

# The Charlotte Observer.

CHARLES R. JONES, - Editor and Proprietor

"Free from the doting scruples that fetter our free-born reason."

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1879.

## ELECTION INVESTIGATIONS

In the course of a few days, we will begin to be regaled with the reports of the proceedings of the Teller congressional committee which has gone to New Orleans under Mr Blaine's resolution to investigate alleged frauds in the South, perpetrated in connection with the late congressional elections. New Eliza Pinktons will spring up all around the pathway of this committee, and it will make large additions to the already large stock of political campaign literature. Evidence, true and false, some of it obtained legitimately but the greater part of it the result of perjury and subornation of perjury, will fill pages of the forthcoming report to Congress—all going to show that the Goddess of Liberty flees from the South at the first blast of the foghorn of the political campaign, no more to return until the perilous times of elections are past; and some of this testimony will be in general terms and some of it specific as to alleged facts. It is safe to say that it will not differ in any material particular from the evidence heretofore taken as to the same subject; and what will be the result? Nothing. Mr Blaine never intended that anybody should be punished for the election "outrages" which this committee was organized to manufacture; it was only designed to convince the North of the fact that the Southern Democrats make perpetual war upon all those citizens of these States who are not of their way of thinking, and Mr Thurmon, when the resolution was under discussion in the Senate, very wisely so amended it as that all the political capital which should be made by this investigation should not be made by the Republicans at the expense of the Democrats, but that the thing should be made reciprocal, so to speak. To this end the committee, when it finishes its work in the South, will proceed to Philadelphia, New York and probably to Boston, and at these places the Democratic members of the committee will cross-examine the witnesses, and before the thing is finished and an average is struck, it will be found that more fraud and intimidation has been practiced by the Radicals of the North than by the Democrats of the South. Thus we will have a stand-off. Whatever advantage there is in the case will undoubtedly be with the Democrats, and the more so the fuller the investigation; but after all, nothing practical will have been accomplished, and the public will know no more and believe no more than it now knows and believes, since the charges and counter-charges have already been made by the press, and the true sifted out of the false. At the same time the \$20,000 which was illegally wrested from the treasury for the purposes of this investigation will have been spent, and there will be to show for it—just nothing.

This election investigation business is fast degenerating into a farce and this last promises the most conspicuous burlesque of them all. There are laws ample to punish all those who interfere with or obstruct in any manner the freedom of elections, and until these are abrogated the services of congressional committees need hardly be invoked, except from better cause than has yet been made apparent. The Republican party, however, for its own selfish and partisan purposes, inspired the present one, calculating, perhaps that the Democrats in Congress would oppose and in some manner defeat it, and thereby give to the country the impression that it was afraid to have the truth known; or otherwise, not calculating that the Democrats would move the amendment which subsequently opened up the whole field for investigation. At all events, and whatever may have been their calculations, the country realizes that this is an investigation set on foot by the Republicans; the burden of proof is upon them, and it will be theirs to bear the ridicule which will attend the ultimate failure of this movement which was set on foot with so great a flourish of trumpets.

It is almost unnecessary to tell the reader that the communication in reference to Davidson College, which we copy elsewhere from the *North Carolina Presbyterian*, is from the pen of Rev. E. H. Harding, the accomplished pastor of the Second Presbyterian church of this city—still to say so will render the assurance of its being read doubly sure. Mr. Harding is a devoted friend of Davidson College and in this communication he gives cogent reasons "for the faith that is in him." The article is not in the usual vein of those who write to "puff" any given institution, person or object; it is forcible and pungent and the positions taken in regard to this institution are supported by facts and the writer, in expressing his own opinions, fortifies himself with the opinions of others.

It will be observed that in the pool selling by Tim Lee at his club house in Raleigh last Saturday night, on the Senatorial race, Gov. Vance led Judge Merrimon in every sale except one. This thing generally indicates which way the cat hops but of course in this instance Vance's friends had stocked the cards and the selling was made to go off that way purposely. Besides what do gamblers know about war anyway?

The Raleigh *News* calls our attention to the fact that our figures have gotten mixed. The Legislature meets on the 8th (to-morrow) and the balloting for United States Senator begins on the 21st instead of on the date previously given.

Last Friday night was the coldest night that New York city has experienced in nine years. In its issue of Saturday the *Sun* devotes four columns to the subject of the weather.

