

## CHARLOTTE:

FRIDAY MORNING, March 16, 1855.

### A FAIR PROPOSITION.

There are many of our subscribers who have been reading our paper for nearly three years, who have not paid us one dime, though our terms are cash. To all those we say, PAY UP between this and the April Court, and we will only charge the advance price—but all who do not heed this notice we will in no case receive less than \$3 a year, for every year in arrears. Our terms are \$2 cash, \$2.50 if payment is delayed 6 months, and \$3 at the end of the year. Thus it will be seen that those who will accept our proposition will save something smart, and we will be greatly benefited by it.

### CHARLOTTE MARKET.

WESTERN DEMOCRAT OFFICE, Thursday Evening, March 15, '55.

COTTON—Coming in quite freely—upwards of 300 bales changed hands since our last, at prices ranging from 5 to 7½.

FLOUR—Sales light; market well supplied—prices unchanged, sells at \$8 a \$8.

WHEAT—None offered, but would readily bring \$1.50, prime quality.

CORN—Good deal offered at 75 a 85.

MEAL—in demand, at 80 a 55.

PEAS—80 a 85. OATS—none offered.

BACON—Ilog round 7 a 7½.

### Charleston Market.

CHARLESTON, March 13.—Cotton—Sales to-day about 1300 bales. Prices ranged from 7 to 8½.

### Fire.

This day week (Friday) was probably the most windy that we ever remember to have experienced even in March. Unfortunately persons who were clearing new ground for the coming crop had set fire to the woods in several localities, from which much destruction of property resulted. As far as we can hear the fire has ravaged the county, burning houses, fences, and destroying the timber.

From Cabarrus we learn that Dr. Harris at Mill Grove had his house entirely consumed together with all his furniture—it was a handsome dwelling—the loss will fall very heavily upon him.

In Steele Creek Settlement, in this county, Mr. Robert Potts, had his dwelling burnt.

From Union we also learn that there was a considerable destruction of property, a number of houses burned.

Just around our town the woods were on fire, and their lurid light illuminated our streets all Friday evening, filling the minds of many with dread.

The Charlotte & S. C. Railroad suffered from the same cause, some 5 or 6 miles were burned—but by the energy of the Superintendent the damage was soon repaired so as to permit the trains to pass over.

It was truly a "dies ira," and if it had been the 13th, instead of the 9th, the Millerite prophecy of the consuming of the world, would have come nearer being fulfilled than any of their previous predictions.

### The Charlotte and Rutherfordton Rail Road.

We learn that the friends of this road will hold a meeting in Gaston on next Friday, (23d) and another in Lincolnton on the day following, (24th.) We have every reason to congratulate ourselves on the early movements that are making to arouse attention and secure the building of this road, for we humbly believe that it is of vast, we may say vital, importance to the future growth of our town. Salisbury seems to take hold in earnest of her Western extension, which, if she should even progress with, will militate greatly against us, unless we could also penetrate the Mountains. One or the other of these roads must and will be built—that is as fixed as destiny. This is the most important as a State enterprise, and certainly the most feasible and the cheapest, and will pass through a country far richer in mineral, agricultural and manufacturing resources. It is important for us just now, to make a demonstration—for if we show our capacity to complete the enterprise, we think the Salisbury extension will at once be abandoned, or, at most, drag out a sickly existence, impotent either of good or evil. If this road is built to Rutherfordton, it will certainly be extended on through Cherokee and connect with the French Broad road—then onward by other lines into the valley of the Mississippi, and will be the directest route for that whole country to reach the Atlantic coast; and by the universal law of trade will command the travel and freight, and be the best paying road in the South.

We should not suffer our interest in the Wilmington extension to divert us from the good that will result to us from this. Our position as a point is such that we ought to do all we can for both—to divide our subscription, and if we give the most to either, the difference ought to be in favor of the route to the Mountains. That road will open to us a connexion with the iron and lime region, and will pour into our lap the produce of the whole Cis-mountain region—the other end will give us a more direct communication with the ocean, and bring to us the coal-fields, a commodity so necessary for manufacturing purposes.

