

The Charlotte Observer.

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SUNDAY, JAN. 15, 1882.

INTERESTING NEWS.

We publish to-day an interesting letter from our Washington correspondent. If the information in reference to Col. Johnston and Mr. Price be well founded, the probabilities are that we will have some lively times in this and the 7th district in the next Congressional campaign.

There were those who attributed ulterior aspirations to these gentlemen in the active part they took in the anti-prohibition canvass, and it would seem from the statement of our correspondent that they were not far wrong. These gentlemen are both ambitious, and perhaps they feel at liberty to strike out on a new path and play the independent role since they had the victorious ranks in the canvass last summer. It does not follow as a consequence that they should do this, but it places them in a position to do so, if they see fit, with a seeming justification. But whether either of these gentlemen aspires to the leadership of the independent movement in the State, which has been hinted at by Republican managers, remains to be seen. We hardly think that either of them will aspire to a wider range than his own district, and that if a leader, as they call it, for the independent movement be found he will be known by another name.

Our fellow-townsman may have Senatorial aspirations in the event the independent movement wins and a legislature of that hue and cast be elected, and may not be averse to standing in Ransom's shoes, but it must be remembered that Dr. Mott has a weakness of that kind himself, and that the Republicans in this coalition don't propose to give the large-sized honors and emoluments to the new recruits, whom they can get along without but who can't get along without them. The Republicans are perfectly willing to splice, but they want to engineer the job, and do the cutting and parceling out when the cheese is divided. We don't think it among the probabilities that Charlotte is to be honored with two United States Senators; in fact, under the circumstances, we shall be very well content with one.

BLOOD IN HIS EYE.

We clip the following paragraph from the Raleigh News and Observer of Friday:

"We yesterday met with an attorney of Mr. W. J. Best, who showed us a telegram from him relative to the recent editorial in THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER. Mr. Best declares that the statements are all untrue, and he evidently had blood in his eye for somebody. He directs his attorneys to examine the law, preparatory to instituting proceedings, etc., etc."

In reference to this THE OBSERVER has simply to say that it is not in the least alarmed at Mr. Best's indignation, nor threats of proceedings, etc., etc. What it published it published on what it supposed to be good authority, and it as promptly gave Mr. Best and his syndicate the benefit of the contradiction of the report as published by the Goldsboro Messenger and Raleigh News and Observer. THE OBSERVER has no desire to do Mr. Best injustice, nor does it hanker especially for libel suits, etc., etc., but if Mr. Best and the Boston syndicate think they can silence THE OBSERVER by getting bloody-eyed and threatening court proceedings, etc., etc., they are barking up the wrong tree, that's all."

During 1881 over four and three-quarter million tons of pig iron were produced in this country, nearly four hundred thousand tons imported, and nearly five million nine hundred thousand tons consumed. The consumption for 1880 was about four million tons of pig.

Hanover Courthouse station, in Virginia, on the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad, claims to have the youngest telegraph operator in this country. He is nine years old, and a skilful operator, reading the messages as clicked from the wire with ease and accuracy.

Hon. Judah P. Benjamin lives in London, while his wife lives in Paris. It seems that incompatibility of temperament on the part of the lady makes habitation under the same roof somewhat discordant.

The Triton Cotton Factory, at Rome, Ga., has been paying for several years 7 per cent. semi-annually. There is no stock on the market, but its actual value is over \$200 per share of \$100. The factory under its new organization is only six years old.

County and Corporation Judges Nominated by the Headmasters.

RICHMOND, Va., Jan. 14.—The Readjusters, in caucus last night, nominated a number of county and corporation judges, including the following: C. P. Latham, Lynchburg, corporation court; C. W. Murdaugh, Portsmouth, corporation court; Addison L. Holliday, Richmond, chancery court; E. M. Mann, Petersburg, corporation court; W. J. Godwin, Norfolk, city court; Montgomery Slaughter, Fredericksburg, city court. The caucus meets again Monday night to nominate Auditor of Public Accounts and Circuit Judges.

Fire at Plymouth, N. C.

RALEIGH, N. C., Jan. 14.—A fire at Plymouth, N. C., on Wednesday night destroyed the store and dwelling of H. A. Wise; loss \$400, partly insured. The cause was an explosion of a kerosene lamp. Mr. Wise's family had a narrow escape, and the town was in danger but was saved by negroes, who behaved admirably.

A Memphis Failure.

MEMPHIS, Jan. 14.—E. Lehman, retail clothier, assigned this morning; liabilities ten thousand dollars, assets, five thousand.

Weather.

South Atlantic—partly cloudy weather, local rains in the southern portion, variable winds, higher barometer and slightly cold weather.

Many people afflicted with phthisis pulmonaryis are now taking syrup with very great success and relief. Price 25¢ a bottle.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER

NORTH CAROLINA SPOIL HUNTERS STILL POURING IN.

The Forty form of Mr. Jenkins looks up but he fights shy of strangers. The loyal, headed by Jim Harris, call on the President—some interesting gossip about Col. Johnston and Mr. Price, on the Mahone re-nominees fighting at short range—Ransom preparing a key-note speech—Personal and other items.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—It would be a good time to hold an election now, remarked a stalwart Democrat at the National Hotel lobby last night to your correspondent, as North Carolina Republicans fled past. There would be no time to be at this time no doubt but what the Democrats would carry the State, if indeed there ever was any. And yet each train brings new arrivals all bent upon getting as large a slice of the spoils as possible. To-day R. M. Nortment, of Charlotte, W. E. Williamson, A. T. McMillan, G. B. Everett, E. R. Brink, of Wilmington, A. S. Mour, Wm. Johnston, of Charlotte, and ex-Speaker Chas. Price are noticed. It is doubtful if even so many people from North Carolina were here before. The form of Mr. Jenkins can be seen among the crowd. He fights shy of strangers since his late unpleasant experience. The other day a number of the Republicans here decided to call on the President in reference to the subject of patronage in the State of North Carolina. So a meeting was arranged and the delegation met at the National Hotel about 10 o'clock.

At ten o'clock the prisoner was brought in and as soon as he had taken his seat he opened the day's proceedings with the following speech:

"I received 30 checks yesterday re-

presenting about \$15,000, some of them

I suppose, are worthless, and many of

them are not good. I don't know

what to do with them. I have a

check from my banking business and my

checks should be made out to my order.

Any one who dares to send me my

money can do so, but I don't want any

worthless checks."

Reed took position immediately in front of the jury awaiting the signal from the court to begin the opening argument for the defense.

All eyes were turned in that direction when Scoville arose and addressed the court, stating that he desired to know if he could be allowed to speak in his own defense. If the court proposed to accord him that privilege both he (Scoville) and his associate (Reed) would prefer that he should speak first.

Guiteau: "I want to be heard on that question, your honor; I want to close the argument for the defense. I would not trust my case in the hands of the best lawyer in America."

Judge Cox: "I should be loath in a capital case to deny any man a proper opportunity to be heard, even if he is represented by counsel, but in this case it is safe to assume that the prisoner will abuse the privilege, as he has done all through the trial, and that what he would say would be highly improper to go before the jury. I shall therefore deny him the privilege. As I said yesterday, however, if his counsel desire to read from his manuscript anything which they deem proper to be laid before the jury they can do so."

Guiteau protested that he appeared as his own counsel.

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