The Charlotte Observer.

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Daily Charlotte Observer.

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OBSERVATIONS.

Amelia (looking at the Laocoon group)—"Ah, yes, firemen. I see. But how did they become so intricately entangled in the hose?"—Boston Transcript.

"Papa," remarked the enfant terrible, who was mounted on the back of the old gentleman's chair engaged in making crayon sketches on his bald head, "it wouldn't do for you to fall asleep in the desert, would it?" "Why not, my darling?" "Oh, the ostriches might sit down on your head and hatch it out."—Brooklyn Eagle.

A party of San Juan ranchers made a bon fire of an Apache Indian, and the coroner's jury returned a verdict of "overcome by the heat."—Salt Lake Tribune.

Mercantile: "Another lie nailed," as the wag remarked when the merchant tacked up a sign, "At cost."—Rochester Express.

"I know," said the little girl to her elder sister's young man at the supper table, "that you will join our society for the protection of little birds, because mamma says you are very fond of larks." Then there was a silence and the Limberger cheese might have been heard scrambling around in its tin box on the cupboard shelf.

EDITORIAL SHORT STOPS.

A number of Russian Jews have arrived in Macon, Ga., and the Jewish citizens are providing for them in a commendable spirit.

Gov. Blackburn, of Kentucky, is the champion penitentiary deliverer. He set at liberty two hundred convicts at one time.

Gen. Clingman is doing a good work by writing up the resources of North Carolina for the New York *Sun*.

Cincinnati is disposed to lay claim to some of the cotton trade. Last year she received 325,371 bales of cotton, and she expects to considerably increase her business this year. Very little of the cotton is unloaded there, however, the gaeater portion of it being shipped through the city directly to the mills.

A company has been organized in New York, with Jacob Lorillard at its head, to build ships that will make the run to London in five days. They are to be built of steel.

Over 200,000 Hebrews, flying from persecution in Southern Russia, have arrived in this country within the past two months.

Ex-President Hayes and Mrs. Hayes will be the guests of Mr. Puleston, a member of the British Parliament, in London, this month. They will pass the winter in the south of France.

Mr. Dossey Battle, we regret to see, has sold his interest in the Tarboro *Southerner*, and retires from the editorial chair to devote himself to the profession of the law. We regret to part with Dossey, for while he was one of the most versatile and agreeable writers on our State press, so was he one of the cleverest and most genial brothers of the quill.

Gen. Judson Kilpatrick, minister to Chili, died of Bright's disease.

Galveston *News:* The conversation of Mr. Huntington at St. Louis the other day indicates more railroad mileage for Texas. He is reported to have said that he would very soon begin building a new line from Memphis into Texas. The route was not marked out, but it is supposed to be via Shreveport to Houston and Galveston.

Philadelphia *Record:* Senator David Davis has now taken a position which he can maintain without a balance pole. For the future he may be classed as an Independent who votes with the Republicans.

If Guiteau's plea of insanity relies upon the testimony of the experts he is a "hung goose."

Since 1866 the foreign trade of the United States has increased 100 per cent., and foreign ship-owners largely get the benefit of it. The tonnage of American vessels engaged in the foreign trade decreased during the past year 27,367 tons. England alone does 66½ per cent. of the carrying back and forth between the United States and other countries. The commerce of the country, in so far as sea transportation makes up a part of it, has been deliberately thrown away by the absurd management of the Federal Government.

The estimates for the uext fiscal year are $40,000,000 in excess of the estimates for the present fiscal year, and aggregate over $340,000,000.

The President's message is favorably commented upon by the press of the country.

The Richmond *Dispatch* notes the death, in that city on Wednesday last, of William A. Walsh, Esq., aged 76, at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. A. E, Ould. He was a native of Dublin, Ireland, and an associate of O'Connel Shiel, and other Irish patriots of that time. The *Dispatch* states that for fifteen years he published a daily paper in North Carolina, and was afterwards connected with the Petersburg *Press* after the war, through which he served faithfully as a Confederate officer. He was a man of fine talents and universelly esteemed by his fellow citizens.

Smallpox is assuming an epidemic form in the West, and is spreading very rapidly. It is prevalent in many of the cities on the Atlantic coast, as well as in the interior, and exists to a greater or less extent in nearly all the Western States.

John Sherman's bill in the Senate to provide for a three per cent. instead of a three and a half per cent. rate of interest on United States bonds was a dodge to take the wind out of the Democratic sails. He knew that Randall was going to introduce such a bill in the House.

the Death of an ex-Congressemen in Texas.

AUSTIN, Dec. 10.—The announcement of the death of Hon. Randolph C. Doom, of Jasper county, is received, which occured on the 5th inst. He was formerly a Republican member of Congress from this State.

Fatal Boiler Explosion.

PETERSBURG, Dec. 10.—A boiler burst in the Keystone rolling mill last evening, completely demolishing the boiler house and killing one man and seriously wounding ten more.

STATE NEWS.

Durham *Recorder:* Durham claims to excell as a tobacco market, but from the large quantity of cotton brought here this season the farmers recognize this to be one of the finest cotton markets.

Capt. O. R. Smith, the artesian well man, informs us that they bored fifty feet last week, and that the well is now 2,075 feet deep. They are at work regularly and average about 50 feet a week.

Greensboro *Bugle:* One of Guilford county's best farmers says there has been more small grain sowed this fall than in several years, and that some farmers are still sowing wheat. The stand is, also, good and it is growing finely. Guilford farmers are coming to the front.

Guilford has never been claimed as a cotton county—our farmers seeing more money in tobacco, corn, rye, wheat, barley, oats and grasses; but, last year a few tried cotton, and this year many were induced to go into it, and we learn that from two to six bales are brought to market daily by experimenters.

