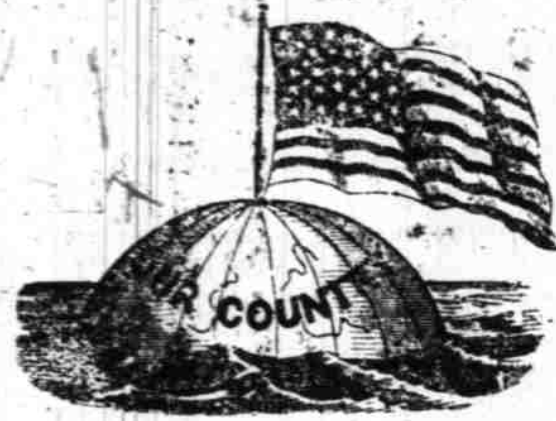


RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION: One copy, one year, \$1.50. One copy, six months, \$1.00. Subscriptions must be paid in advance.

RATES OF ADVERTISING: One square, one insertion, \$1.00. Each subsequent insertion, 50c. Special contracts made for larger advertisements.

Ledger Publishing Co. EDITORS.



NOTICE.—We will be pleased to publish any communications from any person relative to the good of the people; but any communication relative to personal matters or tending to bring about a controversy will not be tolerated.—Ed's.

LEGAL ADVERTISING.

The Raleigh Observer, the ablest paper in North Carolina, after commenting at length on the subject of legal advertising, has this to say in conclusion:

"The time will come, however, in all the States as it has already come in some, when legal advertisements will be required by law to be printed in newspapers, and we hope it will come soon in North Carolina; not, however, because of any benefit real or imaginary, that it promises to be to the newspapers, but because we honestly believe the requirement is the only adequate means to insure justice to all parties concerned in the transfer of property from one person to another by process of law. We are wedded to no particular plan of bringing about the desired end, but the following bill prepared by Captain R. A. Shotwell when a member of the House of Representatives from Mecklenburg county, though short and simple in its provisions, seems to cover the ground:"

AN ACT IN RELATION TO THE PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact: That for the better protection of the public in the matter of legal notices, it shall be the duty of all Sheriffs, Clerks, Judges of Probate, Assignees and Guardians, whenever, in the course of legal proceedings, under the laws of the State, they may be required to make public advertisement or showing in regard to proceedings in administration, execution, executorship, guardianship, assignments for the benefits of creditors, attachments, removal of county sites, public contracts, decrees, concerning real or personal property ordered to be sold, settlements of Sheriffs and Treasurers, or any other county matter required by law to be published in advertisement of the public—to cause such advertisement to be published not less than two times, in addition to the postings now provided for by the law, in some newspaper, printed weekly in the county where the proceedings are held, if any there be; provided that the cost of such advertisement shall not exceed seventy-five cents for each inch of small type, according to printers' ordinary measurement. Provided further, that in counties wherein no paper is printed, the County Commissioners shall be authorized to order such publication in the paper having the largest circulation in the county, upon receipt of certified statement from the publisher of said paper, that its circulation numbers one hundred bona fide subscribers in said county.

We have received the first number of the new illustrated family weekly newspaper, The Penn Yan Mystery, published by Leon & Harriet Lewis, Penn Yan, N. Y. We cheerfully recommend it to our readers as a first-class journal. Price \$3 per annum.

The January number of Wood's Household Magazine comes to us much enlarged. This magazine has a fine reputation and is becoming very popular in the South. Price \$2 per annum. Address S. S. Wood, Tribune Building, N. Y.

There was a large fire in Wilson, N. C., one night last week, consuming it is said, \$50,000 worth of property. Our people should be very particular with fire about their homes and places of business.

NEW YEAR.

The old year is gone, the new one has come. The old planet on which we live has completed the cycle of another journey around the sun without losing her balance and dropping from her orbit, and she comes back to the old starting point, and quietly resumes her journey for another circuit. As with the earth so it is with many of us. We too are entering upon another yearly circle of life's duties. This is a good time for reflection and amendment. Reflect on the past. Recount its blunders and its successes, its comforts and its discomforts, its pleasures and sorrows. Be not hasty in plunging into the plans and purposes of the new year. "Form your plans with deliberation, then execute them with vigor." Stop and mend up the machinery a little before you start on the next trip. Give particular attention to the condition of your business. Count up the receipts of the past year, and see if they were equal to the expenditures. If not, leave off for the new year some of your superfluities. Pay your debts. Your creditors need the money. If they do not you need to pay it in order to be a free man. Don't keep money in your pocket rusting, when it properly belongs to another. People complain of the scarcity of money, but this complaint would be stopped to a great extent if what little money we have were kept in circulation. A five dollar bill would pay five hundred dollars of debts in one day, if some one would start it early in the morning and others keep it going.

