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CRIME AND THE COURTS.

The Raleigh Chronicle has an able discussion of "Judicial Reform." It is well prepared and shows a large familiarity with the Courts and the defects of the present system. It says: "It is a mistake to say that crime is increasing in the State. Any person familiar with the criminal dockets for the past ten years knows that in regard to larceny there has been a great decrease, and that among the country people cases are becoming rare."

We believe our contemporary in this is egregiously mistaken. We would be glad if true, for our impression, drawn from our State contemporaries, is that during the last five years crime generally has increased, and especially the great crimes of murder and rape. We think the Judges would hardly agree with our respected contemporary. We have made up for ten and a half years nearly the digest of State news daily for the Star, and we believe that the items of crime gathered during the last five years are more numerous than during the preceding five years. It strikes us as certain that more murders have been perpetrated and, possibly also more rapes, than in the preceding lustrium.

As to stealing we had supposed that it abounded to as great an extent as at any previous time in the history of the State. We had thought that the constantly increasing number of penitentiary convicts showed this. Persons who lost all of their chickens and turkeys during the late holidays, and persons whose stores have been broken into and whose dwellings have been robbed, will be comforted to learn that crime is really on the decrease in North Carolina. That is, if our friend, the Chronicle, is not in error. We shall be glad to be assured that we are wrong in our suppositions and conclusions.

We agree with our excellent contemporary in some of the other points it makes. There is a great need of change in the criminal code of the State, and steps should be taken to remedy the defects. The Chronicle suggests, and perhaps it is a wise suggestion: "We favor the appointment of a Commission to consist of one lawyer, one Attorney General and the Superintendent of the Penitentiary, whose duty it shall be to prepare a Code embodying the criminal law and prescribing a system of punishment and management of the penal institutions of the State."

The Chronicle also favors a quarterly court for each county. We incline to the opinion that this would remedy the evil referred to—keeping prisoners in jail for long terms, securing speedy trials and collecting debts promptly. This cannot be done without a change of the constitution. The Chronicle proposes to amend so as to enable the Judges to spend the same county at a shorter interval than that prescribed, and to enable the Legislature to lay off the State into three circuits, with four districts each. It says: "There are 95 counties and twelve Judges—assuming an equal division, which there could not be as some counties require more than four months to hold court, and eight counties to each district—thus giving thirty-two weeks a year to each district. Thirty-six weeks would be about the work of the courts, and the remaining six weeks would be for the counties requiring the additional time. There are a few very small counties—such as Johnston, which two weeks would suffice—thus giving the larger counties the additional weeks. The courts should go from one county to the next adjoining one, and not ride from one end of the State to the other to hold their courts. In the counties having so long terms two weeks terms are objectionable. Witnesses, jurors, officers and attorneys become weary after the first week and judgment will be difficult to secure, and it is so necessary to the conduct of a court."

This suggestion is certainly worth the attention of enlightened lawmakers and of the legal fraternity. We cannot confidently affirm that what is proposed is the right thing to be assured; something is needed to make the Courts more efficient and to secure a speedier justice. We have no great confidence in the improvement of morals and suppression of crime as long as three evils exist; the one man pardoning power; the present system of jury trials as juries are composed; and the sympathy for crimes and criminals that prevails to a greater or less extent in every community. Let a villain slay his fellow-man—let the murder be of the most heinous, fiend-like kind, and then allow a year or two years to elapse and a strong public sympathy for the incarnate devil is created inevitably and to punish him is to punish a martyr. We all know how softening, how alleviating is time. The mother who buries her tenderest, best loved offspring can look without heart laceration upon the dead one's little shoes and stockings and toys two or three years after death, whereas their very sight robs the heart strings in the early days of bereavement. Panish crime when it is fresh if you would prevent undue sympathy for villains and shut out

sentimental gush in the way of petitions. Let justice be done though the heavens fall. Let the laws be executed faithfully, fairly, firmly. If the criminal laws are on the side of crime then let them be amended. The people have some rights as well as the accused. The murdered victim of last and crime have outraged rights that cry out for vindication from their untimely graves. Society must be protected. The women of the land must be shielded from seducers and murderers. The violated and murdered women who sleep in lonely graves plead trumpet tongue for speedy justice and against condoning crime. If the laws of evidence are found to be too favorable to bloody handed murderers then change the laws. Trials are often conducted in such a way as not to vindicate and protect humanity but to shield crime. Evidence, under technical construction, is held out that is positively necessary to fasten guilt and secure proper punishment. The whole system is often worked in the direction of snatching a reformed offender from the clutches of the law and taking away proper safe guards from society.

