The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1883.

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

CONGRESSMAN COX has introduced into the House of Representatives a bill (a copy of which he has kindly sent us) that we hope will pass. It provides that in all cases of contested elections the contestant shall not be allowed any compensation to defray the expenses of his contest, unless the House declares by resolution that there was reasonable ground for the contest, and in that case the contestant shall only be allowed his necessary expenses, which shall be itemized and duly sworn to and which in no case shall exceed the sum of two thousand dollars. If this bill is passed and the law is enforced it will save many thousands of dollars to the national treasury. It has become too common a custom for defeated candidates for Congress to contest their successful competitors seats simply for the purpose of making money, as Congress has usually allowed all contestants a sum about equal to a member's salary to pay their expenses. Indeed these liberal allowances to contestants seemed to be bids for all defeated candidates to make contests.

Another reprehensible practice of Congress has been to delay action in cases of contested elections until just before adjournment. It has often happened that a successful contestant obtains his seat only a week or two before his term expires, and all the while his seat has been wrongfully withheld by another person. This is sometimes done by way of compromise, each man (the contestant and the sitting members) being allowed to draw full pay, but it is a compromise at the public expense and altogether wrong.

Stenotypes to the Legislature, as to what they should do, are coming from all quarters. Among the most sensible are those recently made by the Wilmington Star, and which we hope may be favorably considered. The Star suggests, First, that the law in regard to filling vacancies on the Board of Magistrates of the several counties be changed so as to allow the Board to fill the vacancies and not the clerk of the courts as at present. Second, that the law be so changed as to forbid any one from being on more than two official bond at the same time, and third, that County Commissioners shall be forbidden to accept as sureties on official bonds persons not residents of and not owners of real estate in the county where the officials live and the Commissioners hold office.

Postage on letters will probably be reduced by Congress, at its present session, from three to two cents. On last Saturday the Senate, during a debate on the Post office Appropriation bill, adopted an amendment making such a reduction after July 1st, 1883. We hope the House will concur in this amendment, and our people be allowed to enjoy cheaper postage. During this debate Senator Edmunds urged the construction of the postal telegraph at first between the great cities and extended gradually until every post office in the country shall have or be in immediate reach of a postal telegraph. This certainly would be a great convenience, and we believe it will be done in a few years. We may then obtain earlier election returns from certain counties in this State!

A DAUGHTER of the Duke of England passed through this State a few days ago, which is the first time that any son or daughter of any European potentate ever visited North Carolina. This Princess is the wife of the Marquis of Lorne (who is Governor General of Canada) and with her husband and a small party travelled through this State by way of Weldon and Wilmington to Charleston, where they embarked on a British vessel and sailed for Bermuda. The passage of so distinguished a party through our State attracted but little attention, though it is said our neighbors in Greensboro' were terribly disappointed because the Princess did not visit that aspiring town, where her welcome would have been even warmer than that recently extended to the "Duke of New Castle."

FULSOME FLATTERY is always disgusting and sometimes absurdly ridiculous. This occurred to us when reading the speeches made by some of our legislators at the recent re-election of Senator Ransom, one member in the eloquence of his zeal stating that Ransom "has reflected every virtue that could adorn humanity"! Is there any man now living of whom this could be truthfully said? We greatly admire Senator Ransom, and heartily favored his re-election, but as a friend of his we must protest against such fulsome flattery.

NEW YORK city furnishes the most extreme cases of wealth and poverty. Certainly no city in America contains so much poverty, misery and wretchedness, and we don't if any city in the world contains men of greater wealth. This has been suggested to our mind by a statement recently made in the "New York Sportsman" which says that on one afternoon, a few days ago, twenty five thousand sleighs went through Central Park. These sleighs, with the horses, if placed one behind the other, would extend over a distance of fifty seven miles. Calculating each vehicle to contain two persons, many of them being family turnouts, would give 50,000 people out for an airing. This will give many of our rural readers an idea of what a large number of persons there are in one city who do nothing but seek pleasure—a number greater than twice the number of inhabitants in the county of Chatham!

