The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1885.

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

AN EXPLOSION occurred last Saturday that was truly wonderful, and is another triumph of man's power over the material world. We refer to the subterranean explosion in New York harbor, by which six acres of solid rock were completely shattered. The work was undertaken by the United States government nine years ago, for the purpose of removing the obstructions to navigation caused by Flood Rock. All these years a large force of men has been hastily engaged, away under the water, drilling holes and cutting tunnels in the solid mass of rock. In these holes and tunnels 14,000 cartridges or packages, containing 280,000 pounds of dynamite were deposited. Every cartridge was connected by an electric wire, so that all might expode at the same moment. Of course the handling of so much dynamite was very dangerous, but so carefully was the work done that not the slightest accident occurred. Last Saturday was the day designated for the explosion to take place. It was looked forward to with much public interest, and many persons in the city of New York were apprehensive lest the explosion might endanger their lives or property. At the appointed time everything was in readiness and a large crowd approached as near as they safely could to witness the upheaval. The little daughter of Gen. Newton, the engineer in charge, was selected to touch the electric button that caused the explosion, and it seems almost incredible that science has made such advances that the touch of that little girl could send an electric current away under the water and in an instant cause the complete disintegration of six acres of solid rock!

THE STATE Fair at Raleigh this week we regret to hear, is not well attended. Indeed it is said that there were fewer visitors than at any preceding fair in many years. Possibly one cause for it may be the contrast that visitors expected between the fair and the State exposition. The latter was such a grand success, there was so much to be seen, and the display was so attractive that many persons thought the exhibit at the fair would be insignificant in comparison therewith, and not worth seeing. This is the first State fair since the war that we have not had the pleasure of attending. We hope the authorities in charge of the fair will not be discouraged by this year's partial failure, but make redoubled efforts for a grand success next year. Our State fair ought to be sustained and encouraged by all our citizens, and made more and more attractive every year.

THE MASSACRE of the Chinamen in Wyoming Territory, two or three weeks ago, is likely to go unpunished. Although nearly one hundred unoffending and law-abiding men were shot down like rabbits by a mob of murderers, and in open day light, yet no one is to be punished for so horrible a massacre. The grand jury have failed to find a true bill against the men who were arrested and are now turned loose to repeat their bloody work. This is a sad commentary upon American justice. Our laws ought to be powerful enough to punish the guilty and protect the innocent everywhere, throughout every State and Territory. As a Territory is under the control of Congress, that body, at its next session, ought to take proper action in this matter and vindicate America's fair name.

THE REGISTRATION act passed by the last Legislature is published in another column, and the attention of our readers is especially called to its provisions. The Legislature very properly wished to give the greatest publicity to this important law, and, as will be seen by reference to section 5, directed it to be published for six weeks in three newspapers in each Judicial district. It is too late now to discuss the merits of this law. Some persons approve it, and others condemn it, but since it is the law all must obey it. Therefore, read it and govern yourselves accordingly.

CLEVERIUS has been granted a new trial by the Supreme Court of Virginia. Our readers will remember that he was convicted, a few months ago, of the murder of Lillian Madison. The trial excited much interest everywhere and its progress was read with close attention. The Record at the time of his conviction expressed the opinion that the evidence was not sufficient to justify his conviction, although the general opinion was that he was guilty, and he was threatened with lynching.

Washington Notes.

[Special Correspondence of the Record.]

