The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1887.

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

PROHIBITION was defeated in Michigan at the election held last week. At first it was thought that the prohibitionists were successful, and the first reports were to that effect, but the latest information is that prohibition was defeated by a small majority. The vote was very full, and, as the majority against prohibition was so small its advocates are by no means discouraged, but are rather encouraged to make another effort.

In Texas an election will be held next August upon the question of prohibition. The Legislature of that State, at its last session, passed a bill to submit the question to the people, as was done in this State in 1881, and an exciting campaign is expected. Senator Reagan, one of the most influential citizens of Texas, has published a letter earnestly advocating prohibition, and this is the more significant because, two years ago, he opposed prohibition.

TRINITY College, after a precarious existence for several years past, is about to be placed on a prosperous and permanent basis, and all friends of education will rejoice thereat. A meeting of its trustees was held last week, and Prof. Crowell, of Pennsylvania, was elected President. Other learned professors were added to its faculty, which will now compare favorably with the faculties of any other college. Not only this, but steps were taken to raise an endowment fund of $100,000, and there is no reason why this should not speedily be done. The Methodists of North Carolina are too influential, numerous and zealous a denomination to fail in thus endowing their college. Already one of their number, Mr. Julian S. Carr, with his characteristic liberality has headed the list with a contribution of $10,000. Let others follow his example!

A POLITICAL revolution occurred in Rhode Island last week. On the 6th inst. an election was held in that State which resulted in a decisive democratic victory. Such an event has not occurred before in twenty-five years, and gives hope that Rhode Island will join the democratic column next year in re-electing Grover Cleveland President. The idea of Rhode Island having a democratic Governor seems almost incredible, but such is the result of last week's election.

A CONFERENCE of the Baptist ministers of this State was held at Tarboro' this week, beginning on last Monday. Many of the leading members of the Baptist Church attended, and the session was pleasant and harmonious. A number of interesting and important subjects were discussed, and several very able addresses were delivered. Such gatherings cannot fail to be productive of much good.

Evading Prohibition.

Monroe is a prohibition town, that is, the sale of liquor is prohibited there. But the law has been very shrewdly evaded, until a week or two ago when its violators were detected. The place where the liquor was sold was known as the "Blind Hog", and is thus described in the last issue of the Monroe Enquirer-Express:

The front of the building was operated as a decoy barber shop. James Burton (who was never before known to work in a barber shop) had charge of this department. A partition divided the building and in the back end a dark room or closet was partitioned off with a passage leading from the barber shop and extending around it on the north and west. The "blind hog," who was understood to be Berry Hasty, operated from the dark room, through an opening in the ceiling into which a sliding arrangement was fitted. It is said the modus operandi was after this fashion: The customer would go into the barber shop, when Burton, who knows pretty much everybody, would call him by name and ask him what he wanted. If a safe case he would be allowed to go into the passage where he would give a "grunt," the blind hog would ask what he wanted, the money would be placed on the slide and drawn inside and the drink would come into view through the same means. It is said the person in the passage could not tell whether the man on the inside was white or black; those who got a view of his face would find one side of it to be white and the other side black; the voice also would sometimes undergo a change.

At the present writing the "Blind Hog" is closed up, it is to be hoped for all time to come. On Friday evening last a warrant for "The Blind Hog", alias the "Blind Pig", was placed into Mr. George Red fearn's hands, who bearded the hog in his den and brought him out. James Burton was found to be serving in the capacity of the blind hog at this time. Berry Hasty was subsequently arrested on the street. The outcome of the matter is that Burton has been bound over to answer in the Superior court and Hasty took leg bail from the sheriff as he was being conducted to the court-house Saturday morning, and has entirely disappeared from the scene.

The Wheat Crop.

WASHINGTON, April 9. The report of the department of Agriculture for April relates to the condition of winter grain and the comparative healthfulness of farm animals.

