

The value of the land in North Carolina is \$74,221,895. Raleigh Baptist Seminary has the Kindergarten in full operation. Goldsboro has shipped 17,000 bales of cotton this season, and 13,000 more are expected.

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THE OVERHAULING OF THE NAVY DEPARTMENT.

That the former Secretary of the Navy, Robeson, should be investigated and criminally prosecuted, we have not doubted for some years. If in private life, in the transactions between man and man, a person were to act as this Secretary of the Navy under Grant acted, he would soon find himself a member of the penitentiary striped brigade.

We do not suppose there is the slightest doubt of his guilt. The investigations made by the House Committee on Naval Affairs, of which Mr. Whitthorne is Chairman, are such as to satisfy any man not blinded by party zeal that Secretary Robeson, and some of his subordinates, were a rascally set and richly deserve severe punishment.

The Radicals on this Naval committee have shown but little zeal or interest in the investigation, whilst the Democrats have been earnest and laborious in their efforts to arrive at the truth.

The report of the committee is to be soon presented to the House. It gives the needed information, and exposes fully, as we learn, the flagrant violations of law of which the Secretary of Navy was guilty, and certain others connected with that Department. The Washington Post thus summarizes what is set forth in the report:

In the first place it shows that, up to the close of the fiscal year 1877, over nine hundred and sixty millions of dollars have been expended upon the purchase of supplies for the Navy since the organization of the government. Of this amount \$416,787,272.00 was expended since 1864, and under the eight years of Grant the sum of \$153,460,638 in money in addition to millions of dollars worth of accumulated material, was expended. Besides this vast outlay Mr. Robeson left a demand for an appropriation of \$2,563,861.27 to meet certain deficiencies, and left the Bureau of the Department in debt to the amount of \$3,400,563.89, which he called upon Congress to pay.

Let justice be done though it shake the bottom out of the characters of these faithless and venal officials.

From a Washington telegram of the 17th, we learn that the committee will withhold the report for the present in order that the accused may have an opportunity to furnish proof as desired by them, to show that the charges preferred are false. The time granted for this purpose extends until January 14, and it is understood that in order to allow full opportunity for the introduction of new evidence, the committee will hold sessions during the holiday recess.

Nothing will be done this Congress in all probability, and Robeson will be a member of the 46th Congress.

The Washington Post interviewed Hon. Alfred M. Waddell, chairman of the House Committee on Post-offices and Post Roads, in regard to the action of the Postoffice Department as to the railway mail service. He was asked what he thought of it. We give the main points. Mr. Waddell said:

"That it will be exactly right. I told that last winter in the House, when Mr. Key sent in his estimate, that he was right, and that if they expected him to keep up that sort of service they should give him the money to do it with."

"Your committee has some control of the matter, has it not?" "Not the least."

"Does not the Committee on Appropriations act on your recommendations?" "No; they disregard our recommendations, and snub us at all times. Last session after our committee had set upon measures for six weeks, and presented carefully prepared bills, they were contemptuously thrown aside, without consideration, by this all-powerful committee."

"What is your committee for, then?" "Like a great many others, ornamental, I suppose. The Committee on Appropriations has absorbed all of the power of the House. The rest of us have but comparatively little to say in legislative matters."

The House electoral bill. The electoral bill of the House committee, of which Mr. Southard is chairman, is too long for our columns, or we would publish it. It is no doubt a better bill than the Edmunds bill which passed the Senate. It maintains the spirit and intent of the Constitution. It reserves to the States the exclusive right of selecting their electors. The mode and manner as heretofore have not been changed. In the event of a controversy in any State as to the appointment or eligibility of electors, the same may be passed upon by the highest judicial tribunal, and the decision thereof shall be certified by such tribunal to the President of the Senate. This decision may be made either before or after the casting of the vote by the State electors. This decision of the supreme judicial tribunal shall be conclusive unless reversed by both Houses. If there are decisions from two or more tribunals claiming to be the highest judicial tribunal, the two Houses shall determine which is the lawful tribunal, and its decision shall be held as conclusive unless reversed by both Houses.

Whipping Post. The whipping of a white woman at the whipping-post in Richmond, Va., a few days ago, is furnishing a new argument for opposition to its revival. There is a growing conviction, however, in the North and in the South, that the whip or hickory is a good reformatory agent, and there is a disposition to either adopt it for the first time, or to return to it on the part of States that once employed it. The Philadelphia Times says of the growing inclination to revive the whipping-post:

"There is an evident disposition in many parts of the country to re-adopt the whip as a method of punishment for crime. While Delaware, clinging so persistently to the ancient plan, stood alone for years and preserved, by the sheer force of her persistency, the life of the system, which everywhere else had perished, several other States have joined her, or at present seem likely to do so. In Virginia, for a year or two past, whipping for larceny has been quite common in South Carolina it has been to some extent introduced, and from the tenor of the discussions in the California Constitutional Convention, it is estimated likely that that State will incorporate it in a new penal system."

