

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.
SOCIETY DIRECTORY.
MASONIC.
 PHALANX LODGE No. 31, F. & A. M.—Regular meeting every second and fourth Monday nights.
 EXETER LODGE No. 201, F. & A. M.—Regular meeting every first and third Tuesdays.
 CHARLOTTE CHAPTER No. 89, R. A. M.—Regular meeting every second and fourth Friday nights.
 CHARLOTTE COMMANDARY No. 2, K. T.—Regular meeting every first and third Thursdays.
K. O. F.
 KNIGHTS OF HONOR—Regular meeting every second and fourth Thursday.
K. O. F.
 KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS—Regular meeting nights first and third Wednesdays, 7 o'clock p. m. at Masonic Temple Hall.
L. O. O. F.
 CHARLOTTE LODGE No. 88—Meets every Monday night.
 MECKLENBURG DECLARATION LODGE No. 9—Meets every Tuesday night.
 EXETER LODGE No. 108—Meets every Thursday night.
 CATAWBA RIVER ENCAMPMENT No. 21—Meets first and third Thursdays nights in each month.

What Has Been and What is Being Done to Accomplish this Result—What is Promised, and How the Promises are to be Made Good.

On the 17th day of last May an article was published in these columns under the title of "Old Yaddin," in reference to the government work now in progress in regard to the navigation of the Yadkin River, between the railroad bridge on the North Carolina Railroad, which crosses that stream, five miles east of Salisbury, and Bean Shoals, 8 1/2 miles further up the river. Concluding the article, we said: "As the work goes forward THE OBSERVER will take pleasure in keeping its readers informed of the progress, because that is a grand North Carolina enterprise, and THE OBSERVER is a North Carolina newspaper."

Furthering this idea an OBSERVER representative on last Monday visited the site of operations with the view of taking a bird's eye view of the situation. Leaving Charlotte on the 6.10 a. m. fast mail train, THE OBSERVER representative was deposited at the Mount Vernon Hotel, in Salisbury, at 4.45.

ON THE FIELD AT LAST.
 The first appropriation was about to lapse into the Treasury from non-use, when Capt. W. H. James, whose headquarters were at Norfolk, Va., had his attention directed to the matter. Through his efforts Capt. W. H. James was placed on the spot as engineer in charge, and efforts of Mr. Frank Brown, directed to assume charge of the work, which it was resolved should begin at once. In April last Capt. James took formal charge, and spent until the 6th of June in getting ready such appliances and implements as seemed to be necessary. He purchased, or had made, on the spot:

Three boats for living houses for the employees, and a floating scow with engines and steam rock drills, (the engines were furnished by Messrs. Beckett & McDowell, of this city, and are of the most approved pattern.) 5 stone lighters, for transporting stone, a 40-horse power engine, 1 bateau, 6 row boats, 2 steam and 100 hand drills, and 2 magneto electric batteries.

Capt. James employed: Mr. Frank Brown, superintendent; Mr. Reid Whitford, assistant engineer; 2 captains of hoisters, 3 engineers, 2 blacksmiths, and 50 laborers, and shortly after the work began Mr. Garber, an experienced and competent blaster, was added to the working force. Thus manned and equipped, Capt. James, formally launched his first scow on the 6th of June, at a point on the river near and above the pier of the old road bridge, on the old road leading from Salisbury to Lexington, and 500 yards above the present railroad bridge. When steamers shall have been put on the river the authorities of the railroad contemplate the construction of a new pier on the present line of the road to the steamboat landing. Col. Andrews thinks if the boats were to come down to the bridge that structure might sometimes be endangered by fire.

A meeting of the board of directors of the Western North Carolina Railroad was in progress, but we could not get in. Among the things which were discussed, we were told, were the present look-out for Uncle Sam's business up the Yadkin.