Returns show that the condition of the soil at the limits of seeding wheat was somewhat unfavorable in the States of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, owing to drought during the late summer autumn—most severe in a portion of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, and in parts of Texas. The same unfavorable conditions prevailed in Western Missouri and in Kansas. Continued dry weather made plowing difficult, seeding late, and in localities where it was undertaken when the winter set in, germination is slow and the fall growth small. In the great wheat States of the central West—from Tennessee to Missouri, the seed belt in the greater part of the area was in favorable condition, and with local exceptions, the plant made good growth before going into winter quarters. On the Pacific slope the early seeding time was dry, but the rains came later, and the whole breadth was put in fair condition though somewhat after the usual date. The covering of snow during the early portion of the winter was better than usual over a large part of the wheat area, but there are from many sections complaints of scarcity of protection during the very trying weather since February 15th. The month of March was the most severe for a series of years, the temperature being below the average over the whole wheat area east of the Mississippi river, and alternate freezing and thawing wrought serious damage to the bare fields, especially in bottom and poorly drained lands. Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Ohio suffered severely from this inclemency. The general average of condition is 88—the same as in 1884, and higher than at the same date in 1884 and 1885, when it was 80 and 76 respectively. The April condition of last year was 92.5, which was still further improved by favorable weather during the month. The averages for the principal States are: New York 97, Pennsylvania 79, Maryland 82, Virginia 79, Texas 79, Tennessee 94, Kentucky 92, Ohio 79, Michigan 92, Indiana 90, Illinois 92, Missouri 95, Kansas 83, California 92, Oregon 98. The damage from the Hessian fly is comparatively unnoticed, its presence is mentioned in from one to four counties in New York, Texas, Tennessee, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Michigan.

Returns of the condition of farm animals show a loss of swine amounting to 13.4 per cent., or over five and a half millions, and indicate the continued widespread prevalence of hog cholera. The losses of sheep amount to seven per cent., of cattle four and three-tenths per cent. The losses of cattle are heaviest in the South, and on ranges of the far West from five to nine per cent., while in sections where shelter is provided and better care taken, it amounts to only two and a half to three per cent. The mortality of horses is very small, amounting for the whole country to less than seven-tenths of one per cent.

Cruelty to Children.

From the Raleigh News and Observer, 12th.

Yesterday in Justice Barber's court a man named John or Dickerson was arraigned for assault and battery and cruelty to children. About six years ago Superior Court Clerk Chas. D. Upchurch bound out to Dickerson two small white boys, since which time their lives have been full of misery and cruel treatment. This week Clerk Upchurch received information as to the way in which the boys were treated, and had a warrant issued for Dickerson to appear before Justice Barber. In the hearing it was shown that the boys had been subjected to the most cruel treatment. Their backs were terribly scarred and were a living proof of what they had undergone. In the evidence they gave, it was discovered that Dickerson had made them at different times take wood from the lands of Maj. John Devereux, and an additional charge of larceny was entered. Dickerson was bound over to the superior court to answer the charges. Immediately after the hearing Clerk Upchurch summoned all the parties before him and cancelled the papers of indenture to Dickerson. One of the boys was bound to Mrs. Lucy Gill of this city and the other was sent to his grandfather near Holly Springs. When they learned that they were not to stay with Dickerson they showed great joy, and their faces for the first time were clear from the fear and fatal fear they felt of their cruel master.

Earthquakes in February.

Some of the most severe earthquakes on record have taken place in February. At Lisbon, on the 26th of February, 1531, 1,500 houses were destroyed by an earthquake and 30,000 persons buried in the ruins. On the 2d of February, 1703, 5,000 lives were lost by an earthquake at Aquila in Italy. On the 5th of February, 1783, a terrible earthquake took place in Italy and Sicily, destroying thousands of lives and overthrowing Messina and other towns. On the 4th of February, 1797, an earthquake destroyed the whole country between Santa Fe and Panama, including Cusco and Quito; and it is estimated that on this occasion, 40,000 people were buried in one second. On the 20th of February, 1835, an earthquake in Chili, besides effecting an immense amount of other damage, almost destroyed the city of Concepcion, knocking down the cathedral and most of the public buildings.

