The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, . . July 21, ... 1879.

H. A. LONDON, Jr., Editor

THE NEGRO RACE.

We believe that in North Carolina there is now existing a better and more kindly feeling between the whites and blacks than at any time since the emancipation of the latter. And it is a matter of public congratulation that it is so, for it will promote their mutual interests, increase the prosperity of both, and redound to their common good. The good people of both races, those who wish well to their fellow-men, will doubtless do all with in their power to continue and increase this kindly feeling. When we take into consideration all the circumstances connected with the emancipation of the southern slaves, it would seem but natural that the passions and prejudices of the two races should have been excited and illfeelings engendered. The whites had, after a most bloody and gallant struggle, been defeated by superior numbers, and while still smarting under the sting of defeat their slave property was taken from them and many reduced to poverty; and then in addition to this an odious Freedman's Bureau was established in our midst, the former masters were deprived in large numbers of the elective franchise, and the right to hold office, while both were thrust upon their late slaves. We do not say that all this justified the whites in entertaining a bitter feeling against the blacks, but it certainly was natural. And the negroes, who had all their lives been slaves toiling for others gain, when suddenly emancipated and clothed with all the rights of freemen, naturally (but we do not think justly) entertained a bitter feeling towards the whites. For several years this feeling was aggravated by designing men of both races. Secret societies called the Union League and the Ku Klux Klan still further aroused their illfeelings and animosities, and the outrages committed by lawless men disgraced our civilization. The negroes were told by many of their leaders not to trust the white people, that we would take away their rights under the law, and if possible would again reduce them to slavery. Thousands believed this false assertion, and it was natural that they should, ignorant and prejudiced as they were. But we are pleased to know that time and actual experience is dispelling this false impression from their minds. We have control now of every department of our State Government, and of the Legislative—the law-making—department we have had control for nearly ten years, and yet no right or privilege whatever has been taken from our colored population, but in all respects the two races stand equal before the law and are equally protected. And just here we cannot refrain from copying a portion of a recent well-written editorial in the Journal of Industry, a paper published in Raleigh by two intelligent and educated negroes, who were born and raised in our midst, and whose efforts to improve their race are highly commendable. Read what they say:

"We believe that the Negro receives as much consideration, and enjoys as much liberty in North Carolina as he is likely to receive or enjoy in any part of the country. His citizenship is acknowledged, and his rights under the law accorded him; his educational facilities are equal to those of the whites, so far as State provision is concerned; he sits on jury, votes as he pleases, and in many important particulars, is far in advance of the race in any other Southern State. Throughout our borders the best of feeling prevails, so far as we know. The whites are cheerfully aiding every effort which we are making for our educational, moral and material progress. Of this condition of things we feel proud. It argues the dawn of a brighter and happier day for our whole people. We should, by every means in our power, cultivate the friendly relations which are producing such gratifying results in all portions of our State. Let us make our land a land of peace, prosperity, freedom and happiness. Let us make it our home."

We commend these timely and sensible words to the consideration of our readers, and we hope that good will and kindly feelings between the two races will continue to grow, and each be disposed to aid the other. And there is no reason why they should not. The former masters are now the best f... of their late slaves, ready to extend to them a helping hand in their necessities, and they in turn have a warm attachment for their old masters. The two races are mutually dependent and each is necessary to the other. The negroes of this State are becoming the equals of the laboring class of any country, and indeed superior to some. They are infinitely preferable to the "heathen Chinee." They are gradually accumulating property, owning an interest in the soil, and becoming useful citizens. They have shown their good sense in not joining in the wild emigration movement that has brought distress and suffering upon so many of their more Southern brethren, for we believe that they are, and will be, in a better condition in every respect in North Carolina than they could be anywhere else.

A Wise Election.

It will be remembered that the trustees of Wake Forest College, several weeks ago, elected Rev. Dr. McDonald of Virginia to the Presidency of that institution, and that he declined the position. They then elected Rev. Dr. Winkler, of Alabama, and he too declined the honor. On the 16th inst., the trustees again met, and instead of again seeking a President from another State they realized the fact that our own State could furnish a fit person for the position, and unanimously elected the Rev. Dr. Pritchard, the beloved pastor of the Salisbury Street Baptist Church at Raleigh. This selection must be admitted by all to be a most wise and proper one, and will doubtless be of great benefit to the college entrusted to his charge. Dr. Pritchard deservedly occupies a high rank in the ministry of his denomination, and will no doubt add to his reputation in his new field of labor, for we are pleased to hear that he has accepted the position. It seems to be characteristic of our North Carolina people of all classes and creeds to be always ignoring the claims and talents of our fellow-citizens and thrusting honors and positions on citizens of other States.

Battle of Alamance.

