THE GREENSBORO PATRIOT.

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June 4-3m.

Cremation---Past and Future---Indispensable to perfect Sanitation.

(Correspondence of the Patriot.)

The incineration, or burning of human corpses may be said to have been the general practice of the ancient world, with the following important exceptions, viz: In *Egypt*, where bodies were *embalmed*; Judea, where they were buried in sepulchres; and China, where they reposed in a tenement of clay, in accordance with the present, almost universal custom, in this and the other countries not included in the above exceptions. "In Greece; so well ascertained" was the law, that only suicides, unsettled children, and persons struck by lightning were denied the right to be burned."

"At Rome one of the XII Tablets said, "*Hominem mortuum in Urbe ne sepelito, neve urito*," and in fact, from the close of the Republic to the end of the 4th Christian century, burning on the "pyre, or rogue, was the general rule."

The Jews used "Cremation" in the valley of Tophet when a plague came; showing that there is evidence in scripture of the use of this method of disposing of the dead. In 1797, "C." was seriously discussed by the French Assembly under the directory and the events of the Franco Prussian war again brought the subject under the notice of the Medical Press and the Sanitary authorities. It came before the public generally in 1874, having been renewed by Italy. Doubtless many persons, in fact a very large percentage of the human race, involuntarily shudder at the bare mention of the word, "Cremation" because they associate with it all the imaginary revolting horrors of burning flesh and its disagreeable odors (the latter supposed to arise therefrom). It is probable that at the time of the practice of this means of disposing of the dead, among the ancients, these objectionable features were too apparent, as we are told that the bodies were consumed on funeral pyres and exposed to the gaze of the multitudes, or as many as saw fit to witness the ceremony, and the spectacle must have been extremely unpleasant, particularly to the relatives of the deceased. With the modern improvements however, in the construction of crematories, the incineration is accomplished in a comparatively short space of time (about two hours) and does not come in contact with the flames; the smoke and other gases thrown off during this rapid process of combustion and destruction of animal matter, do not pass into the open air, but are carried back into the furnaces, and are either consumed in flues arranged for this purpose, or (as in the case of the Philadelphia crematory) they assist in the combustion of the body; by this means the heat evolved is not lost, but is intensified, so that the burning of one body generates heat sufficient to consume another (from 200 to 300 degrees), and this would be increased in proportion to the number burned; thus proving that the cost of cremation would be lessened as the number of bodies to be burned was increased, as many 20 bodies can be incinerated in one day, with the facilities at hand at present in Philadelphia, and these could be increased as necessity demanded it. The city also has a crematory for thus disposing of the remains of those who die from contagious diseases, at the hospitals, as well as those whose bodies are not claimed by any relative or friend.

When we reflect calmly and logically upon the absolute necessity of disposing of the remains of our dead in some manner, should we not consider the health of the living, at the same time, and be willing to listen to scientific arguments and facts, as to the best method of such disposition in the interests of sanitation, and consequent longevity? At one time of the world's history, a system known as "Burial Ad" was in vogue, and indeed it is to a limited extent practiced at the present day (for instance on the Island of Cuba, where the Roman Catholic church excludes from burial in consecrated ground, all those who are outside of the pale of the church; and consigns to a general trench or pit, though within the same enclosure, any person or persons who are not faithful followers of her Creed). It was in consequence of this disgusting method of burial that cemeteries became necessary, and until the increase of population and the encroachment thereof upon the cemeteries in the limits of the various cities, there was a vast improvement over the "pit" system; as these became overcrowded, however, and even nearer to dwellings than the old "church yard," the question arose, are not these receptacles for our dead too near us, and will they not endanger the health of the communities whose houses adjoin or are in close proximity thereto? Scientists had discovered that "a certain amount of irrespirable gas will escape into the air, or into the sewage drains, and thus reach houses or will percolate through the soil, so as to contaminate the water in springs and wells, which is used afterwards."

