

The Charlotte Observer.

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Published at the Post-Office at Charlotte, N. C., at \$3000-CLASS MATTER.

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1881.

Rice birds are paying their respects to the grain crops in Schley county, Georgia.

The custom duties at the port of Savannah, Ga., from July 1st, 1880, to May 1st, 1881, footed up \$36,068.

Washington is troubled with malarial fever. If that was all the trouble at Washington the country could get along.

Has the refusal of President Garfield to appoint John Russell Young minister to China anything to do with the onslaughts that paper is now making on the aforesaid Garfield?

There must be lots of bad whiskey down in Georgia to account for the number of fatal encounters and murderous assaults the papers of that State chronicle.

Conkling charges Garfield with excessive economy in veracity. It is probably true, for Garfield could never have attained the eminence he has in the Republican party if he had adhered strictly to the truth.

The New York Legislature has passed an act abolishing compulsory Hell Gate pilotage. The average New York legislator thinks he can go through Hell Gate without any pilot, and he is about right.

Gov. Wiltz, of Louisiana, has pardoned S. M. Thomas, recently convicted of manslaughter, and sentenced to one year in the penitentiary, for killing his brother-in-law Dixon, for the seduction of his, Thomas's, daughter.

Col. Thomas A. Scott, the railroad magnate, has been so ill at Philadelphia, that his friends entertained no hopes of his recovery. But he is rallying and it is thought will be strong enough shortly to be removed to the sea shore.

The Grand Commandery Knights Templar closed its session at Wilmington Wednesday. The only business done was the adoption of a constitution and election of officers. Next place of meeting will be Durham on the second Tuesday after the first Monday in October.

T. C. Evans, in his sprightly paper, says it is the sham's feature of the prohibition law that Gov. Reid and others object to. The sham's are a very essential part of the programme in the good government of this world.

Even Russia moves. The determination of the government to take an interest in the welfare of the 3,700,000 peasants who rent lands and aid them in becoming landholders is one step in the right direction which in time will be followed by others.

The Louisville Courier-Journal, of the 11th inst., is a mammoth sheet, the biggest thing in the way of a newspaper we have ever tackled. It is about the size of an ordinary bed quilt.

The insanity dodge. In murder trials these days the plea of insanity has become so common as to be regarded almost a matter of course. If a man, harboring in his breast the resentments of years, meets the object of his dislike on the streets and shoots him down, it is suddenly discovered that he was insane; if filled with bad whiskey he goes home at night and beats his wife to death, he is found to be insane; if he hunts up a poor betrayed girl, whom he calls sister and savagely murders her, he is insane; if he deliberately points a gun and pours a handful of buckshot into the body of an aged father, insanity comes to his relief, and the more coolly planned and diabolically executed the better, the greater the atrocity, the more powerful element it becomes in the defence.

There is a judge in California, however, who does not believe in the insanity dodge, and recently sentenced two men who were tried for murder and put in the usual plea. This judge instructed the jury that the insanity must be established at the time the murder was committed, not by inference but by unquestionable proof, not by the opinion of experts but by facts which left no doubt in the minds of the jury.

If judges generally took this view of it justice would be more frequently dispensed and murders would be less frequent.

A GROUNDESS ALARM.

Some of the Democratic State papers, such of them as are opposed to the prohibition movement, entertain the fear that it will be dragged into politics, become a party issue and act disastrously upon the Democratic party.

It is true the Legislature which passed the act was a Democratic body, but it was not passed as a party measure, for it was supported by men of both parties.

There is no danger of any party issue now, nor will there be in the future, for if the people endorse it that will be the end of it as far as any public discussion goes, and if they reject it, it will be heard of no more on the hustings for some time to come.

It is more than likely that some of the Republican politicians will endeavor to make capital by false representations, but the mass of the people have too much sense to be deceived by such false representations, for they will understand the motives which inspire them.