That paper notes the fact that the Legislature of Kentucky a bill to re-establish it failed of its passage, whilst the Constitution of Georgia expressly forbids the use of the lash as a penal method.

There is a growing sentiment in North Carolina, we think, favorable to its reestablishment. The penitentiary has failed to deter criminals or to lessen crime. The convicts rather enjoy being well-housed, well-fed, well-clothed, and with no more work to do than they would have if on the outside of the prison. They are sent to the penitentiary for stealing, and before they have been out a week after their time expires, they are at the same old tricks. The lash is much more dreaded than a sort of semi-imprisonment. If the whipping-post were restored as to stealing and the lighter offences against law, it would be found probably to work well.

That good time coming so long looked for and so lagging in the rear will not be with us, we fear, during 1879. The monetary outlook is not cheering in Europe or America. We have not much hope for better times as yet. The following, from the Charleston News and Courier, tells a sad story for that city:

The spectacle presented to the country by the publication of the city sheriff's notice for the sale of the real estate and other property of nearly twelve hundred citizens of Charleston, will well fill the minds of its people with the greatest indignation as to the causes which have induced this wholesale auction of the city of Charleston. There never was a period of time during the past fifty years when there was so universal a money famine among the people of the city.

Christmas Box. We were much gratified to learn of the success of Messrs. Poisson, Munde and Robinson, the committee of St. John's Lodge No. 1, in procuring Christmas contributions for the Orphan Asylum, as through the kindness of the Railroad and Express authorities they were given, on Thursday last, free transportation for nearly two dry loads of articles, consisting in part of star, tea, coffee, raisins, oranges, apples, candy, cakes, clothing, &c., to make the children happy, while fire crackers were not forgotten for the merriment of the boys; and the committee, in behalf of the orphan, tender their sincere thanks to the ladies, gentlemen, children, merchants and Masons who so generously responded to their call.

Important to Cotton Purchasers. State Treasurer Worth has called the attention of the Register of Deeds to the fact that many persons in different towns and cities in this State are engaged almost exclusively in the purchase of cotton, who pay no tax for said privilege, while by examination of the Revenue law of 1876-77, section 12, Schedule B, it will be found that they are bound to pay one tenth of one cent, on all purchases, as other merchants, and that it is made the duty of the Register to prosecute every one who refuses or fails to pay, not only for this year, but also for the year 1877.

Death of Mr. W. G. Fowler, Jr. Yesterday morning a telegram was received by the way of Statesville, from Mr. John J. Fowler, dated at 11 A. M., stating that his brother was still alive, but that he was sinking, and mentioning further, that two negroes had been arrested on suspicion of having made the assault upon him. This telegram prepared the relatives and friends of the unfortunate gentleman for the distressing telegraphic announcement received from Mr. J. J. Fowler, at Charlotte, last evening, as follows:

"Brother expired this forenoon at 11 o'clock. Just arrived here with remains. Look for us to-morrow night."

Mr. Fowler was stricken down on his way from his store to his residence at Mooresville, Iredell county, on Tuesday evening last, and was soon afterwards discovered lying insensible on the pavement, with two or three severe wounds on the head, administered with a bit of wood, and which the attending physicians feared at the time of examination had resulted in fracturing his skull. This, no doubt, was the case.

Mr. Fowler removed from this city to Mooresville last spring, with the view of benefiting his health by a residence in that section of the State. The change had resulted in very marked improvement, and he was also doing well in a pecuniary point of view when he met with the misfortune that ended in his untimely death, having also secured the respect and esteem of the people among whom he had so lately cast his lot. The deceased leaves a wife and one child to mourn his sad fate.

Yesterday's Charlotte Observer, received last night, alluding to the outrage, says: "When the train passed Mooresville, yesterday afternoon, Mr. W. G. Fowler, the merchant who was knocked down and robbed there night before last, was thought to be in a driving condition. He hasn't spoken since the occurrence. Several persons were arrested under suspicion, but as yet no positive evidence has been obtained against any. The citizens of the place are greatly incensed at the outrage, and every effort is being made to discover the perpetrator, and they are not likely to stop till this is done. A brother of the victim, Mr. J. J. Fowler, came up from his home in Wilmington last night, and will go on to Mooresville to-day."