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9th.—The meeting of Congress in December is already an engrossing topic here. A number of Congressmen are in the city, looking for winter quarters. A long and interesting session, lasting well into August, is predicted on all hands. The organization of the House will be effected without any such contest as marked the 48th Congress. Speaker Carlisle will be re-elected without opposition. Postmaster Dalton and Sergeant at Arms Loudon, both excellent officers, will be re-elected. The death of Doorkeeper Wintersmith leaves a vacancy and the fight for that place promises to be lively. The most leading candidates are Tramer, of New York, Donnellson, of Tennessee, and the irrepressible and only original Biggins. With the solid New York delegation behind him Tramer seems to hold the winning hand. Both are old employes of the House, and an active and working Democrat and a capable man. Nearly all the patronage of the House is in the hands of the Doorkeeper. On account of the patronage the office is a difficult one to fill. The tariff, civil service reform and silver promise now to be the leading questions in the House. The Senate is very dull and heavy, will be watched with interest. A good part of its time will be spent in discussing and consulting appointments. Where no one will be found is a question of absorbing interest. The vacancies in Republican cabinet leaders, high and low, would seem to discount hostile Senate. Those who have had both the watchword of the Administration. For instance in the Treasury Department the chief clerkship is now held under the Arthur Administration. In the case of the Bureau of the Republican there has not been a single change except in the head of the Bureau. The security and stability of employes secured under civil service and rules of the Bureau in these cases and others of like character are by Republican. The Democratic Senators not apply to the officers named. But the Democratic Senators. Chief among these is Senator Pendleton. The Democratic Senator is a vast power in the country, and a true Administration to be sure, influence and strong reliance of appointees. By and by we shall see. The President is an earnest and sincere Democrat and the new appointees may see how soon he has been true to the principles of the Democratic party. Democratic party is simply Democratic. The President is in favor of the civil service reform. Under the Republican party Democratic party. Such a thing as the purpose of the Administration to be. According to the Commissioner will be pushed. The very best thing to do is to let us alone, but if that cannot be done, the Internal Revenue system must be the best of it. Strip of its monstrous by commuting it to the hands of economical practical men.

At the request of Senator Vance the Department has decided to remove the internal office from Statesville to Newton. The change is not pleasing to a good many Statesville people. Based on the cost of living alone this locality is cheaper at Newton. The Department felt determined to make the change. It was first ordered by reason of the rules to Statesville although it is by no means to Newton. The Democratic Board against the removal to Newton, but it was overruled, and is now understood that the change will be made.

Upon inquiry at the office of Internal Revenue Commissioner Miller it is learned that the change from Republican to Democratic revenue officers in the Fifth District will be made as soon as the new appointees for their bonds. As the appointments recommended by Collector Boyd have been approved and the district was such have Democratic revenue officials throughout. The delay has been due to the failure of the appointees to give bond, and the blame is theirs and not the Department's, as alleged in the Patriot last week. Commissioner Miller, besides being a most affable gentleman and courteous official, is a square-cut Democrat, and is earnestly interested in a clean Democratic administration of the Internal Revenue service.

Senator Ransom is an untiring worker. Most of his time is spent here at great inconvenience and expense, in the interest of his State. He has boundless faith in the Administration and believes that its policy is wise and just. The changes are too slow, but he appreciates the difficulties that beset a new Administration. He has no ground of complaint. Not a single request has been denied him, and it is well known here that he enjoys the President's confidence. On his table lies a well thumbed "Blue Book." Its pages are familiar and reads like a column of "wants" in the city newspaper. He is the most approachable man in the world and puts on less style than many $1,200 Department clerks. At the Metropolitan Hotel he occupies an unpretentious third floor room. The latch string is always on the outside. On the street he misses no reservedly with the great unwashed that loiter in front of the hotel. Like all great men he has marked peculiarities. It is his wont to answer an impertinent or delicate question by gracefully turning on his heels and whistling a low, soft lullaby. Ordinarily he is a not a good whistler, but on these interesting occasions there is a touch in his melody that thrills every fibre of the newspaper man's innocent soul.

Crop Reports.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 10.—The Department of Agriculture reports that the high condition of cotton in June and July was not maintained in August and September. Severe storms and excessive rains have prevailed; rust has destroyed the foliage, and the worms have injured the fruit worse than for several years. Another fall in the average of condition has occurred from 87 on the first of September to 78 [illegible] average in October of the cen[illegible] va[illegible] 81, and the [illegible] y[illegible] [illegible]ceipts of a bale. This year the [illegible]atest decline is in the region of [illegible] highest rate of yield, reducing the relative production. The Department's estimate of the increase of area since 1879, is 26 per cent. The returns relate both to the condition and the prospective yield per acre in bushels of shelled corn. The figures must not be construed absolutely as a sliding feet and the autumn weather may easily cause a variation of a quarter million bales. The condition by States is as follows: Virginia, 78; North Carolina, 77; South Carolina, 79; Georgia, 87; Florida, 88; Alabama, 84; Mississippi, 80; Louisiana, 77; Texas, 78; Arkansas, 70; Tennessee, 76. The estimated yield, with the average of former conditions are: Virginia, 32; South Carolina, 38; North Carolina, 38; Georgia, 38; Florida, 25; Alabama, 40; Mississippi, 41; Louisiana, 34; Texas, 38; Arkansas, 42; Tennessee, 33. Average decline [illegible] decided [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]