The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1883.

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

PERSONALITIES in newspaper controversies are to be deprecated and avoided. Nearly every person will assent to this, and yet no sooner do some of our most amiable and most esteemed brethren will indulge therein, either allowing their passions to obtain the supremacy over their judgments or being unduly influenced by the desire to "get the best" of the argument. In such cases they forget that argument does not consist in personal abuse. Our idea of newspapers is that they are intended to furnish the public with the latest news, and to contain editorial comments upon the principal topics of the day—to give their readers useful and interesting information. The readers of a newspaper are not concerned about the personal affairs—the likes and dislikes—of its editor and an editor who fills the columns of his paper with denunciations of other editors does not furnish his subscribers with that for which they have paid him. The quarrels of editors should not be permitted to pollute the public sentiment than the private quarrels of other individuals. And yet while this is true yet it is frequently very difficult to restrain oneself and refrain from indulging in that which would condemn. There is a touch of human nature in almost a great deal of it in most men, and editors are just like other men. They, like other men, will sometimes act hastily and write unadvisedly, but does it show good? Does it increase the number of their subscribers or cause them to prefer them?

We are led to these observations by the recent unpleasantness between two of the ablest and most influential editors in the country, both of them gentlemen of the highest character and irreproachable integrity, whose friendship it has been our pleasure to have enjoyed for many years. As a friend of the press and as one sincerely desirous of their success we regret that they have allowed their controversy to go so much beyond the limits of courtesy and we do sincerely hope that sense will now prevail. We do not intend this as a "chestnut" from us, but rather as an expression of regret at the circumstance and as a hint given to a species of journalism that all of us quite often indulge. How delightful it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

The citizens of the different townships of this State are required by law to meet on the first Saturday in February and August in every year for the purpose of considering matters in relation to the condition of the roads in their respective townships and during the week of the road meeting they must go over and examine all the roads in their townships and make a report thereof to the next term of the superior court of their county to be held thereafter. The law further says that the judges of said courts shall call upon the clerk of the court for such reports and charge them to the foreman of the grand jury. And the supervisors who fail to make such report are guilty of a misdemeanor and may be fined or imprisoned. The condition of every public road in the State is thus brought to the attention of a grand jury every year by sworn officers and as no overseers or supervisors are ever, or seldom ever, indicted it is a great jury it is to be presumed that all our public roads are in a good condition. But is this presumption correct? Is it true that all our public roads are in a good condition? Who will assert this? How can true men of conscience commit perjury? The law is very plain in its requirements. It directs the supervisors, who are sworn officials, to make these annual reports of the condition of the roads; it directs the judge, who is also sworn officials, to make these annual reports to the grand jury; and the grand jury are sworn to do their duty.

At the approaching term of the superior court of this county, which begins on the 17th of September, let us see if these requirements of the law are complied with; and if not, let us see where fault is. We have heard some of the supervisors in this county say that they would delay making their reports this year until the week before court, in order to give the overseers ample time to put their roads in good condition. We mention this so that every overseer in the county may be put on his guard and at once proceed to work his road, and thereby save unnecessary costs and trouble. This is a leisure season of the year and every road ought to be well worked. Have all the loose rock thrown out and the holes filled up. Do this much, if nothing else, and it will help greatly.

A WONDROUS change in politics has been made, and our readers will almost doubt the statement when we announce that ex-Gov. W. W. Holden has left the republican party! Yes, he has published a card in the Raleigh News and Observer in which he states that he is no longer a member of the republican party, and will probably soon give his reasons therefor. He is an astute politician and doubtless is somewhat influenced by the prospects of democratic success next year.

THE NEWS of Hon. Jeremiah S. Black, of Pennsylvania, has removed a remarkable man from the arena of American politics. He died on last Sunday after a comparatively brief sickness, in the seventy-ninth year of his age. He had long been prominent before the country and had occupied many high official positions. Probably his greatest prominence was attained when a member of President Buchanan's Cabinet. He was a most brilliant lawyer and an controversialist writer he had no superior.

THE STRIKE of the telegraph operators has ended—has signally failed—and all are applying for the positions lately vacated by them. As said by us last week there was too much stock on our sale at that many months in the future. The strike lasted just a month, and during that time the operators and their friends took great pains to let the public know that they were not responsible for the strike, but were willing to perform a great deal of the work that was being neglected by the strikers. The result was that the strikers will render the telegraph companies more powerful and exacting than ever before. Public sympathy, which favored the strikers at first, considered a good sort of a struggle did not last for many months and was not equal to the occasion of a contest of greenbacks.

THE UNITED STATES Government employs as well as all private enterprises. It is somewhat curious to notice the comparative rank of the several States in regard to the ten different rulings of the census from 1790 to 1880 inclusive. At the first census in 1790 Virginia occupied the first rank in population, and in the first decade she was the "mother." This was caused in part by the loss of West Virginia. New York was the third State in 1790, but became the first in 1820 and has retained that position ever since. North Carolina was the third State in 1790, but in 1800 she fell to the fifth rank, which she has ever since retained. Pennsylvania has occupied the second position in every census (except in 1810 and 1820 when she occupied the third place). The most wonderful growth was that of Ohio from the seventh place in 1800 to the third in 1820. It rose from the ninth place in 1800 to the fourteenth in 1810 and Texas, from the eighteenth place in 1870 to the eleventh in 1880. The growth of Iowa, Kansas and Michigan has been marvelous and Nebraska, Colorado and Dakota are rapidly ascending the scale.

Public Documents.

From the Raleigh Journal.

It is announced that a forty carloads of public documents have been sent from Washington to members of Congress for distribution among their constituents. Who will read them?

A search party ought to go into the interior of the country, where the citizens adorn the shelves, but appear only rather for ornament than use, to see whether some will find its way into the hands of men who can make good use of it, but the largest part will be thrown away.

This is a pity, because these documents contain much matter of great value that is not to be found elsewhere. For example, no person has ever treated specially of the finance or administration of the war. To learn of the public land or pension systems the history of the public finances, the Indian question and many other such important subjects, recourse must be had to these endless records of Congressional papers, bills, reports, petitions and debates, fifty or sixty volumes of which are issued yearly. They are a mine of information when properly worked, and for that reason they ought to be preserved. The fault is not in printing this matter, although doubtless much might be omitted, but in the manner of distribution.

The Rural Editor's Trials.

From the Farmers Journal.

People with a high appreciation of their beloved dead will pay the undertaker well for the coffin and the use of his hearse; they will pay the sexton for digging the grave, and generally the minister for preaching the sermon—and then will come to the country editor with a long piece obituarising the many virtues of the deceased, which they expect to have published free. This is what they call the fitness of things. We find it absolutely impossible to make some people believe it costs money to publish even a country journal.

Our Washington Letter.

From our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 18, 83.

The millions of people who have for some half a century been delighted with the sight of the Liberty bell must and no doubt be sadden that the father of his country wore what he designed his commissioners Annapolis will learn with profound regret that they, with the other Washington relics, have been transferred from the Patent Office, where they were accessible to everybody, over to the practically forbidden precincts of the National Mall that. The removal of these sacred memorials to the place named is one of those official and officious blunders that our public executions are continually making. While everybody who visits Washington never thinks of leaving it without going through the model room of the Patent Office, nobody, apparently, has ever had occasion to go to the Smithsonian Institution. Besides, now one has to go out of the way to see the relics. Besides, now one has to go out of the way to see the relics. Besides, now one has to go out of the way to see the relics