Having paid your own debts, and rectified your own business, remember the poor. There are many who have had misfortunes during the past year—who have not been able to make "both ends meet." Help them. Begin the year with deeds of kindness to the distressed—with opening and enlarging your heart towards your fellows, instead of closing and contracting it.

Mend your manners and your words. Alas! what excesses of depravity have marked the life of many during the past year, and especially during the closing week. Shame upon them for it! Are you one of them? Mend up. Retrieve your lost honor. Cut off baleful, wicked habits, though it be like the cutting off of the right hand or plucking out the eye. Start the new year with a complete reformation in manners and morals. Resolve that for one year you will be gentlemen and ladies in deportment, and upright and holy in character. Do these things and it will be a "happy new year" to you all!

U. S. SENATOR.

The LEDGER has had little to say in regard to the election of United States Senator by the General Assembly of North Carolina at its approaching session. The time has at last arrived when every newspaper in North Carolina should speak out, for the day is not far distant when the election will be held. Were we to keep silent longer, we believe we would be doing great injustice to a large majority of the Democratic voters of Orange county and the surrounding country. We believe that a large majority of the Democratic voters of this and adjoining counties, earnestly and sincerely desire the re-election of Hon. A. S. Merrimon. Why not? What has this gentleman done that he should not be re-elected? His opponents charge that he was elected by a combination of Democratic votes given by bolters from the Democratic caucus, together with the united vote of the Republicans. We ask where is there in North Carolina any man who would not have accepted the office under the same circumstances? Let no threats from any quarter keep the people's representatives from doing their duty. If Vance or Merrimon are elected, or if they are both defeated, and some other good man elected, the world will still move on, and the Democratic party of North Carolina will still march on to victory. No two men in North Carolina can kill this great party. When men get in its way, let them be set aside.

FIRE IN RALEIGH.

All day Wednesday rumors were flying thick and fast that Raleigh was burning up. Some of the students had seen the fire from the college buildings. A gentleman from Hillsboro reported that the fire had destroyed a large amount of property, and was still burning. All waited patiently for the Raleigh papers. We take the following from the Observer of Wednesday last:

THE FIRE.

Yesterday morning a few moments before 6 o'clock the fire alarm pealed out and was kept up until a very large crowd of people were called up. The confectionery store of R. H. Bradley, Fayetteville st., opposite to the postoffice, had been discovered on fire in the rear room and soon the flames nearly enveloped the building, a wooden one, and spread to the adjoining one, also a wooden one. The Bradley building was soon almost completely destroyed. The stock on hand is estimated at between \$1,000 and \$1,200 in value, very nearly all of which was lost. Mr. Bradley has a policy of \$500 in the Virginia Home Fire Insurance Company, Richmond, Va., represented here by Messrs. Cameron, Hay & Co., but this does not cover the value of a soda water fountain which he had, costing last year \$560.

Above the confectionery were located Jones & O'Neal, cigar manufacturers, who lost very nearly everything. They had on hand a rather large stock of leaf tobacco, some seventeen thousand cigars, tools, &c., all of which were totally destroyed or so damaged that it is worthless. Of the cigars but a few thousand are left. The greater portion of those lost were carried off by plunderers. Messrs. Jones & O'Neal had but a short time ago entered business, had their all invested and being without insurance their loss is a most serious one. Mr. Jones is now at his home dangerously ill in Norfolk, Va. Both are gentlemen of excellent character and stand well in the community as industrious, correct gentlemen. They deserve sympathy.

The adjoining building was about two-thirds consumed and badly wrecked. It was occupied in the lower part by W. G. Otey as a barber shop, the upper portion by Gray & Stamps as a law office, and Mr. Phil. Walker's sleeping apartment, while in the rear room of the lower portion was located the law office of Messrs. Gilliam & Gatling. It was omitted in the proper place to say that Mr. S. D. Wait's insurance office was located in one of the front rooms.

No one in the second building sustained any serious damage save that inevitably consequent upon an unexpected and violent out from quarters. It is learned that Messrs. Gray & Stamps have a policy for \$300 in the North Carolina Home Fire Insurance Company, but only a few dollars of damages seems to have occurred. All of the occupants of this building got their property out in reasonable ship-shape. The fire is supposed to have originated from a hot stove in Bradley's store, which was very close to a wood partition. The store had been closed at a few moments after 12 M. The buildings belonged to the estate of the Hon. B. F. Moore, and so far as learned there was no insurance upon them.

