The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1887.

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

A NOTABLE libel suit was tried last week at the superior court of Moore county. The plaintiff was T. Baxter Gunter, formerly of this county, and the defendant was the News and Observer Company, of Raleigh. Our readers will remember that, on the night of December 22nd, 1883 Mrs. Olive Gunter and her daughter, Miss Jane Gunter, were murdered at their residence in this (Chatham) county. The murder was so shocking and brutal that it created great excitement, and a state of anxiety and uneasiness continued for sometime in that community because of the ineffectual efforts to discover and punish the murderer or murderers. On the 23rd of July, 1885, the following item appeared in the local columns of the News and Observer:

"Information is said to be in the possession of the coroner of Chatham county implicating Baxter Gunter in the murder of his mother and sister, in that county, about a year ago. The authorities are on the hunt for Baxter Gunter, but he has disappeared and evades the officers of the law. He is said to be lurking in Wake county."

On the 24th of July, 1885, this item was contradicted by another item in the News and Observer, as follows:

"The statement that Baxter Gunter had disappeared and was evading the law is contradicted. It is said that he can be found at his home, two miles from Sanford every night."

And on the 26th of July, the same paper published a letter from Mr Gunter contradicting the report. Soon thereafter Mr. Gunter brought suit for libel, claiming damages to his character in the sum of ten thousand dollars. The case was finally tried last week and the jury rendered a verdict for damages in the amount of $250. It is said that at first the jury stood two for no damages at all, six for nominal damages, one for $250, and three for $1000, and finally they all agreed to $250 damages. We refrain from publishing any of the evidence of the many witnesses examined at the trial, because no good can be accomplished thereby and injustice may be done unintentionally.

A RAILROAD house was even fitted up at Raleigh by the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad Company for the exclusive use of its employees. The room is large and comfortably furnished with chairs, settees, tables, &c., and is supplied with the best books and periodicals. It will be a pleasant resort for the working men after the day's labors are ended and also be a source of information and improvement for them. It affords us much pleasure to note such a commendation of it as an example that some corporations might imitate to their advantage as well as to the advantage of their employees. Such action of this railroad company is especially worthy of public commendation when we are continually hearing corporations of that character so much abused as being "soulless," "grinding monopolies", &c. It is interesting also to note this as an evidence of the kindly feeling existing between this corporation and its employees at a time when pestiferous agitators are seeking to array labor against capital.

CLINTON'S celebration was quite a success, and we hope it will stimulate the citizens of this place to make our celebration equally successful. The crowd in attendance was estimated as high as four thousand—there being three military companies present. A number of speeches were made and a handsome present was made to the president of the Clinton R. R. Company for his services in building the road. A sad and very peculiar accident occurred. The officer commanding the military was thrown from his horse, and in falling his drawn sword was driven into the back of one of the marshals riding by his side and was broken off with the point protruding from the breast, and the broken piece of the sword had to be pulled from the unfortunate man's breast with a blacksmith's tongs. And strange to say, the wound is not considered mortal and the man is getting well.

A CATTLE show was to be held at Raleigh on the 12th of this month under the auspices of the Wake County Cattle Club, and promises to be a decided success. A similar show was held at Raleigh last May, and it is said to have been the best exhibit of cattle ever seen in this State. Doubtless the exhibit next week will be still better. We are pleased to note and commend every effort made to improve our cattle and dairy interests, and wish every county would hold an annual cattle show, and thus improve their breeds of cattle.

Our Washington Letter.

From our Regular Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, April 29th, 1887.

When Washington is quiet, dull, Congress absent, and no really new news accessible, your correspondent is excusable for writing about things that are talked about whether or not they are news or important. May will be one of the gayest and merriest of months in Washington, but April has not been so at all. Society is comparatively quiet except which it ever usually indulges in a prolonged "latest effort," which is "no longer, you know," the Wednesday receptions. Mrs. Cleveland has not been long or saying anything that was very remarkable of late, and the gossip about President Cleveland's second term has entirely subsided for the present.

