

# Watauga Democrat.

State Librarian  
Raleigh N.C.

VOL 2

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1890.

NO. 31.

## WASHINGTON LETTER.

### To the Democrat:

Mr. Blaine represents one side, and Senator Quay and Representative Ray, of Pennsylvania, the other in a very pretty fight over a postoffice in Pennsylvania. Mr. Ray, in whose district the postoffice is, selected a man for the position, got the endorsement of Mr. Quay and handed the application to the P. M. General with the expectation that the appointment would be immediately made. This was some weeks ago, and the Pennsylvanians have just discovered the cause of the trouble. Mr. Blaine gave a cousin of his a strong letter to the Post-master General asking for the same position. Mr. Wananaker not wishing to offend either the Senator or the Secretary has refused to recommend either's candidate. That's the present status of the fight. The end is looked forward to with interest.

Ex-Speaker Carlisle explained to a democratic caucus of the House the changes that the republican members of the committee on Rules, and he also pointed out why certain of the changes proposed would be particularly objectionable to the minority. There was a general discussion, both of the Rules, and of the now plainly to be seen, intentions of the republicans to give every republican contestant the seat now held by a democrat. No resolution of any sort was adopted but it was nevertheless well understood that if the republicans attempt to bring up and dispose of the contested case of Smith vs. Jackson, which has already been reported to the House, before the Rules are adopted, the democrats would resort to every legitimate method of defeating them, even to the extent of breaking a quorum. In this connection the fact may be mentioned that the democrats in the House lack discipline. They have splendid leaders, but they don't properly support them. And worse than all, many of them are constantly out of their seats, just when their votes are most needed. Speaker Reed's decision might have been overridden on two occasions, last week, if the democratic absentees had occupied their seats.

It took Senator Ingalls exactly two hours to tell the Senate what he didn't know about the race problem. The language used was mild, compared with the Kansas Senator's previous speeches.

The World's Fair isn't getting solved as easily and as promptly as it was generally expected to be. The Senate committee is to meet Friday. The House committee meets constantly, but, owing to its peculiar construction, does nothing.

Senator Brice's declaration that "Ohio should be eternally democratic," has struck a responsive cord in the hearts of the Ohio democratic Congressmen, and they say they intend it shall be, begin

ning with the Congressional election next November.

Well, the Civil Service Commission is to be investigated, the House committee on Reform in the Civil Service having decided this morning to make a favorable report on the resolution providing therefor, and its passage by the House being only a question of time.

Senator Sherman has put his foot in it badly in his recommendation of a postmaster for Columbus, Ohio, if one may judge by the protests pouring in by mail and wire upon Mr. Harrison, the Postmaster General and the Ohio Congressmen, from the citizens of Columbus. Unless Mr. Sherman withdraws his name he will be appointed, is what they say at the Post-office department.

It seems from the evidence taken by the Naval court of inquiry now sitting here, that, instead of one, as has been charged, there are two organizations of Naval officers, formed solely for the purpose of influencing Congressional legislation in which they are interested.

Secretary Windom, in a long letter to Senator Frye, chairman of the Senate committee on Commerce, opposes the bill now in the hands of that committee providing for the taking of seals in the Alaskan waters by the Government, and favors a renewal of the lease to the present company.

Senator Vest's Committee on the beef industry is at work again after several weeks vacation. The railroad men are being heard. This will finish the investigation.

Senator Gorham, after the Senate had passed a bill appropriating \$50,000 for the continuance of the improvements at the mouth of the Columbia River, gave notice that he would oppose further specific appropriations until all public works were considered in the River and Harbor bill.

Mr. Henry Wolcott, of Colorado, a brother of Senator Wolcott, is in Washington, and has been expressing publicly, some very hard opinions of Mr. Harrison and his administration. It is sad to see such ill feelings between political brethren.

Washington Jan., 27, '90.

Exposure to bad weather, getting wet, living in damp localities are favorable to the contraction of diseases of the kidneys and bladder. As a preventive and for the cure of all kidney and liver trouble, use that valuable remedy, Dr. J. H. McLean's liver and kidney balm. \$1.00 per bottle.

—A Christian tribe, surrounded by pagans, has been discovered in the heart of Africa. They had never before seen a white man. While their religious ideas are crude still they have a priest-hood, the cross and other emblems of Christianity. They are believed to have been exiled from Abyssinia about eight hundred years ago.