ACCIDENTS of a most appalling nature have recently occurred, by which hundreds of persons have met a sudden and painful death. These accidents are more numerous than we have ever before heard of in so short a space of time. Last week we published the burning alive of three hundred persons at a circus in Russia and of seventy-five persons in a hotel at Milwaukee, in Wisconsin, and this week we publish accounts of a powder explosion, by which nearly fifty men were hurled to death, of a railroad accident that killed more than twenty, and of a steamer sinking and drowning nearly five hundred human beings! In addition to these were many other accidents, by each of which some half dozen persons were killed. What a tearful harvest has Death been reaping!

Our Raleigh Letter.

RALEIGH, N. C., Jan. 23, 1883.

DEAR RECORD: If a vote could have been taken one week or Senator Scott's resolutions to remove the State Capital to Wilmington, where the streets are paved, Wilmington would have been the capital of the State, but yesterday the sun shone out brightly and to-day a man can walk with ease Fayetteville street without any boots or other like savage appearance. There is now but little need of removing the capital on account of the mud.

It may be a matter of some little interest to your readers to know how the Chatham delegation has gotten at the hands of the presiding officers. Mr. Womack is chairman of committee on Rules and of Joint Rules and is on the committees on the Judiciary, Propositions and Grievances and on Redistricting the State. Mr Marsh is on the following committees: Finance, Internal Improvements, Agriculture, Immigration and Statistics, and on Public Printing. Mr Lawrence is on Corporations, Deaf, Dumb and Blind Asylums, and Banks and Currency. So you can plainly see how he is a position to work if they want to and it is very evident that they not only want to but are working hard.

But comparatively little work of general importance has been transacted within the past week. Most of the time being taken up by matters of minor interest and importance. Of course the committees are hard at work, particularly the committees on the revisal. They have their hands full. Nearly every bill introduced is looking to the enactment of laws which prevents the sale of liquors near certain churches in the State. The only fear is that the Legislature finding the people are opposed to prohibition will go to the opposite extreme. It is certain from the action of certain Senators in trying to obtain a repeal or modification of the act which forbids the sale on Sunday, that they are in favor of free liquor and all drinking Sunday. Two bills have been passed which restore the old "quart law"—one being declared unconstitutional, so they passed a second one with the word liberal in.

Any number of sheriffs are asking for more time to collect taxes. There are so many bills that the finance committee have recommended a general law on the subject granting indulgence to all the sheriffs of the State.

The committee on redistricting the State has done nothing yet so it is impossible to say where Chatham will fall. There seems to be a general impression that Chatham is surely democratic and contains no man eligible to Congress, so one can be thrown in any where it may suit the wishes of some aspirant. A strong effort will be made to keep the present Fourth District as near like it is now as can be, with possibly the exception that Granville be left out.

Nothing has yet been done with the bill selling the State's interest in the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad. But I have no doubt some such bill will be passed and that road completed. The prospects of the Midland are not so flattering.

Was glad to see sheriff Brewer and Rev. F. R. Law in the city to-day. The sheriff is on his way to Goldsboro' with a colored insane person. I understand your worthy county superintendent of Public Instruction went before the House committee on Education with a good many valuable amendments to the school law, which his experience has shown him the need of. It is a pity that more of our County Superintendents did not feel the same interest in the discharge of their official duties. Q. Z.

Our Washington Letter.

[From our regular correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 20, 1883.