A dense clay is the best soil for preventing the percolation of gases, as the latter, from the process of decomposition, tries to escape, but with but few exceptions, the bodies must be subjected to a very slow process of decay, with the revolting thoughts ever present to our minds of a once fond relative or friend, whose body is being consumed by myriads of living organisms, in other words, that though dead, it is actually "teeming with Life." It must also be remembered that the "cemetery system" can only be temporary: the soil is being gradually filled with bones, houses crowd around: the law permits the reopening of the graves at the expiration of 14 years. The city of Philadelphia, Pa., has passed an ordinance prohibiting the formation of any new cemeteries within the city limits it is therefore only a question of time when all of the bodies interred in cemeteries inside of the city, will be removed to other burial grounds, and the former sites of grave yards become the location of inhabited dwellings.

It was at one time and doubtless is now among a great many intelligent persons, an idea that the body must necessarily be buried in the earth, or a vault, in order to conform to the christian doctrine and belief in "the resurrection;" that as the seed must die, and decay, before it can reproduce a living plant, so our bodies must undergo the same process. This belief has however given place to the more rational as well as scientific one that "all matter is indistructible," and it is immaterial what chemical changes may take place in reducing such matter to a different state; it simply alters the form but does not destroy the elements of which the body human or otherwise, is composed. As the power of the "Creator of the Universe," is infinite, and illimitable, He can mould a new body clothed with immortality, out of the incinerated remains just as easily as He can do so out of the dust in the grave. Again, funerals are too often made the occasion of public display, by their elaborate preparations, the expensive decorations, and the long train of carriages, (with but few real mourners) all of which but adds to the cost of a ceremony, which should be conducted in the majority of cases, on a more economical basis; for after all, the outward expressions of feeling so customary on the death of a relative or friend, are too often only for effect and to create sympathy, and it would be more appropriate to so sad an occasion, if the relatives were permitted to give vent to their feelings in private and not be compelled to witness the last act in the drama of life in presence of an unsympathizing crowd of spectators. It is not probable that any of the female relatives would attend the cremation of the body. To those who wish to perpetuate the memory of the departed ones, by the present custom of occasional visits to the grave; the ashes could be there deposited, privately and without the usual ceremony; and the sorrowing relative or friend, would bring their customary offering of flowers, without being harassed by the revolting thought of the usual slow process of decay as they looked upon the silent tomb. The actual cost, at present, of cremating a body is $30; this will doubtless be reduced as the practice becomes more generally observed, and it is to be hoped that the present elaborate funeral displays will be superseded by a more reasonable and judicious expenditure on such solemn occasions.

The number of cremations which take place annually in the city, at the present time are from 30 to 10, and those occurring the present year being 20 to 25% more than the previous year.

There are 4 crematories in Pennsylvania, one in Cincinnati, Detroit, St. Louis, Iowa, Baltimore, 4 in New York State, 2 in California, 1 in Atlanta, Ga., a cremation society in New Orleans, and one in Boston.

In conclusion, it may be well to present another forcible argument in favor of cremation, viz: that this system will effectually prevent what we all have reason to dread and that is the removal of the remains from the grave by the hands of the ghoul; and at the same time, the fear of being buried alive, will no longer disturb our dreams, nor cause any anxiety of mind, for those who have gone before us. The remains need not be placed in any "ice Box" 2 or 3 days in order to satisfy relatives that life is extinct, but could be removed to the crematory within 24 hours; for the physician could apply a satisfactory test in order to ascertain if death had really taken place and thus set at rest all doubts as to the reality of the demise.

It is to be hoped that the Legislatures of the different States will in course of time (in the near future) pass a law requiring the bodies of all of those persons who have died of typhoid fever, scarlet fever, small pox or dyphtheria, to be cremated, and also making it a criminal offence for any person other than the immediate family not having business at the house, to attend the funeral; in other words that the services at the house as well as the interment, shall be "strictly private."

If each state were to pass such a law and enforce it, and at the same time establish a crematory in each city of 25,000 and upwards of inhabitants, for the incineration of the unclaimed bodies, as well as those dying of contagious diseases, it would effectually prevent the dissemination of such diseases and add to the health of the community at large.

