

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

We greet our readers with the compliments of this joyous season, and wish them, one and all, a "Merry Christmas and Happy New-Year!"

For the next few days in the entire Christian world will indulge in social mirth and merry making. Business, care, and trouble will be laid aside; and mirth, feasting, and pleasure will take their place.

A MASSACHUSETTS LAW.

While all civilized nations now observe Christmas as a holiday, and everybody looks forward to this festive season with most pleasurable feelings, we can hardly believe that our puritan brethren of New England at one time imposed a penalty for observing Christmas.

For preventing disorders arising in several places within this jurisdiction by reason of some still observing such festivals as were superstitiously kept in other countries in the dishonor of God and offence to others, it is ordered by this court and the authority thereof, that whosoever shall be found observing any such day as Christmas or the like, either by forbearing of labor, feasting or any other way, upon any such accounts as aforesaid, every person so offending shall pay for every such offence five shillings as a fine to the county.

ENCOURAGING MANUFACTORIES.

We heartily endorse the suggestion contained in the letter of our esteemed countyman, W. P. Hadley, Esq., which we elsewhere publish, but do not think that the Legislature has the constitutional power to enact such a law.

The objection to such a law is urged by some, that it would be unjust to tax one kind of property and not another; that cotton factories and other manufactories should no more be exempted from taxation than all other kinds of property; and that such exemptions would seem to favor monopolies.

FARMERS' CLUBS.

We would again urge upon our farmers the formation of farmers' clubs in every township. We know of no more pleasant or practicable mode of promoting our agricultural interests.

THE LEGISLATURE.

The General Assembly of the State of North Carolina will convene at Raleigh, on Wednesday, the 5th of January next. This will be quite an important session, and many matters affecting the public welfare will be brought to the attention of our lawmakers.

UNHAPPY IRELAND.

Affairs in Ireland have assumed a most alarming aspect, and it is not at all improbable that a bloody war may soon be waged there.

The entire interest of the hour is centered in Ireland and the land question. It is clear to most people that the Queen's government no longer has an existence in the sister island, but has been superseded—at least for the present—by the Land League.

The movement of troops goes on, and the Spectator this week says that if necessary the government could throw 150,000 men into Ireland next week merely by calling out the reserves and embodying the militia.

A PROHIBITORY LAW.

We stated some weeks ago that the "Prohibition" question was assuming great importance in this State, and that an effort would be made at the approaching session of the Legislature to secure the adoption of a general prohibitory law.

A committee was appointed which has issued an address, from which we copy the following: "The object of the Convention will be to represent and embody public sentiment on the subject and if found favorable to petition the legislature which will be then in session for a prohibitory liquor statute to be effective only when ratified by the popular vote."

There is no need that the committee should elaborate the subject. Nothing can be said on the evil of intemperance which has not been said a thousand times; and which is not seen and felt every day by every body.

The plan is to forward immediately to every pastor in the State, and to every temperance organization, and to every Christian association, every school, every postmaster, every factory, and to divers others, a form of petition to the Legislature which they are requested to lay before their congregations, bodies and communities, for their signatures.

The time is short, and it is hoped that there will be the utmost activity in getting up the petitions. The delegates to attend the Convention may be designated by the petitioners. And the petitions which they bring with them will be their credentials.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

The Week at the Capitol—Cabinet and Supreme Court Changes—The Rural Ditches of General Grant and M. de Lesseps—Women at their Annual Agitation.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, 1880.

The week has been dull, and legislation at the Capitol. In both houses of Congress the more important subjects have been compelled to yield to questions that arouse party antagonism and provoke endless debate.

On Monday Senator Randolph brought up the Fitz John Porter bill in the Senate, and Senator Morgan's concurrent resolution for counting the electoral vote has been the fruitful theme of talk in the House.

But, if it has been dull at the Capitol in the legislative branches, the Cabinet, the Supreme Court, the lobby, and society, have furnished an abundance of the raw material from which news is made.

