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The Blair Bill, if it should become a law, would be the beginning of the transition from State control of public education to national control.

We were interested in a communication in the Raleigh Advocate written from New York by Mr. Joseph S. Taylor, a member of Dr. Deems's church.

It is noticeable that Senator Hale of Maine, (Blaine's State) made an argument in opposition. It is also noticeable that all efforts to modify the bill and to make it less offensive to the States failed.

That crime among the literates of New York is greater than among the whites in North Carolina; and that the standard of Christian piety and holiness is higher in the South than in any part of the North.

The Blair bill seems to me utterly vicious. It is bad enough to raise a surplus, but to use a part of that surplus to support the education of the South is an act of un-Christianity.

Like many others, I at first felt impressed by the sentimental view of this question. To sweep away illiteracy by magnificent grants of money from an overflowing national treasury seemed not only a grand enterprise in itself, but a display of patriotic generosity on the part of the Northern people.

As a specific endeavor it is to be made by the general Government to remove illiteracy by a discriminatory appropriation of the bounty for it amounts to that—should be placed on the illiteracy removed, and not upon the illiteracy permitted to exist.

Many leading teachers in this State are outspoken in opposition to the Blair bill, while almost all are indifferent to it.

of the graded schools of several towns and cities not omitted. We find that good progress is reported in all of the Southern States, with perhaps one or two exceptions.

In the South the expenditure for the year under consideration amounted to the sum of \$17,277,373—a most encouraging exhibit. There is a considerable increase for the year.

If by any chance North Carolina should refuse to accept or fail to secure the annual appropriation under the Blair bill, it will not be released from responsibility, for it will inevitably have to pay its share of the tax that will be distributed between the successful States.

The following is the apportionment of the school fund for New Hanover for the year 1888, as made by the Board of Education.

Table showing school fund apportionment for New Hanover, 1888, listing amounts for white and colored children across various districts.

The Star has strong friends. They stand by us, uphold us, appreciate us, even more than kind. We have before us a private letter, written by a clergyman who was educated at the University of Virginia to a friend in this city.

Thirty years ago we tried in two or three column articles to do justice to a small volume of poems by Theo. H. Hill, of Raleigh.

Chairman Mills says a tax reform bill will be submitted by the Ways and Means Committee to a Democratic caucus of both Houses.

The Blair bill proposes to distribute among the people of the respective States, according to illiteracy, about seventy million dollars per year for the next eight years.

Florida is happy. President Cleveland and his very handsome wife are to visit the land without flowers.

COAL IN BLADEN.

Investigations of a Mining Expert as Owen Hill—Indications of Immense Deposits of a High Grade. From reliable information recently received from Bladen county, there is a well-founded belief that immense deposits of coal underlie a large portion of territory in that county on the west side of and contiguous to the Cape Fear river.

Runaways. Two boys, giving their names as Neil C. Nicholson and Gus Zervine, are just at present guests of the city.

Another Missing Man. Mayor Fowler has received a letter from Mrs. S. A. Magee, London, Eng., asking for information of her husband, James Magee, a tailor.

Fire at Rocky Point. A special to the STAR, received yesterday, says: "Dr. E. Porter's gin-house caught on fire at 4 o'clock this afternoon, and was burning very rapidly for awhile; but we are glad to say that the loss is not very great."

The Seacoast Railroad. The engineers of the Seacoast railroad have about completed their surveys for the road. The line as located starts at the Atlantic Coast Line depot on Front street and runs a half mile up their track, thence it turns into Brunswick street and follows that street, through Fanning—

Remarkable Preservation of Dead Bodies. A correspondent of the STAR, at Rocky Mount, referring to the removal of the remains of persons interred in the Methodist Church yard to the new cemetery at that place, makes the following remarkable statement: "Upon examination of some of the bodies they were found to be in a very natural condition, and easily recognized by their friends, looking almost as natural as when first placed away."

Receipts of spirits turpentine for the year 1887, up to yesterday, 67,497 cases, for the same time last year, 61,817; an increase of 7,110 cases.

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WASHINGTON.

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INTER-STATE COMMERCE.

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THE EUROPEAN OUTLOOK.

Russia's Demands Aggravate the Situation—The Allies Prepared to Meet the Russian Fleet—The Russian Fleet Ready for Offensive Operations.

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ILLINOIS.

Capture of the Murderers of Millionaire Snell of Chicago.

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Spirits Turpentine.

Hillsboro Observer: Col. James H. Ruffin died at his home at Demopolis, Ala., last week.

Durham Plant: Blackwell's Durham Co-operative Tobacco Company since 1888, has produced more than 17,000,000 pounds of smoking tobacco, paid \$1,500,000 internal revenue tax and consumed about 25,000,000 pounds of leaf tobacco.

Vadebono Intelligence: Between five hundred and one thousand slaves of African country have left here since the war and are now living in other States. Why? Because there is a sort of idea among people who are not in prosperous circumstances that they would be better somewhere else.

Charlotte Chronicle: The demand for the savings bank continues to increase. Our people really need it, and they want it.

Raleigh News Observer: Chauncey Dickens is expected to visit the State tomorrow. He is a native of Vermont and has spent most of his life in this country.

Raleigh News Observer: Col. Polk informs us that the new Farmers' Alliance in the State, of which number 156 have been organized since January last.

Charlotte Chronicle: There is considerable activity in the mining circles of this section at present.

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