

The Charlotte Observer.

CHAS. R. JONES, Editor and Proprietor. REV. G. D. BERNHEIM, Agent and Traveling Correspondent.

SATURDAY, FEB. 17, 1883.

The new nickels, when washed with gold, are said to be readily passed for \$5 pieces.

A Chicago man killed a foot-pad who attempted to rob him, and received a vote of thanks from the coroner's jury.

Ex-Governor Morgan, of New York, who died Tuesday was twice tendered the position of secretary of the treasury first by Grant and afterwards by Arthur, and in both instances declined.

The New England bookmakers are in favor of free books for the people. They believe in popular enlightenment, but they want to do the enlightening and get paid for it.

Talk about uncontracted Southerners! The New York legislature only two days ago finally passed a bill repealing the provisions in the revised statutes allowing the purchase, holding and sale of slaves in the State, and it has not yet received the signature of the Governor!

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed a bill granting a pension of \$40 and an annuity of \$120 a year to soldiers and widows of soldiers of the war of 1812. It is asserted that these pensions will cost the State at least \$200,000 a year.

Leon Hartmann, the Russian Nihilist, Herr Most and three members of the International Society of New York, held a conference in Philadelphia last Thursday in relation to the coronation of the Czar. Herr Most sent a cipher dispatch to German Socialists, and Hartmann declared that the coronation would not be allowed to take place.

Another place where stealing public money has been going on is the Pottsville, Pa., almshouse. Many thousands of dollars, spent ostensibly for outdoor relief of the poor, went to reward personal friends of the commissioners and make political capital. Orders for whisky and cigars often amounted to \$200 in a day.

In the star-router trial Wednesday, Mr. Ingersoll having questioned the belief of a witness Judge Wiley remarked that some people even doubt existence of that we exist. "Yes," replied Mr. Ingersoll, "some people even doubt existence. I believe that people doubt in proportion as they have brains, and are positive just in proportion as they do not know."

The extension of the Enterprise cotton factory, at Augusta, Ga., doubling its capacity, has been completed and operations in the new portion have commenced. It now has 25,000 spindles, and it is proposed to increase this number to 40,000 spindles in a short time, making it one of the largest mills in the South. The new King Mills in the same city will commence operations next week, with a capacity of 25,000 spindles.

The Reform Mood was conspicuous in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Monday, that body by a vote of 136 to 34 having placed on the calendar a bill making it a misdemeanor for State officers, judges and members of the Legislature to accept or use free passes on railroads. Both parties seemed anxious to get on the record as favoring the bill, whilst the small negative vote came principally from the republican side.

The bill "to punish drunkenness," which the Alabama House of Representatives passed on Saturday, imposes a penalty on persons drunk and disorderly in any public place, of a small fine for the first offense, twenty dollars for the second, and five days imprisonment for the third, and gives jurisdiction of such cases to justices of the peace. As it first passed the House it imposed these penalties on persons drunk or disorderly; but the vote was afterwards reconsidered and the word and substituted for "or."

So many people are petitioning the Ohio Legislature to change their names, that a law is likely to be enacted prohibiting that sort of thing altogether. A day or two ago it was proposed to change the name of two minor children, whose father was dead—those asking it being their mother and her second husband. The objection urged against the change was that it would set a precedent which would cause great annoyance in settling estates and titles. If a general prohibition of name changing is enacted, it will be on the ground that the matter belongs to the courts, and beyond the reach of legislative power.

A charter has passed the Florida Legislature for a steamship company to run vessels direct from Florida ports to Liverpool, the incorporators being Sir Philip Hampton, of London, and Mr. A. B. Linderman, of Philadelphia. The company proposes to enter into arrangements with railroad companies owning large bodies of timber land, by which the timber will be cut—shipped and the lands colonized, the ships carrying the timber to England, where there is a demand for it, and bringing back emigrants to settle upon the lands, the lands to be furnished at nominal prices. England demands about 6,000,000 railroad ties a year and it is proposed to draw as much of this demand as possible from the Florida forests.

Philadelphia Press: The privilege of selling liquor ought to be a costly one; and, having made it costly, the State ought also to guarantee the quality of the liquor sold. A high rate of license and a careful inspection of liquor would keep the business in reputable hands. The privilege of getting drunk ought also to be made a costly one. The state of drunkenness is near enough to the condition of lunacy to make it desirable to restrain the liberty of the drunkard. Where drunkenness is habitual the drunkard should be divested of the use of his property. The policy of the law should be to make drunkenness a shameful crime.

