The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, January 15,.....1880

H. A. LONDON, Jr., Editor.

THE IRISH AGITATION.

Just at this time the Irish agitation is exciting general interest, and the great Irish agitator, Parnell, is creating much excitement throughout our Northern cities. A grievous famine is now afflicting the peasantry of Ireland, and political capital is being made of it to foment a rebellious spirit against the English government. Mr. Parnell is a young, wealthy and talented Irish member of the British Parliament, and has constituted himself the especial champion of Ireland's imagined wrongs. He has recently arrived at New York city, where he received a grand ovation from his countrymen, and after stirring up those excitable people has been going from city to city, making speeches for the purpose of raising money. This money is for two purposes—one political and the other charitable, that is, a portion of the money collected is for stirring up political agitation in Ireland, and a portion to relieve the famine stricken people. With the first named object we have no sympathy, for we think the Irish are in a better condition under British rule than if left to govern themselves but with the second we deeply sympathize. In the great Irish famine of 1847 the people of the United States sent whole shiploads of provisions to relieve a famishing people, and doubtless they will now contribute liberally, but we protest against political agitators inducing the poor Irish of America to contribute their hard earned pennies towards stirring up fomenting discontent and rebellion. We had hoped that Fenianism and such like would not be heard of again.

The Maine Muddle.

The extraordinary condition of affairs in Maine still continues to excite public attention, and has lost none of its intense interest. The Legislature convened on the 7th inst., and an organization was effected by the election of officers belonging to the "fusionists," as the democrats and greenbackers are called. The republicans were caught in their own trap. They supposed that there would be no quorum, as they thought that they had bribed two or three fusionists not to take their seats, and so Hale, the leader of the Republican members, qualified and took his seat as a member simply to make the point of order that there was no quorum and to harass the fusionists, but unfortunately for him the fusionists did take their seats and all, and Mr. Hale made an exploded speech. So that, if Hale had not qualified there would have been no quorum and he thus unfortunately made his opponents masters of the situation. The other republicans did not qualify, because they claimed that some of their number had been "counted out" by the Governor. Garcelon's term of office expired at mid-night on the 7th and as the President of the Senate, a fusionist named Lunsmore is acting as Governor until the Legislature elects a Governor, according to the laws of Maine the Legislature elects a Governor, when there has been no election by the people.

The most disgraceful part of all this "Maine muddle" is the attempt of the republicans to bribe certain fusion members not to take their seats. Two members, Swan and Harriman, were each paid one thousand dollars not to take their seats, but after receiving the money they at once told all about it, and the Legislature has appointed a committee to investigate the matter. It is alleged that Senator Blaine was at the bottom of it, and if so, we hope he will be thoroughly exposed. Finding that they could not intimidate Governor Garcelon the republicans thought they could buy up enough members to prevent a quorum!

It is said that the scene and confusion at the organization of the Legislature was disgraceful in the extreme. As the Governor was reading the oath of office to the members qualifying, and they repeating it after him the crowds in the lobbies and galleries hissed and hooted and acted most disorderly. They were provoked at the fusionists obtaining a quorum and being able to effect an organization. Fortunately thus far, there has been no bloodshed, and it is now thought there will be none. Gen. Chamberlain has command of the State troops and is prepared to suppress any disturbance. What a spectacle to our Yankee brethren in Maine present to the world!

Legal Tender Case.

Some time ago an agreed case was carried up to the United States Supreme Court to test the constitutionality of the legal tender quality of Treasury notes. This Court has heretofore decided the point both ways, that is, at first they decided that Congress could not make these notes legal tender, and then afterwards they decided that Congress could. The second decision was brought about in a peculiar manner—by packing the Court! A republican Congress passed an act enlarging the number of judges, and then President Grant appointed as these additional judges two men who he knew would decide in favor of upholding the former decision, and so it was reversed. In order to have the point again adjudicated this new case has been taken to Court, but as the docket is so crowded that it would not be reached for two or three years, a motion was recently made to the Court to advance this case on the docket so that it might be argued and decided this winter. This motion has been refused and it is said to be owing to the fact that the members of present composition of the Court are equally divided on this and other political questions, the decision of which will have an important bearing on the next Presidential election. Such decisions of the courts may not be very accessible, but when it is seen, as has been the case that the opinions of the judges are in accordance with their political proclivities, it seems natural enough that the American people should have lost that profound respect with which they once regarded the decisions of the Court.

Pensions.

Taylor pensioned, we hear, about twenty-four hundred of the survivors of the war with Mexico. The Congressional Pension Bill in the House of Representatives has unanimously agreed upon a bill granting a pension of fifty dollars per month to every surviving soldier of the Mexican, Florida, Creek and Black Hawk wars. The bill will be reported to the House, and it is generally thought it will be passed at an early date. And it will be none too soon for these veterans are very rapidly passing away and if it does not come in time there will be but few to share the Nation's bounty. Some efforts have been made of late to pension the survivors of the war of 1812, but thus far with no success. There are several of the surviving soldiers in this county, to whom a pension would be very acceptable, and we hope some action may be taken in the matter.