On the fourth of July the citizens of the neighborhood held a meeting near the place where was fought the "battle of Alamance," and inaugurated a movement for the erection of a suitable monument of native granite to commemorate "the deeds of the first men who shed their blood for American Independence." A series of resolutions was adopted and a committee was appointed, composed of gentlemen from the counties of Alamance, Guilford, Randolph and Chatham, to solicit contributions for erecting the monument, and to make arrangements to have a grand celebration on the next anniversary of the battle—the 16th day of May 1880. The members of this committee appointed from Chatham are Hon. John Manning, W. G. Albright Esq. Hugh W. Dixon and the Editor of the Record.

A Sad Calamity.

In the Record of the 16th inst., was the simple announcement of the drowning of the four daughters of Mr. Appleton Oaksmith near Beaufort, on the 4th of this month. The full particulars of this most distressing catastrophe are furnished in a letter written by the bereaved father to the editor of the Newbernian, from which we copy the following:

"My agony is too great to dwell upon the horrible scene, but justice to my dead daughters compels me to make the effort, and to say that the report you send is entirely erroneous. I will state all that is essential now to know. All the facts are known only to God and myself. I was the only one in the boat who could swim, or who had ever before confronted peril and death. Hence I was not panic stricken, but had a dreadful realization of all that was going on.

All the heroism displayed in the fearful struggle was by my daughters Bessie and Corrine, who lost their lives in heart-rending efforts to save their two younger sisters. Whatever I did was my plain simple duty, and God knows I feel that I did it poorly enough. I had the responsibility of all, and hoped to the last to save them all. The saving myself never entered my mind: my whole thought was to save my children, and I say it with submission, that but for my efforts not one would have been saved.

The accident occurred in this way: I was towing the boat with a yoke, and when half way across Pamlico from Fort Macon and Beaufort sud[illegible] wildly, and I entrusted the m[illegible] to my son Randolph, 17 years [illegible] charging him to keep it clear and watch the sail. When we got ready to "jibe" I charged him to "let fly" the moment the sail passed the wind. He hauled the sail aft—my daughters "shifted seats" quietly—the boom swung over—the sheet "hung" or caught (from whatever cause I don't care now to know) and the boat yawed and capsized. It was all in a moment. As she went over I ordered—"Look out for the little children—each take one and cling to the boat!" My duty was for all, Bessie took her sister Mildred, Corrinne our beautiful Pauline, and Randolph his little brother Stanley. It was an instinctive act, guided by first order. As the boat filled she began to sink under us. "Stick to the boat," I cried, stick to the boat!"

Up to this moment my children were not panic-stricken, but were beautifully calm and quiet. The boat capsized on her port side. As she settled in the water, from causes now useless to recount, she rolled completely over, her mast and sail going under her, which told me that the water was over 15 feet deep. As she rolled over, the girls went out of the boat on the starboard side—the two eldest each holding a little sister. I went with them, and I helped them to get hold of the boat again. Randolph still holding Stanley, fell over on the port side, and was rolled under the boat, which being relieved of our weight came to the surface and hung a moment keel up. Telling Bessie and Corrinne to hold hard on to the gunwale, I raised the boat as by her keel, got Randolph out and up on to the side of the boat, greatly exhausted but still holding Stanley; charged him to not let go him, and cling to the boat. I then swam round on the other side of the boat and found that my daughters had all lost their hold, got the two eldest once more back, telling them that I would go for the little ones. I was clinging to the stern to get a breath for my task when Bessie and Corrinne turned round and saw their little sisters being swept away. They uttered one shriek and threw themselves off and struggled to get to them. At this instant I realized that the boat's anchor had gone to the bottom and was holding her. I knew then that unless I could get the boat clear for her anchor, or assistance soon came, some would be lost. I got two boat gratings and two oars to my daughters, who still headed my rescue. I told the little ones to cling to the gratings and Bessie and Corinne to put the oars under their arms and "keep heads up and arms down." Corinne answered cheerfully, "all right papa," and called out to the others "keep your heads up and arms down and keep quiet."

I then swam again [illegible] to the bow of the boat [illegible] six feet under water, h[illegible] breathless, and went down and tried in vain to cast it adrift. I had thrown off my coat and vest early in the struggle and had no knife. The weight of my body on the bow, pressed down by the current, bore it further down, and I felt the boat again rolling over. I let go my hold and came to the surface, steadied the boat again, encouraged my son to hold on to his little brother and the boat to the last, and looking for my daughters, saw them drifting away but apparently safe. At this moment while holding on to the boat to recover myself, I saw some canoes or boats in the distance, apparently fishing. I raised my voice for help. The men appeared to look but did not come. Could I have got the boat clear from her cable in time, I believe I could have saved my daughters. I wasted much strength in that vain endeavor. Had I not done so I might possibly have got them to the shore, but after they drifted twenty feet from the stern it was impossible for me to get either back to the boat. It required all my strength to swim to the bow against the current when I made my vain effort to see the boat adrift for their rescue. My agony was so great that I could not endure it, and I started to swam to my daughters where we doubtless should have all perished together, which would have been better for me were it not for the living—when I saw the boat which rescued us coming round the marsh. My reason told me that the chances for saving my daughters were greater with my help in that boat than out of it, and I waited in agony till she came, and directed the kind friends who were in her where to search. The rest is all known.