Laws of this kind would do more for temperance in a twelvemonth than prohibition could effect in a lifetime.

PROBABILITIES OF AN EXTRA SESSION.

There is but a short time now left for the Legislature to finish up its work, too short in fact to do all or nearly all that has been mapped out. The members at Raleigh are already discussing the question of sitting over the time prescribed or of an extra session. They do not fancy the idea of remaining in Raleigh, working for the State, receiving no pay and paying their own expenses. It should not be expected of them. The truth is a sixty day session is too short to accomplish much in the way of general legislation, especially when so much time is taken up in the consideration of local bills in which the people at large have not a particle of interest.

Unless our memory is at fault there is a statute in existence, passed eight or ten years ago, to remedy to some extent this evil, which authorizes local corporations to file articles of incorporation before the register of deeds, which will be valid in law as if regularly chartered by the Legislature. We may, however, be in error about this. There should be such a law if there is not, authorizing private corporations, local in their nature, to file the articles of association, or such papers as they desire, in the records of the county in which they exist or propose to operate, and let this suffice in lieu of charters granted by the Legislature. Something of this kind would dispose of the larger portion of the work which now consumes the time of the Legislature to the delay of more important matters and to the detriment of public interests.

THE STAR ROUTERS. Now that Rerdell, one of the men convicted at the first trial of the star routers, and who was granted a new trial, has withdrawn his plea and pleads guilty, also announcing his intention to testify as to all he may know if the counsel for the government desire it, we shall probably hear some important developments. Rerdell was a clerk to certain star route contractors and while he was convicted by some hocus pocus, the true inwardness of which the public has not yet penetrated, the jury failed to agree as to the guilt of his employers. This left him in a dilemma while they for the time being escaped. It seems that he has stood all this that he cares to stand and now to save himself proposes to turn State's witness. He knows a good deal, doubtless, and possibly now we may get at some solid facts.

THE END NOT YET. The signal service bureau at Washington gives notice that the Mississippi river between Cairo and Memphis will be flooded, and warns the people along the river to make preparations for it. The immense volume of water pouring down from the Ohio from its tributaries, rushing into the Mississippi, will spread devastation along its banks, and it is feared may do even greater damage than the flood of last year. As the people have had warning, however, they can prepare for it, and save much property that might be swept away or ruined.

The contract for building the York town monument, at Yorktown, Va., has been awarded to the Hollowell Granite Company, of Hollowell, Me. for the sum of \$36,927. The monument will be constructed entirely of Hollowell granite with raised letters. This is in accordance with the recommendations of the commission of artists. Maine granite, while in Virginia, within easy reach, are unlimited quantities of as fine granite as was ever taken from the quarries of Maine.

A Connecticut manufacturer is said to have made seventy-two thousand dollars last year, and had little boys from eight to twelve years old working ten hours a day for fifteen cents a day.

FAILURES NOTWITHSTANDING PROTECTION.

The following, which we clip from the Baltimore Sun, has point in it: The prosperity of the iron interests of Maryland and other Southern States at a time when the air is full of stories of failures and suspensions, actual and prospective, in various Northern States, is an exemplification of the doctrine recently enunciated by Mr. Cox, namely, that iron, like other things, is manufactured under conditions of competition, and that under such conditions the iron works so located as to produce most cheaply must in the end drive their competitors to the wall. All manufacturers are not supremely wise. Some locate their works too far from the easily glutted home market, and too far from their markets. Others lack sufficient capital to tide over the periods of depression inevitable under a high tariff, which confines them to the easily glutted home market, and while advocating "protection," like the eagle in the story, perish from the wound inflicted upon them by a weapon they themselves have plumbed. It is not a little difficult for high protectionists to explain, after twenty years of protection, the present bad condition of the iron industry on their theory that "protection" does protect manufacturers. If so, why so many failures?

The Flood at Cairo and Memphis—The Upper Mississippi Rising.

