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There is no subject of more practical interest to the people of the State than that which relates to measures for the repression of crime. These measures may be embraced under four heads, namely: education and training; removing the incitements and temptations to wrong doing; diminishing the power to transgress; disabling and punishing.

The second method of repression consists principally in regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors. Perhaps no subject has exercised the legislative mind more than the claim which has been asserted in many States to suppress this traffic as being the prolific source of disorder and degeneracy.

Speaking of a recent article in this paper the Washington Republican says that in this instance THE OBSERVER has "apparently succeeded in confining itself to the truth." We have been waiting, year after year, for an opportunity to say this same thing of the Republican, but it seems determined never to allow us the pleasure.

The young men of Asheville made many new year calls. It is represented that there is much destitution in Raleigh. Ninety students at the Shelby male and female academy.

At the Yarborough House, Raleigh, Monday, there were at one time three men whose combined height, according to the News, was 21 feet and whose combined avoirdupois amounted to 680 lbs.

The Hillsboro Recorder says Miss Susannah Stubbs, daughter of Mr. Samuel Stubbs, of Orange county, died very suddenly on the morning of the 27th ult. She had attended a gathering of her friends at the residence of her father, on the morning of the 26th, and returned home in the evening.

THE POLYGAMY QUESTION SETTLED.

At last, says the Baltimore Sun, the legal status of the audacious polygamists of Utah is definitely determined by the United States Supreme Court, which Monday rendered a decision involving the whole question of polygamy in the Territories.

The Legislatures of the Southern States.—The Legislatures of Tennessee and Louisiana met the 6th, the Legislature of Florida the 7th, that of North Carolina the 8th, that of Arkansas the 10th, those of Louisiana, Florida, North Carolina, and Arkansas elect United States Senators.

During this winter the Legislatures of Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Colorado, Kansas, and New York will also elect United States Senators.

The Tennessee Legislature, which met Monday, will be principally engaged with the State debt, which amounts with accrued interest, to \$24,000,000. It is believed that Governor Marks will recommend the proposed compromise at sixty cents on the dollar, four per cent. interest, or fifty cents on the dollar at six per cent. interest, the two propositions of the bondholders amounting to the same thing in the end.

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FROM THE STATE CAPITAL.

THE LEGISLATURE'S FIRST DAY. (Special to the Observer.)

RALEIGH, January 8.—The Legislature met this morning. A quorum was present in both houses. John M. Moring, of Chatham, was elected Speaker of the House; the final vote in the caucus stood:

Moring, 38; Cooke, of Franklin, 33. Richardson, of Columbus, and Jones, of Caldwell, were candidates, but were dropped before the final vote of the caucus.

Both houses completed their organization before the adjournment at 2 p. m., as follows: R. M. Furman, of Buncombe, principal clerk of the Senate; Platt D. Cowan, of New Hanover, reading clerk; J. S. Tomlinson, of Catawba, engrossing clerk; and Murrill, of Onslow, doorkeeper.

In the House John D. Cameron, of Orange, was elected principal clerk; R. W. Best, of Wake, reading clerk; W. A. Barrett, of Lenoir, engrossing clerk; and Wm. Hill, of Randolph, doorkeeper.

In the Swope case the solicitor made affidavit that the State could not get justice in Wake on account of the wealth and local influence of the defendant, and the case was removed to Franklin county.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—Senator Thurman, in his letter to the committee of Education to the Democratic caucus at Columbus, Ohio, this evening, expresses his regret that the severe weather prevents his attendance, and offers some reflections upon the toast, "The Jacksonian Democracy," which the Senator had been appointed to speak.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—Representative Grover, of Vermont, said there were no joint rules between the two houses of Congress and he therefore submitted a concurrent resolution declaring that on the last three days of this session no bill passed by either house shall be sent to the other for its concurrence, and on the last day of the session no bill shall be sent to the President for his approval.

SHORT SESSIONS IN BOTH HOUSES.

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Mr. Grover arising to a personal explanation, read a telegram recently published in the New York Herald, in regard to Oregon State funds, amounting to about \$97,000, being expended and not accounted for during the administration of Grover as Governor.

At the expiration of the morning hour the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill to amend the patent laws, and Wadleigh, of New Hampshire, in charge of the bill, took the floor, but soon after he commenced his remarks a message was received from the House announcing the death of John H. Hartridge, of Georgia.

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WOMAN SUFFRAGE CONVENTION.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—A woman suffrage convention in Washington to-day, and to-morrow, Thursday and Friday.

During December 3,317 immigrants arrived at New York. The total for the year 1878, according to the report of the United States consul general, is 137,000.

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DEATH OF MR. HARTRIDGE.

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Hardware. CHEAP HARDWARE. STORES AND HARDWARE HOUSE. H. T. BILLEN'S.

COOK STOVES. Buy your COOK STOVES from me, as I have 12 good reasons why they will do your work quick and easy, cheap and clean.

For Sale. BLOCKADE TOBACCO. FOR SALE. Having purchased a nice line of Tobacco, at the Government sale, am prepared to offer extra inducements to buyers.

New Advertisements. STUDEBAKER WAGONS. I am now in receipt of a large lot of the celebrated STUDEBAKER WAGONS, all sizes, which will be sold on reasonable terms.

Groceries. COTTON. ORDERS AND CONSIGNMENTS SOLICITED. THOMAS H. GAITHER.

Williams & Finger. Have just received a lot of Turkeys and Chickens which we offer at low prices.

Railroads. CONDENSED TIME. NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD. TRAINS GOING EAST.

Watches and Jewelry. JUST IN TIME. We have just received a fine selection of such goods as you want for.

Photography. PHOTOGRAPHS. In consequence of the reduction in the price of the original cost of materials, and in order to give my patrons the benefit of the reduction from and after this date Photographs will be taken at my gallery at

Tailoring. M. LICHTENSTEIN. Next door to Wilson & Burwell's drug store.