A law should also be passed and enforced making any newspaper criminally liable for publishing any notice of funerals where the persons have died of any of the previously mentioned diseases, and where the services are to be held at the house of the deceased; for it is an undisputed fact that the seeds of the disease can be carried from the house on the clothing of those who have attended the services at the house. If the body is placed in an air tight receptacle, the danger for contagion, while passing to the crematory through the streets, would be reduced to a minimum, and it should not be removed therefrom, but immediately into the retort and be consumed. Many eminent Divines, as well as scientific men have sanctioned cremation and it is to be hoped that in a few years it will be the only recognized method of disposing of the dead.

"ATAS."

TOLD A LIE AND COULDN'T SLEEP.

A Roman Immigrant Came Back to the Barge Office to Give Himself Up.

He is the noblest Roman of them all. But two days since he came to this barbaric port upon the lofty Alesia and passed unnoticed through the portals of our town. The very granite walls of the Barge Office did tremble in shame as he returned yesterday, all wan and hollow-eyed from lack of sleep, and thus spoke to Col. Weber:

"Oh, I have passed a miserable night. You may recall that, when your inspector asked me if I had ever been in prison, I answered 'No.' That was false. I spent two months in a jail in Rome for fighting a man who questioned my honor. I came back to save the record made straight, and to go back to Italy if the gods so decree."

Col. Weber felt faint. He asked the immigrant if he wanted to go back, and the immigrant said with emphasis that he didn't; that he wanted to stay and be a good man. So the Colonel said:

"There's a balance of honesty in your favor. We'll let you in."

And so the noble Roman is with us, perhaps in Mulberry street. The Colonel forgot to take his name, which may be Romulus.—*N. Y. Sun.*

Some Fools.

There are some fools in this world so gigantic that they become criminals, and it would be a good thing for the world at large if certain sorts of foolishness were called by their right names, and were made punishable by law. To illustrate: Wilhelm Bradt and his wife of Newport, R. I., had their three little children, aged 2, 3, and 5, in the house, and went to the city several miles distant, leaving the children alone during the greater part of the afternoon. Then occured the tragedy which usually occurs under such circumstances. The children in some manner, set fire to the house. It burned up and so did the children. This is one of many cases so similar that they differ only in their localities and the names of the victims. If a railroad company does anything to endanger the lives of men it is held responsible, no matter what the motive or the absence of motives—and have been. If parents recklessly endanger the lives of children they should be held accountable, even though they had no direct intention of endangering the lives.—*Durham Globe.*

Some Notes from Brabham's Cell.

For a man who has but a week to live, and who awakes to find Death is shadowed by the gallows, Henry Brabham, the negro who murdered the Italian, Mocca, showed a degree of hilarity simply remarkable. He is chaffing Sheriff Sams now about the insufficiency of his food. "If you don't treat me better," Brabham says, "I will be so poor on hanging day that the weight of my body will not be sufficient to break my neck, and the sheriff is not giving me anything extra in the way of grub, but there's 1 any doubt about my body not being heavy enough to see what is expected of it on July 2, Caldwell, the negro whom Brabham knocked on the head some time since, volunteers his services and says he would be delighted to have it tied to Brabham's feet. Bradham, by the way, has ordered a suit of clothes for the occasion.—*Shelby News.*

Loans and Discounts.

The loan market was moderately active and easy, being influenced to some extent by the bank statement of Saturday. Call loans on stock collateral were made at 1@2 per cent, averaging about 2½ per cent, closing at 1½@2 per cent. Time loanings were much better than demand. Time loaning was easy. For sixty days rates were quoted at 4 per cent on mixed lines of stock; for four months at 5 per cent, and for six months at 5@6 per cent. The demand for commercial paper is light, but it is easier to sell good lines than a week or two ago.—*Cin. Price Current, June 25, 1891.*

Another Factory.

One more cotton mill for Concord—this is the sixth. The promoters propose to start with $75,000 to $50,000 of which is already subscribed. The books are open for the remaining $25,000. There is no doubt that the mill will be a certainty of the near future. The location will probably be near the depot.

THE LICENSE QUESTION.

Remarks of Mr. Sergeant Before the Board of Commissioners on the Question of Recommending for License.

