to those whom it may concern. All must rejoice in its passage. How any one can think of the hearts made glad by it, and then condemn it we cannot see. Taking the body as a whole, and its acts together, we shall probably find as much to commend, and as little to censure as any one could reasonably expect. During its last days, after long and mature deliberation, in which the subject was considered in all of its bearings; and after the fullest interchange of thought and opinion among the members, as well as, the fullest information possible, from their constituents, the people for whose good and welfare they were there, a convention was called. This act alone, had it done nothing else, would have redeemed the Legislature of 1874-5. By this it did what it could to rid the people of the objectionable features and provisions in a constitution, which, in many respects, was never suited to their wants, and condition. A convention will meet, the good in the present constitution will be preserved, and the bad will be altered and amended or eliminated. Then the people will

have taken from their path the greatest obstacle to their prosperity and happiness. Had the Legislature done nothing else for the good of those who sent its members there, its history would by this single act have been rendered glorious. There may be criticisms and censures now; it is natural there should be, and they are to be expected, but time will silence these, and the Legislature just adjourned will come to be regarded by all, as one not excelled, if equalled, in past years, for honest endeavor, and sound judgment in serving the best interest of the whole State. Its errors will be found few, its virtues many.

THE STORM IN PITTSBORO.—On Saturday evening, the 20th instant, about four o'clock in the afternoon, the storm of wind and rain, which spread over this section of the State, burst suddenly with a violence no where exceeded that we have or hope we shall hear of. Some years ago we saw the track of one of those terrible hurricanes, as it was called in the neighborhood, but that was in the woods, and could afford, especially after the lapse of time which had occurred, a very feeble illustration of the terrors of such a tornado as witnessed upon the occasion of which we speak. Our opportunity for observing was as good as it could be,—better than we hope to ever have again. We had just left the Court House. The Judge was on the bench,—the jury had been discharged,—and some motion was being heard by the Honorable. The lawyers, the Judge, the officers of the Court and the few spectators, shut in the building, failed to note the near approach of the maddened elements. The cloud, dark and portentous, rose angrily from the west. It came rolling on, in black threatening billows, accompanied by an ominous roaring, high up in the murky atmosphere, that resembled what might have been a hundred rival railroad trains, vying with each other in speed, and dashing abreast in an even race. We stood awe-stricken, watched, listened, and feared. The streets were deserted. All had sought shelter from the coming fury. The few horses, that were hitched here and there, were instinctively impressed with the impending danger, and tugged at their fastenings, or tore loss and, with a wild frightened look, galloped away. The rush and roaring came on and nearer. The awful sound foretold its terrific force. On it marched on its way of destruction. The very earth trembled as if under the tread of an army of giants. We stood gazing. A dash of rain—heavy drops—was driven before it.—And then the whole air was a sea of water, driven in currents and eddies. You could not see ten yards before you. The roar was deafening. The debris of ruined buildings, the branches of trees, and other objects taken up by the force of the irresistible current, were hurled in every direction. The air was thick with flying timbers. On marched the storm, nor lingered over the ruin it had made. As a flood of water suddenly loosed, it rushed on, in one destructive, grand, terrible wave and was gone. In dread, we looked around us. Everywhere, on every side, was destruction. We hesitated to inquire lest the answer should tell us of death. On every side were houses demolished. Not a promise escaped unharmed, in the path swept by this besom of destruction. The regret for the damage done was lost in a feeling of thankfulness that all were alive. Many were hurt, but none dangerously. How all escaped with life is wonderful. How it was possible in some instances we cannot conceive. The roof of the Court House and of the Presbyterian church, followed in the track of their destroyer for hundreds of yards. Dwellings were unroofed chimneys blown down, fences laid to the ground, trees uprooted, and many outbuildings scattered over adjoining lots. How the occupants survived is truly a miracle. To attempt a detailed account would occupy more time and space than we could devote,—even had we full information.

When we left Sunday morning, people were coming in from the country in crowds to learn of the direful consequences to their neighbors and to tell of their own losses and escapes. These losses fell heavy on many. We noticed one house with chimneys and roof entirely destroyed. This was the home of a poor woman, with a large family whom the war had left a widow. She could scarcely support herself and little ones. Without the repairing, which she is unable to do, they now have no shelter. Not a streak of mercy even for the widow and orphan in this relentless storm. We hope never again to witness the like.

The Richmond and Danville Railroad Company has changed the gauge of the North Carolina Railroad from Greensboro to Charlotte. The newspapers characterize this action as a high handed outrage. We understand the Supreme Court decided they could do so. We notice dark insinuations respecting the Court. We have two railroads now where we had one before. The North Carolina Railroad was quietly leased, its name was quietly changed, it is being quietly run down, and the Pennsylvania Central, through its servant, the Richmond & Danville, will quietly walk off with it after awhile. We should scarcely be surprised if the iron were taken up at any time to put on some other road. We guess it can be done.

