

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER  
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# Daily Charlotte Observer

CHARLOTTE, N. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1876. NO. 2178

## THE CITY

**CHARLOTTE, N. C.,**  
December 20th, 1875.

On and after this date, mails will open and close in the office as follows:

Northern, delivered 8.30 a. m., close 9.00 p. m.  
Southern, 8.30 " 7.30 p. m.  
Air-Line, 8.30 " 8.50 p. m.  
Statesville, 11.00 " 2.00 p. m.  
C. C. West, 8.30 " 9.00 p. m.  
C. C. West, 6.30 p. m.  
Money Order and Register, hours from 9 a. m. to 4 p. m.

R. E. McDONALD, P. M.  
dec21

## CITY BULLETIN

Yesterday was the festival of Purim. Dust in the streets again, no lack of it. Oysters are "off," such weather as this. The elms on the streets are budding beautifully.

Many ladies upon the streets, yesterday; particularly late in the afternoon.

Capt. Thos. D. Johnson, of Asheville, and Col. S. L. Fremont, near the city yesterday. There was much light heartedness at the North Carolina Depot yesterday. The pay train arrives this morning.

A party of three hunsments went out from the city on Thursday, and returned with 73 birds, among the number 23 snipes. Does very well.

**Shot Through the Head.**  
Yesterday morning, two colored boys were sitting on the edge of the platform of the Carolina Central Railroad, near the up-town depot, one of them handling a pistol. The other, a boy named Albert Austin, asked to see it, when it was handed to him, cocked. He did not notice this, and it placing a finger carelessly on the trigger, the pistol was discharged and the ball passed through his left hand. It passed on and lodged in the big old house which is being rolled out of the Five Points to stand on Trade street, and in its passage came very near striking one of the colored house-wives.

**Horse Recovered.**  
An account was given yesterday morning of a chase, on Thursday evening, of a man named Williamson, who had stolen a horse from a Mr. Corley, of Lexington, S. C., and the subsequent stealing of a mule by the same fellow, is reported in another column. Friends of Mr. Corley, who had come up here on the hint of the horse, went out, yesterday morning, on the Air Line and Lincoln Railroads, in pursuit of the thief, and yesterday afternoon, Capt. W. D. Gooding, a friend of Mr. Corley in this city, received a telegram from Sheriff Robinson, of Lincoln, informing him that the horse had been found. Nothing was said concerning the thief, and it is supposed that he is still at large.

**Continuation of Inquest.**  
Coroner Alexander will go down to Matthews Station this morning, to conduct the inquest over the negro who was killed by another of his race at that place, three weeks ago. He will take with him the negro Green Smith, who was committed to jail here a week ago, as an important witness in the case. James Parker, the name of the slayer, he had as soon as he saw the result of his work, and has not yet been captured. The Coroner followed him into Lancaster county, S. C., and there gave up the chase, as he had no authority to make an arrest in that State. He left the precept, however, in the hands of an officer over there, and as the negro's whereabouts are known, it is thought that he will be taken.

**Handsome Words for Our Judge.**  
Dr. Harlee, of the Wadesboro *Argus*, was in our city last week, and in his account of his visit, speaks of having gone "round to the Court House where court was in session. Speaking of Judge Schenck, he says that he was "carried back to the olden times; when the dignity of the bench was recognized by this courtly manner of the bar; and could but hope that time in his rapid circles would soon restore to our country some of the customs, manners and observances of the old regime. Judge Schenck is an honor to the judiciary of North Carolina. Thoroughly posted in his profession, prompt in his decisions, dispensing justice with an even hand, he has in a great degree restored the respect that formerly existed to the second highest judicial tribunal in the State."

**Supreme Court Decisions.**  
The Supreme Court on Wednesday filed opinions in the following cases, among others:

J. H. King, et al., vs. C. M. Lynch et al., from Rutherford. Error.

State vs. Alexander Neely from Cabarrus. Affirmed. (Rodman, J. dissents).

Mary A. Reaves et al., vs. Ore Knob Copper Company, from Ashe. Judgment affirmed.

John A. Long vs. A. T. Cole, et al., from Richmond. Affirmed.

State vs. Houston, Black & Williamson, from Mecklenburg. Affirmed.

State vs. W. H. H. Houston et al., from Mecklenburg. Affirmed.