When nature falters and requires help, recruit her enfeebled energies with Dr. J. H. McLean's strengthening Cordial and blood purifier \$1.00 per bottle.

## A FORGOTTEN POEM.

One of the most famous poems of the sixteenth century was "The Sphere" of the celebrated Scotsman, George Buchanan. It would now be impossible to name a poem more completely forgotten.

The poem owed its great reputation to two circumstances.

It was written in Latin, then the language of educated Europe, and in verse which, in the judgment of the best scholars of that day rivaled that of the great Latin poets of antiquity. In the second place, it treated of a subject which, at the time the poem appeared, was exercising all instructed minds—the new theory of Copernicus. The "epoch-making" book of Copernicus, in which he announced his discovery of the earth's revolution round the sun, was published in the very year of his death, 1543. From the first his theory was received with contempt, and by none more than the great scholars of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

This contempt on the part of those who led the opinion of educated Europe, taken together with the scruples of the Church, explains how it was that nearly two hundred years elapsed before even learned men had assimilated with their daily thinking the fact that it is the earth that revolves around the sun, and not the entire heavens around the earth. Milton's "Paradise Lost" was published in 1669, more than a hundred years after the appearance of the work of Copernicus, yet Milton's poem is based on the Ptolemaic theory that the earth is the center of the universe.

We must not, therefore, regard it as a proof of mere blind dogmatism on Buchanan's part, that, some 17 or 20 years after the death of Copernicus, he should have written a poem for the express purpose of combating that great astronomer's discovery. At the time he began to write it, Buchanan was acting as tutor to a son of one of the great marshals of France, and it was for his pupils edification that the poem was in the first place intended. It is written in Latin hexameters, and it is divided into books, each dealing with a different part of his subject.

It is the first book of the poem which is especially interesting, as it deals expressly with the recent teachings of Copernicus. It is strange for us now to read how the great scholar solemnly advises his pupil to shut his ears to a doctrine unworthy of man, irreconcilable with reason, worthy to be ranked only with old wives tales.

Here are a few of the arguments with which he seeks to make good his case. Think, he says in his magnificent Latin verse, of the sound made by a boy's sling when whirled around his head—think of the sound made by a pair of bellows, and conclude from this what sound

would be produced by the earth's moving around on its own axis with all its mountains, seas, forests and cities. Again, if the earth revolved, and at the speed necessary to meet the case, how could any temple, house or city be left standing? The sea, moreover, could not keep its bounds, but would rush wildly over all the earth's surface. When a bird should fly into the air, before it could descend its nest would be some hundreds of miles from the spot where it left it. Suppose two armies engaged in battle, the arrows of the one, indeed, would reach the enemy, but those of the other would be borne round by the earth's motion and never reach their aim. If the heavenly bodies remained fixed, he proceeds, where would be our seasons, our division of time into days and months and years? The earth must be the center of the universe, otherwise the sun and the stars would vary in magnitude, whereas we know they do not.

Another interesting part of the poem is where it treats of the earth and Columbus' comparatively recent discovery of America. This is one of the poets most highly wrought passages, but one, at the same time, that utterly confounds a modern reader by its exhibition of utter incapacity to appreciate the significance of Columbus' great achievement. Avarice, he exclaims, is at the bottom of it all, and the opening up of new lands has led to nothing but increased misery and vice.—*Chambers Journal*.

## THE NEGRO EXODUS.

Charles E. Yarbrough (col.) is editor of the *Southern Appeal* published at Atlanta, Ga. It is the only Democratic paper edited by a colored man, in the South. He spent the holidays in Louisburg, N. C., with his parents, and wrote the following to his paper:

We spent the holidays enjoyably in Eastern North Carolina, among the familiar faces of our boyhood. The careful, industrious negroes of that section are keeping the even tenor of their way, and accumulating something. The emigration fever is more prevalent than la-grippe. Droves of hundreds are leaving daily. The second Congressional District, that has for four years boasted of a republican majority of five to one, will soon have none left to tell the tale.

The land owners are willing to supply tenants until they can make another crop. The exodus excitement is at such a high pitch, there is no certainty about what step to take. The Negro, in this particular, is showing the characteristics of a sheep, "bound to follow the crowd."

Who that knows what life is can expect to be perfectly happy? Go, clad in an armor that will enable you to defy the assaults of envy; carry your sun with you, and have your world within your self where you are both law-giver and judge.

