

T. B. Eldridge, J. D. Kerfoot, Editors.

An account of a wedding that recently took place at Yalikin College, appears in the Central Protestant. It fairly overflows with Latin and French. No doubt it is very interesting to the average reader of our esteemed cotemporary.

One hundred and eight arrests were made in Raleigh during the month of December. The Visitor thinks this an indication of industry on the part of the police. That is a curious view to take of it; but there is another way to look at it.

Prosperity smiles upon the Durham Tobacco Plant. The latest indication of that fact is the appearance of a semi-weekly edition. It is not as large as the weekly; but it is well printed, new and readable. We congratulate Brother Green upon his success in the ink-slinging business.

So many lives and ships have been lost in voyages to the polar regions, that it is now proposed to go there and back in balloons. The projector of the idea intends to go as far north as he can safely navigate, and then go the rest of the way through the air. He expects to reach the pole and return to his ships in the course of two or three days. If he should accomplish his purpose, we have our doubts about good results from it.

The Greensboro Patriot man has interviewed Collector Everitt in regard to the probability of losing his office. He does not seem to have much apprehension of losing his scalp. He evidently does not think that any of those who are after him, will succeed in taking it. He talks in a way to create the impression that he feels very brave; but he holds his place by a very uncertain tenure, and may well be on the alert. There are lots of hungry Republicans hereabouts.

There has been a terrible leaving of the colored population from some districts of South Carolina. A new exodus wave has rolled over those parts, carrying many of them before it. This time they are not going so far north. The greater portion of the "exodusters" are stopping in Arkansas. They won't learn anything from the distresses of their predecessors three years ago. If they try the project for themselves may be they will feel better satisfied. Sorry they can't see further.

Again it becomes our painful duty to chronicle the death of a prominent citizen of North Carolina. On last Friday morning, Hon. George W. Brooks, Judge of the United States Court, Eastern District of North Carolina, died at his home in Elizabeth City. His death will be regretted by all the good people of the State. The name of Judge Brooks will be cherished in the memory of North Carolinians as long as the recollection of the Kirk war lasts; for it was he who issued writs of habeas corpus for citizens who had been unjustly deprived of their liberty, when the State courts were closed against them.

Judge Brooks was born in Pasquotank County about the year 1818. He represented his county in the Legislature in 1852-53. In 1855 he was appointed District Judge by President Johnson, and has held the office ever since. We acknowledge ourselves indebted to the News & Observer for the facts contained in this article.

The article entitled County Government is deserving of more than a passing notice. At this distance of time from the enactment of the existing county government laws, and in view of the changes that have taken place in the affairs and condition of the people in the counties that then called for help from the State, it may well be asked if the time has not come for a repeal of the law. The State, no longer under the dominion of carpet baggers, does not present the spectacle of some years ago. Then the people of the whole State gave up the high privilege of electing their own magistrates and county commissioners for the good of a few counties that were ruled by men who had no other end in view than their own pecuniary benefit. Do the necessities of the times still require that the whole people of North Carolina shall be deprived of this privilege for the good of a few? If not, let the law be changed.

We are glad to see the Orphan's Friend make its appearance again under the management that insures continued publication. The editor enters upon the work with a heart full of love for the cause. He has our kindest wishes for success.

The Oxford Torchlight evidently knows what became of a part of the confederate specie that Jefferson Davis is said to have appropriated at the close of the war. Hear him:

"If Gen. Johnston but knew it he slips down the ladder every time he reiterates the old slander about Mr. Davis and the Confederate gold. Mr. Davis certainly did not 'swallow' the whole of it as he is maliciously charged to have done, for we ourselves got \$2.50 of the money, and came through on the first train that went to Morehead City. The hotel man fished us of \$1.50 at Raleigh, leaving us one large silver dollar with a hole in it, and upon which our oldest boy cut teeth in 1868."

TOUGH BUT TRUE.—A gentleman stepped into the office some days ago and asked us if President Garfield was certainly dead, and did that fellow kill him sure enough. This man has a family and can read too, but never subscribed to a paper in his life.—Kernersville News.

People who can read newspapers and do not take them, are always behind the times. It is surprising that anybody can keep house without at least one newspaper making weekly visits; but there are many who do just that thing. People who borrow their neighbors' papers are not quite so ignorant; but they impose on others for their information about current events.

It is time that something should be done to check the power of grasping monopolies when it appears that one oil company, the Standard, controls the whole business and imposes a tax of eight cents more than a legitimate profit upon the consumer on every gallon of kerosene used in the United States, and pays dividends of a million dollars a month to the owners. It buys up or crushes out all who attempt to compete with it. Its officers refuse to disclose its workings,—on the ground of criminalizing themselves,—when called upon by courts, legislatures and congressional committees; and still the work of extortion goes on to the amount of eleven million dollars a year at the lowest estimate. The Standard Oil Company is a specimen monopoly of the many which abound in the land. Something must be done to protect the people against them; but what ought to be done and how to do it, are the questions that remain to be answered.