R. Kirk vs. B. Barnhart from Cabarrus. Verdict *de novo*.

**A Horse's Habit.**  
Nearly everybody is acquainted with the old blind horse which Albert Hershaw drives to the mill wagon. This old horse has been constantly on the go for many years past, and has met almost every mail train coming in on every road. This habit of going to the train has become second nature with him. The other day, Albert concluded to give him a day's rest, and in the morning early when the Air-Line whistle blew, the old horse knew that he ought to be going, and he reared and charged around in the stable, trying to get out in order to go to the train, until he tired himself. A few mornings before that, he was standing in front of the post office, when the Air-Line whistle blew, and off he bolted, going there whether or not, till he hauled up against the pump near by, and was obliged to stop. These incidents show how strong a habit may become, even in the case of a dumb brute.

**Economy in the Household.**  
We reckon a thousand jokes were told in this city yesterday. It was a pretty day and there wasn't much doing, so the business men went visiting among each other, and told yarns and had fun. The reporter found one of the best men in town about a quarter of a mile away from his business place, telling this joke to a crowd who had just voted that times never were so hard, and had all agreed that everybody ought to practice economy by cutting down drinks, and all that sort of thing. He said that just after he was married and established in a home of his own, he found one day that he needed a new spring coat, and nothing would do his wife but she must make it, so as to save money; she had a mighty great idea of being economical. So he went up town and bought some cloth—pretty, striped cloth—and carried it to the tailor, who cut it out, and then he took it home. Next day when he went home to dinner, his wife told him he hadn't brought but half of that cloth, and just then the tailor passed and they harnessed him about it and wanted to know how about that thing. The tailor said he didn't know, thought he had sent it all, suppose they let him look at it. So they took him in, and he looked at the coat, first at one side and then at the other, and finally he broke out in a laugh. The lady got "ashy" about it, and asked him what was the matter with that coat that he should get so tickled at it, and he said, "Oh, nothing at all, except that she had made one-half of it and lined it with the other half!"

**And the gentleman says that even to this day his wife don't like to hear anything said about that coat.**

**The Report of the Grand Jury.**  
The Grand Jury, after ten days of arduous labor, during which time it had about 70 cases, was dismissed yesterday morning in open Court. It has discharged its duties well, and special credit is due to the foreman, Mr. J. S. Davidson, who has been untiring in his exertions in behalf of the public weal. Before being dismissed, the foreman read the report which will be found below, and after the reading, His Honor addressed a few remarks to the Grand Jury. He approved of the suggestions contained in their report, and complimented them for their industry and efficiency in carrying out the duties of the grand jury. The report will be interesting to the people of the city and county, we give it herewith:

**FEBRUARY TERM, MECKLENBURG.**  
Before the Hon. D. Schenck, Judge Presiding.

The Grand Jurors of the county having discharged the duties devolving upon them, embrace this occasion to express their indebtedness to your Honor, for the clearness in which the duties of the grand jury were charged given from the bench, and for the efficiency of the State's officers, by which their labors have been greatly facilitated. We would congratulate the court and the county upon the great interest and concern of their hall of justice. The convenience, comfort and style of this principal county building, being an index to the culture and refinement of the people of the county, regard it as their duty to suggest to the County Commissioners, a renovation of the exterior of the Court House, by having the columns in front repainted, and the gables, pediment and cornice repainted.

In style, comfort and convenience, it is hoped will answer its purpose until the erection of one, more in keeping with the reputation of our people.

As directed by your Honor, the jury visited and inspected the county prison, and a building worthy of the county, and evinces a humane regard for those whose disregard of law brings themselves under its penalties. The jury would earnestly call the attention of the county authorities to some matters connected with the prison which in their judgment require attention.

The first is the drainage from the building, which involves the health and comfort of the inmates, as well as citizens in its neighborhood. We find that the escape of water from the roof, in rain, into, and through a marsh by a small slough, drains on the North and East of the building, and belonging to the property. Here it remains in accumulated quantities to send off its deleterious effluvia through the neighborhood. The jury recommended that a system of drainage be adopted, and that terra cotta pipes be used so that the masonry may be dried, and that it will be necessary to carry the pipe across the street, when it will be the duty of the city authorities to take charge of it.

The jury would repeat the recommendation of their predecessors, that no openings be made in the doors of the cells, through which provisions can be passed to the inmates, without opening the doors. This is a suggestion of the highest safety to the keeper of the prison, as the construction of the prison places his life in the hands of the inmate of the cell with door opened. If he should be more powerful than the jailer. The jury also call the attention of the authorities to a corner bracket on the West side of the prison, which supports the third story gallery. It being materially defective, there is danger of its falling, jeopardizing the lives of those who may be on it or below it. The cooking department of the prison is in the basement, and has no communication with the yard except through the upper story at the front, or through a window in the basement. The jury recommended that the window in the East side of the cooking department be changed to a door, and that a stove be placed to reach the ground above. This will enable the cook to obtain wood without ascending a stairway to the story above and returning in the same way to the kitchen.