Time is the great assuager. It softens the aggravations of crime and tends to making heroes of criminals. What a State needs is speedy trial and a quick execution of sentences. The law's delay is an unmitigated curse, and its failure to punish crime with a resolved and prompt hand is an outrage, not only villainy, but upon society.

CONCEALED WEAPONS.

The N. C. House of Representatives passed by a tremendous majority—more than three to one—the bill forbidding the sale of deadly weapons. This is perhaps better than allowing weapons to be sold and then forbidding their use. But a law will not cure the evil. South Carolina, Virginia, and New York will supply the pistols, &c., by mail or express. It will only prevent dealers at home from doing the business, or will throw it into the hands of law breakers who will take the hazard and do all the selling. You can not extirpate anything by legislation unless there is a sound public sentiment, and that sentiment sustains the law. The law against concealed weapons is very rarely enforced. We have no doubt that there are five thousand violations of the law every day. You can not cure the evil aimed at by taxation, as every household must own a pistol, gun or both. The present law against carrying concealed weapons is practically a dead letter and ought to be repealed. It puts law-abiding men at a serious disadvantage, and compels them sometimes to violate law for self-protection and safety.

THE SPOILS OF CIVIL SERVICE.

It is amazing to see Republicans in the Legislature trying to instruct Senator Vance how to vote upon Civil Service. They represent a party that enjoyed the plunder and pay for twenty-five years and undividedly. They induced the Congress to enact a law that gave the Republicans a still farther lease upon office. They were sharp enough to secure a law the operations of which were designed to retain in office many of the party friends and because they held the party. If the law had been intended to be fair and equitable in its working there would have been a division of office, giving to the Democrats half, to the law went into effect. For Republicans to essay to play the part of reformers is a little too ridiculous—reformers is a little too ridiculous—reformers is a little too ridiculous. For wood-dyed North Carolina Democrats to pretend to tell Senator Vance what his duty is is about as ridiculous as for an elephant to set up a dancing school. It is only another evidence of the unmitigated "cheek" of the representatives that corrupt old party that has been repudiated at the polls in two national elections, and has been beaten again and again in North Carolina.

Because of the aid of bolters of the Democratic party in North Carolina the old Radical party is able to propose very dangerous and absurd legislation. But it is not able to commit the Democrats of North Carolina to the grandest humbug of the age—that it is the solemn duty of an Administration that was elected as Democratic to appoint to important offices pronounced and active Republicans, to retain tens of thousands of other Republicans in office, and to exclude from office Democrats who are alike capable and honest.

We sincerely believe when Democrats in North Carolina openly espouse the Curtis-British system of life tenure in office—a system that is anti-republican, anti-democratic—and insist that it is eminently wise, judicious and virtuous for a Democratic Administration to foster the Republican party by taking care of its friends and claqueurs; and insist that it is the very height of moral and efficient statesmanship for a Democratic Administration to carry on the Government with Republican agents upon Republican methods for more to palliate the offense of party desertion, to disintegrate the Democratic party, and to invite independence than they could do by pursuing any other course.

If it is very right and proper and honest for a Democratic Administration to reward with office "its friends, the enemy," why is it so wrong for Pearson and his set to vote with "their friends, the enemy," when they think it is advisable? If there is so little difference between Republicans and Democrats that it is deemed expedient, proper and wise to divide the office between the two parties, why is it so criminal for Pearson and company to vote with the Republicans for measures or men? The Star repudiates out and out the whole business. It believes in the principles of the Democratic party. It believes that the two parties are and ought to be in eternal antagonism. It believes it is common-sense, common-fairness to employ the friends of those principles to execute them. It believes that life-tenure in office is monarchical, dangerous, and vicious. It has no political favors for those who oppose Democratic principles.

If the Civil Service system is so very good why is it so very wrong for Pearson to imitate the President's example and vote for legislative officers of both parties? He has been abused for supporting Republicans for office, but that is no more than Cleveland has done. Many Republican officials are now wearing and enjoying Cleveland's favors.

