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THE INCREASE OF THE NEGROES.

Is the colored race increasing or decreasing? The last census represents a larger increase among the negroes than among the whites. But is this trustworthy? We think not and for this reason.

Whether the negroes are increasing or diminishing in numbers we will not undertake to say positively. But this we may affirm: if the death rate in the country is even half as great as it is in the towns and cities then there must be a very low rate of increase.

As we have before us the mortality statistics of Richmond, Va., for the last year, we will cite the facts in order to show how great the mortality is among the blacks in one city that is not exceptional by any means.

Population of the city, 65,000—white, 38,200; colored, 26,800. Rate of mortality of whole population, 40.00 per 1,000 per annum; rate of mortality of white population, 21.78 per 1,000 per annum; rate of mortality of colored population, 65.97 per 1,000 per annum.

An analysis of this report will reveal some startling facts. There were 2,600 deaths in a population of 65,000. Of these 832 were whites and 1,768 were blacks. That is, of 38,200 whites 832 died; whilst of 26,800 blacks 1,768 died.

The negroes can never be the same potent factors in politics again as they were during the first ten years after the war. They may increase, but the growth of the white population, by births and immigration, must, in a few decades, place the negroes so much in the minority that they will not be able to control, to any appreciable extent, the politics of the country.

Clarkson N. Potter was in his 57th year. He was a son of the late Bishop Alonzo Potter, of Pennsylvania, and grandson of the late Rev. Dr. Elihat Nott, President of Union Theological College.

Mr. Levin P. Collins, a wealthy gentleman of much personal worth, and highly respected generally, died in Philadelphia of grief, of a broken heart over the robberies of his son, a dissipated young book-keeper.

THE PROOF OF THE PUDDING.

The Star takes a peculiar interest in the growth of cotton manufacturing. Our readers will bear witness to our zeal in trying to promote that very important industry, and how prompt we were to combat the selfish views of certain New England writers of the Atkinson school who thought they could see great reason for doubting if the South could compete with the North in advantages.

Mr. Atkinson and his associates who doubt will have to give way before the plain facts. That shows how imperfect and inconclusive was the theory. Large profits—much larger than those of New England—have established the fact that well managed factories pay first rate.

There is no better indication of what is thought of the matter outside than the investment of a large amount of Northern capital in our mills. Many of these are in New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Cincinnati—who have thus invested their money have never been to Augusta in order to inspect its great natural advantages.

In Augusta four large new factories are either completed or in course of erection. This shows confidence and courage. Where the cotton milling business thrives other mills spring up. What Augusta does other towns may do if favored with equal natural advantages.

The Guitau jury, after being out less than an hour, returned a verdict of guilty. This disappoints thousands. The country will say well done. Now the hanging comes next in order.

Our venerable friend, Mr. Geo. R. French, Sr., having attained yesterday to the good old age of eighty years, celebrated the event by a pleasant social gathering at his residence, on the southeast corner of Fourth and Dock streets, last evening.

Editor Star—"A Note from the County Superintendent" received more consideration than I had any idea it would. Please accept my thanks. It would be a great help to me to speak now and then to some of my co-laborers through your paper.

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PERSONAL.

We have received a letter from Rev. Dr. G. D. Bernheim, formerly of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, of this city, in which, after referring to his recent unanimous election as President of North Carolina College, located at Mt. Pleasant, Cabarrus county, already mentioned by us, and his acceptance of the position, says the term of office will not commence until the 25th of May next, when the present scholastic year has expired.

Chief of Police Brock received a telegram yesterday morning, from Messrs. Southland & Newberry, of Magnolia, Duplin county, announcing that their safe had been broken open the previous night, and requesting him to have a look-out for the town's presumption is that there was a considerable amount of money in the safe, possibly including deposits made by other parties. However, this is only conjecture, and we may have fuller particulars before going to press.

Later intelligence from Magnolia reports the amount taken from the safe as \$6,000; but no further particulars are given.

From a letter from Mr. Newbury, of the firm of Newbury & Southland, of Magnolia, his brother, Mr. F. A. Newbury, of this city, we have some additional particulars of the safe robbery mentioned in yesterday's paper. Mr. Newbury says the robbers got \$150 or \$200 in currency, \$400 or \$500 in silver, and the notes of the firm; policies, deeds, mortgages, receipts, etc.; also, deeds and papers belonging to other parties; one gold watch, six or seven silver ones; a pistol, gold ring; and, in fact, everything they could pocket. Messrs. Newbury & Southland scoured the woods in the vicinity the next day with the hope of finding their papers, but with no success.

It is thought the thieves did not come in this direction. The conductors say that no unknown or suspicious looking characters boarded the trains coming this way.

Referring to the meeting of the General Conference of the M. E. Church South in Nashville next May, and the fact that a Bishop is to be elected by that body, the Yates Telephone nominates Rev. Dr. Yates, formerly of this city, for the position in the following words: "We think there is as good material in the North Carolina Conference as there is in the Virginia Conference or in any other Conference within the bounds of the connection, to make a Bishop out of."

For the Star. RAILROAD MEETING AT POINT CASWELL. According to advertisement a very large crowd of people from the surrounding country met at this place, and at 10 o'clock the meeting was called together. On motion, Mr. Owen Alderman was called to the chair and Mr. E. A. Hawes was requested to act as Secretary.

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THE TRIAL OF GUITEAU.

The Court House packed with Judge Porter commenced the closing argument of the case against the accused.

Guitau, as usual, had the opening speech for the day in the course of which he served the following notice upon Judge Porter: "Now, in regard to Judge Porter, I want to say as he is a witness in the case, if he attempts to mislead the Court or jury I and my counsel will stop him."

Judge Porter's bodily weakness was plain to everyone, and he could scarcely stand except by the jury and those immediately around him. "Thus far," he said, "the trial has practically been conducted by the prisoner and Mr. Scoville. Every one has been deceived as to the nature of the case. I am informed that I will be interrupted by them both."

After showing who and what was the murderer, Judge Porter next described the victim, paying a glowing tribute to the character of the deceased.

Mr. Reed, with considerable excitement, but without rising from his seat, said, "If I were a juror I would vote for the crime, and such insolence to the Court should be punished."

Judge Porter resumed his argument, and proceeded to discuss the question of insanity, making a responsible mind a condition of liability for the crime.

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THE TENNESSEE FLOODS.

Continued Rise of the River—Large Numbers of People Driven from Homes—Great Loss of Property—Over Fifty Deaths Reported.

The river has surpassed the flood of 1847, and is still rising half an inch per hour, forcing an additional large number of people from their homes to-day and to-night. There seems to be no prospect of the river's abating.

The men have lost much lumber and the raftsmen have lost their rafts. The merchants have been forced to remove their goods from a large number of the cellars of stores on which the backwaters were encroaching.

The river at Clarksville is six inches above the rise of 1847. There have been no arrivals or departures of steamers. The Tennessee river is rising at Johnsonville at the rate of eighteen inches per hour.

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