The public roads of the county are reported to be in a fair condition. This is attributable to the extraordinary mild winter through which we have passed. Good roads being essential to the prosperity and development of the county, the Grand Jury believe the public interest would be greatly promoted by inaugurating a system of permanent improvements on the highways of the county. Stone being abundant and generally convenient, it is believed that roads could be made by utilizing the labor of the convicts of the county, without materially increasing the county expense. If we are ever to have public roads of any durability passible over the clay soil of Mecklenburg, it is apparent that a constant must be made from the obsolete makeshift mode of road working, which was inaugurated in the early settlement of the county.

The jury are informed that a large proportion of the fencing in the county is below the standard required by law. This is attributable to two causes. First, the changes in the system of labor, which has many farmers without the means of keeping their farms and fences in proper order, and which time and judicious management may remedy. Second, as the fact that several townships in the county have adopted the "Fence Law" and been enclosed in one common fence, and other townships contemplate following their example at an early day, and if the practical workings of this system of fencing prove satisfactory, it is probable the county will be thus enclosed. Under these circumstances farmers have not shown a disposition to expend the money on their fences, when it may very soon become unnecessary for their protection.

The investigations of the jury in regard to the violations of the laws enable them to sustain His Honor in his declaration that a large majority of these offenses, chargeable to the county, are committed in the city of Charlotte and its vicinity. It is attributable to the fact that the victims of other sections can concentrate in our city. Here they meet with a horde of idlers, without the means of subsistence, refusing occupation, and ready to be educated in any vice that will promise them a living without labor. Thus more than half the time of this two weeks term of court has been consumed in dealing with the petty culprits who had been committed to prison during the three months interval since the last court. While we know that the law has been vigorously enforced with the view of staying the progress of these offenses we have seen them increasing in numbers and in enormity; manifested by a fully organized band of highway robbers, having been formed in our city, and ready to prey upon our citizens. The Grand Jury therefore, does not believe the punishments provided by law to be adequate to the suppression of these crimes.

We believe relief can only be obtained by stringent laws of vagrancy vigorously enforced, and a return to a wholesome administration of corporal punishment. Besides the demoralizing influence of these transgressors in our community, the expense of dealing with them, is an onerous burden to the honest and industrious, and a means of expulsion is loudly demanded, whatever that means may be. All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. S. DAVIDSON,  
Foreman.

**MARRIED.**  
In this county, on the 8th inst., by Rev. Mr. W. M. Long of this city, Mr. W. H. Walker, of Mecklenburg.

**Retains a Cool Head.**  
A neighbor of Mr. W. Kerr, who lives on the Longwood Farm, near this city, was yesterday reported that when Mr. Kerr went to his barn, yesterday morning, he found that a mule, a saddle and a bridle were missing. He discovered in their stead, a note from the horse thief Williamson, who escaped from an officer in this city on Thursday evening, saying that he had taken the mule for the purpose of carrying him a short distance on his journey, and that he would turn it loose, so that it might go back home. He stated further that he had thought of taking both mules but had finally decided to leave one, and expressed the hope that Mr. Kerr would forgive a fool. At last accounts the mule had not returned home.

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**Injured by an Engine.**  
On Thursday morning as the North Carolina train was going North from this city, the engineer, when within about four miles of Salisbury, noticed a man walking along the track, and as the train neared him, he manifested no purpose to get off, the whistle was blown, violently several times. Still the man did not heed it, and the engine, running 15 or 20 miles an hour, struck him with full force. The man was knocked to the height of the flag staffs on the engine, and falling backward over the steam chest, dropped into the ditch on the side of the road. The train was stopped and the man put on and taken to Salisbury. He gives his name as Martin, and reports himself a Frenchman. It is a miracle that he was not killed, but as it is, not even a bone was broken, though the man was much bruised and hurt. The engineer says that if he had been running at a less rate of speed, the engine would have caught the man under it, and mangled him beyond recognition.

**Fire in the Country.**  
Last evening about 9 o'clock, a bright light was seen in the country, in a southerly direction. Its distance from the city was variously estimated, some saying that it was not more than a mile off, while others thought it four miles. The light may have been caused by the burning of a house or what is more probable, by the burning of a barn pile, though the evidence of the fire were visible for an hour.