That was tried in the recent election in this city and failed. It may be tried in the State and it will fail as signally. We said if the prohibition movement could be defeated it will be heard of no more on the hustings for some time to come.

We do not wish to be understood as saying that it will be a dead question, for such questions when once agitated never die. It will go on in the pulpit, in the press, in the organized societies, in the domestic circle, till the people are educated up to it in this State as they have been in others, where at one time it met with as stubborn opposition as it is now met with here.

Time and experience are educators that convince when the strongest arguments fail. It was so in Maine when the issue was sprung thirty years ago. It is so in other States where the issue has been sprung at a later date.

Great reforms cannot be accomplished in a day, nor in a week, nor in a month, nor in a year. Habits of a life time cannot be changed in a moment. Customs recognized for ages cannot be abolished at once, and we are not among those who, though ardently devoted to the cause of prohibition, believe that it is going to result in an instantaneous millennium.

Its good effects, however, will become so apparent to the people of the State that the indifferent and the antagonistic will become its warm supporters and defenders, and in time, through its agency, the habits of the people will be so formed that prohibition will be an established fact, sustained not by compulsion but from choice.

A BAD START AT REFORM. When Secretary of War, Lincoln undertook to break into the arrangement by which certain favored military officers were permitted to live in Washington, lounge around idly, and draw pay regularly, he "bit off more than he could chew," as his father sometimes said when speaking of people who were attempting more than they could do.

The first man he struck was a lieutenant, who, for seventeen years, has been hanging around Washington, and drawing his pay regularly though never with his regiment. He was popular in fashionable society, to which he gave all his time and talents. Mr. Lincoln ordered him to his regiment which created such a stir among the fashionable that they came down on him in a body, and he had to surrender and let the lieutenant stay where he was.

With such a poor start, we suppose he will give it up as a bad job and let the loungers kill time and draw pay as heretofore.

The Asheville News—the Republican organ of the mountain country—comes out vigorously for prohibition, and closes a pointed editorial in the following sensible lines: Let this question be agitated in a spirit of kindness, not making war upon men or a class of men, but upon principle and questions of right, and good order in society.

REPUBLICANS IN THE SENATE.

WASHINGTON, May 13.—The Republican Senators held a caucus this morning for the purpose of individually reporting to each other what progress, if any, has been made in the efforts of members of the caucus to harmonize party differences in regard to contested nominations.

No definite plan appears to have been agreed upon, but several Senators say they were encouraged by the conference this morning to hope that a satisfactory adjustment may yet be effected.

During the conference attention was called to the fact which was generally been lost sight of that the action taken by the caucus last week in regard to contested cases extended no further than to plan to prove that they should not be brought before the Senate until clearing the decks of contested business.

The London Times on the French-Tunis Treaty. LONDON, May 13.—The Times says that the constitution of the Ministerial State, relative to Tunis, made in the French chambers yesterday, will be received throughout Europe with unmixed amazement.

Every political section in England agrees that the reasons for the expedition advanced by the French minister of Foreign Affairs, are merely pretences, and that the real reasons which the latter part of his circular reveal are unworthy of any State that professes to be guided by its international relations by the ordinary rules of morality.

It would be idle to pretend that the action of France will not somewhat weaken the sympathy and friendship sentiment for England. In all the difficult negotiations which marked the concluding stages of the Eastern question, England received no help from France.

The Greek question was dangerously compromised by her withdrawal at the highest moment. It is a tariff is justly regarded with great disfavor. We sincerely hope that diplomatic and commercial friction of this kind will lead to no permanent unfriendliness between the two countries.

Paris, May 13.—In the Senate to-day Premier Ferry announced that the Franco-Tunisian treaty was signed yesterday. It assures to France the right to occupy positions which the French military deem necessary for the maintenance of the order and security of the frontier and coast.

Weather and Rivers. WASHINGTON, May 13.—Clear or fair weather continues in the Southern States and the Ohio valley and middle States, and local rains have prevailed in New England, Lake region and the northeast.