**ABOUT NORTH CAROLINA.**—The well known newspaper correspondent, Gath—of whom some newspaper said that it was a great pity that his mother lisped when she named him—has recently turned his attention to North Carolina affairs, and in his so doing we perceive that he has turned over a new leaf and at last, in his long journalistic career, has gotten down to facts. Gath (George Alfred Townsend) writing to the *Cincinnati Enquirer* of matters in this State says:

North Carolina public men have the best opportunity in the South to reach high political places, owing to the superior docility of the State, which has furnished to the Union three presidents, Jackson, Polk and Johnson, and others as distinguished as the stock of Bentor and Farragut. Tennessee, which is the Ohio of the South, takes origin and character from North Carolina. The North Carolinians are one of the two main armies of the Confederacy; representation in Congress since the war has been the best behaved and least recriminating from the South. A dexterous and able politician who could put this State with the North in the next presidential contest would make her the most powerful political community in the South.

The newspapers which, a month or two ago, had obituaries of Gov. Hampton put in type and set away on the "standing galley," may just as well have them "distributed." They are the victims of misplaced confidence. Gov. Hampton is not going to die.

## Brief News Items.

A Chicago dispatch says it is stated on reliable authority that the Chicago *Times* has been purchased of Wm. F. Story by Hon. John Wentworth.

In New Orleans on Saturday, Alexander Poynton was instantly killed in Thompson's Rice Mill by the bursting of a grindstone, and Henry Schiadt was killed by falling from his boat and running over.

The New Orleans board of health has instructed the quarantine authorities to fumigate all vessels from South and Central American and West Indian ports to prevent the introduction of small-pox.

A woman named Mrs. Dunnedy was taken to the hospital in New York, last Friday, suffering from kicks and blows given her; it is supposed, by her husband, James. She cannot recover. The husband assisted, arrested, and made an attack on two police officers, first with a club and then with a sword, was then disarmed and locked up.

Stephen A. and George M. Skinner, two Pullman detectives, were set on one business. A quarrel ensued, and Stephen drew a revolver and shot his brother through the nose. George drew a revolver and chased Stephen around the billiard room, when Stephen fired another shot, but without effect, and was arrested.

Noah Williams and "Modoc" Gainer made arrangements to rob the store of Wats Bond, at Oakland, Indiana, Thursday night. Their scheme was discovered. A number of citizens waited for them in a saloon near by. The burglars visited the saloon for liquor, and the citizens opened fire. Within three minutes over thirty shots were fired. Williams and Gainer fled and Gainer was wounded. Henry Norton, a citizen, was slightly wounded in the face. The robbers hid with them a fine set of burglars' tools.

The social evil question which has been the subject of public discussion and bone of contention in the municipal assembly of St. Louis for several weeks past, has been compromised by the submission of the following resolution to the people: "The board of health are authorized and required from time to time to recommend and the municipal assembly shall have passed such ordinances in relation to houses of ill-fame and other places of prostitution necessary to prevent or check the spread of diseases in the city, but such ordinance shall be consistent with and subject to the constitution and laws of the State." The vote will take place on the 2d Tuesday in March.

## Pools on the Senatorship.

(Raleigh *Observer*, 5th.) Capt. Lee sold in pools at his club last night, on the Senatorial election. In all these pools Vance led, except in No. 7, where Merrimon led.

**Suffering Among the English Poor.**—CINCINNATI, Jan. 3.—A Louisville dispatch says that a special grand jury yesterday returned indictments against twelve moonshiners who have been in jail there several months. They all pleaded guilty, several of them giving as the reason of their engaging in the illicit traffic that they had consumption and made it fit for bitters; two had sick wives who could not live without liquor; another had but one leg and couldn't make a living at any other business. Judge Ballard sentenced each to one and two months in jail and \$100 fine.

Pools will be sold every night until the election, at Capt. Lee's club house. The interest increases and the crowd will thicken.

## How It Pays to Make the Standard Silver Dollars.

(Wash. Cor. Baltimore Sun.) The mint bureau yesterday turned into the treasury \$375,000 as profits accruing to the government from the coining of the standard silver dollar during the past three weeks. This amount was the profit after buying the silver for coinage, paying for transportation, and allowing for contingencies in the coining. Since the commencement of the coining of the standard dollar the government has profited between the legal tender value and the real value of the bullion which it contains to the amount of about \$1,000,000.

## Underestimated the Number.

(Lynchburg *News*, yesterday.) One year ago to-day we essentially laid down the proposition that half the people now living were born in saw mills. Twas a mistake, for an accurate census taken Saturday shows that for every hundred persons who visited the *News* office, exactly 97 left the door open both entering and leaving. It is worse than we thought.