The Star is very sick of all such nonsense. Be something. Be a Republican or be a Democrat, but do not try to be both at the same time. If the Civil Service law be so admirable, so essential to efficient public service, then by all means apply it to all the offices, from the Presidency down, and to all State officers, from Governor to Justice of the Peace. Why not? But the Democrats who favor Cleveland's humbug will not dare ask for such a service in North Carolina. They know that it would disrupt and destroy the party in the State.

The Star must express its surprise at Mr. Leazer's declaration of independence. We wonder if he believes that Cleveland did right in appointing Pearson and Conger and the Louisville postmaster to the high offices they hold, blatant Radicals as they are? Can he believe that the President is wise in keeping so many Republicans in the offices in Washington? Mr. Leazer is probably the ablest Democrat in the House. He did not approve of the attack on Senator Vance, but he did endorse Cleveland. The most candid and consistent man that spoke in the House was Williams, a colored Republican. "He did not believe in Civil Service," and the honest Republicans generally are with him in this view, we have no doubt.

If the Democrats mean to endorse the Civil Service system in national affairs they ought to be forced to endorse it in State affairs also. It is far more essential, far more necessary to North Carolina taxpayers that there should be honesty, efficiency and capability among the officials of the State, counties and towns, than to have these qualifications in Washington offices or in other sections of the country. If it be true that the only way to secure these qualifications is by the Civil Service system then show your honesty and consistency by extending, widening it until it shall be all-embracing, and receive, counties and States shall all receive the blessings, and the President and all other officials shall undergo the same severe tests—the same scrutiny before examining boards.

Then it will come to pass that the Administration will be mixed—but a Democratic President shall have in part or all a Republican Cabinet, and Republicans may get the places. This will be quite apt to be the case if, as some Democrats seem to think, Republicans are better qualified for responsible offices than Democrats are qualified.

The annual report of the Chief of Engineers of the U. S. Army, in charge of river and harbor improvements, furnishes information in relation to the improvement of Cape Fear river, above and below Wilmington. Up to June 30, 1886, a total of \$1,698,471.74 has been spent in all upon the proposed improvement of the river below this city with great success, obtaining a 15 to 14-foot least depth of water at the main bar entrance, and completing to partial width the desired sixteen-foot channel twenty-eight miles further to Wilmington. This depth, combined with the average rise of tide (4.5 feet at the bar and 2.5 feet at Wilmington) is such that at present vessels loaded to 15 feet draught can readily go from Wilmington to the ocean in a single tide any day of the year. The total commerce, exports and imports, foreign and domestic, has increased from about \$18,000,000 of transported goods in 1870 up to about \$17,000,000 in 1886 (this increase being foreign commerce) showing that each dollar spent upon this improvement has been accompanied by the development of about \$3.40 of annual (foreign) commerce, although the last increase of two feet in draught in the river channel is too recent to have produced its effect in such development.

The officer in charge recommends that the improvement be carried on as originally projected, by completing the unfinished part of the work at the mouth of the river, and by widening and deepening the existing river channels to their full dimensions of 370 feet width and 16 feet least depth at low water, and by further protecting them against deterioration by submerged stone dikes where necessary, and by straightening, deepening and fixing the bar entrance, at a total expense of \$345,000, in addition to the amount available for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1887, to be appropriated in 1888. The bill for the next fiscal year. Smaller appropriations will increase the cost. So far as can be seen at present, this amount will complete all existing projects for this improvement.

After this improvement is finished, his proper maintenance may cost from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per year for a few years, but the improvement should be fairly permanent. For the improvement of the river above Wilmington, it is recommended that the work be completed in accordance with the present project, so as to secure a thoroughly clear four-foot channel to Elizabeth town, thence a similar three-foot channel to Fayetteville through eleven or twelve months of the year; at a total expense of about \$300,000, to be appropriated in yearly instalments of about \$30,000, as smaller appropriations will increase the cost. Up to June 30th, 1886, a total of \$64,580.81 had been spent in all upon this improvement.

Narrow Escape.

Mr. John Cooper and Mr. Gus Latham, of Smithville, had a narrow escape of drowning Monday last. The two men started about half-past 7 o'clock on the morning of that day from Lockwood's Ferry to Smithville in a shanty loaded with oysters. The wind was fair and the sea smooth, but when about four miles up the bay the wind began to blow with great force and the sea to rise, and when they had completed about nine miles of their journey, it was with great difficulty that they prevented their boat from sinking; waves sweeping over them and nearly filling the sharpie. They had about thirty bushels of oysters in bags on board, and were compelled to throw overboard some twenty bushels to keep the vessel from foundering. Finally, the boat was driven on the beach, about three miles from Castwell light, and the men managed to get ashore after being nearly drowned. Mr. Sam Newton, two boys and a colored man, were in the shanty with them at the afternoon and carried the men up to that place. The sharpie was badly damaged in its encounter with the waves.