HOW THE WORK IS DONE.
 Nearly all the work done so far consists in breaking up the huge blocks of granite forming the bed of the river and transporting the rocks out of the line of the proposed channel. Where the rocks are small the work is comparatively light, the laborers lifting them out of the water upon the transport scows, and using a pile of stones as a base for the way to progress. These are broken into fragments by nitro-glycerine or dynamite fired by an electro-magneto battery, and the debris is transported up the river to be near the very acme of scientific research and invention. Holes are drilled into the rocks and cartridges of dynamite are inserted, and then Mr. Garber, after having packed the holes with a warning, retires to the bank of the river, connects his wires with his battery, pushes down the handle, and tears a hole in the water and rocks with a noise that would make Mount Sinai ashamed themselves. There is nothing like one of these explosions except another one by the same plan and by the same battery. This is the work, all the balance being play to it.

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STEAM SPINNING.

What the Charlotte Cotton Mill shows in Plain Figures as to the Advantage of Steam Cotton Manufacturing in Charlotte.

"We don't advertise our business by making a big blow over it in the papers—that is as far as the profits are concerned," said Mr. D. W. Oates, of the Charlotte Cotton Mills, to an OBSERVER representative yesterday, who asked for some facts as to the comparative advantages of steam in the manufacture of cotton.

"But," continued Mr. Oates, "I can give you our actual production as compared with that of one of the most successful water mills in the South—that of the Messrs. Holt, of Alamance. I give the figures of this mill particularly because it works the same spindle as we do—Sawyer's high speed handle."

The representative expressed his satisfaction with anything Mr. Oates was willing to tell, the more readily as the more enterprising mode of journalism would hardly demand a minute statement of a business man's balance sheet. So it being clearly understood that the gentleman was to tell nothing which he did not feel inclined to tell he proceeded:

"We are now running 6,240 high speed Sawyer spindles 12 hours every day, except Saturday, when we run only 9 hours. This is an average of 1 1/2 hours a day one hour and a half per day more than the North mill, while our operatives cost us no more than theirs. This gives us 14 per cent advantage of them per week in time, and we have no reason to doubt that the advantage is equally great in production. Our production is 12,800 pounds of No. 20 warp cotton per week, or 8 1/2 ounces per spindle. We have had no experience with spinning by water power, but our friends who have and who are operating similar machinery on the same kind of yarn give their production at 28 ounces per spindle. I refer to the Messrs. Holt, as I have said, and every body knows the success in which they have met in cotton manufacturing. This is a difference of a little over 11 per cent, and is equivalent to 1,350 pounds per week with our number of spindles. In other words this 1,350 pound representation is an absolute cash gain of \$40 per week on 6,240 spindles when worked by steam. This gain is, we think, enough to cover the excess of the expense of the best boiler, but that of our biggest advantages over the water mills is our location in the city. In the first place by being right in the inside of a live cotton market, with our experience in handling the staple, we can take advantage of the fluctuations of the market in buying. The many other advantages of being in town it is unnecessary to state. But again, I suppose half the water mills in this section of the State have not nearly made full time this summer from the failure of the water. We are not subject to serious interruption in our work from any cause whatever."

"When you consider all these things then you think that steam is even better than water?"

"No, we are not prepared to say that, as we know both. I would not say that steam is better than water, but we are entirely well satisfied that steam cotton mills will pay handsomely in the South; and furthermore, we do not regret that we have made the experiments in Charlotte. There is nothing to say to our readers that the Charlotte Steam Cotton Mill is a success."

Why we are to have no fair this year to the Editor of the Observer:
 While I am delighted to see the success of the Poplar Tent fair, I hope its exhibitions and attendance may continue to grow with each fair. I work upon the OBSERVER of August an article in which we pointed out the article of the officers of the Carolina Fair Association some injustice unintentionally. It is well known that the fair grounds are owned by a stock company, and the controlling interest is held by the parties, one of whom has for several years attended to the renting of the grounds. The first fair the present association held in the fall of 1878, they put the grounds in such repair as to be necessary for the present year. After the fair was over all debts paid there was a balance left in the treasury. In the following spring the officers of the association rented the grounds to hold a fair in the fall of that year 1879, for a cash rental and