# The Chatham Record

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H. A. LONDON, Editor.


## CHATHAM'S EXHIBIT.

The county of Chatham has officially declared through her Board of Justices that she will have a "creditable exhibit" at the State exposition to be held next fall. As will be seen by reference to our local columns the justices of this county, at their meeting held here last Tuesday, unanimously adopted a resolution calling upon the county commissioners to "take such steps as will insure a creditable exhibit of the varied resources of our county at the North Carolina State Exposition," and we are quite sure that it will be the pleasure of our commissioners to carry out the wishes of the justices. And so we claim for Chatham the honor of being the first county in North Carolina whose authorities have officially taken action in regard to having a proper county exhibit at the approaching State exposition!

We are not only highly gratified at this action of our justices, but we are also pleased to know that it meets with the approval of our citizens generally. This spirit proves that our people are becoming aroused to the importance of properly informing the world as to our resources and thereby attracting capital and immigrants to aid in their development. The resources of Chatham in forest, field and mine are unsurpassed by any county in the State, while her water-power is simply incalculable. Her location geographically is most favorable—in the very centre of the State—and her climate is remarkable for its salubrity. The North Carolina railroad skirts her eastern and northern borders; the Raleigh and Augusta Air-Line road runs through the southern portion of the county for 16 miles; and the Cape Fear & Yadkin Valley road enters her southern border near Egypt and runs through the county in a north-westernly direction a distance of nearly 30 miles. So that Chatham has convenient railroad facilities, making her accessible to the outer world.

But we do not now purpose enumerating the inducements offered by Chatham to the capitalist and immigrant. We will do that hereafter, as we have often done heretofore, and would now urge upon our countymen and fair countywomen to bestir themselves and see to it that Chatham's exhibit shall be "a creditable" one in every respect. We appeal not only to the county pride of our citizens but to their pecuniary interests in the county's material prosperity. Hundreds of visitors from the Northern States will attend the exposition, and if they there see a "creditable" exhibit of Chatham's resources they will be attracted to this county and no doubt many will be induced to invest or settle amongst us. It will be such an advertisement of Chatham as the State's exhibit at Boston was for North Carolina. Let us all then take an active interest in aiding our county authorities in making an exhibit worthy of our wonderful resources and varied products, and as Chatham occupies the central position on the map of our State so let us make her occupy the central position and be the centre of attraction at our State's grand exposition!

## ROAD SUPERVISORS.

All the public roads in this State are placed under the supervision and control of the justices of the peace in the several townships, and the justices are constituted and styled the "Board of Supervisors of Public Roads" of their respective townships. As many justices have recently been appointed and may not be familiar with all their duties we take the liberty of referring to the law prescribing their duties and powers in the matter of the public roads, which is contained in chapter 50 of volume I of The Code. We allude to this subject just now because on next Saturday week, being the first Saturday in February, the law directs that the justices of every township shall meet at some place within their township for the purpose of consulting on the subject of the condition of the roads in their township. At this meeting they must elect some one of their number chairman, and divide the roads of their township into sections and appoint overseers for said sections. We do not know why the first Saturday in February was singled out as the day for these meetings, unless our law-makers very wisely thought that this was a season of the year when "the subject of the condition of the roads" needed more attention than at any other. Certainly our public highways at this season every year are almost impassable and their condition appeals most powerfully to the supervisors to afford whatever relief they can to all persons who have to travel over them.

The condition of our public roads for half the year is one of the greatest hindrances to the prosperity of our people. Everybody will admit this fact and yet nothing is done to remove this hindrance. The newspapers publish long articles on the subject, and the judges at every term of every court in every county charge the grand juries on the same subject, and all in vain. Our highways are no better now than they were twenty five years ago, and our people seem content to drag along as their fathers did before them. And this will continue until we have a legislature that will change the system of working our roads.

## A STEAMER SUNK.

On last Thursday the steamer City of Columbus plying between Boston and Savannah was wrecked near Gay Head, the eastern end of the island of Martha's Vineyard, and ninety-seven persons were drowned, only twenty-nine of those on board having been rescued. The scene as described by the survivors was terrible in the extreme. We well remember passing the scene of this disaster, on our voyage from Norfolk to Boston last fall, early in the morning as the sun was rising upon a calm and tranquil sea, and the loveliness of that scene was in such striking contrast to that depicted by the survivors of this appalling ship-wreck.