The number of failures in business circles is on the increase lately. The cause of them seems to be on account of the shortness in the crops last year. There are many houses doing business on borrowed capital, and the short crop having alarmed consumers all over the country, those who had laid in their large stocks found no sale for them, and as a consequence have been driven to the awful final business resort of making arrangements. Occasionally business meets with such shocks, but this year will not chronicle as many failures, nor as much distress among the people, as many anticipated last summer. The people at large learn a lesson of economy in such times, and the "hard times" may turn out to be a blessing rather than anything else. There are no grounds for any very serious apprehensions of distress; there is plenty for all, and none need suffer. Business will revive in the Spring, and all classes will turn out armed with new energy.

Washington Letter.

[From our Regular Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 6, 1882.

The long drawn out trial is now coming close upon its end, and it becomes more and more fixed in the minds of close observers that the wretch Guiteau has been weaving his own rope. The people of Washington, and of the country, have been justly incensed at the disgraceful scenes and outrageous conduct of the prisoner in court during the progress of the trial, but the one mitigating fact in connection with it is that all this has simply had the effect to make justice surer. It has obliterated every vestige of sympathy which at the beginning some felt for the miserable creature; has given the experts and Court an opportunity to study his mind and character, and gone far to enforce conviction upon the minds of the jury. No one who has observed the jury during the last two weeks expresses the least doubt that their minds are made up beyond the slightest probability of change. It is likely that within one week from this time the verdict of guilt will have been returned, sentence of death pronounced, and Guiteau will be lying in a cell, his brava to all gone, in a condition of utter, coverly unipid prostration. After he has given up hope there will be no more doubt outside the court-room of his absolute accountability than there is with those who have witnessed his daily manifestations of ungovernable malice, brutal egotism, depravity and blackguardism. He is shrewd and cunning when confronted with the possible consequences of his act, and has expected by his conduct to save himself from a punishment beyond a few years in an asylum, meanwhile having secured the notoriety he so much covets.

To one who watches him in the courtroom this thirst for notoriety seems sufficient in itself to account for the murder of the president. His egotism, and the immunity he has managed to secure during a long series of petty offences, probably induced a belief that he would escape serious punishment for this last crime. He had, unhappily, many instances in the records of criminal trials to base a theory upon that temporary insanity would furnish him an available excuse. There is not a redeeming trait in this wretched creature, least of all the excuse of unaccountability. He seems able to recognize no motives except such as animate himself. He imputes to witnesses only the most vulgar impulses. His rejoinders to counsel for the Government are the snarls of a kicked cur. His vituperative treatment of his sister and the lawyer who so patiently has conducted his case far better than even a more skilful, but paid counsel would have done; his base threats against the woman who had once been his wife; his references to the father who bore with him so long, to his dead mother, to the brother who can gain no benefit from his attendant on this trial, are developments of the most astounding evil character that has perhaps ever manifested itself to the world. In making up his judgment of Guiteau the country cannot compare him with its experiences of other criminals. He is unparalleled. I have been told by experts and others who have had intimate acquaintance with convicts, that so bad a man, with wickedness so mirrored in his face, they have never seen. He has excessive brutality without courage, vulgar assertion without self confidence when fairly confronted, abnormal malice without the capacity of strong hatred. Instances of his cowardice are known to his jailer which have not, and cannot be told in print. He is a bestial wretch and capable of any crime, but as responsible for this act as any such human brute can be. I want simply to add that, in the light of recent developments, the injustice of the criticism upon Judge Cox is fully apparent. He has had a hard case to deal with and has shown patience and wisdom through it all.

Congress has assembled again but nothing of consequence will be done for some days. The holiday recess has been an exceptionally dull one in this locality. New Year's day, however, was a stirring time, and the reception at the White House was very largely attended. The impression has gone out that the usual receptions every two weeks during the winter are not to be given this season, and so everybody in town endeavored to avail themselves of this opportunity to see President Arthur in the White House as well as to take a look at the mansion in its improved condition. There was in consequence a great jam. The reception for the general public was preceded as usual by the official reception of army and civil officers and foreign ministers. It was for many reasons a notable reception, marked new faces and new names, with a total ignoring of old customs. The President enjoyed the day, and when informed that his reception was larger than any of Mr. Hayes' and exceeded in number all of Grant's but one, he expressed satisfaction for the compliment. Yet it was not altogether to be interpreted in that way. By the way, speaking of Grant, now that he has suddenly come over to help undo the great injustice that has been done Gen. Fritz John Porter, there is a good deal of curiosity to know what his friend Logan will do. Logan smashed things right and left last winter in opposition to the Porter bill in the Senate and if he now takes the same position it will be the first time he ever disagreed with his chief.