The Republican National Committee held a session here a few days ago and had something of a time trying to determine how the delegates to the next nominating convention should be chosen. Many of the members seemed to feel that it made very little difference how the thing was done, as there would be little chance for the candidate, save but others who saw themselves ambitious of the representative of ambition, wanted to have things fixed to their advantage. It was on the whole a rather gloomy gathering of leaders, wholly lacking in the dash and spirit of the "grand old party" in its harmonious and prosperous days. About the most touching incident was the resignation of Starr route Dorsey as Secretary of the Committee. The ex-Senator's letter, a most plaintive and heart-rending document, was received in silence. There was an atmosphere of solemn coldness about the room which seemed to say, "We are sorry, old fellow, but you have got caught and we can do nothing for you. The time was when we could have defied public opinion and carried you through as we have many another, but now we are too weak. Dorsey in his letter endeavored to give himself a first-class certificate of character, which was thoughtful on his part as it supplies what his associates in their nervousness might have neglected to offer him. The certificate which Mr. Dorsey himself furnishes leaves nothing to be desired. It is perfect. It sets forth that but for Dorsey there would probably have been a Democratic victory in 1880, that all he asks as Secretary of the Committee, his enormous collections of funds and his liberal dispensation of same in Indiana—were known to and approved by the candidate for President and Vice President, that with him rested the supreme responsibility for the results of the campaign, and that if any man has ever deserved the gratitude of his party and his fellow citizens it is the self-sacrificing patriot, and indefatigable S. W. Dorsey. And yet there are people callous enough to keep asking what the ex-Secretary did with all the money he took to Indiana, and heartless enough to wonder how long Mr. Dorsey is to succeed in keeping out of prison. We also hear hints about Washington that there are other members of the committee who are quite as little at ease as to their credit upon the Committee as the friend, adviser and co-partner of Brady.

The women's rights people are preparing for the annual convention of the woman suffragists, which is always held in Washington during the session of Congress. It is by some considered the most amusing event of the season, and however disappointed the members of Congress may feel, they certainly enjoy their seances with the congressional committee which is deputed to receive them and luxuriate in the boundless liberty of tackling them. It is wonderfully funny! It is worth most anything to see the women lords and enjoy the sparring exhibition between the lords and the ladies of the Committee. Senator Voorhees and Senator Vest are invariably sent to them, that is as many as two dare to be, and get sat down upon with great dignity and vigor. Ribbons and impromptus and flowers and compliments to the last to listen to their stirring appeals and indeed if those stirring appeals are not met out a good many more would be given vent to.

The hard times that senator Beck has been having to get money enough to go to the Senate reminds me that one of the richest jobs that has been put through Congress this winter is the purchase of 1,800 canes which Senator Voorhees is to purchase at $50 each, these canes containing a ring machine invented by a Boston man, and supply them to every election district in the United States. Just what the merits of the machine are I have not been able to find out, but it is some sort of a glass contrivance with the ballots pasted on an endless belt, for the supposed purpose of preventing fraud upon the franchise. But as the election judges would handle, and possibly tamper with every ballot, the security in the thing is not so apparent. The only certainty on the face of the present returns is that the man who makes the machines would be suddenly made enormously rich if Mr Beck's proposition should be adopted. Speaking of rich men, while walking down the Avenue one morning recently in company with a senator the name of Senator Plumb was mentioned. "Did you know," said he, "that Senator Plumb and Whitelaw Reid worked in the same office at one time. Your humble correspondent pleaded ignorance and the senator continued: "Plumb was foreman of a little weekly paper in Xenia, Ohio, of which Reid was editor, and they worked together for quite a while. Both have struck luck since those days. The unknown editor of the insignificant weekly got in with Jay Gould and Jim Blaine, made money and married millions. His foreman went west of the Missouri and 'caught on,' to use a street term, just at the right time. I am told he is worth $1,000,000 or $5,000,000."

PISCO.

The melting snow and recent heavy rains have caused freshets in the neighborhood of Petersburg. The Appomattox river has overflowed its banks, submerged the low lands and covered the jetties in the river. Large quantities of lumber and drift-wood are floating down the stream, and it is feared that numbers of bridges and fences in that country have been washed away and that other damage has been done. The Roanoke river, near Weldon, N. C., is very high, and the low grounds are under water.

A Railroad Horror.

A telegram from San Francisco, dated 20th, says:

One of the most awful railroad accidents on record this side of the Rocky Mountains occurred at an early hour this morning on the Southern Pacific Railroad, when eighteen passengers and two sleeping coach porters lost their lives by being crushed or burned to death in the wrecked cars. Ten or twelve other persons were seriously injured.

What is known here as the through or overland train leaves San Francisco every morning at twenty minutes past nine o'clock. The train that started yesterday morning consisted of a locomotive, one mail, one express and baggage car, two sleeping coaches, an ordinary passenger coach and a smoking car. On the train were sixty passengers, two-thirds of them bound for the East.