Perhaps no one of the many and varied duties this Board is called upon to perform excites so deep and universal interest as this one of recommending for license the liquor dealers of our city. And I feel sure that I but voice the sentiments of every member of the Board when I say that no other duty is so unpleasant. I wish that we did not have it to do, for I am sure nothing to me can equal in degree the disagreeableness of this duty, unless it was the pleasure it would afford me to see the traffic not only from our city but entirely from our land.

When one year ago, the Board gave the recommendations, which, if I am not mistaken, was done by a unanimous vote, there were a number of harsh and I think very unjust criticisms passed upon their action, both on the streets and in the newspapers. We were censured not only by extremists and fanatics but some of our most worthy citizens expressed their disapproval. Now I am combating all of this censure arises from a misapprehension of the power vested in the Board of Aldermen in regard to this matter. It is claimed that this Board has the power and the right to refuse all applicants the necessary recommendation, which alone can secure the license. That we have the power I admit, but that we have the right, I claim is not true.

The Governor of the State has the power to release from the penitentiary every convict and to pardon from their prisons every murderer in our State. That he has the right to do so, I deny, without any fear of contradiction. Now, I understand the power of this Board to recommend or disapprove the applications for license to be exactly similar to the power vested in our Governor, and for a like object; viz: to correct, and prevent errors, and not to change or nullify the laws of the State.

In the case of our Board, this privilege or power is vested in us for the one and only object of preventing bar rooms from being placed at objectionable locations, and that men who have the reputation of being idle, dissolute and drunkards may be refused license.

Surely no one who has thought this matter over carefully could believe for one moment that it was ever intended by our law makers to place in the hands of 12 men, in a city of several thousand inhabitants, the decision of a question which is racking the minds and hearts of the best and wisest men and women of our age. Yes, this is not only true of our State and nation, but of the christianized nations of the world. Right at this time the liquor traffic, and particularly the license question in the House of Commons in Great Britain, is the most prominent question. Some of the ministry have proposed a measure in regard to the question, the main feature of which is the imposition of a high tax upon alcohol and beer, the proceeds of which it is proposed to spend in buying up the license of the innkeepers, and thus, at the public expense, putting an end to their business. This proposition has aroused a great deal of opposition in two opposite directions. On the one hand, the temperance people claim that the liquor dealers should not receive the public money in payment for their right to sell intoxicating drinks. And the innkeepers, on the other hand, say that they do not wish to sell their license to the government, but prefer to keep on selling. It is mentioned in every issue of the innkeepers have any such thing as a "vested interest" in their licenses. The temperance party is in favor of taking away the license without payment, and of establishing throughout the Kingdom the system of "local option." That is they desire the same system which we now have, when each town may vote whether liquor shall or shall not be sold within its limits. It is stated by high authority that the subject of temperance legislation for the time being, has eclipsed the Irish and all other important questions in the thoughts of the English people.

Now, how can it be reasonably claimed that a subject of such wide spread and profound interest, a subject which concerns the moral and temporal interests of every man, woman and child in the country is left entirely in the keeping of this Board to dispose of to individual preferences, any dictation? If this was true, the Board of Aldermen might with equal propriety recommend the license should a majority of the voters of the city had expressed their objection to the law or not. No, gentlemen, it was never intended by the laws of our land, and our prerogative ceases with the power to say who may sell, and where bar rooms may or may not be located.

In accordance with my understanding of the laws of our State governing the liquor licenses, and keeping in view my oath of office, I cannot do otherwise than vote for the recommendations, where no reasonable objection to the person or place can be shown. This I feel compelled to do and I am willing for the voters of the city to give their consent for the saloons to close. And no one will more cheerfully than myself vote as an individual against the issuance of a license, but as a member of this Board vote against the recommendations when the laws will permit me to do so.

IT IS TRUE.

Where Women are in Demand, even the Ugliest of Them.

We are almost daily in receipt of letters from the over-crowded Eastern States asking:

"Do you think I can get married if I come out there?"