## Our Washington Letter.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 19, 1884.

It may be set down as an established fact, barring the absolute purchase of Congressmen by Huntington's agents, that the present Congress will meet the expectations of the people in compelling the surrender by railway corporations of a number of forfeited land grants. The House Committee on Public Lands has already decided upon a number of these grants, the most important of which is the Texas Pacific, which Mr. Huntington is trying to gobble, and there is no doubt that the committee will be sustained in its report. A fierce fight will be made by the lobby, but the current appears to be too strong for them, and the eyes of the country, through the press, are too close upon them to render the purchase of enough votes practicable or possible.

If the Texas Pacific had been built under the law making the grant, the company would have been entitled to 14,000,000 acres of land. But the company failed and abandoned the work, after having earnestly besought Congress for other aid in raising money, which was refused. Its chief argument was that there ought to be a southern route to compete with the Union and Central Pacific. But here came in Mr. Huntington of the Southern Pacific, who defeated them by setting up that his company would build the desired competitor without subsidy and without Government aid. To beat Scott and gain his point he even claimed that the Texas Pacific grant had already lapsed, and pushed his line through territory upon which he was really a trespasser if that grant was alive. The Texas Pacific went down. Tom Scott, broken in health and defeated in purpose, sold out to Jay Gould. And now comes the virtuous anti-subsidy Huntington, who built his road upon the ruins of the Texas Pacific, and presents Jay Gould's order on the Government for this fourteen million acres of land which the Texas Pacific would have been entitled to if it had been built. The enterprising Gould having no desire to build the road, obligingly turned over to Huntington, for whatever he could make out of it, the land grant which he himself had no more title than Satan had to the real estate once offered by him from the top of a high mountain. It is gratifying to observe that the scheme is going to be heavily sat down upon by Congress, and that some portion of the vast territory supposed to be in the grasp of those who have never given anything for it, is to be restored to the public domain.

Somebody has called attention to the curious fact that it is unlucky for aspiring statesmen to build big houses in Washington, and the recent defeat of Mr. Pendleton seems to be a fresh illustration of this peculiar truth. In nearly every case, even as far back as Douglass and Breckinridge, the public men who have attempted a fine permanent residence here have found it the erection of a mausoleum for their political hopes instead of a palace. Neither Sprague nor his father-in-law long enjoyed the stately mansion with its large grounds, at the corner of Sixth and E streets, which is now a boarding house. Attorney-General Williams was one of the first to build a fine residence in the new part of the West End. The red lining of a carriage killed him not long after. Senator Stewart built what is still called "The Castle" further out. It nearly burned down twice, and his family have only occupied it for a short time lately. General Butler erected the well-known granite mansion on Capitol Hill, which could not have cost less than $100,000, just before he went out of national politics apparently "for good." Even the leasing of it seemed likely to prove almost equally fatal to the prosperity of Senator Jones, of Nevada. "Boss" Shepherd only completed his fine house about the time the return wave came in his fortunes and sent him to the Mexican mines and his house into the hands of a receiver. Mr. Robeson has not lived in his house; Mr. Blaine only a short time in his; Mr. Windom's was directly used as a campaign card against him; Senator Cameron has gone abroad from his immense but somewhat gloomy pile, and his State has reared and kicked up against him; and now the near neighbor of those last mentioned has ruefully walked the plank in Ohio.

The investigation being conducted by Mr. Springer's committee into the affairs of the Department of Justice is developing a very interesting state of facts concerning various United States marshals. It appears that nearly every marshal has taken care to get a good deal of Government money in the way of fees, and that numbers of them are short in their accounts. Ex-Marshal Hall, of Pittsburg, it is said, made $150,000 unlawfully, and about a dozen others owe the Government from $10,000 upward. This is a nice state of facts which was not suspected outside of the Attorney-General's office, and the curious part of it is in the indifference shown there and the utter lack of accountability and responsibility exacted by that department. It is said there will be some loud music when the investigation gets down to the Star-route trail and kindred matters.

PAONO.

## Our State Museum.

From the News and Observer.