## BRIEF FOREIGN ITEMS.

BERLIN, Jan. 6.—The Socialists Democratic party have lately carried the name of their municipal candidates in the districts around Leipzig. A Socialist will stand for Bristow and in forthcoming election for the Reichstag.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 6.—It is officially confirmed that the plague has broken out in Astrachan.

Nothing is known here of the American's alleged intention to seek Russian protection.

## Cold Weather Notes.

MOBILE, January 6.—A snow storm commenced Saturday morning and lasted all day, followed by a hard freeze. The weather cleared off beautifully Sunday. The thermometer stood at 6 degrees this morning, and is now 15 now. Clear and cold.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 6.—The steamer *St. Paul* was prevented from making her regular trip down the Coosa to account of heavy frosts of ice from the Etowah and Oostontana rivers.

## NEW YORK'S NEW ADMINISTRATION.

**Organization of the Board.**—J. L. Mott Elected President—The Mayor's Inaugural.

NEW YORK, January 6.—The board of aldermen for 1879 organized to-day, choosing Jordan L. Mott, president, who received 12 votes, anti-Tammany and Republican, to 6 for Wm. R. Roberts, Tammany. Mayor Cooper's inaugural message sent into the office of the *Standard* urges the removal of impositions imposed upon New York commerce in the way of tolls, charges or exactions, be lightened, and that the harbor facilities and dock and wharf accommodations be extended and adapted to the modern cheap methods of handling bulky products. He advises a reduction of the number of city officials and the equalization of salaries; thinks the expenses of the courts of justice are too heavy; asks for a more exact law; recommends taxation upon corporations enjoying special privileges and franchises, and insists upon the efficient, economical and businesslike administration of the public

## STATE NEWS.

Raleigh last week handled 643 bales of cotton.

There are now twenty prisoners in Wake county jail.

A pet hog chewed off an arm for a Lincoln county colored infant.

They are skating in Wilmington, for the first time in years.

Maj. J. M. Blair has connected himself with the Higgs House, Raleigh.

Mr. John Watson, a old and highly respected citizen of Richmond county, died last week.

The Wilmington *Star* says the tones of Hon. George Davis' voice are too sweet to last.

Fourteen applicants for law license before the Supreme Court which met yesterday.

Some Pender county negroes and dogs were killed on the 1st what they supposed to have been a young tiger.

The Governor last Friday issued general certificates to Capt. Davis and Kitchin.

The *Spirit of the South* has entered its seventh volume and promised improvement during the present year.

The Wilmington *Star* says that Messrs. Saks & Stern, of Wilson, failed on the 2d inst. Liabilities, \$18,000.

Again—ninthly. A man supposed to be Wilmington's outlaw, Tom Johnston, has been arrested in Columbus county.

And now, a citizen of Monroe comes forward as a self-righteous curmudgeon. It is oil made of the fat of dogs. Let the Monroe man be encouraged; he will improve sheep husbandry.

The descendants of Alexander and Margaret Lee, who, in 1775, resided on Fishing creek, in Craven county, can hear of no record of interest by addressing box 181, Pottsville, Pa. Southern papers copy.

Gen. M. P. Taylor, of Wilmington, is a candidate for the position of Sergeant-at-Arms of the approaching Legislature. Col. G. B. Burnside, Platt D. Cowan, Esq., of the same place, are also applicants for positions in the gift of the Assembly.

Wilmington *Star*: Mr. J. E. Dunham, of Rocky Point, sends a good size June apple from the orchard of D. T. Darden, Esq., at that place, which he states is one of a third crop gathered from the same trees this season.

A new year's gun exploded, from his overcharged gunpowder, in the hands of Jacob McTeaff, a Linneus county youth, and according to the *Progress* one fragment hit his hat while another inflicted a painful though not dangerous wound in the breast.

The Raleigh *News* pays a fine insurance company the doubtful compliment of saying that it didn't lose a dollar by the recent fires in Wilmington, Wilson and Raleigh. Like the man who didn't lose any money by the failure of the bank.

The Rockingham *Spirit*, speaking of the proposition to make a new county out of portions of Robeson, Richmond and Cumberland, says: If it should really be entertained by a corporal's guard of responsible people, we shall refer to the subject again and more at length.

Wilmington *Star*: From a young man on the wharf, who has kept a record, we learn that the alarm of fire was sounded sixty-six times during the year 1878. Forty-three were serious enough to require the services of the engines, forty-one were extinguished without the engines or were so situated as to be inaccessible on account of the distance from water, and two of the alarms were false.