The W. N. C. R. R.

From the Statesville Landmark we learn that a New York company of capitalists are contemplating the purchase of the Western N. C. Railroad. We hope they will, and thus relieve the State from further expenditures, and thus prevent the "Mad cat Bond" from becoming a cause of division in the democratic party during the next campaign. A sale can be made only with the consent of the Legislature, and so an extra session will be called if the Governor thinks the terms of sale are sufficient. The Landmark says:

"It will be remembered that in 1873 a commission appointed by the General Assembly for that purpose bought the road for the State, giving for it $500,000 in bonds running twenty years—this purchase giving the State a three months interest in the road to one fourth interest held by the private stockholders. The bonds remain upon the road and the State is paying the interest upon them. This New York company proposes to assume the debt of $500,000 which the State owes, and pay the interest thereon, and to pay the interest at stated times and the principal at maturity. It agrees to complete the two branches of the road west of Asheville, the one to Paint Rock by July 1st 1881 and the other to Ducktown by July 1st 1882. It proposes further, to run a train each way, per month, in the first month, six trains each way per month in the second month, and so on, adding one train each month until the end of the fifth month, when there will be a daily train each way, which will be maintained thereafter. In order that the State may be assured of the ability to carry out such a contract, the company stipulates that if, after the expiration of two years, the company shall not have completed the road to Paint Rock and Ducktown, the State may take back the road and the State is to pay the company for the money thus spent in the road."

Since the above was put in type we learn from the Observer that a meeting of the directors of the W. N. C. R. R. was held in Raleigh on the 13th, and that an agent of the New York Company submitted the above proposition to them. Nothing is known as to how this proposition was received, whether favorably or unfavorably, but the Observer does not think the Governor will convene an extra session of the Legislature to consider the matter.

Freedom and Forces.

At a meeting of New Hampshire farmers several years ago one prominent farmer said to all from farms for less than what it cost them to raise them, he believed he could get rich. Mr. A. W. Clark, of New Ashford, Conn., said he had carefully gone over the last year's expenses and found that "It takes on the average for the whole country, about 71 months of farm labor—just $1 18 worth of stock from nothing up to $1 18 worth of cows."

Now we think the statistics gathered at Washington show that the forces then in existence, had cost $1,737,340,000. The abolitionists since have raised the cost of the original stock of the country to fully $4,000,000,000. A billion dollars is a pretty large sum to expend for a country of, we can not count one million in the working days of a month, counting over a second and 10 hours a day, but here are two thousand millions!!! The interest and repairs amount to over $200,000,000 a year, and the rebuilding of the wrecks of forces nearly as much more, making our annual loss, tax more than the entire cost of the Army, Navy, the General Government expenses and Pensions, together with the interest on the public debt.—Farmer & Mechanic.

Facts About 1880.

The first day of the year and of April will fall on Thursdays; the Fourth of July comes on Sunday, and Christmas on Saturday. It is leap year, and February has 29 days, and as the girls will then be privileged to go courting, they will have the opportunity to do plenty of it, as the almanac-maker says a conjunction enough to put five Sundays in the month of February. Easter comes within a week of as early as it ever came—on the 28th day of March. The year 1880 will have six eclipses—four of the sun and two of the moon, but only one of them will be visible here, namely, the sixth, which is a partial eclipse of the sun on the last day of the year very early in the morning. A very unusual thing about these eclipses is that three of them occur in December—a circumstance that will not again occur in many years.—Wilmington Review.

Delinquent tax-payers, whose lands have been sold for taxes and bought in by the State must redeem them by the 12th of March.

CORRESPONDENCE:

☞ WE WILL BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE ON ANY SUBJECT THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO THE PEOPLE, BUT WE MUST BE ASSUMED ON A RESPONSIBLE WRITER, A COMPANION EVERY ARTICLE, AND ALSO ESSENTIAL TO BE SEEN ON THE PAPER. THE EDITOR IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF CORRESPONDENTS. ☜

FOR THE RECORD.

BEAVERDAM CHATHAM CO., N. C.

MR. EDITOR:—

As we are often entertained with interesting subjects in the Record, permit me to say something upon a subject that has caused many tears for generations, and now that I think, is of the greatest importance that is Education.

How is our country to grow rich and powerful? How can we well succeed by cultivation, and yet allow our people that is supposed to be a portion of the intelligent, to remain ignorant of necessary knowledge? Why are we not, as a people, as well informed as our ancestors? Why are we not as well informed as our neighbors? Why are we not as well informed as our children? Why are we not as well informed as our children? Why are we not as well informed as our children