

W. W. HALL, } PROPRIETORS.
J. W. SLEDGE, }
THURSDAY : JULY 28, 1881.

JUSTICE NATHAN CLIFFORD, of the United States Supreme Court, died in Maine on Monday. Judge Clifford's health had been very bad for some time and he was stricken with paralysis.

PRESIDENT Garfield had been getting on very well and strong hopes were entertained of his early recovery, until Saturday when he had a slight chill brought on by the formation of a pus cavity. His pulse rapidly increased to 130 and the greatest alarm and excitement prevailed. An incision was made to the cavity and the pus let out, and his condition then became better. No cause exists for immediate fear unless another pus cavity forms, which the physicians do not anticipate. Many prominent physicians approve of the course of treatment, but Dr. Hammond late Surgeon General, condemns it and is severe on Dr. Bliss and his assistants. The latest accounts say the President's condition is favorable and that he is doing remarkably well considering the great suffering he has undergone.

The Charlotte Democrat speaking of the manner of electing Judges in this State says:

If there is one thing of more importance in North Carolina than anything else in the way of Constitutional amendments, it is a change of the manner of electing Judges. The election should be restored to the Legislature. Elections by popular vote has caused much alarm—it has not promoted the dispatch of business in the Courts, nor has it added much talent or ability to the Bench, but on the contrary it has put in office some very weak men, good and honest, but feeble, weak and of a negative character. The most popular man among the people is not always the one to make a good Judge. It may not be popular to speak thus about elections and Judges, but it is true nevertheless. In every point of view, it would be better for a Judge to owe his election to 170 men (members of a Legislature elected by the people) than to 230,000 voters, to each of whom he has to appeal for his election, and with whom he desires to be popular.

As election day approaches the people begin to talk more concerning the liquor question, and the feelings are becoming enlisted. This is to be deplored. There should be no anger or bad blood engendered by the question, but it should be settled like all other things calmly and quietly at the ballot box.

That the evil of intemperance is great no one denies. Neither is it denied that something should be done to check it; but we believe no law can be framed which will stop it. As we heard a gentleman of acknowledged ability and judgment, and one who stands deservedly high in the opinions of our people say the other day, an act of the Legislature will not effect what the Christian religion, pride, sense, morals, fathers and mothers have not been able to accomplish in a thousand years.

Change and improve the law so that it will accomplish good, and everybody will support it, but it is impossible to prevent drinking by forbidding it.

There has always been a mystery about the fate of the second colony which settled on Roanoke Island in 1587. After landing, the vessel returned to England and was detained for some time. When it arrived at Roanoke Island there was no trace of the colony save the one word "Croatan" rudely carved on a tree. It has been surmised that that colony became amalgamated with the Indians for the reason that many Indians had blue eyes and some of them said some of their ancestors were white people and "could talk in a book."

The Washington correspondent of the Goldsboro Messenger has found from old writings that this colony with the exception of seven persons was destroyed by order of Powhatan although it was not in his dominion; that these seven persons were taken to Ritanoe in the up country, and were made to work in copper mines for the Indian king; that they taught the savages how to build stone houses having two or more stories; that they intermarried with the Indians, and that when the British arrived at Jamestown in 1607, more than twenty years after, they were slaughtered by command of Powhatan without reason. So the fate of these colonists has after many years been ascertained and no longer remains a mystery.

The correspondent of the Messenger gains these facts from "The History of Travels into Virginia Britania by William Strachey Secretary of the colony published in 1849 by the Hakluyt Society London, and which has been in obscurity until recently.

On Friday the Republicans of the New York Legislature held a conference and agreed to elect Elbridge G. Lapham Senator to succeed Mr. Conkling; so when the Convention met on that day he was elected, receiving ninety-two votes—twenty-four more than a majority. The row is now postponed until Mr. Conkling sees his chance to hurt somebody.

We do not believe the Republican party in New York, especially, has gotten rid of Mr. Conkling. He will continue to make himself felt whenever he wishes. We believe he still has great influence.

The indictment and arraignment of James T. Christian for the murder of William G. Whitney on the 25th of last month attracts some attention here, chiefly from the general impression that the evidence developed since the Coroner's inquest puts a new light on the case. The murdered man, it will be remembered, was the son of Mrs. Myra Clark Gaines, and the accused is her son-in-law. The former was a worthless, drunken fellow and the latter reputed a model young man. There was a mutual hostility between them, owing to real or imaginary favoritism of Mrs. Gaines and the possibility of a corresponding division of her property, which is said to involve millions. The local press has done a good deal towards wrongly prejudging the case in favor of the model son-in-law, if subsequent stories may be relied upon. The fact that the mother of the murdered man was believed to sustain the murderer did much toward this sentiment. Nothing could be further from the truth. Mrs. Gaines regards the deed with utmost horror. A boarder in the house at the time informs you correspondent that no doubt now exist in her mind that it was a deliberately-planned murder, coolly executed when it was thought the plea of self-defense might be successfully made, whatever the subsequent developments. The Court acted upon the evidence before the Coroner and fixed the bail at \$5,000. Mrs. Gaines was asked to go his bail by some of his friends, a proposition which she indignantly refused.—Exchange.

AT THE BOTTOM OF IT. One of the greatest political errors which any statesman has ever committed, lies at the bottom of Mr. Conkling's present failure to secure the support of the Republican Legislature of New York. This error was not his resignation, although that was something which could not be justified on the grounds he assigned for it. It was not his antagonism toward the late Fraudulent Administration, nor toward the Administration of Garfield, which he helped to elect on an express understanding agreed upon at Mentor between Gen. Garfield and Simon Cameron of Pennsylvania. Neither was it his lack of courage to prevent the inauguration of the Fraudulent Administration. Lamentable, grave, and pernicious as that was, Mr. Conkling has been guilty of a more pernicious error, of a fault more difficult to forgive.

This error, this fault, this dark and deadly political sin, consists in his adherence to the project of a third term for Gen. Grant, in defiance, and violation of the unwritten law of the American people, of the most sacred and important tradition connected with the Presidency. Had Mr. Conkling chosen to pursue a different course; instead of favoring the unjustifiable ambition of Gen. Grant, had he employed his brilliant abilities in resisting it like a man and a patriot, there would today be no other citizen of the Empire State so powerful, so honored, and so enviable as Roscoe Conkling.—New York Sun.

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