Our Washington Letter.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, April 8th, 1887.

Next month The National Capital will see more of "the pomp and circumstance of war" than ever before. It is probable too that the largest crowd of visitors that ever assembled in this city will come to witness the most novel event that will take place here during the present year. The National Drill will commence on the 23rd of May and close on the 30th of that month. Decoration Day, with a grand combination parade, will be on the broad, asphalt streets of soldiers from everywhere.

The North, South, East and West, Lake regions and Gulf states will be represented by their contingent sightseers as well as their citizen soldiery who compete for the prizes. May finds Washington in its glory, fresh verdure, balmy air and flowers, and military displays are always popular. The fife of brass bands, the shrill piping of the shrill voices of the fifers, the rolling drums, the enthusiastic acclamations of the populace, the gaudy uniforms, prancing steeds, white city of tents, and flying banners show as apparent the season and martial spirit of the people.

The grounds for the camp are the monument grounds lying around the Washington Monument, and the drill ground is that level space lying just south of the White House known as the "White Lot." This level plain is one that lends itself admirably to the purpose, and stands will be erected around it on which to seat the spectators. It will take many to tend the contest to prove the excellence of the cavalry, infantry and navy and scientific corps. Every evening during the week there will be a grand brigade dress parade, and on Governors day and Memorial day the entire army corps from Gen. Sheridan's Washington will parade through the streets of the city. Each evening after the grounds will be illuminated for pleasure and concerts, and other attractions which are being prepared for the occasion.

Since the $250,000 appropriation was made for case pieces, some 5,000 good, smart and honest people, specially selected, are hopeful of a share of the spoils. Some of the competitors are relied on for the other days and it is said that they have the expectation of winning prizes not more than six months, simply on the recitation and presence of the trip. Thirty-six States are already represented in the application made for entry, and yesterday there came from Dakota.

One very important feature of the affair is the presence of Dorsey and his gang of boomers, who are now in the city of hotels and leading houses. It was her second during the Cleveland inauguration, although it was estimated that there were then two hundred thousand strangers in the city. Washington offers many attractions for a week's visit, besides the National Drill. It is by far the most beautiful city, as the most interesting city in the Union, and Mount Vernon, Harpers Ferry, and many other historic spots are near by.

The season of the year and the engagements in connection with leaving from the Drill, prevented the usual spring exodus of people to the country, though the Congressmen were delayed in their departure. Many of them were detained here by the illness of the President, who recovered from his attack of the Grippe. In fact, the President himself was detained here, he having promised to be present at the inauguration of the Virginia State Complete, and that they are recognized and regularly organized soldiers of the State of Virginia, and the right to enter organized under any law, civil or military, exists, and cannot be denied. Gen. L. A. Sheridan, who is along the line from Washington to Gettysburg, and Friday this morning was hard to strike the name. Many warrants were issued in Pittsburg. I can not tell it, as many for other places but only point along the line it will venture to the hundreds. It is the biggest swoop of the kind that ever has taken place in Pittsburg, or in fact in the world, for nothing like it has ever been reported before. I cannot tell who are the leaders, or what the organization is, but it is known that the police are working energetically in the matter, and are hopeful of success.

Among the prisoners is a man named Bikes, against whom there are thirty-eight charges. Early one morning, some months ago, at Sherrard station, near this city, a man was stopped for water. An offer was made on the crew, and the fireman was shot from the engine. He only lasted a few days. At the time it was thought it was from the engine. At the inquest it was found that the fireman was shot from the engine. At the inquest it was found that the fireman was shot from the engine. Bikes was arrested, and the evidence against him was very strong. Bikes was released on bail, and disappeared. Two months ago he was arrested in Chicago, and brought back to Pittsburg. He