The resignation of Justice Strong of the Supreme Court of the United States had been long expected, but the appointment, as his successor, of Judge Wood was very unexpected.

The appointment is a native of Ohio, a few years ago, emigrated, with his brother in law, Ex Senator Willard A. Warner, to Georgia. His appointment is resented in the Senate by many who are jealous of the somewhat wholesale preference of Ohio and to places of highest national honor and emolument.

Secretary Thompson's resignation, in connection with General Grant's visit to Washington, has been the subject of much gossip in political and diplomatic circles.

OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20, 1880.

Ed. Record: The past week has been a most remarkable one. We have had neither wrecks, fires or explosions. Had it not been for the gentler sex coming to the rescue, newspaper men would have sought some other occupation.

The practice of medicine in this city is not without its perils. At the instigation of the "society for prevention of cruelty to animals," a practitioner has been fined twenty-five dollars for unskillful treatment of a pig on which he was experimenting.

Singular Fatal Accident.

Mrs. Charles H. Byer, wife of a farmer, who dwells near Bloomington, Ill., was watering the stock recently, and a pet cow turning her head quickly knocked her into a well. She kept her head above the water for three hours by clinging to the bricks, but died soon after she was taken out.

A Sad Death.

John C. Calhoun, an inmate of the insane asylum at Stockton, California, recently committed from Esmeralda county, Nevada, was drowned near that city, Sunday. He had recovered in reason and had been discharged in a few days. He was a nephew of the late Senator Calhoun.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CHATHAM COUNTY, N. C., Dec. 20th, 1880.

MR. EDITOR: No more has ever been made by the people of Chatham county, within my recollection, so well calculated to build up real substantial wealth and prosperity for the county, as the construction of a railroad along the valley of Haw River.

I know of no country where nature has been more lavish with her bounty than in this particular locality. From Haywood, the crossing of the Raleigh and Augusta Airline railroad, up the river for quite fifty miles water power is almost continuous, and never failing; and is not surpassed, as far as my knowledge extends, on this continent.

The raising of raw materials in one section of country to be shipped to another for manufacturing, and then returned, is an old custom of the country that is passing away.

The completion of this road would not only furnish means of transportation for all those in easy reach of it, but it would dot the rivers all along with factories of different kinds, and here our farmers would find a home market for every product they can raise, and at prices far more remunerative than we are now able to get, which dispels the common idea about other railroads, that none are benefited excepting those who own

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RAILROADS.

The object of all our great railroad companies seems to be, to pass in through and out of our good old State, with all speed possible. The object of the projectors of this road is to penetrate the good old State for the purpose of developing her latent resources.

There is a growing interest along this route for the building of this road, and we hope that the move that is now being made is the beginning of the construction of a railroad, whose developments through the centre of the State will roll like a tidal wave to the mountains and to the seashore and that all other sections of the State being inspired by the facts of example set us, may bestir themselves to make our good old State what nature intended her to be, the first in the nation.

Yours very truly, R. JAMES POWELL.

BRAMMONT, Chatham Co., N. C., Dec. 15th, 1880.

MR. EDITOR: As the Legislature will be in session in a few weeks, I thought that I would write a few lines to you, as the public press is the medium through which we can give publicity to our views as to public policy.

It is a prospective law to encourage manufacturing to this State. Pass a law that for five or ten years capital invested in the manufacture of any of the products of this State shall be exempt from tax.

W. P. HADLEY.

Miscellaneous Advt's

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J. P. GULLEY, Raleigh, N. C.

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TIME TABLE Cape Fear & Yadkin Valley R. R.

To take Effect May 9, 1880.

Leaves Fayetteville at 6:00 P. M.

Arrives at Guilford at 11:30 P. M.

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Arrives at Fayetteville at 11:30 A. M.

Daily except Sunday. L. C. JONES, Sup't.

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