The Irish Societies of New York, Brooklyn, and other cities are taking steps to hold public meetings in order to express regret for the death of John Mitchell.

THE CONVENTION ACT.

An Act to Call a Convention of the People of North Carolina.

WHEREAS, The present Constitution of North Carolina is in many important particulars, unsuited to the wants and condition of our people; and whereas, in the judgment of this General Assembly, a Convention of the people is the only sure, and the most speedy and most economical mode of altering or amending it; and believing the end in view utterly impracticable by legislative enactment on account of the great number of discordant and conflicting provisions of the Constitution as it now is, now, therefore,

Section 1. The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact, (two-thirds of all the members of each House concurring,) that a Convention of the people of North Carolina be, and the same is hereby called, to meet in the Hall of the House of Representatives at the city of Raleigh, on Monday the 6th day of September, A. D. 1875, for the purpose of considering and adopting such amendments to the Constitution as they may deem necessary and expedient, subject only to the restrictions hereinafter provided.

Sec. 2. The said Convention shall consist of one hundred and twenty delegates, and each county shall be entitled to the same number of delegates that it has members of the House of Representatives under the present apportionment and the said delegates shall have the qualifications required of members of the House of Representatives, of which qualifications the Convention shall be the judge.

Sec. 3. On the first Thursday of August, 1875, the Sheriffs of the State shall open polls for the election of delegates to the said Convention from their respective counties, and the election shall be held and conducted; the officers thereof, including registrars and judges of election, appointed; the vote counted and compared; the result proclaimed, and certificates issued in the same manner as is now provided by law for the election of members of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly.

Sec. 4. The said delegates shall be called to order at 12 o'clock on the day fixed hereof, by the Chief Justice for one of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court or Secretary of State, who, if there be not a quorum, shall adjourn them to the same place, and from day to day, until a quorum shall appear; and on the appearance of a quorum he shall administer to each of them the following oath:

"You, A. B., do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the delegate elect shall choose) that you will faithfully maintain and support the Constitution of the United States and the several amendments thereto, including the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments; and that you will neither directly nor indirectly evade or disregard the duties enjoined nor the restrictions imposed upon the Convention by the act of the General Assembly authorizing your election. So help you God."

And no delegate shall be permitted to sit or be titled to a seat in said Convention, or act as delegate thereto, until he shall have subscribed to the above oath or affirmation; and as soon as a majority of the delegates elect shall have thus appeared and been sworn in, they shall then proceed to elect their presiding officer, and such other officers and servants as they from time to time, shall find necessary; and if a vacancy shall occur, the same shall be filled in the same manner as the like vacancies are filled by law in the cause of vacancies in the General Assembly. Said Convention shall have no power to consider, debate, adopt or propose any amendment to the existing Constitution or ordinance upon the following subjects:

(1.) The Homestead and Personal Property Exemptions, the mechanics' and laborers' lien, and the rights of married women, as now secured by law, nor to alter or amend section 3 or 5, article V, of said Constitution, nor change the ratio between the poll and property tax as herein published; nor shall the said Convention have power to propose or adopt any amendment or ordinance vacating any office or term of office now existing and filled or held by virtue of any election or appointment under the existing Constitution and laws, until the same shall be repealed or expired under the existing laws; but the said Convention may recommend the abolition of any office when the present term therein shall expire or vacancies occur, and they may provide for filling such vacancies, otherwise than as now, and limiting the terms thereof. Nor shall said Convention adopt or propose any amendment or scheme of compensation to the owners of emancipated slaves, nor for the payment of any liability incurred wholly or in part in aid of the late war between the States, nor for the restoration of imprisonment for debt; nor shall they require or propose any educational or property qualification for office or voting; nor shall said Convention pass any ordinance legislative in its character, except such as are necessary to submit the amended Constitution to the people for their ratification or rejection, or to convene the General Assembly.

Sec. 5. The Constitution, as amended, shall be submitted to the people for their ratification, and shall not be binding until the same shall have been ratified by the qualified voters of the State, and the Convention shall prescribe the mode whereby the sense of the people thereon shall be taken and recorded.

Sec. 6. There shall be printed immediately ten copies of this act for each member of the General Assembly, and one hundred copies within thirty days after its ratification for each Board of County Commissioners, and the use of the registrars and judges of election in their respective counties; and this act shall be in force and take effect from and after its ratification.

A member of the Illinois Legislature has introduced a bill providing that "any person asking another to drink any intoxicating liquor shall be fined not less than \$20 and not more than \$100."