A Great Work Completed.

A dispatch announced that the first train passed through the St. Gothard tunnel Friday afternoon. The tunnel, which was begun in the autumn of 1872, had in three succeeding years advanced 5,084 of the 16,925 yards, or 91 miles, of its entire length. In 1873 it was calculated that it would be finished during the summer of 1879, but it seems that it has taken nine years to get it ready for use. The cost of the tunnel has probably been ten million dollars. The railway of which it forms a part costs seven million dollars. Of the whole cost, Italy has agreed to pay nine millions and Germany and Switzerland ten million each. The St. Gothard Railway runs from Fluelen, on the Lake of Uri, to Comerio, in Italy, and it completes a direct railway route, following that which has been used by the diligence lines, from Paris to Naples, by way of important towns in Switzerland, and through Milan, Florence and Rome.

STATE AND GENERAL.

Washington Territory has a female Territorial Librarian—Miss Eliza Newell, daughter of Gov. Newell.

A young German crossed the Dan River horseback when the current was so strong that the ferryman at Milton was afraid to venture on the stream with his boat.

The legislature of New York is composed of 17 Democrats and 15 Republicans in the Senate and 67 Democrats and 61 Republicans in the Assembly. But John Kelly controls the voices of 3 Senators and 12 assembly men, which compels homage to himself.

Col. Thomas McMahon, of Greensboro, received a premium of \$50 for the excellence of his display of spoken and handles at the late Atlanta exposition. Mr. W. H. Snow, of High Point, in this county, received a similar premium for his display of the same article.—North State.

County Government.

When our present constitution was amended so as to make the Justices of the Peace elective by the General Assembly, and the Boards of County Commissioners by the Boards of Justices of Peace for the various counties, it was to provide for an order of things entirely abnormal. Our State had been flooded by adventurers, soulless and dishonest, who seized upon everything from which there was a promise of gain. And calling to their aid the vote of the colored people, who lent willing ears to their deceptive promises, they instituted a regular system of plunder upon the people of such counties as they could control. By this means a number of the best counties in the State were despoiled of the means that ought to have paid their current expenses and provided for the education of their indigent children. Corruption, malfeasance in office and defalcation, heretofore unknown in North Carolina, came to be of frequent occurrence and the voice of the outraged communities cried aloud to the good people of North Carolina for relief.

To meet this order of things the General Assembly, under the amended constitution of 1875, passed the present county government act, and thereby hulled from place and power those dishonest men, who by their unallowable greed had made a change in our organic law necessary. This much was accomplished by the strong arm of the Democratic party, a power which thieves and plunderers will not soon again be willing to combat. But the evil having been corrected it appears to us that the time has now arrived when the county government should be repealed and the people themselves should decide who should be their county officers. It is not meet that the whole State of North Carolina should longer continue under a unitary system for the sake of a few counties which have already reaped all the benefits to be derived from the late change of the constitution. The remedy has proved adequate to the malady to be cured, and the Democratic party should now cease to administer medicine after the disease has been abated. In fact it was never contemplated that the people should give up the election of their officers longer than necessary to correct the evils above alluded to as evidenced by the elastic provision of the constitution which confers upon the General Assembly the power to change our system of county government at their will.

That the present system is unsatisfactory, after the correction of the evils above referred to, none acquainted with public affairs can doubt and we give our voice in favor of transferring back to the people the election of County Commissioners and Justices of Peace.—Tobacco Plant.

REVENUE SALE!

UNITED STATES INTERNAL REVENUE, COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, 5th District, N. C., Winston, Dec. 30th, 1881. The following property stored in Graham, N. C., viz.—18 barrels containing about 265 gallons Whiskey, 2 Copper Stills, 2 Copper Still Caps and 2 Copper Still Worms Seized for violation of Internal Revenue Law from Jno. P. Albright on the 15th day of November, 1881, having been declared forfeited to the United States according to law, will be sold to the highest bidder in the town of Graham on the 18th day of January, 1882. Sale to commence at 11 o'clock, A. M. GEO. B. EVERITT, Collector 5th Dist. N. C. Jan. 2, 43-3t.

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in town. All who desire to purchase anything in my line will do well to call and see me. JAS. M. TURNER Aug. 26, 26-6m. PROBATE COURT—Alamance Co. Peter Summers, as adm'r of Jacob Summers, vs. Noble G. Cryor and wife, Margaret, Elizabeth Summers, Jacob Summers, Geo. Faucette and wife, Catherine, Geo. Summers, W. N. Summers, Pinckney Summers, Nat. Ware and wife, Margaret, Thos. Fritchett and wife, Lizzy Stallings, James W. Summers, Peter Summers, and Rufus A. Summers, of 'all age, and Elizabeth Stallings, Nannie Summers, Thos. Summers, Jacob Summers, Alfred Summers, and Rufus Summers, infants.

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