The indications are that slightly cooler and partly cloudy weather will prevail during Saturday in districts on the Atlantic Coast, with northeast to south-easterly winds and a rise in the temperature will rise slowly in the upper lake region and northwest winds with areas of rain and east to south winds.

Steamer Ashore. NEW LONDON, CONN., May 13.—The steamer Galatea, of the Providence and New York line, now running in connection with the steamer Massachusetts, went ashore off the east end of Floron Island about 11 o'clock last night. The steamer Frances, of the same line, was sent to her relief this morning, and it is expected that she will be gotten off without much trouble during the day.

Stanley Matthews Confirmed. WASHINGTON, May 13.—The entire executive session of the Senate yesterday afternoon was devoted to the further consideration of the nomination of Stanley Matthews as associate justice of the Supreme Court.

NEWS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Business was almost entirely suspended Memorial day in Wilmington. The Beacon, the organ of the Greenbackers in this State, published at Greensboro, has suspended for want of support.

Lenoir Topics: There are 70 cases on the docket for the next term of Caldwell Superior Court, of which 57 are on the civil docket, 27 on the state docket and 6 on the appearance docket.

The Commissioners of the following counties have refused to issue licenses to retail liquor: Mecklenburg, Rowan, Harnett, Bladen, Sampson, Robeson, Cumberland, Duplin, Guilford, Chatham, Moore and Durham.

Milton Chronicle: A run-away party came here Tuesday to get married, and after the man got his license his girl backed clean out of harness! He however took her aside and gave her a talk that put her in the notion again, and then she came up to the rack.

Asheville Citizen: One night last week Mr. J. Tweed, Deputy Marshal of Madison county, while passing down Main street in this place, received a blow from some sharp instrument on the head, a rock it was presumed, which caused a severe fracture of the skull some inches in length.

Robesonian: Mr. Thompson, who was tried on a writ of habeas corpus, in this town last week for the murder of Mrs. M. V. Lindsay near McLeansville, Guilford county, with 3,000 pounds of fine tobacco, was destroyed by fire Tuesday night.

Roxboro, Person county is waking up to the necessity of railroad facilities. Last Saturday a meeting was held and speeches made. The route is not yet definitely decided, but the probabilities are that a connection will be sought with the Milton & Sutherland Narrow-gauge.

The Patriot complains that the egg mania among the boys in Greensboro results in an indiscriminate robbing of birds' nests, and wants to know if something can't be done about it.

Laurinburg Enterprise: The Cape Fear & Y. V. R. R. is to connect with the Baltimore & Ohio Road at Walnut Cove, in Stokes county.—A sufficient amount of money to buy the iron and lay the Florence Road from Fayetteville to the South Carolina line is already in the hands of the treasurer of the road.

Raleigh News-Observer: Raleigh converses on Yorktown.—County prohibition Saturday.—Col. Walter Clark, of Raleigh, has been chosen a delegate to the Ecumenical Conference of the M. E. Church, to be held in London, beginning on September 10th, next, and ending on the 20th.—Memorial day was observed in a manner worthy of the occasion.

Asheville Courier: Prohibition convention at Asheville Saturday.—The Hooper Hill Mining Co. means business. Contracts are out now for the expenditure of more than \$50,000, and it is said that \$350,000 more will be expended.—Charles Wright and Peter Kinney were arraigned before U. S. Commissioner Steed last week, charged with retailing whiskey.

Carolina Watchman: A colored man named Knox, died suddenly of heart disease, near Rowan Mills, last week.—Two men claiming to be Indian doctors hired a horse and buggy at a livery stable in Salisbury last week and have not since been heard from. Probably hunting roads.—While fishing in Grant's creek last Tuesday Myers J. M. Brown and R. C. Skahan discovered a mulatto girl baby, which from marks of violence, had been killed and thrown into the creek.—Seventy men, German immigrants, arrived at Salisbury last Tuesday week. They immediately found employment among the farmers, who are pleased with them.

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