The fire department put in very reasonable and prompt appearance and did good and solid work. Where so many did well it would not be in good taste to particularize. The upper story of the Bagley building near the fire was damaged to about the extent of \$100 probably. The chemical engine did some good service from the windows of that building.

While every one must deeply sympathize with the owners of the buildings and those who lost by the fire, yet the sweeping away of these old frame buildings from the principal street of the city, is the one, and only one, bright feature that mixes in with the unfortunate occurrence.

The parties occupying the buildings burned all desire to return thanks to the fire department and citizens generally, for their untiring efforts in their behalf.

The Legislature will assemble in Raleigh on Wednesday next. Candidates for the various positions within its gift, says the Raleigh papers, are arriving daily. Our backwoods law-makers, will, for the first time, have an opportunity of seeing men who have fought, bled and are now willing to receive \$5 per day for the sake of the party.

Subscribe for me.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Raleigh Observer: The Court of Claims has decided the Douglas cotton claim in favor of the heirs. Colonel R. M. Douglas, Western N. C. District Marshal, and Gen. S. A. Douglas, get about \$20,000 each, and Mr. Cutts, a Washington lawyer, and father of the last Mrs. Douglas, receives \$25,000 by way of fee. The claim was for cotton captured by the United States government in Mississippi during the war and sold as abandoned property.

Charlotte Observer: Rev. Sam'l Pearce died of paralysis at his residence in this city on the morning of the 25th instant, in the seventy-first year of his age. Mr. Pearce was a local minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. He was born at Truro, county of Cornwall, England, and came to this country at an early age, and lived in Virginia, where he entered the Methodist ministry. A number of years ago he moved to North Carolina, and in many parts of the State became well known. He was the publisher of the best map of the State we have ever had. Mr. Pearce died full of years, and there are many friends and relatives who deeply mourn him.

Concord Sun: Last Monday as one of the freight trains on the N. C. Railroad was coming into Concord, about three miles from town the engineer discovered two negroes running along the track in front of his engine. He blew his whistle and gave them all the necessary warning but they remained on the track, and one was knocked off. The train was stopped and the negro picked up and brought to the depot at this place. His leg was badly broken, and it is thought will have to be amputated. They assigned no reason for not getting out of the way of the train except that they were on a fill and thought they could run, and get off before the train caught them.

Raleigh News: A gentleman from Warren county states that much excitement, mixed with indignation, prevails in regard to the conduct of a white man of that county, who, leaving his family of nine children, some of whom are of tender years, has fled to Georgia. The kind people have taken charge of the accidental orphans, and all have been given homes. A letter was a few days since received from the runaway father, bidding the eldest child sell enough of the little property to raise \$45, and send him that amount at once, as he wished to continue to Texas. Such heartlessness is but seldom exhibited as is here shown, and the brute who thus leaves his children to the world's mercies, which are at this time, happily, tender, is execrated by all.

The Lenoir Topic says that Jas. B. Martin was murdered in Watauga county by Harrison Osborne, and at the latter's house. Osborne was drunk. Ordering Martin who was picking a banjo, to pick faster, Osborne drew a pistol, and after firing three times, returned and shot over Martin's head. He then levelled his pistol at Martin and fired—shooting him through the heart and killed him almost instantly. As Martin was shot he said: "Lord! Harrison, you have killed me." Osborne replied, "I reckon not." Martin said, "Yes, you have," and stepping forward fell across Osborne's lap, dead. Osborne pushed him off on the floor, when his (Osborne's) wife came up and straightened the dead boy out on the floor, where he remained until 8 o'clock the next morning when word was sent to Mr. Martin that his son had been killed. After the shooting Osborne went to bed, and slept till just before day, when he left for parts unknown. His wife had prepared for him a beautiful supply of cooked provisions.

Newbern Nutshell: Two of our most respectable young men, out of the goodness of their hearts, placed themselves in a very ludicrous situation yesterday morning. They were coming across Trent river bridge and about midway overhauled two colored women, who were so paralyzed with fear that they could not move. They had "started to town," and proceeded to the point mentioned with great fear, but their limbs had at last actually refused to serve them, and there they stood on the railroad sills, with the freezing blast of one of our coldest winter's winds chilling them to the bone, and a prey to unspeakable terror. The two gentlemen at once took them in charge, and led them over the dark waters. Just picture the sight! Two handsome married men, each with a homely colored woman clinging tenaciously to his arm, taking a morning walk across a bridge, exposed to the view of most of our citizens. Wasn't that martyrdom? One of the gentlemen carried in his hand a bundle belonging to his female friend, and we learn when they reached this side of the river, a colored woman remarked: "Dar's a runaway match shure."