Whether the road will be located through Gaston or Lincoln is a matter that will have to depend greatly upon the amount of money raised by the respective counties, and is a matter of no very great importance to us. If it should go through Gaston it will be some 10 miles shorter, will be, of course, less expensive, and will be the means of cutting off the trade of Gaston and Cleveland from South Carolina towns and direct it to us. These are considerations that should have their weight with those of our people who wish to subscribe. We will endeavor to attend the meetings at Dallas and Lincolnton, and sum up the arguments used by the friends of the respective routes and present them to our readers.

### The Approaching Canvass.

J. A. Caldwell, Esq., of Lincoln, is announced through the "Whig" as the candidate for Congress in this District at the approaching election.

We understand, though it is not publicly announced, that General A. J. Dargan of Anson, is also in the field, and we would not be surprised before the canvass is half way advanced if several more knights were to don the helmet and mount Rosantan ready to enter the lists. Come on gentlemen, the more the merrier—and we assure you your chances will not be diminished by it in the slightest degree. Mr. Craigie is willing to cope single-handed or against a battalion of you. He is armed at every point, and if the whole Whig party, Know-Nothings, et al omne genus armis array themselves against him they will not impede his way. You know he has some legs and such small obstacles he can easily step over. We wish to see him aroused sufficiently to cause him to put forth his powers. His friends are impatiently awaiting to hear him discuss the grave and mighty questions which have agitated the public mind since his election to the last Congress. Having demolished the Ajax Telamon of the Whig party of this District during the last canvass, we imagine that the lesser heroes will not give him much trouble.

### The New Postage Law.

Every person being interested in the amended act of the 3d March, 1855, in regard to postages, a synopsis of its provisions will not be unacceptable:

From and after the 1st of April, 1855, the postage to be charged on each single letter, for any distance in the United States, not exceeding three thousand miles, is three cents, and over three thousand miles, ten cents.

Half an ounce in weight will constitute a single letter; and double, treble, and quadruple letters to be charged in the same proportion.

All letters between places in the United States shall be pre-paid, from and after the 1st of April, 1855, by stamp or otherwise, and that from and after the 1st of January, 1856, postmasters must place postage stamps upon all prepaid letters upon which such stamps may not have been placed by the writers, or which may not be enclosed in stamped envelopes.

A registration of valuable letters is required to be made upon the payment of a fee of five cents in addition to the pre-paid postage, but the Government will not be responsible for the loss of any registered letter or packet.

The franking privilege is to remain as heretofore.

Selling postage stamps for a larger sum than their marked value is to be punished as a misdemeanor.

### Post Office Rules.

The following are some of the Rules of the Post Office, which are not generally known:

A postage stamp cut from a stamped envelope, cannot be used for postage.

A postmaster, under no circumstances, is allowed to open a letter not addressed to him.

When letters are missing, it is not lawful to charge postage for forwarding.

All newspapers having words written on or in them, are subject to letter postage. To entitle papers to be sent to bona fide subscribers at half a cent each, a full quarter's postage is required in advance.

It is improper for deputy postmasters to remove the wrappers of public documents franked by members of Congress.

No paper, or other thing, except bills or receipts of publishers, can be sent enclosed in a newspaper without subjecting the whole to letter postage.

Subscribers to a weekly newspaper in the county of its publication shall receive the same free of postage.

Bona fide subscribers to a weekly paper, whose post office is in an adjoining county, are allowed to receive papers published in a county in which they live, free of postage.

Any mark with a pen on a circular, such as date or name of the king, subjects it to letter postage.

Postmasters can make no deductions from the established rates under any circumstances whatever.

Postmasters are required to give notice to a publisher or editor when a subscriber refuses to take his paper from the office.

### N. C. Railroad.

At the meeting of Stockholders of the North Carolina Railroad, held at Greensboro last week, the one million proffered by the State, and all the proposed amendments of the Charter, were unanimously accepted. About \$600,000 was represented. Among the changes made, one is that no stockholder can be chosen a director who does not own stock to the amount of five shares.

### Later from Mexico.

NEW ORLEANS, March 11, 1855.—The steamer Orizaba has arrived with Vera Cruz dates of the 8th, and city of Mexico of the 3d. Santa Anna, had gone South with all his troops except 1,500. The official paper says he has gone to the baths, but it is rumored that he has gone to join Alvarez, and execute a coup d'etat.

There was a severe shock of an earthquake at Mexico on the 28th ult.