The geological museum is, as has been said, the finest in the South, and is one of the best known in the country. Yesterday a reporter dropped in there and spent half an hour in pleasant conversation with Mr. T. C. Harris, who is in charge. From him it was ascertained that during the eleven months from February to December, 1883, there were no less than 6,381 visitors to the museum. The attendance each month during that period was as follows: February 684, March 755, April 639, May 486, June 659, July 641, August 501, September 486, October 669, November 605, December 501. Among these visitors were representatives of no less than twenty-six States besides North Carolina, and of six foreign countries. This statement of the number of visitors, which is accurate, will attract special attention, for it is one of the best proofs of the fact that so much attention is being directed to North Carolina.

Among these were four parties of excursionists, altogether numbering some two hundred. Northern men drop in every day, and many come here, spend a day or even several days in inspecting the museum, then go away to where they ascertain the minerals, &c., they wish can be found of the best quality or in the greatest quantity. Here is where the actual cash value of the museum makes itself manifest even to the most casual observer. It is an outward and visible sign of the resources of the State. The people coming to the museum now are business men, who are "looking around," as the phrase goes, "on their own hook."

To show how people are being attracted to the State we cite the instance of Mr. William Hart, a Scotchman, an excellent wood-worker, who was sent by friends in this country copies of the Boston "Herald" which contained descriptions, accurate and full, of North Carolina's resources and advantages. A day or two ago the Scotchman came here and informed Mr. Harris that he would make his home in the State, choosing Winston, probably, as the point.

The latest additions to the thousands of beautiful specimens of all kinds in the museum are palmetto branches from Smith's Island, below Wilmington. The palmetto trees there attain a diameter of twelve and even twenty-four inches, and a height of from thirty to forty feet; quite tropical, in fact. The specimens in the museum are large and beautiful.

The Wake county serpentine, polished, attracts attention, as the only fine specimen. It is, we are told, very valuable for all inside work, such as mantels, &c., as it is easily worked, takes a beautiful polish, is abundant and cheap. Specimens of mantels, of the lovely flesh-colored marble of Cherokee county, are shown and are handsomer than any ever seen here.

A few days since a party came into the museum to look at specimens of baryte. He found that it existed in quantities in Orange county, not a great way from Durham, and at once went there to purchase the mine. Baryte is used in the adulteration of paints. A large mill for grinding it was put up last autumn on Col. Rumbough's land at Warm Springs. Baryte is in special demand, as mines of it are scarce.

The museum is to have at best a "Jumbo," in the shape of a cut of a express tree which is just twelve feet in diameter. This monster is to arrive here to-day, on the Raleigh & Gaston railroad, and comes from the north-eastern part of the State. Where to put it is the question, for it can't get in any door.

A "Jumbo" garnet crystal, which is big enough to make a breastpin for a dude, is another of the new arrivals at the museum. It tips the scales at twelve pounds and is perfect in form.

Mr. Harris is now engaged in making a map of the line of the Cape Fear & Yadkin Valley railway. The road will soon issue a pamphlet containing this map and giving full information about the country on its line.



At Andover, New Brunswick, on the 16th inst., the thermometer indicated a temperature of 52 degrees below zero.

## The State Penitentiary.

From the News and Observer.

The report of the warden of the penitentiary shows that the total number of convicts in the State December 1, 1883, was 1,013. Of these 950 were males, and 63 females. Of the males 113 were white, 1 Indian, 836 colored. Of the females 5 were white, 58 colored.

During the twelve months from November 1, 1882, to December 1, 1883, there were received from the courts 432 convicts. Of these 52 were white males, 357 colored males, 1 Indian male, 2 white females, 20 colored females. Of the 432 prisoners received 210 were married, 215 single, 15 widowers, 1 divorced, 1 widow.

Of the prisoners, Wake sent 27, Mecklenburg 22, New Hanover 21, Edgecombe 18, Halifax 16, Forsyth 14, Wilson 14, Duplin 14, Wayne 13, Robeson 12, Iredell 11, Guilford 10, Lenoir 10, Pitt 10, Warren 10. Bertie, Caldwell, Camden, Cherokee, Dare, Davidson, Graham, Harnett, Henderson, Polk, Rutherford, Stanly, Tyrrell and Yancey sent none.