The lecture of Hon. Geo. Davis, for the benefit of the family of the late Lieut. Benner, is spoken of in the highest terms by the press of Wilmington. The gifted orator deserved the early death of his son, Captain Frank Davis, and the earnest request of the editor of the *South Atlantic*, Mr. Davis has assented to the publication of the lecture in the next issue of that magazine.

Monroe *Express*: Mr. W. A. Griffin, a young man who lives near Long's Store in this county, on Christmas morning extracted from his thigh a pine splinter, one and a half inches long, which had been there for sixteen years, having worked its way clear through the thigh at that time. As might be expected, it had given him a great deal of pain and annoyance.

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PHILADELPHIA:—Steady; middling steady; Western and State 3.00cts. 4.00cts. 5.00cts. Wheat 22cts. 23cts. 24cts. 25cts. 26cts. 27cts. 28cts. 29cts. 30cts. 31cts. 32cts. 33cts. 34cts. 35cts. 36cts. 37cts. 38cts. 39cts. 40cts. 41cts. 42cts. 43cts. 44cts. 45cts. 46cts. 47cts. 48cts. 49cts. 50cts. 51cts. 52cts. 53cts. 54cts. 55cts. 56cts. 57cts. 58cts. 59cts. 60cts. 61cts. 62cts. 63cts. 64cts. 65cts. 66cts. 67cts. 68cts. 69cts. 70cts. 71cts. 72cts. 73cts. 74cts. 75cts. 76cts. 77cts. 78cts. 79cts. 80cts. 81cts. 82cts. 83cts. 84cts. 85cts. 86cts. 87cts. 88cts. 89cts. 90cts. 91cts. 92cts. 93cts. 94cts. 95cts. 96cts. 97cts. 98cts. 99cts. 100cts. 101cts. 102cts. 103cts. 104cts. 105cts. 106cts. 107cts. 108cts. 109cts. 110cts. 111cts. 112cts. 113cts. 114cts. 115cts. 116cts. 117cts. 118cts. 119cts. 120cts. 121cts. 122cts. 123cts. 124cts. 125cts. 126cts. 127cts. 128cts. 129cts. 130cts. 131cts. 132cts. 133cts. 134cts. 135cts. 136cts. 137cts. 138cts. 139cts. 140cts. 141cts. 142cts. 143cts. 144cts. 145cts. 146cts. 147cts. 148cts. 149cts. 150cts. 151cts. 152cts. 153cts. 154cts. 155cts. 156cts. 157cts. 158cts. 159cts. 160cts. 161cts. 162cts. 163cts. 164cts. 165cts. 166cts. 167cts. 168cts. 169cts. 170cts. 171cts. 172cts. 173cts. 174cts. 175cts. 176cts. 177cts. 178cts. 179cts. 180cts. 181cts. 182cts. 183cts. 184cts. 185cts. 186cts. 187cts. 188cts. 189cts. 190cts. 191cts. 192cts. 193cts. 194cts. 195cts. 196cts. 197cts. 198cts. 199cts. 200cts. 201cts. 202cts. 203cts. 204cts. 205cts. 206cts. 207cts. 208cts. 209cts. 210cts. 211cts. 212cts. 213cts. 214cts. 215cts. 216cts. 217cts. 218cts. 219cts. 220cts. 221cts. 222cts. 223cts. 224cts. 225cts. 226cts. 227cts. 228cts. 229cts. 230cts. 231cts. 232cts. 233cts. 234cts. 235cts. 236cts. 237cts. 238cts. 239cts. 240cts. 241cts. 242cts. 243cts. 244cts. 245cts. 246cts. 247cts. 248cts. 249cts. 250cts. 251cts. 252cts. 253cts. 254cts. 255cts. 256cts. 257cts. 258cts. 259cts. 260cts. 261cts. 262cts. 263cts. 264cts. 265cts. 266cts. 267cts. 268cts. 269cts. 270cts. 271cts. 272cts. 273cts. 274cts. 275cts. 276cts. 277cts. 278cts. 279cts. 280cts. 281cts. 282cts. 283cts. 284cts. 285cts. 286cts. 287cts. 288cts. 289cts. 290cts. 291cts. 292cts. 293cts. 294cts. 295cts. 296cts. 297cts. 298cts. 299cts. 300cts. 301cts. 302cts. 303cts. 304cts. 305cts. 306cts. 307cts. 308cts. 309cts. 310cts. 311cts. 312cts. 313cts. 314cts. 3