We found my daughters all floating except Bessie, but near where I saw her last, was Mildred lying lifeless with her arms across an oar. The truth was very plain to me—the poor child had lost her hold upon the grating and Bessie, my noble eldest daughter, had deliberately given up her only support, put her drowning younger sister across the oar, and died as she had lived, from devotion to those she loved. Corrinne had done the same—the grating was gone, but close to the drowning form of her little sister Pauline, was Corinne's oar while her body was found some distance away. My eyes alone could read all this as I helped to lift the three inanimate forms into the boat which rescued us. The world has never seen greater devotion than this of my two noble daughters.

If our anchor had not gone to the bottom, or the boat which came to our aid had reached us ten minutes sooner, all would have been saved. My son Randolph does not know how to swim; he never before confronted peril, and had he lost his hold of the boat, after I had dragged him and his little brother on to her, when I was away from him, he would have doubtless have perished. He did his duty, but he wishes no praise to which he is not entitled. The crown of heroism belongs to my beautiful daughters Bessie and Corinne who perished to save their little sisters.

I have no one to blame if there was any human accountability; I take it all upon myself. I had the responsibility, and I bear it all, as I must with God's help bear the agony and sorrow."

The Drought.

From all directions we receive accounts of unprecedented dry weather:

A late despatch from Richmond, Va. says the drought is affecting crops alarmingly. Many small water courses have entirely dried up, the people in some cases having to drive their cattle a long distance for water. A number of mills in the surrounding country have suspended operations on account of the scarcity of water. James river, just above the city, is so low that it can be crossed at various points on foot, without wetting the shoes.

A despatch from Augusta, Ga, says there has been no rain in this section to do any good to the crops for two months. Corn in many places is literally burned up and will not average a fourth of a crop. Cotton is very much behind and the week very small, yet it is fruiting well for the size of the stalk. This has been the hottest and driest weather since 1853.

A correspondent of the Observer, writing from Asheville, says that so lengthy a period of drouth has not been known in many years, not, in fact since 1835. The corn has suffered especially, and fears are entertained that this important crop has received serious injury. As I have before mentioned the tobacco crop has been irreparably damaged. The water in the streams was lower than for years, and I am told that the French Broad is shallower than ever before known.

A letter to the News from Harnett county says, that there has been no rain in six weeks. Crops burning up. With the most favorable season the corn crop cannot exceed a half crop. The cotton is also suffering, and not more than half a crop is expected.

Federal Soldiers in the War.

A statement has been issued by the War Department giving the number of men furnished the Union army by each State and Territory and the District of Columbia from April 15, 1861, to the close of the war of the rebellion. It shows that the total number of volunteers was 2,678,967, divided as follows.—Maine, 72,114; New Hampshire, 36,629; Vermont, 35,262; Massachusetts, 152,048; Rhode Island, 23,699; Connecticut, 57,379; New York, 467,047; New Jersey, 81,010; Pennsylvania, 366,107; Delaware 13,679; Maryland, 50,316; West Virginia, 32,065; District of Columbia, 16,872; Ohio, 313,659; Indiana, 195,147; Illinois, 259,147; Michigan, 89,372; Wisconsin, 96,124; Minnesota, 25,052; Iowa, 76,309; Missouri, 109,111; Kentucky, 79,025, Kansas, 20,151; Tennessee, 31,092; Arkansas 8,289; North Carolina, 3,156; California, 15,725 Nevada, 1,080; Oregon, 1,810, Washington Territory, 964; Nebraska Territory, 3,157; Colorado Territory 4,903; Dakota Territory, 206; New Mexico Territory, 6,561; Alabama, 2,576; Florida, 1,290; Louisiana, 8,224; Mississippi, 545; Texas, 1,965, and the Indian nations, 35,089. The troops furnished by the Southern States were, with the exception of those of Louisiana, nearly all white. Florida furnished two regiments of cavalry, Alabama one white regiment, Mississippi one battalion and North Carolina two regiments of cavalry.—N. Y. Herald.

A Deserted Town.