The terms of sentence were as follows: 52 one year, 7 one and a half years, 120 two years, 74 three years, 33 four years, 78 five years, 9 six years, 8 seven years, 1 ten years, 1 twelve years, 3 fifteen years, 8 twenty years, 3 for life.

All the convicts are in the new cells, and the hospital is now in the admirably heated main building. The hospital wing is nearly completed and in this the sick will soon be quartered. There are hospital wards on three floors, the rooms numbering six in all, the dimensions being very large, and the lighting, ventilation, etc., admirable. On the lower floor two of the great rooms are to be used as a chapel and Sunday school room. A heavy partition well separates the rooms, but at one end this does not reach the cross wall, so that one standing at that point can see all over both rooms. Very soon the old wooden dining hall, so many years in use as a chapel, will be no longer used. Everything at the penitentiary, as in all the State institutions, is progressive and in the line of improvement. The tower of the east tier of cells is receiving the finishing touches, and considerable interior work is going on.

## Marrying a Skeleton.

From the News and Observer.

Monday last Miss Bertha G. Clear, the pretty daughter of a Philadelphia merchant, left home, and a few hours later was married to Jas. B. Garrison, the living skeleton at the dime museum in that city, with whom she had become infatuated. Wednesday the bride of two days was a raving maniac, who, imagining that she was still with her monstrosity of a husband kept crying, "Oh! take me away from him! Take me back home. Take me back. Take me back." On Tuesday the girl seemed to realize her folly and went home on pretence of getting some clothing. Arriving there she was kindly received by her parents, but quickly relapsed into a delirium, from which she has not yet recovered, struggling and crying out all the time for help and deliverance. The father of the girl says she has frequently given signs of being demented, and that a divorce will be applied for as soon as the girl can know what she is doing.

## Oil and Water.

From the News and Observer.

An experiment has been made as to the feasibility of laying the surging waves by means of oil—and it has proved successful. Two dollars worth of oil was forced through pipes out into the harbor of Folkestone amid the breakers, and when the globules of oil reached the surface the effect was magical. In half an hour there was not a sign of broken waters, where it had just been so rough that no boat could live in the wild waves. This plan of "calming the troubled waters," at least twenty centuries old, should now be put to practical use. No vessel should be regarded as complete in her equipment that is not furnished with her "barrels of oil."

John Egan, ex-Speaker of the New Jersey Assembly, has been sentenced to imprisonment at hard labor for one month and a fine of $500 for an attempt to bribe a member of the Legislature last winter.

A gentleman by the name of Brown, living in Stafford, near Fredericksburg, had a severe attack of the earache and poured spirits of turpentine in it, which soon produced paralysis and death.

Monroe Enquirer: One effect of the stock law is to make game much more plentiful. The old fields being allowed to grow up afford them protection from hunters and other depredators. —Mr. Allison Simpson of Jackson township, has a remarkably prolific cow. She has given birth to four calves—two sets of twins—within little over a year's time. —We learn that, during the recent cold snap, just over the State line in South Carolina, a horse belonging to a colored man actually froze to death. In Buford township, in this county, hogs, cows, sheep and goats all froze. Nothing like it was ever before known in this section. —Mr. W. A. Rice, who lives near Matthews station, met with a peculiar accident a few days ago. He had just returned from town, and while standing before the fire unloading his overcoat pockets of several articles, a pound package of powder which it contained ignited and exploded. Mr. Rice, a little girl who was standing near him with a child in her arms, and the child, were all severely burned about the face, hands and arms. The child was blown from the girl's arms across the room. The overcoat was destroyed and the house came near burning up. Fortunately no one was dangerously injured, and all will recover with more or less scars.

Weldon News: Mr. Benny Rooke and his wife were walking along the road in Northampton county. Mr. Rooke staggered, and his wife supposed that he had merely stumbled at first, but noticing that he did not recover himself, took hold of him and assisted him to lie down. She put his head in her lap and found that he was dead. Mr. Rooke was in good health at the time. —Mrs. Mary Allen, who lived at Miss Emily Campbell's, was found dead in her room. Mrs. Allen had been sick, but had apparently recovered, and was as well as any one of her age could be expected to be.