The train reached Summer Station about eleven o'clock last night, having made a run of 311 miles since leaving San Francisco, over what is known as the Tulare division. At Summer it is customary to take on a second locomotive to assist in drawing the train over the Tehachapi grade, which commences near Keene Station and rises at the rate of 120 feet to the mile as far as Tehachapi summit, where the Mojave division will become form a junction with the main line. The top of here pierces the Sierra Nevada range where it breaks off and forms the Sierra de San Rafeol range of mountains, which extend to the seacoast toward Point Arguillo.

The ascent seems to have been safely made, for the train reached the neighborhood of Tehachapi Junction, forty-seven miles from Summer Station, between twelve and one o'clock, for just below the junction the train was stopped for the purpose of "cutting out" or disengaging the extra locomotive. While the change was being made the string of cars, in some unknown way, received a backward impetus and before anything could be done the helpless train went thundering down the fright ful grade, the pace increasing more and more as it proceeded. For over four miles this terrible race continued, the cars leaping and bounding over the rails in their mad, headlong career, until the foremost sleeping coach (the train now going backward) jumped the track and went tumbling over an embankment fifteen feet high. The coupling between the two sleepers held fast and the second sleeper following its companion with a terrible crash, carrying with it the mail, express and baggage cars.

Scarcely had the sleeping coaches and box cars fallen in a shattered heap together than they all caught fire and were soon consumed. The scene that ensued was a terrible and heart-rending one, for nearly all of the occupants were jammed in the debris and were slowly roasted to death before the eyes of those who had hopped escaped but were unable to afford any succor or rescue them. Cries and shrieks for help were heard, then faint groans of pain, and all was over.

Settling a Controversy.

From the Steubenville Landmark.

Two men-minds of this place recently had a difficulty which terminated in a fight. Other parties interfered and the encounter was prolonged "ad infinitum." Each, however, claimed the advantage and each subsequently boasted publicly of his conquest and bantered his adversary with canes and epithets. The thing went on for several days, until several of "the boys" who had been told both sides of the story more times than a few, arranged for a final settlement of the matter in dispute in the only manner in which it could be settled, namely by another test of the physical mettle of the two parties, upon fair grounds and equal terms. The one-eyed agreed to make the best, and it was demanded of them that after the contest, no matter how it went, they should make friends. The terms were agreed to and last Monday night was settled upon as the time and the old Union platform as the place for the determination of the controversy. The party was very exclusive, being composed only of the bruisers, time-keepers and judges. The champions divested themselves of hats, coats, collars and vests. They were searched for weapons, and none being found, the curtain was rung up and the entertainment commenced. Skill united with pluck and endurance to make up a battle which would not have done discredit to the prize-ring. The combatants worked upon each other's countenances with energy and effect. Heads and faces were profusely illustrated with maps and diagrams, and when, at the end of 15 minutes, one of the bruisers was knocked out of time and the contest declared closed.

When the judges announced the result, the knockers wiped the blood out of their eyes, shook hands, put on their garments and left the field of combat, elated if not satisfied.

An Important Bill.

A despatch from Washington says that a bill was introduced into Congress, on last Monday, fixing the time for the meeting of the 49th Congress, first session on the 5th of March, 1885 and the second session on the 1st Monday in January, 1886, and each Congress thereafter on corresponding days. It aims at no change in the time for election of representatives to Congress, but is intended to so change existing laws that the term of each newly elected Congressman shall begin a short time after the election, and so that each new Congress shall meet shortly after the election instead of thirteen months afterwards as now; the idea being that to the representatives fresh from the people shall be committed the duties of carrying out reforms and enacting remedial legislation which the people may indicate as the points they want done.

A Model Farmer.

From the Goldsboro Messenger.