Obituary.

Mr. James G. Bagley died last night in his 67th year. He was an active and successful farmer, and had been connected in Florida, prior to his removal to Wilmington about a week ago. Mr. Bagley had been engaged in the steamboat business on the Cape Fear for several years; being the owner of the steamer River Queen, destroyed by fire in March last, and partner of the steamer J. C. Stewart, which ran on the river between Wilmington and Fayetteville until a few months ago when the boat was sold to parties in Georgia or Florida. The funeral of the deceased will take place at half past 3 o'clock this afternoon, from the Second Presbyterian church.

New River's Oyster Farms.

The commerce of New River, the objective point of the proposed Wilmington & Annapolis Railroad, is estimated to be about \$400,000 per year. The report of the Chief Engineer in charge of government improvements says that from Jacksonville to its mouth, a distance of fourteen miles, it forms a fine basin of brackish water of from 500 to 10,000 feet width, of at least five feet channel depth, with 40,000 acres of oyster farms and with rich agricultural surroundings.

The Missing Ship.

So far as could be ascertained no information was received by any one in this city yesterday, either confirming or denying the rumor telegraphed from Raleigh Monday night that Walter L. Bigham was in custody. Members of the Burlington family were of the opinion that if he had been captured they would have been promptly advised of the fact. They think that Bigham is in hiding somewhere in the State of Texas, where he has relatives.

Sheriff's Settlement.

Gen. S. H. Manning, Sheriff of New Hanover county, settled in full last night with the County Commissioners for the taxes of this county for the year 1886, paying over as follows: State tax, \$1,686.86; county tax, \$1,502.81; general fund, \$68,463.28. Total, \$3,853.95.

Don't Experiment.

You cannot afford to waste time in experimenting when your lungs are in danger. Consumption always seems at first only a slight cough, but it is not long before it imposes upon you, and any cheap imitation of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Croup, and Croup, will be sure to get the genuine. Because he can make more profit he may tell you he has something just as good, or just the same. Don't be deceived, but insist upon getting Dr. King's New Discovery, which is guaranteed to give relief. It is the only medicine for Croup, Croup, and Croup. Trial bottles free at W. H. Green & Co.'s Drug Store.

Surveyors are at work on the Wilmington Coast-Line Railroad—from this city to Wrightsville Beach—and it is stated, authoritatively, that within thirty days grading will begin.

Forty-ninth Congress, Second Session.

The Centennial of the Constitution—Governments, Postal Telegraph—Dollars—People's Party—Excise Duties—Appropriation Bills—The Mexican Pension Bill Passed.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—Mr. Hoar, from the Select Committee on the Centennial of the Constitution, reported a resolution that it is expedient that the Centennial of the inauguration of the President of the United States, by the Constitution, be celebrated in April, 1889, by an address to be delivered before the President of the United States, and the House of Representatives, by the Chief Justice of the United States, and other representatives of the foreign governments that are invited to the celebration. The details thereof to be settled hereafter.

Mr. Edmunds called attention to the bill introduced by him and referred to the Postoffice and Post Roads Committee. He wished the committee to report it either favorably or unfavorably, so that he might try to get it passed. Mr. Edmunds offered a resolution, making it a standing rule that when the report of a Conference Committee, agreeing with the majority of the House, shall be received and under consideration, the first question thereon shall be, "Shall the Senate agree to the report?"

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Under the call of States a number of bills were introduced and referred. Among them the following: SENATE. Mr. Edmunds, of Pa., appropriating \$500,000 to promote the Colored People's World's Exhibition, to be held at Birmingham, Ala., in 1889. Mr. Lovinger, of Mass., granting a pension of \$25 a month to Walt Whitman. Mr. Lovinger stated that Whitman had been a justice of the peace in New York, and the bill was introduced at the request of a number of the poet's friends in Massachusetts.