THE FERTILIZER TAX.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S REPORT.

NOVEMBER 29, 1878.

Hon. Thos. M. Holt, President N. C. Agricultural Society:

SIR: The committee to whom was referred by your honorable body the following resolution: "Resolved, That a committee of five farmers be appointed to gather information from the farmers of the State in regard to the working of the tax on fertilizers, and that such committee be instructed to report to our Executive Committee before the 1st of December next; such report to be furnished to the press of the State for publication;"

Respectfully report that they have made extensive inquiries among representative farmers of all parts of the State and find the almost unanimous opinion to be, that the tax on fertilizers has been productive of great benefit to the agricultural classes in several particulars.

1st. The analysis of the fertilizers used in the State, and the publication of the results of such analysis, enable farmers to form a more intelligent opinion as to what fertilizers are needed for their crops, and what elements are needed by their lands.

2d. These analyses have checked frauds in the manufacture of fertilizers. They have improved the quality of those imported into the State, many say as much as 20 or 25 per cent.

3d. They have exposed gross frauds in some instances, and enabled farmers to avoid being cheated by them.

4th. Such publications, and the very interesting reports of the Commissioner of Agriculture have, in North Carolina, as in Germany, France, England, and several States of this Union, been the means of creating an intelligent interest in questions of agricultural chemistry and spreading information about them among the people. Farmers do not now buy fertilizers blindly at shopkeepers, but like they buy cloth, shoes, etc., with reference to the real value of the articles and their suitability to their needs. They try experiments more than formerly, observing accurately the effects on the crops.

5th. The home manufacture of fertilizers has been stimulated; many farmers do not buy the manufactured articles at all, but they purchase the chemicals at first hands from importers and manufacturers and mix for themselves, producing a mixture highly profitable, as they claim, at a much less cost.

6th. The tax on fertilizers is pronounced to be the best mode of sustaining the Department of Agriculture and its work, including not only the analysis of fertilizers, but all the important subjects which it has in charge under the able conduct of the Board of Agriculture. Abundant evidence is at hand to prove that the price of fertilizers has not been raised by the tax. Companies are able to sell here at the same rate as in other States, and they sell an article of known value.

7th. At the same time the committee report that the dissatisfaction at first expressed by some of the manufacturers has mostly died out. Many of them like the plan of having analyses made, as it saves them from the competition of dishonest and inferior articles. The only injury the best grades have suffered has been from the increased home mixture of chemicals by the farmers. But this the committee think a desirable thing for our State. The committee sincerely hope that so far from abolishing the tax, the General Assembly might with advantage to the State, grant increased means of usefulness to the Board of Agriculture. Certainly no legislation in their remembrance has been of such direct value to the agricultural interests, on which chiefly the prosperity of our State depends.

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. HUTCHINS, BRYAN GRIMES, PETER E. SMITH, R. B. CALDWELL, JOS. A. WORTH, Committee.

FASHION NOTES.

Among the pretty new trimmings for light silk dresses, are clusters of very narrow creped ruffles. These are put on to the number of six or eight.

There is a very strong feeling against over-dressing growing up in more refined circles. Especially at a hop, it is considered extremely vulgar to be much dressed.

The bonnet is considered the only appropriate head wear for ladies of mature years to wear at receptions or church. Hats are not permitted by the strictest degrees of fashion.

Some side plaitings are cut so as to form a deep scollop at top and bottom. They are fastened to the dress by bands of bias material. The novelty of the design is their only recommendation.

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

Per annum, \$1 50.

Six months, \$1 00.

Advertisements appearing in the LEDGER will reach the farmers of Alamance, Chatham, Wake, Orange and other counties, and is therefore a good advertising medium.

Advertisements will be inserted in these columns on as liberal terms as in any first class paper.

The LEDGER'S circulation is increasing rapidly, and bids fair to have as large circulation as any country newspaper in the State.

The Fall Season will soon open, and every farmer should keep up

with the cotton, tobacco and produce markets. The LEDGER will furnish the markets of Raleigh, Durham, Hillsboro, Chapel Hill, &c.

Arrangements are being made for weekly communications from Raleigh and other points.

The LEDGER will use whatever influence it may command to have a Railroad built to Chapel Hill, and an Experimental Farm connected with the University.

The columns of the LEDGER will be devoted to Literature, Agriculture, Latest News, Original Correspondents, Markets, &c., and will avoid political issues as much as possible, though claiming the right to object to obnoxious men and measures.

Then, fellow-citizens, subscribe to the LEDGER and aid us in building up a good newspaper.

Office opposite the store of J. W. Carr, and next door to J. Weaver.