GREYTOWN.—Notwithstanding the chastisement the rascals at Greytown, or San Juan, received from the United States some time ago, it appears they have again been committing outrages upon American citizens. One American was attacked and terribly beaten, and another had to place himself under the protection of the American consul to save his life. A correspondence of the N. Y. Times says 'the whole town was in a state of great excitement, the cry was "death to Americans." It was not considered safe for an American to be out of doors.' It is stated that a bearer of dispatches has arrived at Washington with the particulars.

**THE BOUNTY LAND ACT.**—The act which passed Congress give to every person who served in any capacity, as long as fourteen days, by land or sea, in any war since 1796, 160 acres of land to the widows or minor children to receive the benefit, in case of the death of the person so entitled.

OUR MINISTER TO FRANCE.—Judge Mason, the American minister in Paris, is said to have almost entirely recovered his health. During his illness, the Emperor and all the Imperial family manifested much interest in his welfare, and at the last diplomatic gathering at the Tuilleries the family of Mr. Mason were present, and were warmly congratulated on the Minister's recovery.

We are indebted to Charles W. Welch, Chief Clerk of the Navy Department, for a copy of the Navy Register for 1855.

### For the Democrat.

MR. EDITOR: A communication which appeared in your paper some two weeks since, charging the Know-Nothings with being in close communion with and struggling for the elevation of the Abolitionists of the North, seems to have drawn from one of the fraternity signing himself "Amicus," an effusion which I presume he intended as an answer to "Mecklenburg," and a defense of the "dark lantern" party against the said charge. How far "Amicus" clears up this charge against his brethren may be better ascertained by reference to his communication itself—see it, read it, analyze it, line by line and sentence by sentence, and in no part of it will you find a denial of the charge. For this manifestation of his honesty, "Amicus" is entitled to much credit; and it proves that some of the Know-Nothings, at least, have consciences that are not composed entirely of india rubber.

We, therefore, re-iterate the charge that the Know-Nothings are fighting shoulder to shoulder in the ranks with the Abolitionists. And we again ask "where has the Know-Nothing Society stood up for Southern Rights? Where has it united with the friends of the South in the election of sound national men to the Congress of the United States?"

The South needs no further identity of this new order than to know that it was formed by the Abolitionists of the North. Can anything good and wholesome for the South come out of Massachusetts, the hot-bed of abolitionism? Can a secret political association having at its head Henry Wilson, who "wishes slavery in the District of Columbia abolished—who wishes the Wilmet Provost established—who wishes all new Slave States excluded—who wishes all connection between the General Government and slavery abolished—who wishes the agitation of the slavery question continued until all these objects are accomplished," have anything in it that would recommend it to Southern favor? Yet this is the party that is attempting to insinuate itself into the affections of the Southern people—pretending to be the great bulwark between the abolitionists and the South! "We see the South besieged by the Abolitionists of the free States, besieged not, as heretofore, as enemies but under the guise and gloss of false friends. Messrs. Seward, Foote, Wilson, Washburn, and the rest, are just now as anxious for their Southern friends as if the latter were their sworn and accepted associates. The prejudices of the Southern people against the adopted citizens are artfully aroused and kept up by old Whig leaders, Prentiss, Botts and Raynor, on the ground that the foreign-born citizen is generally hostile to Southern institutions, and with this plausible appeal they hope gradually to conduct the whole South into the arms of this new Order already created at the North, thus nationalizing Know-Nothingism, and making Abolitionism irresistible at the same moment. Will the South be fascinated by the serpents wiles, and forget that it is invited to its own destruction, or will it take counsel from facts? Will it be misled by the miserable humbug of Know-Nothingism, illiberal prejudices, and secret mummeries? Never before was Abolitionism at once so dominant and so defiant. Never before was it so bold and so confident. Never before were its hellish schemes so publicly proclaimed and so warmly and so ably advocated. Never before has it dared to ask the South to unite with it, proffering peace with one hand and death with the other."

And this is the party that is even now struggling for a foot-hold in the old County of Mecklenburg, the Hornet's Nest of the Revolution, for the purpose of controlling our elections. Look to it Democrats of Mecklenburg. The Whigs have never been able to beat you single-handed, what they will be able to do since their amalgamation with the Know-Nothings and Abolitionists, remains to be seen at the next August election. But what necessity can there be for a secret political association in our country, is any man's liberty in danger for expressing his sentiments freely and openly, provided those sentiments are not treasonable?