Fender Superior Cases. The case of Allen Mathes, colored, charged with the murder of Reuben Herring, colored, was set for trial in this Court yesterday, but was finally continued until next term. The ground of continuance was the fact that one Henderson Davis, colored, of this city, was reported to have heard, while on jail last week, some confessions made by the woman Lucy Herring, which it was thought could be used to the advantage of the prisoner, and the case was continued in order that he could be summoned and testify as to the character and extent of said confession.

James Mosely, an old colored man, sixty years of age, convicted of rape, his victim being a colored woman, was sentenced to be hung on the 14th of March next. Daniel Miller, colored, was sentenced to three years in the penitentiary, provided he fails to pay the fine and costs imposed by the Court.

Allen Mathes, James Mosely and Daniel Miller were brought to this city last night, in charge of Deputy Sheriff Bordeaux, and returned to their old quarters in the county jail. Herring, implicated in the murder of Reuben Herring, and who turned State's evidence, was sent to Duplin county jail.

The Mooreville Tragedy. [Charlotte Observer.] At 10:45 yesterday morning, Mr. W. G. Fowler, the Mooresville merchant, was waylaid, knocked down and beaten and robbed, Tuesday night, while on his way from his store to his dwelling in that town, died. He remained in an unconscious state to the last, and consequently could give no information as to the identity of the perpetrator of the outrage. An examination of his skull revealed the fact that it had been fractured in several different places, showing that the highway robber undoubtedly intended to kill his victim, before taking his money.

Night before last Mr. J. F. McLean and another citizen, who arrested two negroes, to Gillespie and Jule Davidson, and yesterday morning they were taken before Justices Harris and Walker for trial. As there were no witnesses to the occurrence, of course there was much difficulty in obtaining testimony other than that which could be drawn from the two men. Finally, however, Gillespie confessed to being implicated in the crime, but Mr. Egan, while Davidson committed the deed. The latter denied this, and his testimony tended to convict Gillespie. At 12 o'clock the court adjourned for dinner, leaving the prisoners in charge of officers.

By this time two or three hundred people had collected in the place, and considerable excitement prevailed, having greatly increased since the announcement of the death of Mr. Fowler. The conduct and assertions of the accused men forced the conviction that one or both of them were guilty. So determined were the crowd to get out the matter that two or three men took Davidson out of the hands of the officers and, placing a rope around his neck, hung him up for a while to make him confess what he knew. He persistently refused, and at the meantime Mr. Isaac Harris and Mr. John Shepherd entered the room and prevailed upon the men to take him down.

The trial was resumed in the afternoon, but was not concluded, the magistrates declining to adjourn till this morning at 9 o'clock, when it is believed that one or the other of the men can be induced to make a confession.

In the meantime, however, it is greatly feared that the people of the town and neighborhood will become so incensed that they will lynch the men without further testimony. Our information is that many of them are firmly convinced that both men are guilty, and public sentiment has been so grossly incited by the outrage upon an esteemed citizen that it will be difficult to restrain them. Indeed, so intense was the feeling there yesterday throughout the day, and so determined are the people to bring the guilty to punishment, that all the stores were closed, and business of every kind suspended, the citizens giving themselves up entirely to the investigation of the crime.

Mr. Fowler had only been a citizen of Mooresville about a year, but during that time he has won the confidence and respect of all who were brought into business or social relations with him.

The Cotton Tax.

[Raleigh Observer.] The following letter from Dr. Worth will be found full of interest: RALEIGH, Dec. 17, 1878. C. N. Simpson, Esq., Register of Deeds, Monroe, N. C.:

"You state further that 'they are willing to pay from now on, but not the back. They acknowledge by this expression their liability to the tax, but fail to recognize the full requirement of the law. Please refer them to the language of section 12, schedule B, which is explicit and unmistakable: 'Every merchant, jeweler, grocer, druggist, and every other trader who, as principal or agent, carries on the business of buying or selling goods, wares, or merchandise, of whatever name or description, except such as are specially taxed elsewhere in this act, shall, in addition to his ad valorem tax, pay as a privilege tax' &c."

It cannot be denied that cotton is an article of merchandise, and that it is not specially taxed elsewhere in the act. The law, as contained in section 12, applies also to purchasers of corn, tobacco, and all other articles of merchandise not specially taxed elsewhere in the act. If the parties fail to furnish you with the list as required, it is your duty to notify the Solicitor of your District of the fact, and he will take the matter in hand. I am of opinion that strictly barter transactions are not taxable, but all purchases are clearly liable.