These letters are written by old maids, widows, cross eyed girls and grass wives, and we wish to state here and now that this town offers them greater advantages in this direction than any other in the West. Out of a population of over 1,000 we have only thirty-three women, and seven of them are over eighty years old. We'll bet a dollar to a cent all day long that 500 Eastern females can find husbands here in twenty-four hours. If it was known that there was a consignment on the way one half our population would ride fifty miles on mule back to get the first pick.

Women are not asked to come out here to be criticised and elbowed around. We don't believe there is a man in this town who wouldn't jump at the chance of offering his heart to a red-headed girl with a cataract in both eyes and a wart on every finger. We have contended all along that what this town wants most is not a boom in real estate to benefit a few, but ten carloads of women from Boston to benefit the many. Their influence would soon be felt here, and there would be a moral backing which we can never secure without their presence. We say to all inquirers: Come right along. If you are not stopped and married before you get here, we guarantee you will be within 15 minutes after your arrival.—*Arizona Kicker.*

WEIGHT WILL SUE

The Dukes for Withholding Some Information.

For several days, the rumor that Mr. R. H. Wright would sue W. Duke, Sons & Co., for damages has reached this office, and an opportunity offering itself this morning, a reporter asked Mr. Wright about it.

It will be remembered that three or four years ago, Mr. Wright sold his partnership interest in the concern to the other partners for $39,000. During the trial of the Bonsack company against the Dukes at Charlotte last week, the evidence disclosed a fact which Mr. Wright thinks justifies him in bringing suit for damages.

He alleges that a very valuable asset of the company was withheld from his knowledge, and purposely so, as a letter now in his possession will show. If he had known of this asset, Mr. Wright says he would not have sold at such figures. When asked pointedly if he intended to bring suit, he said that his lawyers had the matter in their hands.—*Durham Globe.*

OVER WAS HIS UNCLE.

He had a Family Justification For Being Positive.

He introduced himself to me by blandly contradicting a statement that I made to my companion concerning a matter in Chicago, about which I had rather intimate knowledge. A little later I remarked that the law in New York was so and so. He observed that I was mistaken. Of course the conversation did not concern him, but I was so foolish as to reply. I mentioned a certain case in the court of oyer and terminer. He replied severely that I quoted it incorrectly.

Then—more foolishly—I got a little nettled and offered to bet and show him the report.

"Of the books for it that way the books is wrong," he answered, blandly.

"Indeed," said I, "you seem to have a rather intimate acquaintance with oyer and terminer." I thought that would crush him.

"Huh—well, I should say," he answered, triumphantly.

That staggered me a little, but I ventured to ask him how he got it, and what do you think he said? Without changing a muscle he retorted:

"Mr. Oyer is my uncle."

Of Course It's a Woman.

The hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rocks the world.

The mother, sitting beside and rocking the cradle, often singing her sad lullaby, may be thus shaping, as it were, the destinies of nations. But if diseases, consequent on motherhood, have borne her down, and sapped her life, how mournful—will be her song. To cheer the mother, brighten her life, and brighten her song, Dr. Pierce of Buffalo has, after long experience, compounded a remedy which he has called his "Favorite Prescription," because ladies preferred it to all others. He guarantees it to cure leucorrhœa, nervousness, pains, bearing-down pains, irregularities, and floxes, or prolapsus, headache, weakness, or any of the ailments of the female organs. What he asks is, that the ladies shall give it a fair trial, and satisfaction is assured. Money refunded, if it does not give satisfaction.

Parnell Married.

London, June 25.—Everything tends to confirm the report that Parnell was married to-day to Mrs. O'Shea. The lady joined Parnell while the latter was en route to Steyning, at which place they were seen together during the afternoon. The vicar of the parish of Steyning denies that Parnell and Mrs. O'Shea were married at his church, but, he added, they could be married at any one of a half dozen other churches in the district.

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Look up our former advertisements in this paper and you may find a chance to save money. We send to our patrons whether old or new. Our address is 311 South Elm Street, McAden Block,
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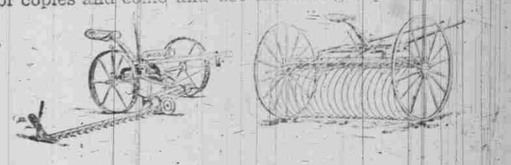

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