There is in the county of Greene, eleven miles from any railroad or town, a small farm with less than two hundred acres that was valued 48 years ago at $1,000. The present owner came in possession of it 28 years ago at a valuation of $2,000, and has recently refused $6,000 for it. When the present owner came in possession of it 28 years ago, he had no family but a wife, he had just taken for better or worse. No other property but a horse and a year's provisions. At the commencement of the war he had five likely negroes, during the war he cleared $5,000 in confederate scrip, which he has on hand. Since the war closed, he has bought and paid for five hundred acres more in the same county all made on the same small farm. He has never used any fertilizers, has never bought any pork or corn for his own family use, never wore but two or three suits of clothes, except linens that was not made at home, never paid more than $25 interest, never was warranted or sued, never paid more than $10 to lawyers, never held any public office, never was under the influence of strong drink, has a good selection of fruit, and never bought a tree, has six children, and has given them a first class home education.

This man is about fifty two years old, has never been a witness in court, but once, he is out of debt, and has a surplus on hand. He has ever loaned money for more than eight per cent., has always paid liberal to the preacher, and last, but not least, has always paid the editor in advance.

A Terrible Death.

Portsmouth (Va.) Times.

Details of the terrible suffering and death of three men from exposure and cold on Currituck Sound, N. C., have reached Washington. The men were sailing in a large sloop-rigged canoe; and, being overtaken by the severe storm which passed over that section last Friday night the boat was overturned while the occupants were endeavoring to bail out. One of the men was drowned almost immediately, being chilled by the icy water. Another clung to the vessel's keel until forced to let go by the intense cold and the jostling of the boat. The third man, whose name is reported as Waterfield, held on to the keel, and was washed ashore, after having been in the penetrating water for over three hours. When found on the beach Waterfield was frothing at the mouth, his limbs were terribly swollen and blue, and his tongue which was also very much swollen, protruded from his mouth. It is expected that he will die from the effects of his terrible experience.

New York's Newspapers.

From the New York Herald.

Ten thousand, nine hundred and ninety-five tons of newspapers and periodicals were sent during last year through the New York Post Office to news agencies and regular subscribers. The rate of postage on this class of matter is two cents per pound, and the receipts amounted to $433,802.88, which is twenty-seven per cent. of the aggregate amount of a similar class of mail matter, received by all the post offices in the United States. The number of newspapers and periodicals in New York which are mailed in this is 788, and are classified as follows:—Dailies, 44; semi-weeklies, 20; weeklies, 309; semi-monthlies, 47; monthlies, 315; bi-monthlies, 4; quarterlies, 49. There is a daily average of forty-five tons of newspapers and periodicals mailed every day at the New York Post Office.

A Terrible Explosion.

A telegram from San Francisco, dated 21st, says: Shortly after four o'clock this afternoon the city was shaken by a heavy explosion. Four others followed at intervals of four seconds, and a dense column of smoke rising across the bay was sufficient evidence of another, added to the numerous powder works disasters that have occurred in the vicinity. A brief telegram says the giant powder establishment near West Berkley station, four miles north of Oakland, was blown up and one white man named Cook and between forty and fifty Chinese were blown to atoms by the explosion. Nearly the entire place was destroyed by a fire which began immediately after the explosion.

Steamer Sunk.

A cablegram announces that the Cimbria, of the Hamburg-American line, has been sunk in the German Ocean by a British steamer. There were nearly five hundred passengers on board at the time. Many of them were emigrants on their way to New York. Their fate is uncertain. A boat which has arrived at Cuxhaven has landed thirty-nine persons. Six steamers have been sent out to search for the other boats of the Cimbria.

A later cablegram states that there are no hopes of any more persons having been saved, and that the number drowned will reach nearly five hundred.

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Good Advice.

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Soluble Phosphoric Acid,	6.32			
Reverted " "	2.20			
Total Available " "	8.52	Equal to Bone Phosphate		18.60
Insoluble " "	2.58	" " " "		5.63
Nitrogen	1.95	" " Ammonia		2.37
Potash	2.17			

Commercial Value Per Ton, (2000 lbs.) $35.75.

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Jan. 11, 1883. tf.]

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Home-Made Fertilizers.

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January 4, 1883. 3m.

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Raleigh, N. C., September 7, 1882.

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Dr. WM. LYNCH, DENTIST,

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All calls left with Dr. A. S. Richardson or D. McCauley will be promptly attended to.

Feb. 2, 1882. tf.

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September 7, 1882.-3m

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