CAIRO, February 16.—The river measures 45 feet in height, and is rising rapidly. It lacks but five inches of being as high as last year. No serious damage is apprehended from overflow unless a heavy rise comes from the Upper Mississippi. The Wabash and St. Louis and the Narrow Gauge Railroads have suspended business on account of tracks being overtopped. There is an ice gorge at Maple Island in the Mississippi and heavy rains have caused a rise of 10 feet at St. Louis to-day. MEMPHIS, February 16.—The river at noon to-day marks within 2 feet seven inches of the danger line and 4 feet 9 inches of the extreme point reached last spring. It is rising at the rate of 10 inches per day and will surely go over the banks below here in many places where the levees broke last year and were not repaired. The planters are making preparations for the worst. So far there has been no interruption of railroad travel on any lines leading out of the city.

Louisville Able to Take Care of Her Sufferers.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Feb. 16.—The contributions in aid of the sufferers from the recent heavy rains, up to date, amount to \$20,000. Assistance is coming from side places, but Louisville, while thankful, feels able to take care of her citizens here and Louisville and other similar places need help.

Horsford's Acid Phosphate, For Nervousness.

Dr. H. N. D. PARKER, Chicago, says: "I have thoroughly tested this medicine, and general benefit, and in every case could see great benefit from its use."

CONGRESS YESTERDAY.

Both House and Senate on the Tariff. WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—SENATE.—The committee on foreign relations this morning agreed to recommend the ratification of the Mexican reciprocity treaty and will report it to the Senate with that recommendation at the next executive session. Bayard presented a conference report on the Japanese indemnity bill and explained it. Hampton this morning reported to the Senate from the military committee a bill to reimburse the State of Florida on account of expenses in the Seminole war in 1835-6-7. The amount claimed to be due was over \$700,000, but the committee has figured the amount down to \$292,648.

After some discussion the report of the conference committee on the Japanese indemnity fund was agreed to. Butler read an engineer's letter in relation to the condition of the works for the improvement of Charleston harbor and asked the committee on commerce to consider and report independently of the river and harbor bill the introduction of appropriate \$500,000 for the works. The letter read was referred to the committee on commerce.

At 4 p. m. the tariff bill was taken up. The pending question was on the amendment offered last evening by Conger providing for a duty of half a cent per pound upon charcoal iron advanced in the consent of the way and in addition to the duty on iron shipped with other fuel. This amendment was lost as were several others naming various rates of additional duty. Three dollars per ton was finally agreed upon.

The Jute paragraph was amended by changing the rate on jute from five dollars a ton to 20 per cent ad valorem. Several amendments were offered to the internal revenue portion of the bill repealing the tax on tobacco, molasses, whiskey, bank deposits, circulation and capital, but all failed.

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MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH.

FEBRUARY 16, 1883. DOMESTIC.

CHARLESTON—Spirits Turpentine nominal and no sales. Rosin, quiet and unchanged; strained and good strained \$1.40.

WILMINGTON—Spirits Turpentine firm, at 40¢; Rosin firm, at 10¢; Turpentine firm, at 1.50 for hard; 2.50 for red oil.

LOUISVILLE—On account of the flood the market was quiet to-day, and only a small local business is being done.

CINCINNATI—Flour, firm and nominal; family \$3.10; fancy \$3.50; extra \$3.00; No. 1 \$2.50; No. 2 \$2.00; No. 3 \$1.50; No. 4 \$1.00; No. 5 \$0.50; No. 6 \$0.25; No. 7 \$0.10; No. 8 \$0.05; No. 9 \$0.02; No. 10 \$0.01.

BALTIMORE—Wheat, dull and firm; Southern \$1.25; Western \$1.10; mixed \$1.15; No. 1 \$1.20; No. 2 \$1.10; No. 3 \$1.00; No. 4 \$0.90; No. 5 \$0.80; No. 6 \$0.70; No. 7 \$0.60; No. 8 \$0.50; No. 9 \$0.40; No. 10 \$0.30.

ST. LOUIS—Flour, firm and better; fancy \$5.25; No. 1 \$4.50; No. 2 \$4.00; No. 3 \$3.50; No. 4 \$3.00; No. 5 \$2.50; No. 6 \$2.00; No. 7 \$1.50; No. 8 \$1.00; No. 9 \$0.50; No. 10 \$0.25.

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STOCK AND BOND MARKET.

NEW YORK—Net receipts 475; gross 3,021. Future closed easy; sales 2,000 bales.

February 16, 1883. NEW YORK. Exchange—weak and lower. Government—weak and lower. Four and a half per cent, 113 1/2. Four per cent, 113. Money, 132 1/2. State Bonds—neglected. U. S. Treasury Bonds—Gold, \$119.70. U. S. Treasury Bonds—Silver, 5.881.

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