An effort was made recently to induce the President to recommend to Congress the purchase of a painting by a foreign artist, which has been hanging in the Executive Mansion for several years. Mr. Cleveland is an official who proposes to attend strictly only to his own legitimate business and duties, and he was a trifle indignant at this suggestion. He did not enter into the question of the desirability of the picture from an artistic standpoint, but declined positively to say anything to Congress on the subject on the ground that it was not in accordance with the action of the President.

Congressman O'Neil, of Missouri, recently said that he wished most heartily some law could be passed by which Congress could endeavor in a coming approximate could be unanimously do away with. Said he, with some of a Congressman's experience in the committee applications for office from long tick and long winded men, "I tell you, gentlemen, I am not made to understand that a thousand men can be appointed to fill offices and it takes valuable time and attention to convince them of it. Other men, who have not the same right to expect an office, can't get necessary recognition, and have to be satisfied with letters they never forgive you for not granting an opportunity to give some statesmen fits. It is enough to wear out a man's temper with Congressional service."

During recently there were two men in the Republican Congressional district who had within the past few days, while trying to prove that republicans are not sectarian and that they recognize the ability of the young men among the party, [illegible] the office of postmaster at Washington. The great majority of the people [illegible] approved the act, but many [illegible] Mr. Cleveland changed the [illegible] to open fire on the [illegible] and the troops fired in the direction [illegible] Some of them going [illegible] a slough near there and [illegible] men. All of them [illegible] the city streets and [illegible] camp where the commanding officer [illegible] Thus terminating [illegible] to arrest the fugitives [illegible] the spot [illegible] the troops [illegible] the grounds with a position [illegible] the spot. He was taken to the security [illegible] and will probably die. The sketch of the country has been [illegible] of the [illegible] troops on the [illegible] known [illegible] to the [illegible]

Carrying on Business in Jail.

[illegible]

A Sabbath-Observing Railroad.

From the Raleigh Christian Advocate.

In this day, when railroad corporations show so little regard for the Sabbath, it is pleasant to note that through our State we have a line of roads that carefully observes the Sabbath day. We refer to the line running from Baltimore over the Bay to Portsmouth, Va., thence to Raleigh, via Weldon, or to Hamlet and from Wilmington to Rutherfordton, via Charlotte, on which lines Mr. Robins is the President and Maj. Jno. C. Winder, of this city, is the General Manager. This road runs no Sunday trains. They miss one trip each way on all their lines because Saturday night and Monday morning, thus giving all their employees an opportunity to observe the Sabbath. It is for this they are not what are known as "through lines," but they set the "through lines" a shining example in their strict observance of the Sabbath. We note their rule in this respect to commend the management for it. It shows that they love some respect both for God's Sabbath and for their employees.

This subject of the observance of the Sabbath by the railroads of the land is one of vast importance. The railroads have no more right to run their trains on Sunday than the merchants have to open his store and sell goods on this day. The railroads have no right to require their thousands of employees to work all day on Sunday. All the great laws of nature, as well as the Bible, demand the proper observance and rest of one day in seven. And any man or set of men or corporations or nations that disregards the Sabbath will sooner or later reap the inevitable evil results.

A Battle With Tramps.

ST. LOUIS, MO., May 2.—A party of tramps have for some time held a camp in the extreme outskirts of East St. Louis. Yesterday complaint of poaching was made to Constable Welch, who ordered it broken up and the tramps driven out of town. Lieut. Erwin with fifteen officers went to the camp and found the tramps to disperse and leave the city. They paid no attention to the orders and the officers were obliged to arrest them, firing several shots in the air to intimidate them. In the great scuffle of the tramps the officers were [illegible] but, no one wounded. The police then charged the camp to open fire on the tramps, who fired in return. Some of them going down a slough near there and [illegible] men. All of them [illegible] the city streets and [illegible] camp where the commanding officer [illegible] to arrest the fugitives [illegible] the spot [illegible] the troops [illegible] the grounds with a position [illegible] the spot. He was taken to the security [illegible] and will probably die. The sketch of the country has been [illegible] of the [illegible] troops on the [illegible] known [illegible] to the [illegible]

An Insane Murderer.