Robert Davis, of Kansas, was found dead in his bed this morning at the residence of his brother-in-law, Dr. Cox, of New Garden. He was on a visit and expected to return home next week. He was afflicted with rheumatism.

Raleigh *News-Observer:* The reports of the condition of the crops of small grain, sown last month, continue to be highly favorable, and the farmers are in good spirits, anticipating a good crop year.

A little son of one of the county commissioners a few days since spied a negro up a tree making preparations to capture a Christmas turkey. The youngster fired at the African, when the latter fell from the tree and in a second took to his heels and fled like the wind.

A little daughter of Mr. John Doyle, who lives near Riley's X Roads, Wake county, was to burned death on Monday lost. The parents had locked two of the children in the house and gone away. Miss Dora Baker heard a child crying and going in found one of the little ones standing in the middle of the floor, with all its clothing burned off. All efforts to save its life failed, and four hours after the burning it died.

We learn that the University Railroad will be completed to within two miles of Chapel Hill by next week, and as soon as so completed, Col. Andrews will put on a train to run direct from this point, near Chapel Hill, to Raleigh, arriving here every morning and returning every evening. A cheap ticket will be put on, thus enabling the citizens of Chapel Hill and Orange, also those of Durham and other points to come down to our city every day and remain here during business hours and return the same day. Our business men will see the importance of this, and appreciate what Col. Andrews is doing for them.

Statesville *Landmark:* Mr. H. A. Cook has established right near town a steam corn mill which will be in operation in a very few days.

Mr. Jacob Wallace has returned from Atlanta, having spent fifteen days at the exposition. He comes back enthused over the exhibit and with great expectations of the good that is to result from it to the South and particularly to North Carolina.

His friends in this community and elsewhere will regret to learn that adversity has overtaken Dr. A. M. Powell, of Catawba, heretofore rated as one of the wealthiest men of that county. His homestead was laid off last Saturday. The factory of the Catawba Manufacturing Company, of which Dr. Powell was a principal, perhaps the largest owner, has, in consequence of his complications, suspended operations.

Concord *Sun:* Among our new subscribers this week is Mr. Jas. Odell, of Gray's Chapel, Randolph county. Mr. Odell is 84 years old but gets around about as lively as does his son, Capt. J. M. Odell, of the Concord factory. He has voted for every President of the United States since 1820. He was born in Pennsylvania, and, when a young man, walked all the way to this State, where he has since been living. At the time of his birth there was not a railraid in the United States. What wonderful changes he has witnessed.

Newton *Enterprise:* The main line of the W. N. C. Railroad by Newton is about finished, and trains, it is said, will run over the last trestle at Setzer's mill next week. This brings the main line by Newton, and all our people are happy, and return their sincere thanks to the persons in power for this work.

A New Swindle.

Raleigh News-Observer.

Recently a white man has been going over the city professing to repair jewelry and to replate it. He would go to a house and get a watch, stating that he would repair it cheaply, and would make the repairs at the Yarborough, where he said he was rooming. He called at many houses, obtainign quite a quantity of jewelry to be replated, and also many watches. He took these away, and in some cases returned them next day. It was found in such cases that the plating had been poorly done, when he apologied for the poor work by saying that one of his assistants had done it, and then offered to take it back and do it properly. When thus taken away the second time the jewelry was never returned. The man told most persons that his headquarters were at the Yarborough, but a few he told that he was at other hotels. A number of watches and a lost of jewelry are lost by this swindle. People sent to the hotels for their property, but to no purpose, for no one knew anything of the man. It is said that a negro, an accomplace of the white man, "worked the town" in a similar manner, and that many Africans who thoughtlessly parted with their jewelry now mourn its loss. The best plan is to be on guard against swindlers. Once in a while they come through and always make dupes of the unwary.

Report of the Charleston Cotton Exchange.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 10.—The report of the Charleston cotton exchange for November is based upon 54 replies received from 27 counties, of the average date of November 30. All except 11 report the weather during November as favorable, and in comparison with last year more favorable for gathering the crop; 43 state that the top crop has been made, but some of them say that it matured only partially. Picking is expected to be finished on December 15th; 28 replies report picking as nearly finished and 11 as entirely completed. The total yield, as csmpared with last year is estimated at seven-eighths by three; three-fourths by fourteen; two-thirds by twenty-eight; and one-half by ten. Frost came too late for any damage except to kill some unmatured top crop. The proportion of the crop marketed is reported by 2 to be ¼, by 6, ⅓; by 7, ⅜; by 21, ½; by 18, ⅝, showing that an average of about ½ of the yield has been marketed.

A Tennessee Legislator Shot.

NASHVILLE, TENN. Dec. 10.—John J. Vertrees shot Senator Smith, of Fentress county, in the left shoulder in the rotunda of the Maxwell House, yesterday afternoon. The wound will not prove fatal.

Vertrees had in a case in conrt charged Senator Smith with bribery and corruption on the State debt bill during the last regular session of the Legislature. In the Senate yesterday Senator Smith denounced Vertrees as a liar, and upon the adjournment of the Senatel Vertrees sought him at the Maxwel House and shot him.

Senator Smith claims that he was taken unawares. He states that he was seated reading a newspaper when Vertrees approached and fired at him without giving him any warning.

Vertrees's friends assert that Senator Smith was in the act of rising and drawing his pistol when Vertrees shot him.

Crushed to Death.

ATLANTA, GA., Dec. 10.—Wm. McGhee was crushed to death yesterday near Fairburn, by some machinery falling upon him.