**Very Common After All.**  
We feel rather sold, out about those rocks with photographs of ferns, &c., on them, which were so much talked of in this country about 18 months ago. A man who could get over of those rocks in those days, thought himself something that his fellow man, and carried it around in his pocket or under his arm all the time, and showed it to people with a kind of patronizing air. Now it turns out that the woods are full of those rocks. A whole lot of them have recently been hauled here, and thrown in the little alley from Trade street up to the wagon-way of the Carolina Central Railroad, for the purpose of filling up the holes in the alley, and not one of them but has a "photograph" of these fern leaves on it. These fellows wouldn't be caught such of these rocks, who'd be caught dead with one of them in his house now.

**Eclipse This Month.**  
We barely mentioned, on yesterday, the eclipse of the moon, which yesterday morning. The eclipse was plainly visible, though the moon was partially obscured by clouds. The magnitude of the eclipse was about 33 digits. It began a few minutes after midnight, on Thursday night, and continued until a few minutes past 1 o'clock, yesterday morning. The sight, though very interesting, was witnessed by no one in this city, except policemen, printers, night editors and a few lawyers. The annular eclipse of the sun takes place on the 25th instant and will be visible here. It will begin at 5 55 minutes and 32 seconds past 3 o'clock P. M., and will end at 23 minutes and 25 seconds after 4 o'clock. The magnitude will be 22 digits.

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**WITTKOWSKY & RINTELS'**  
RETAIL COLUMN.  
Marseilles, Spreads,  
WHITE GOODS,  
SPLENDID STOCK OF  
ROSIERY, WHITE AND FANCY, ENGLISH, DUBLINIAN,  
LARGE STOCK TOWELS  
D'OLIES,  
ALEXANDER KID GLOVES,  
BEAUTIFUL BERLIN GAUNTLETS,  
Ladies' Hose Supporters,  
HIGH TOP COMBS,  
BEAUTIFUL DESIGNS,  
WITTKOWSKY & RINTELS.

**JOB PRINTING.**  
The Observer Job Department has been enlarged to meet the demand for all kinds of printing. See advertisement on page 2.

W. M. SMITH. W. S. FORBES.  
**SMITH & FORBES,**  
NEW IRON FRONT, SMITH BUILDING,  
TRADE STREET.  
THIS BEING THE ONLY EXCLUSIVE WHOLESALE BOOT AND SHOE HOUSE in the State, and our facilities for buying Goods being equal to any, we feel confident that we can sell **BOOTS and SHOES AS CHEAP** as any Baltimore or New York Jobber. We buy only from Manufacturers and defy competition. One of the firms is now North, purchasing our **SPRING STOCK**, which, when complete, will be the largest in the State. All we ask is a call from every Merchant in North and South Carolina and Georgia.

**SMITH & FORBES,**  
CHARLOTTE, N. C.  
**SPRING STOCK!**  
**W. L. BOYD,**  
HAS RECEIVED HIS **SPRING STOCK**

**LADIES', GENTS', MISSES' CHILDRENS' BOOTS, SHOES & GAITERS.**  
HAS NOW IN STORE, THE BEST ASSORTMENT TO BE FOUND IN THE CITY. ALL GOODS MARKED DOWN TO BOTTOM PRICES.  
**W. L. BOYD,**  
FURNITURE DEALERS.

**BURGESS NICHOLS & CO.,**  
WHOLESALE & RETAIL.  
ALL KINDS OF FURNITURE, BEDDING, & C.  
No. 5, West Trade St., CHARLOTTE, N. C.  
JUST RECEIVED  
FULL LINE  
CHILDRENS CARRIAGES, BED ROOM AND PARLOR SETTS, AND A FULL LINE OF COFFINS OF ALL GRADES, ON HAND.

**SOLD OUT!!**  
As the question is sometimes asked what day of the week noted occurrences in 1776 happened on, it may be well to bear in mind the simple rule of counting back five week days from the week days in 1876 of the day of the month in question; thus July 4, 1876, falls on Tuesday; five days back from Tuesday gives Thursday; therefore July 4, 1776, fell on Thursday.

**SPRING,**  
ONE OF THE LARGEST AND BEST SELECTED STOCKS EVER BEFORE OFFERED TO THE PUBLIC.

**WARNING.**  
GOODS IN MY LINE WHICH ARE BROUGHT HERE TOO EARLY ARE NOT THE LATEST STYLES, AS NORTHERN HOUSES ONLY OPEN THEIR DESIRABLE PATTERNS THE LATTER PART OF MARCH, THEREFORE I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THE LADIES NOT TO MAKE THEIR PURCHASES TOO EARLY, ASSURING THEM THAT I SHALL TAKE GREAT PAINS MAKING **CHOICE SELECTIONS.**  
**M. KOPPEL.**