[illegible]

A Dangerous Tramp.

[illegible]

Large Hail Stones.

ST. PAUL, MINN., May 1.—The most destructive hailstorm ever known in this vicinity passed over St. Paul this afternoon. The weather was [illegible] and [illegible] a terrible [illegible] lasting up for a few minutes [illegible] fell for [illegible] and were [illegible] of about thirty minutes. Some of the stones were the size of hickory nuts, and weighed from half an ounce to an ounce. One of them went through the flat skylight in the rotunda of the Ryan Hotel, covering it to pieces. About one hundred and fifty to two hundred panes of glass were broken in our city, lumber yards were stripped and factory roofs in some cases ripped off. The damage will be very great. [illegible]

Tilden's Carriage.

From the Wilmington Star.

Capt. T. J. Sutherland has recently purchased the landau which was built expressly to order for the late Ex-President Samuel J. Tilden, and it may be seen at his stables on North Second street. It is made in the most substantial manner of the very best material. The wheels and all the wood work under the body are painted red, the body, which is hung on "C" springs, and seat are painted black, and the latter has a large brass mounted lantern on each side of it. The outside of the landau is not remarkably attractive further than as a sound, substantial piece of work. The windows at the front and in the doors are of French plate glass, and the interior, which is lined and roofed is most elegantly upholstered in crimson satin. There are small mirrors on each side of the interior, but no little pockets in which to place any small article which might be needed in a drive of much distance. The driver's seat is trimmed with black cloth. The landau is rather a heavy vehicle, but is certainly one of the most comfortable and moving carriages we have ever seen. It was made expressly for Tilden, and when new cost $3,000. The harnesses which were made at the same time, and expressly for the landau, have been bought by Capt. Southerland, and they will be here to-night. These, like the carriage, are of the most substantial kind and are mounted in pure gold plate, and cost, when new, $1,000.

Making Her Slanderer Retract.

CHATTANOOGA, April 30.—A young schoolgirl near Trenton, Ga., recently showed a degree of bravery that will be a warning to the slanderers in Dade county at least. Miss Charlotte is very pretty and bright and quite a belle. A young man from a neighboring village made disparaging remarks about her young lady, which resulted in her being out of school in the street fight. The stories finally came to the young lady's ears. Thoroughly [illegible] she borrowed a shotgun, mounted a horse and went in quest of the traducer, whom she found in a store surrounded by a large number of friends. Cocking both barrels of her shotgun, which was loaded with buckshot, she pointed it at him and said:

"You villain! Acknowledge before these gentlemen that you have lied about and slandered me and that there is not truth in anything you have said, or I will this instant blow out your brains!"

The man turned and the mockery of his accusers, especially the women, [illegible] demanded from him something that he had foolishly uttered. Reluctantly admitting the lie, he was forced to leave the place amid the jeers of the crowd, who loudly cheered the young lady, who, leaving, was [illegible] by an admiring crowd.

A Family Poisoned.

A Petersburg special says: Details have reached here of a most [illegible] and [illegible] by a colored girl in the family of John [illegible], living near the Dinwiddie county line, near Butler's Bridge, four miles from Petersburg. The girl was in the employment of Mr. [illegible] and had been [illegible] with some trifling grievance which she had been [illegible] with some resent. This [illegible] for several days she went out [illegible] and bought a quantity of strychnine, which she put in sugar to sweeten coffee for the family. [illegible] Mr. Bragg's family, Mr. Bragg's family, Mr. Bragg's family,