Very respectfully, J. M. WORTH, State Treasurer.

MORGANTON, N. C., Dec. 15.

Editor Star.—In your issue of the 13th appears an article signed "North Carolina," in which it is charged that the officers of this Company are hostile to the interest of Wilmington. Such is far from being the case, as was shown by our article. Every previous administration had charged full freights to Salisbury for all articles in Wilmington, though they left our road at Statesville, twenty-six miles this side. It was clearly to our interest to act as our predecessors had, we looked only to our own interest, without considering the great advantage to the State in building up the trade of Wilmington. Our road being a State road, is open alike to the freights of all, and by investigation "North Carolina" will find that the trouble is not where he has located it. From old associations and friendships your city has a warm place in my affections, and her interest has never suffered from any wish or order of mine.

Very respectfully, Your obt. serv't, JAS. W. WILSON, Pres't, W. N. C. R. R.

Support of Lunatics Outside of the Asylum.

[Raleigh News.] Mr. Partin, clerk in the Auditor's office, has prepared a table showing the number of lunatics supported by the State in the various counties, as well as the cost of their maintenance. There are only sixty counties in which lunatics are so kept, and there are of these 342. The total amount paid for their support from March 12, 1877, to January 1st, 1878, was \$24,423.96. The other counties of the State have no lunatics outside the Asylum. There are ten counties that claim less than \$100 for the support of these unfortunate. Eight counties claim less than \$200; ten claim less than \$300; five claim less than \$400; eight claim less than \$500; while nineteen counties paid to Rutherford, whose lunatics thus supported are 23 in number. New Hanover has the largest number, 20, and charges \$1,361.77. Wake has only 12 thus supported, and they cost only \$725. The county whose charges are the smallest is Anson, which has only 864.

Who Killed Simon Cameron's Brother?

[Special dispatch to the Post.] Sr. Louis, Dec. 17.—In connection with the story of Gov. Wade Hampton having shot and killed Col. Jas. Cameron, brother to Simon Cameron, at the battle of Bull Run, after Cameron had surrendered, Henry Coeiner says: "I was a member of the Seventy-ninth New York Regiment, of which Cameron was Colonel; was at Bull Run and was with him, not ten feet away, when he fell, and was the first to raise him up. The Rebels were three or four hundred yards away, cannonading us, and we could not see them, they being screened by trees and bushes. Cameron fell long before our regiment was forced to surrender."

A Prominent Carolinian Quoting Scripture.

[Mechanic and Farmer.] But the worst we happen to know of, is the boast of a worthy North Carolinian, (who at one time held a prominent place in public life,) concerning his flask, i. e., that it was "like the widow's oil." "How was that?" asked one of the party. "Why," granted the old Colonel, "but you never read in the Testament 'bout the widow Crews file, an' the more she put in the fuller it got. No, hold on—it's this way—the more she drank the fuller it got! You'll find all about it in the Scriptures, but I disremember the chapter." The Colonel's guest was lucky enough to suppress himself in time without necessitating any explanation that the "widow's cruise of oil" was not a drinkable concoction.

— Tom Evans gets off a good article on the closing up of the year. Long may the Zions live. — The cost of the new brick stores built in Goldsboro in the last eighteen months were \$300,000. — The retail trade of Goldsboro this year is \$1,500,000. Its wholesale business is large and growing. — The Goldsboro Messenger came to us with a large supplement containing a review of the business of that flourishing burg.

— The Graham Gleaner denies the statement of the Raleigh News that the county officers of Alamance had failed to give bonds. — An eight year old negro girl was burned to death in Wayne county recently. She was cooking dinner when her dress caught fire. — Rev. Dr. Sutton will leave Pittsboro, where he has resided for eighteen years, and take charge of the Episcopal church at Greensboro.

— The Shelby Aurora says Mr. James Love, aged 83, Mr. Gilbert Fenison, aged 84, Mr. Moses Rose, aged 84, and Mr. Richard McGinnis, aged 80, four of the oldest citizens of Cleveland county, have died in less than one month. — Raleigh News: That talented and easy writer, Maj. W. A. Hearse, is now on the editorial staff of the Observer, of the city. His editorial on educational improvement question are forcible, and conspicuous for their clearness and argument. — Goldsboro Mail: From a private communication received in this place we learn that Frank C. Wags, a merchant at Wags's Store, Robeson county, committed suicide on Thursday night last week by shooting himself through the head with a pistol.