Pine Flat, Sonoma county, is a good example of a deserted mining town. Five or six years ago, when this part of the country was all excitement on account of the quicksilver discoveries, Pine Flat was a very lively town of three or four thousand inhabitants. Six or eight hundred men were to be seen in the streets, the hotels could not accommodate all who came, and business of all kinds was just "booming." Houses were put up in a day, canvas tents stood upon every available spot, a system of pipes supplied water to the town and the wave of prosperity threatened to swamp everybody with riches. But a change came over the spirit of their dreams. The price of quicksilver declined, the wave of prosperity subsided to a calm and then receded, until to-day, by actual count, there are two and one-half houses to each inhabitant, and there are fifteen houses.—San Francisco Examiner.

WASHINGTON, July 19.—A telegram from Dr. Mitchell, at Memphis, received at the National Board of Health last night, declares the city to be dangerously infected. Another dispatch received at noon to-day reports six new cases and the disease spreading.

Correspondence.

FOR THE RECORD.

MT. PLEASANT, CHATHAM CO., N. C., July 14th, 1879.

MR. EDITOR:—It affords me great pleasure to peruse the interesting columns of the Record. It is very interesting to me to read the laudable correspondence from our own dear county. I think Mr. Editor that your paper is a good thing, it fills a vacancy in our county that should have long since been occupied. We presume from this that there are other improvements, that can yet be made in our county, and I am proud to say, that the citizens of Chatham are deeply interested in improving their part of the world, that is, they have been giving much attention recently, to the running of machinery, to the erection of bridges, to the prohibition of strong drink and to the education of the young.

I am happy to learn that the people of Chatham, and of the country at large are taking such a great interest in the welfare of the rising generation. As I am a youth myself, I can highly appreciate their wise instruction their kind advice, and Oh! that I could say this in regard to their examples. But alas! many of those who are so particular in their advice to the young, are very careless as to the nature of the example that they set for us to follow. This does not include all, no, there are many of the present generation, whose high position in life, I fear we will never be competent of filling; but there are many, I shudder to say, whose example is worthy not even for a savage to follow. I thought some of us may become disgusted at the bad example set before us, yet there are some who will be led astray by them. People of the present generation, we entreat of you to stop a moment, and consider what kind of an influence you are exerting in the world, and if it be for evil. Oh! think how many of the rising generation, through your influence, will be led to poverty and grief; think of those whom you will send to prison, think of the awful fact that you may send some dear one to the gallows, and Oh! for God's sake think of the number that you will drag into a drunkard's grave. I am happy to know that the people of Centre Township have set us a good example in deciding, at the ballot box, that intoxicating liquors shall not be sold at our county seat, were it would send in every direction its baneful influence, spreading misery and poverty over our whole county. This is what we term a good example, other townships should do likewise.

People should be very careful in their mode of life, lest they exert a demoralizing influence in their community, and if any one should determine within himself to set a bad example, we would politely ask him to remain silent so far as his advice to us is concerned. We do desire the advice of honest, straight forward people but we do not desire the advice of hypocrites.

Oh! kind and loving parents, we meekly ask you never to turn us loose until we are all sufficiently trained to shun all the plans of the devil; give us all the instruction and advice that will be beneficial to us, and I pray God to bless all efforts for good that we make. We tremble at the thought that, at some future time, we will have to carry on the business of the world alone.

Young friend, let us seek for wisdom and knowledge that we may be able to carry on the work of our great and good men, not merely as it is, but let us strive to make improvement on all things established for the advancement of civilization, knowledge and christianity, casting behind us all things intended to advance the cause of ignorance, superstition and the devil, and setting good examples for the generation that will follow us, should time continue.

Yours most truly,

JUVENILE.

FOR THE RECORD.

NEW HOPE TOWNSHIP, July 18th, 1879.

MR. EDITOR:

There has been a great deal said in regard to the large number of public bridges in Chatham county. The taxpayers think we are very unfortunate in having so many large streams in this county, over which we are forced by law to build bridges. I have thought it doubtful if there was another county in the State so heavily burdened in this respect, but in looking over Col. Polk's "Hand-Book" I find that there are several counties that have more bridges than Chatham, and some of them not so wealthy. Thinking the statement might be of interest to many of your readers I have copied from that book the following lists of counties, with the number of bridges in each and the valuation of their real estate.

COUNTIES.	BRIDGES	REAL ESTATE.
Cumberland,	34,	$ 1,427,618
Moore,	30	898,729
Anson,	34	776,229
Wilson,	36	1,334,163
Sampson,	37	900,186
Johnson,	40	1,345,804
Rowan,	43	1,865,561
Northampton,	47	1,469,485
Guilford,	50	2,361,552
Nash,	60	1,345,598
Granville,	65	1,987,663
Halifax,	77	2,004,878
Chatham,	28	1,482,499

So that from the above statement, it will be seen that there are twelve counties that have a greater number of bridges than we have, and that one, (Nash) has more than twice as many, and yet has over a hundred thousand dollars less real estate.

B.