The great barriers to the exercise of refined and noble feeling, and to delightful social intercourse, are aristocracy, misunderstandings and altercations. These, we are happy to know, do not exist in Charlotte. There is not a more Republican and Democratic town in the State. All are as one family—inviting and encouraging the unembarrassed enjoyment of the civilities, courtesies and hospitalities of genuine friendship. Besides, the character of the resident gentlemen and ladies is a sufficient guarantee that all persons induced will receive a polite attention, and be spared the pain or disgust arising from a wounded delicacy or offended taste.

Constituted as we are, it is natural to seek an association with kindred spirits and, during our rural or urban visitations, to notice the social character of the citizens. Should it become necessary to change our residence, we should invariably prefer a location in which could be found intelligent, respectable, and if possible religious society. None but parents can appreciate the force of the thought suggested, and it would be well for them if they contemplated the subject more frequently, and practised the dictates of their own wiser judgment.

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The few paragraphs are written by one who has no feeling to gratify nor interest to promote, and who, from the nature of his circumstances, obligations, and relations, cannot expect to leave his present location, but who is impelled by a pardonable desire to give to each due praise and thus stimulate ourselves and others to higher efforts and worthier deeds.

### [COMMUNICATED.] Charlotte, No. 2.

The former brief sketch imperfectly represented the external appearance of your city, with a few incidental allusions to distinguished personages. Time did not permit us to speak at length of the Granite Range, Sadler's Hotel, Johnson's new buildings, the Branch Mint and various other tasteful and attractive edifices. The Methodist Episcopal Church is sufficiently large and well-seated to accommodate a numerous throng of hearers. The Rev. Mr. Pickett—a gentleman and a scholar who can read the text of the Scriptures in eight or nine different languages—is zealously laboring in this field and place as may be hereafter designated, for the purpose of organizing more completely and devising ways and means to accomplish the great work in contemplation, believing that in this as well as in every other great public enterprise, union is strength.

JOS. W. CALLOWAY, C. J. WEBB, T. B. JUSTICE, ED. BRYAN, C. H. CHAPIN.

Committee.

The meeting was then addressed at some length by Gen. J. G. Bynum, discussing the various provisions of the charter, the many advantages of the proposed route over others, and presenting with clearness and force, the ability of the people in the several counties on the route to construct the road in accordance with the provisions of the charter.

Wm. M. Shipp, Esq., then addressed the meeting on the policy of the State in building up a commercial city in our own limits, and the ample means of the citizens of this and other countries to construct the road.

Col. Davis, of McDowell county then addressed the audience in his usual felicitous style on subjects of interests connected with the enterprise.

On motion, the resolutions were unanimously adopted.

On motion of Gen. Bynum, it was voted that the committee on resolutions—Jos. W. Galloway, C. J. Webb, T. B. Justice, Ed. Bryan, C. H. Chapin—be a committee to make arrangements for a series of meetings to be held in the several counties on the route between this place and Charlotte, and report at the next meeting.

On motion, Gen. J. G. Bynum and Gen. G. W. Logan were added to the committee.

Voted that the secretaries be requested to transmit copies of the proceedings of this meeting to the North Carolina Whig and Carolina Intelligencer, with a request to publish the same.

The meeting then adjourned on Monday, March 12th.

G. W. LOGAN, President.

C. H. CHAPIN, M. O. DICKERSON, Secretaries.

Rail Road Meeting.

Pursuant to a call, a meeting was held in the Court House at Lincolnton, March 3d, 1855.

On motion, J. T. Alexander was appointed Chairman and Dr. Alexander Ramsour and A. Costner, Secretaries.

After explanatory remarks on the object of the meeting by Hon. J. F. Hoke and H. W. Guion, Esq., the following Resolutions were unanimously passed:

1. Resolved, That a general meeting be held at this place on the 24th inst.

2. Resolved, That H. W. Guion, J. F. Hoke and L. D. Canbler be a committee to draft business for said meeting.

3. Resolved, That the same Committee act as a Committee of Correspondence.

4. Resolved, That J. F. Hoke and L. D. Childs be a committee to have notices struck for said meeting.

5. Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Hickory Express, and the papers on the line of the Charlotte, Wilmington and Rutherford Rail Road be requested to copy.