A GRANGE FUNERAL.

The First Grange Burial of a Lady in Virginia—Impressive Ceremonies at the Grave—Gathering of Members of the Order, &c.

On Sunday last, near Tinkling Spring, in this county, the first burial of a lady member of the order of Patrons of Husbandry that has taken place in Virginia was attended by a large concourse of citizens. Mrs. Sarah Calbreath, a member of Fishersville Grange, No. 71 died on Friday, having had a very perilous surgical operation performed a few days since. She was about forty years of age, and was much beloved and esteemed by all who knew her, and her funeral brought together a large number of citizens outside of the order to which she belonged, who testified by their presence to the high esteem in which she was held. She was the mother of Miss Jennie Calbreath, who fills the position of "Flora" in the Grange.

GATHERING OF THE GRANGERS.

Early in the morning the Grangers, each wearing a small bouquet in his coat, commenced arriving at the Presbyterian church at Tinkling Spring, where the funeral was to take place, and of which the deceased had been a consistent member. Among those who arrived were the designated pall-bearers of the Grange wearing white baldrics, and the marshals of the procession, who wore the orange-colored baldrics of their office. Among the members of other Granges who were present were a large number from Barterbrook and Waynesboro Granges. The funeral sermon was preached by Rev. G. B. Strickler, after which the concourse of persons, numbering over 500, proceeded to the cemetery.

THE GRANGER CEREMONIES.

The pall-bearers of the order bore the coffin decorated with flowers to the gate, followed in order by the family of the deceased, the lady members of the Order, the male members, and last, the processions of citizens. At the gate the coffin was stopped and the members of the Grange opened ranks and passed on each side of it to the grave, around which they formed a circle, the coffin being placed at the side of the excavation in their midst. The Master of the Grange, Mr. Samuel B. Brown, of Fishersville, then made a brief address, followed by the chaplain, W. H. H. Lynn, of Staunton Grange, who officiated in place of Chaplain of Fishersville Grange, who was absent on account of sickness, who repeated the Lord's Prayer, the repetition being followed by all the members of the Order. The Chaplain then read from the

BURIAL SERVICE.

of the Order, some words of comfort to the relatives of the dead and a brief address to the members of the Order, in which they were told that "Heaven and God are best discerned through tears—scarcely, perhaps at all discerned without them. The constant association of prayer with the hour of bereavement and the scenes of death, suffices to show this. We must be made perfect through suffering; but the struggle by night will bring calmness of the morning. The prayer of deliverance calls forth the power of endurance, and while to the reluctant, the cross is too heavy to be borne, it grows light in the heart of those who will trust."

A hymn was then very sweetly sung, the singing being led by Mr. Frank Bell, of the Granger choir, and Mrs. Woody, a lady chorister of the order, during which the grangers passed around the yet empty grave and breaking their bouquets apart dropped in the flowers. The chaplain then read the 23rd psalm, during which the coffin was lowered into the grave and the lady members of the grange then passed around it each breaking her bouquet and scattering the flowers on the coffin; a very sweet hymn being sung during the time. The master of the lodge and the pall-bearers then advanced to the grave and threw in their bouquets, the master saying: "A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death better than the day of one's birth. He shall go as he came and take nothing of his labor which he may carry in his hand." He then took up a handful of earth and sprinkling it in the grave, saying, "In the name of Fishersville Grange, I pronounce the words, Sister Calbreath, farewell."

MEMORIAL.

The Grange has set apart a day to plant a memorial tree, as is the custom of the order, at the grave of Mrs. Calbreath. They also have in summer a memorial day, on which they visit the graves of the deceased members and scatter flowers on their graves.

Exchange.

Our exchanges come to us loaded with the accounts, and details of the vast damage of the storm of last Saturday week. Nothing like it was ever known before in this Southern Country. It was not confined to a neighborhood or county, but it extended over States. The loss of life has been terrible. The news from various sections is appalling. We cannot undertake to mention each particular instance of loss of life now, much less can we particularize the damage to property, and the hurts, serious or trivial, done to persons in hundreds of sections. A telegram to the News and Courier from Thomason Ga., Mar. 20th says:

At a quarter to 1 o'clock to-day, thick clouds were seen gathering in the northwest, which in a very few minutes became so angry looking as to attract the universal attention of the citizens of our town. Our people were not long in determining the nature of the angry cloud, for while groups could be seen watching its movements, the terrible sound and murky cloud, as if driven at electric speed bespoke destruction. Scarcely had the awful sight passed beyond the view when messengers began to arrive from different directions bringing the sad news of devastation of property and loss of life, and asking for help. Our citizens, some mounted and some on foot, hurried towards the scene but

to find dead bodies, wrecks of houses, fences, and for the distance measured by the hurricane, all the trees felled. Everything is excitement as news of additional disasters is brought from the track of the angry storm. Among the casualties reported up to date we report the following: John T. Stonal's residence blown down, and he, it is thought, mortally wounded; his wife also wounded; J. W. Morgan's residence blown down; a daughter seriously injured; James A. Benson's residence blown down; a negro man killed and a negro child mortally wounded; John E. Smith's houses all blown away except the dwelling and gin houses, two negroes were killed and several seriously injured; Mr. Dorsey, of Columbia, S. C., was killed. Additional disasters, are constantly being reported. The mail carrier brings news of dreadful disasters, appalling and vicinity.—The houses of St. S. Huthinson, Solon Reese, John Baibaton, and several were destroyed or injured, and his mother, Mrs. Dorsey, killed. George Grange's house was blown down and his mother seriously injured. Dr. Bailey's house, at Appaling, was blown down, and his sister, Miss Maggie Bally, killed, and Miss Malcuse seriously injured. One end of the court house was blown away.

Another telegram to the same paper from Augusta Ga., Mar. 21st, says:

The tornado caused fearful destruction along its track, laying waste houses, trees and fences, and killing persons and stock. The Baptists were holding a meeting at Elm Church, near Canunk, when the storm demolished it, killing three and wounding twenty-five. Residences and out-houses were demolished in many plantations in Warren, Meigs, Dufree and Columbia counties, in Georgia, the destruction extending into Edgefield, Aiken and Barnwell counties, in South Carolina. In some places persons were blown a distance of sixty yards.

In Columbia county, Georgia, three negroes were killed and twenty-five persons wounded. Ten houses on Dr. Hamilton's place were destroyed. It is impossible to give a correct idea of the amount of property lost. Several hundred thousand dollars will not cover it. Fearful suffering is already reported in the devastated territory. Nothing has been so universally destructive, it being the severest storm ever known in this section.

THE PRESIDENT REFUSING TO SEE A COMMITTEE OF LABORERS.

[From the Baltimore Sun.]

About two thousand colored laborers, with a comparatively few whites, marched in procession to the Executive mansion between 8 and 9 o'clock to-night, for the purpose, it is said, of making complaint that certain moneys appropriated by Congress for the use of the District Government had been paid to contractors instead of the laborers employed by them. The band on approaching the portico of the mansion, played, "Hail to the Chief." Then the committee of the laborers went to the door, and through the attendant there informed the President of the presence of the crowd. The attendant soon returned with the message: "The President desires to be excused." The spokesman of the party, who has been acting as attorney for many of the laborers, then said:

FELLOW CITIZENS: The President desires to be excused. In other words the Chief Magistrate cannot receive the laborers of the District of Columbia, but we will as law-abiding citizens acknowledge his mandate and retire. This is the first time in the history of the American people that a President refused to receive the delegated authority of ten thousand working men. The crowd cheered, and voices were heard, "Hit him again." The speaker, after further remarks, moved an adjournment to Judiciary square there to hold a mass meeting, and the crowd moved off in line the band meantime playing "The Wearing of the Green." A detail of fifteen policemen was ordered to the Executive Mansion, but there was no occasion for interference, nor was a breach of the peace apprehended any where. In Judiciary Square speeches were delivered and resolutions passed for the appointment of a committee of one hundred to call upon the District Commissioners and state their grievances.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

"NO FRIENDS TO REWARD OR ENEMIES TO PUNISH."

New York, March 7.—The Tribune's Washington correspondent sends a lengthy interview with Senator Johnson, who said: "I can give no pledge of my future course. I cannot say that I will act with one party or with the other. We have too much of party, and I propose to bind myself in advance to no theory of party policy. I have never done so in the past, and I do not intend to do so in the future. I shall support such measures as appear in my judgment best for the country, caring not whether it is a Democratic measure or whether it is supported by Republicans. I will never place myself in a position where I must do a thing because it is a party measure or oppose a thing at a party's dictation. I place the country above party."

Mr. Johnson could not say whether he would participate in the debate on the Pinchback resolution. Being asked if he would not in his new position have an opportunity to pay off some old scores, and if he did not have a mass of facts against the leaders of the parties to-day, he said: "Whatever I may have I do not say, but I shall use nothing. My service in the Senate will not be a personal one. I do not represent myself, but Tennessee. The country has now nothing to do with my personal matters and with what has passed. I have no enemies to punish or friends to reward. I have buried resentments and have forgotten the ill treatment of individuals. If I can perform the duties that are now before me as conscientiously and clearly as I see them at this moment, I shall accomplish as much as human vanity may seek to attain."