

# The Western Democrat.

OFFICE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF TRADE STREET. CHARACTER IS AS IMPORTANT TO STATES AS IT IS TO INDIVIDUALS, AND THE GLORY OF THE ONE IS THE COMMON PROPERTY OF THE OTHER. **\$3 Per Annum IN ADVANCE.**

**WM. J. YATES, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR. CHARLOTTE, N. C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1866. FIFTEENTH VOLUME--NUMBER 746.**

**THE WESTERN DEMOCRAT**  
Published every Tuesday,  
BY  
**WILLIAM J. YATES,**  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS, \$3 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE.  
\$2 for six months.  
Transient advertisements must be paid for in advance. Obituary notices are charged advertising rates. Advertisements not marked on the manuscript for a specific time, will be inserted until forbid, and charged accordingly. \$1 per square of 10 lines or less will be charged for each insertion, unless the advertisement is inserted 2 months or more.

**N. C. Railroad Meeting.**  
A meeting of the Stockholders of the North Carolina Railroad Company will be held in Raleigh, Wednesday, the 13th day of December next, for the purpose of considering the By-Laws and Regulations proposed by the committee, and also such amendments to the Charter as may be suggested. A punctual attendance, either in person or by proxy, is earnestly requested.

**Groceries and Provisions.**  
We have for sale some nice Hams. Also some splendid Buck Wheat Flour.  
Just received 50 bushels bolted Meal, and any thing else that any one may want to eat. Just call and see. A fine lot of Flour of different brands just received.  
Call and leave your orders. We will send all goods bought at our store to your house.

**Notice.**  
The subscriber having, at October term, 1866, of the County Court of Mecklenburg, taken letters of administration according to law on the Estate of Wm A Owens, deceased, hereby gives general notice to all creditors of said estate, to present their claims, duly authenticated, within the time limited by law for that purpose, otherwise this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery.  
Debtors to the said estate will also please to make payment immediately. **C. O. VERMAN, Adm'r.**  
Nov. 12, 1866.

**CHARLOTTE FEMALE INSTITUTE,**  
CHARLOTTE, N. C.  
The next session commences on the 1st of October, 1866, and continues until 30th June, 1867.  
The session is divided into two Terms of Twenty weeks each: the one commencing the 1st of October, 1866, and the other the 15th February, 1867.  
Expense per Term of Twenty weeks:  
Board, including every expense, except washing, \$105 00  
Tuition in Collegiate Department, 25 00  
" " Primary, 20 00  
Music, Modern Languages, Drawing and Painting taught by competent and thorough instructors at usual prices.  
For circular and catalogue containing full particulars, address  
**REV. R. BURWELL & SON, Principals,**  
July 9, 1866. Charlotte, N. C.

**Highly Desirable Property FOR SALE.**  
Wishing to change my business, I will sell 250 Acres of LAND in and adjoining the Town of Charlotte, (30 acres in corporations). On the Tract there is a good Mill site, 22 feet fall, with a first rate Dam recently built, and race dam, and all the large timbers for a Mill House on the ground. The Tract can be divided. It is worth the attention of any one wishing a paying property, or as an investment. Any information can be had by applying to the subscriber.  
Sept 10, 1866. W. F. PUFFER.

**NEW GOODS AT McLEOD & STEEL'S.**  
We are now receiving and opening our FALL AND WINTER STOCK, which has been selected with great care. The liberal patronage received from our friends and the public generally has induced us to purchase a more extensive Stock than at any previous time. We hope to merit a continuation of their kind favors. Our Stock embraces many of the most desirable styles of  
**Ladies' Dress Goods,**  
black and colored Cloths, Cloaks, Shawls, White Goods, Embroideries, Trimmings, Ribbons, Notions, Hosiery, Gloves, Straw Goods, Fur, Gaiters, Furnishing Goods, Hats, Caps, Boots and Shoes, Hollow and Willow Ware, Hardware,  
**Groceries and Crockery.**  
Our Stock will compare favorably with any in the market. We respectfully ask an examination of the same.  
Oct 1, 1866.

**MEDICAL CARD.**  
**DRS. GIBSON & McCOMBS,** having associated themselves in the practice of Medicine and Surgery, respectfully tender their professional services to the citizens of Charlotte and surrounding country.  
From a large experience in private as well as Field and Hospital practice, they feel justified in proposing to pay special attention to the practice of Surgery in all its branches.  
Office in Granite Row, up stairs, opposite the Mansion House.  
Dec 11, 1865 **ROBERT GIBSON, M. D.**  
**J. P. McCOMBS, M. D.**

**Tailoring.**  
**JOHN VOGEL,**  
PRACTICAL TAILOR,  
Respectfully informs the citizens of Charlotte and surrounding country, that he is prepared to manufacture gentlemen's clothing in the latest style and at short notice. His best exertions will be given to reader satisfaction to those who patronize him. Shop opposite Keer's Hotel, next door to Brown & Stitt's store.  
January 1, 1866.

**A. Oppenheimer,**  
Manufacturer and Jobber of Hats, Caps, Straw Goods, Furs, &c.  
No. 517 Market Street, PHILADELPHIA.  
Ladies' and Misses' Fancy Hats of every description.  
Oct 20, 1866.