The House, by 129 to 113, refused to take up the Inter-State Commerce Commission report to the exclusion of unfaithful conduct in the management of the rules and pass bills on the calendar. A letter was presented from Representative O'Neill of Pennsylvania, in relation to the resignation of his seat in the House. The House passed, under a suspension of the rules, by a vote of 179 to 76, a bill for the relief of dependent parents and honorably discharged soldiers and sailors who are now disabled and dependent upon their country. Under suspension of the rules the House passed a bill for the relief of the Mexican Pension bill. The bill now only requires Presidential approval to become law. It provides that a pension of \$3 a month shall be paid to all surviving dependent parents and honorably discharged soldiers and sailors who are now disabled and dependent upon their country.

Mr. Mitchell, of Pa., from the Committee on Foreign Relations, reported a bill to authorize the President of the United States to protect and maintain the rights of American fishing vessels, American fishermen, American trading and other vessels in certain cases, and for other purposes. He said that he had also a written report on the subject, which he had presented to the Committee to submit to the President. He would submit them a little later. The report had been drawn up, considered by the Committee, and was ready to be reported to the President. He would submit them a little later. The report had been drawn up, considered by the Committee, and was ready to be reported to the President.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Dragg, of Wisconsin, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported back Senate bill for the appointment of hospital stewards in the Army. Committee of the Whole. No action was taken on the resolution to set aside a day for consideration of the bill. At the conclusion of the session of the morning hour the House resumed consideration of the conference report on the Inter-State Commerce bill. Mr. Cripps moved to suspend the rules for a vote on the report to-morrow, after the morning hour.

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CHAPEL HILL.

Special to the Star. CHAPEL HILL, Jan. 17.—College elections for Commencement officers were held Saturday, with the following result: College of Arts and Sciences: President, D. B. Estlin, Jr.; Vice-President, H. F. Murphy; Secretary, D. L. Slocum; Treasurer, J. M. Crowell; T. D. Hendrix. College of Agriculture: President, Benoni Thorp; Vice-President, W. B. Eare, W. M. Gulek; Secretary, J. H. Hill; Treasurer, S. H. Gulek; J. D. Currie. College of Business: President, F. M. Parker; Vice-President, E. Borden; Secretary, H. G. Wood; Treasurer, A. C. Shaw, W. H. Johnson, J. W. Wilson, Jr.

General W. B. Hazen. Sudden Death in Washington of the Chief Signal Officer—Funeral Preparations. WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—General W. B. Hazen, U. S. A., died in this city of dysentery at 8 o'clock this evening. He was 62 years of age, and had been in the service of the Government for 35 years. He was a brave and distinguished soldier, and his death was a great loss to the country. His funeral will be held at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning at the residence of his wife, Mrs. Hazen, at 1000 Pennsylvania Avenue. The interment will be in the National Cemetery.

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Spirits Turpentine.

Shelby Evans. All honor to the few Democrats who voted against the resolutions in the General Assembly. The Charleston, Cincinnati & Chicago Railroad has resumed its work of laying track. The track is to be laid from Sandy Run, and by Saturday night will be to the Rockford county line.

Reidsville Times: We learn that the sentiments of prohibition are gradually widening in Reidsville, and in June another still stronger effort will be made. It is reported that Rev. S. D. Hall, of Fayetteville, Va., has decided to accept the invitation of the Reidsville church to visit the Reidsville Presbyterian church.

Fayetteville News: Robbers entered Dallas Alton's restaurant Saturday night and carried off about \$100. The robbery was committed by a party of five men, who were seen leaving the restaurant in a hack. The police are searching for the robbers.

Charlotte Chronicle: A new railroad is heading for Black's Station, on the Charlotte and Salisbury road. The railroad is to be built by the Charlotte and Salisbury Railroad Company, and will be a branch line from Black's Station to the city of Charlotte.

Charlotte Chronicle: The Thompson-Houston system is now in possession of Charlotte, Wilmington, Raleigh and Durham. The system is a great improvement on the old system, and will be a great benefit to the people of the State.

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SAVED HIS LIFE.

Mr. D. I. Wilcox, of Horse Cave, Ky., says he was, for many years, badly afflicted with Phthisis, also Diabetes; the pains were almost unendurable, and he was unable to get on his feet. He was thrown into convulsions. He tried Electric Bitters and got relief from the bottle, and after taking six bottles he was able to get on his feet, and gained in flesh eighteen pounds. Says he positively believes he would have died had he not taken Electric Bitters, sold at fifty cents a bottle by W. H. Green & Co.

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