— Raleigh Observer: The authorities discharged from the penitentiary on Thursday, Jack Owsen, a misdoer, convicted in Robeson county of larceny, and sentenced to the penitentiary in March, 1876. He is about 39 years old, 5 feet 7 inches high, and weighed when admitted 145 pounds.

In Cherokee county, some days ago, as stated by a correspondent of the Raleigh News, Wesley Thompson and Henry Palmer, colored, the latter an ex-convict of this State, got into a difficulty, the result of a game of cards, when Thompson shot Palmer through the body, just above the hip, with a pistol. Palmer is dead and Thompson was arrested.

— Raleigh News: The Happy Ethiopian Minstrel, colored, will delight the subscribers to Metropolitan Hall next Monday evening. — While the papers are in press yesterday, was driving along Martin street yesterday, with a load of cotton, his mule ran away. Dick fell off, and a wheel of the wagon passed over his legs, bruising them badly, but luckily fracturing no bones.

— Concord Register: Bro. Deake, of the Roan Mountain Republican, hosts the broad penit of "our great Ulysses" for President, and Capt. "Tommy Settle" for Vice President. How sad Bro. D.'s head is out of balance in Federal policy. But when he comes to State matters, let's "right side up," and ring up Dossey Battle for Governor. We say ams; Dossey Battle, the brightest man in the State; Dossey Battle for the next term, and the candidate for Governor of North Carolina.

— Greensboro Patriot: We understand that there is a petition in circulation in this county, Alamance, Rockingham and Davidson, praying the Legislature to pass an act to apply to these counties similar to that in force in Mecklenburg and portions of Cabarrus county. The members of the Lutheran church are holding daily and nightly meetings this week at the Good Templar's Hall, under the direction of Revs. Messrs. Kimball, Adams, and others. An act was caught in Cobb's post last week which measured three feet eight and a half inches in length and eight and a half inches around, and weighed five and a half pounds.

— Charlotte Observer: Mr. Dumont informs us that he has been agreeably surprised at the interest which has been manifested by Northern settlers in the South in his plan to call a meeting of this class of citizens in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, to be held in Charlotte on the 19th of January next, for the purpose of giving public expression to their views as to the inducements which these States offer to emigrate, and to make collectively as to the treatment which Northern men receive at the South when they come as bona fide settlers. He states that he has received a number of letters in reply to the circular recently published in the Observer, and that the plan is universally commended.

— Tarboro Southern: Mr. Creech is fairly waiting off on his ear because he has discovered a lady, Mrs. Rebecca Hayman, of Kitty Hawk, who is 120 years old. She does her own washing and steps five miles as easy as cat. Let's pass 'em in Bro. Kingsbury. — The Anderson Rifles, of Ringwood, Halifax county, are now armed and equipped as the law directs. — Mr. Egan, while Davidson committed the deed. The latter denied this, and his testimony tended to convict Gillespie. At 12 o'clock the court adjourned for dinner, leaving the prisoners in charge of officers. — Reply of the Edgecombe Charitable Board to the Rev. Man, dated Monday, 19th of January next, that weighed 468 pounds. — The Mac Jones plantation, about five miles from town, were burned. At midnight of Wednesday Messrs. Archibald Stiles and T. M. Barnes, in Martin county, lost their gin house by an incendiary torch, on which there was no insurance.

— Charlotte Observer: At the prayer-meeting service at Calvary Church last night, the pastor announced that Mrs. Mary Moon, the Quaker revivalist, would visit Charlotte in January, and would begin a revival meeting at that church. — A party of revenue officers—Deputy Collectors Caldwell, Lewis, Jenkins and Walker—Friday before yesterday seized a still and fixtures and about five hundred gallons of beer, belonging to Mr. John Herring, in Gaston county. — The fall term of Davidson College closes Friday, and the examinations are progressing. Over a hundred students have matriculated up to this time, and additions are expected when the new term opens, two weeks hence.

— There hasn't been a fire of any consequence in Charlotte during a year, not Christmas week hasn't come yet. — In the House of Representatives, Monday, Mr. Steele presented the petition of Mrs. W. R. Wetmore, and seventy-eight other citizens of Charlotte, praying the Legislature to make effective the anti-polygamy law of 1862. The petition was referred to the committee on the Judiciary. — Colonel John L. Brown, assignee, in this week paying a second dividend of 5 per cent. to the creditors of McMurray & Davis, bankrupts. A dividend of 40 per cent. had previously been declared and paid. — The city ordinances of Charlotte forbid not only the popping of fire crackers and the explosion of Roman candles, &c., but the sale of the same. No chance for fun for the boys this year.