## Are We Avoiding The Real Negro Question.

In the midst of the current output on the negro matter, is it not fair to say that we are flitting like flies around the central point? Should not the core of the agitation be given? Should not the real point of dispute be set forth? Certainly there would have been no point but for the attempt to force the negro upon the South, in social and civil equality. To sustain this position, we will mention the lack of hiatus in the South between the two races, before this attempt was made. The "social" division of the subject has come to have practically no existence. So that the attempt to establish civil equality in the South between whites and negroes is the point at issue. The South, though press and orator, is continually offering reasons why such equality is impossible of accomplishment. The North, backing itself by constitutional amendment, is continually putting forward its demand that such equality shall prevail. That is the question and that is the attitude of each side. The South says let us alone. A clash comes, and to distract attention, oratorical by-plays and chimerical Senatorial bills are offered.

Everytime the South does anything to bring forward this question, we think it is acting the part of unwisdom. For evidently we are putting forward a side whose strength consists in local causes, and in the statements of necessity, but misunderstood results. On the other hand, the Northerner always meets us with a quasi constitutional support underneath his argument. He meets truth with technicality. We say technicality, because the amendment affects people who had no part in its passage. But the technicality of the North is truth to outside ears, and our truth is perverted into a spirit of fraud and tyranny. If the negro matter is to be longer argued, the South should meet the North squarely, state the issue, state it truthfully, put it forth nakedly, and simply say we do not intend to be ruled civilly or otherwise in the South by the negro. If the amendment is sprung on us in response, we can well reply that we are capable of taking care of what we own, and can easily choose our own laborers. The negro is valuable as a laborer, but his status now, is that of a laborer only. Therefore, the Southern white men have always an industrial remedy in hand.

The South will certainly reject his labor, valuable as it may be, before it will accept his civil supremacy. There is no doubt of this. The negro is getting along well now prospering in his proper place and the South should, as far as he is concerned, be on the defensive, and not on the offensive. We, therefore, think the Butler exportation scheme, for this reason and many others, unwise. Let

the North make the onslaught with their constitutional amendment, and let us reply with the truth of local surroundings, to show the impossibility of its enforcement. Should force come into play, then the industrial lever can be used.

Meanwhile, let us go on as we are until we are forced to do something. For, the truth is, there is no problem except in the wicked hearts of Northern agitators. We are doing the best we can with the negro, and he is satisfied, growing more prosperous and more enlightened. The motto of the South should be—first, let us alone; next, we must be let alone; next, we will do without negro labor before we will put up with negro rule. Stand still, South, let the North do the agitating.—*Charlotte Democrat*.

## ACQUITTED.

Danville, Va., Jan. 27.—Mrs. Cora Seales Morris, of Reidsville, N. C. who for several days past, has been on trial for her life at Wentworth the county seat of Rockingham, charged with the murder of her husband by poison was acquitted to day. The jury remained out but a short time before bringing in a verdict of not guilty. Mrs. Morris is a handsome, young woman of a good family and her case has excited a great deal of interest throughout this section of Virginia and North Carolina.

"Nellie Bly," whose real name is Miss Elizabeth Cochran, has performed the feat of circling the globe in the shortest time on record, reaching New York last Saturday. The whole trip of 25,000 miles was made in 72 days 6 hours and 11 minutes. She took no baggage except a very small hand bag, and wore one plain navy blue dress the whole journey. She gives a thrilling account of her trip in the New York World, on which paper she is now employed. She is a native of Pittsburg, Pa., where her first literary work was done on the Dispatch.

Mr. R. E. Gill, a prominent and well to-do farmer of Franklin county, while on the way to his home near Franklinton from Louisburg where he had served as a juror, was waylaid and shot dead by some unknown person last week. The body was found on the road about six miles of Louisburg. What the motive was for the deed was has not been discovered. The remains were buried in Oakwood cemetery, Raleigh, in the burial lot of his father in law, Mr. Jesse F. Taylor. At the request of the Sheriff of Franklin, made known by telegram, the body was exhumed, the head opened, and the deadly bullet taken therefrom by Drs. McKee, Knox and Renn. A clue to the assassin has probably been discovered.—*Recorder*.

Physicians prescribe Dr. J. H. McLean's tar wine pung balm, if it they find no trace of opium or morphia, while its efficacy in curing all throat or lung diseases is wonderful.