## A COLONY OF EARLY SETTLERS IN MECKLENBURG COUNTY, N. C.

It was a matter of astonishment to the writer, a few days ago, on seeing the cone of the long leaf pine at the house of a neighbor, to learn that it grew in the vicinity. Since every one knows that in coming from the low country, that that kind of tree ceases to grow at almost an exact line, and other varieties of pine succeed. So great is the contrast between the height of the trunks, the length of the leaves, and the size of the cones, as compared with other species, that any traveler would notice them. To satisfy ourselves we visited the locality, and sure enough, here at least sixty miles from their proper habitation, about 5 miles from Beattie's Ford, and one mile from Bethel Church, in solitary grandeur, rise a few trees of the family of Australis Pinus, sighing and whispering in the wind, just as described so long ago by Theophrastus, the Greek poet, who uses a word descriptive of the sound, psithurisma. They stand in the vicinity of, and among their cousins, Juopsis Pinus, Variabilis Pinus, Taeda Pinus, Lobloby Pine, &c. Specimens of the white or silver pine (Strobilus) are not very remote. The trunks of these specimens do not indeed attain the size and straightness of those in the low country, and in their proper range, where they rise 60 or 70 feet in straight stems, before reaching any branches, and are fifteen inches to two feet or more in diameter at the base. These are 40 or 50 feet high and 15 to 18 inches in diameter, but they branch out a good deal at a low level above the ground. Some of various sizes are growing around the parent trees, from a mere tuft of leaves, just above the surface of the ground, to the height of 20 feet.  
It seems that an ancestor of the present proprietor, Mr. Jaton, a long time since brought some young shoots and set them out here near his house, and they grew and have propagated by the seed or mast falling on the ground. And we are told that they would have increased more, but that many of the young shoots have been taken away for transplanting and for curiosity.

The cones seven or eight inches long, and three or four in diameter, contrast finely with some of the common species around, which have their cones not more than one and three-fourths to two and one-fourth inches long, and about an inch thick before opening. Their leaves too, from ten to fourteen inches long, growing in threes in each sheath, and forming tufts on the end of the twigs and limbs more than two feet in diameter, also contrast with the pinus variabilis, whose leaves are not exceeding three inches, and are attached to the stems by twos and threes, sometimes one predominating and sometimes the other. Or with the Pinus Inops, whose leaves regularly are one and a half to two inches long and always grow by twos and are shorter than any other kind. The leaves of the white pine (Strobilus) are also sometimes short, and grow in fives. **E. F. R.**

**A FINE STOCK OF HOGS.**—The assessor for the State of Kentucky, reports that there are now in that State 776,404 hogs, over six months old.  
"There is no place like home," says the poet. Right! unless it's the house of the young woman you're after. This is of course an exception.  
"Dear Charles," said Jane, "now that we are married, you know, we must not have no secrets. So do, like a dove, hand me that bottle of hair dye; you will find it in my dressing case."

**ALL WHO WANT TO BUY CHEAP GOODS,**  
CALL ON  
**PRESSON & GRAY,**  
Under the Mansion House, Moore's Old Stand, such as Sugar, Coffee, Tea, Soap, Soda, Canned Goods, Shot, Caps, Tobacco, Cotton Yarn from Rocky River Mills, Cotton Cards, Ginger, Pepper, Spice, Salt, Powder, Shot, Caps, &c.  
Newborn Potatoes, Golden Sprig, Porto Rico Molasses, Lard, and Carolina Hill Sausage, Tubs and Buckets, Crochery Ware of all kinds.  
If you want good FLOUR, just call in and get it. We keep constantly on hand the best brand of Flour, such as Stewart's, Strowell's and other good brands.  
Also, good Bacon, such as Carolina Smithfield Ham, Shoulders and Sides.  
We have just received 50 bushels bolted Meal. In a word, we would say to the public we keep constantly on hand  
**Groceries**  
of all kinds, quality, quantity, styles and prices. Call and leave your orders at **PRESSON & GRAY's**, and they will fill them and deliver the same at your residence, if within the limits of the city.  
**PRESSON & GRAY,**  
N. B.—Country Produce of all kinds bought at our Store, and the highest cash prices paid.  
Dec 1866.

**High Shoals IRON MANUFACTURING CO.,**  
Gaston County, N. C.  
**KEEP YOUR MONEY AT HOME.**  
The Company has a been at a considerable expense in fitting up their ROLLING MILL and NAIL FACTORY.  
They are now prepared to execute all orders in the best style, they may be favored with in their line of business.  
Having secured the services of the best workmen in the Iron business, that can be procured in the South, they feel confident that they can give full satisfaction. The following articles are enumerated, viz: Rolled Iron, in flat Bar, round and square—all sizes.  
Tire, Hoops and Sellops—all sizes.  
All kind of Iron used for Farming purposes.  
Machinery and Hollow-ware of all description. Also, Tacks, Nails and Brads of all sizes.  
The Iron is manufactured exclusively with charcoal and wood, and out of Magnetic Ores.  
The Iron and Nails are equal to any in the United States or Europe, either for welding or toughness. They are also prepared to make and "fit up" any kind of Casting at short notice. All orders will be promptly executed by  
**B. B. BABINGTON, Sup't.**  
High Shoals, Dec 3, 1866.

**NOTICE.**  
We take pleasure in announcing to the Ladies that we will attach to our House early in the Spring, a first-class French Millinery Establishment, of which due notice will be given. **A. WEILL & CO.**

**A CARD.**  
Having retired from business, we take pleasure in recommending to our friends and customers, A. WEILL & CO., as practical, attentive and experienced business men, and ask that the patronage so liberally bestowed upon us be continued to them.  
**KAHNSWEILER & BRO.**  
Nov 28, 1866.

**NOTICE.**  
We take pleasure in announcing to the Ladies that we will attach to our House early in the Spring, a first-class French Millinery Establishment, of which due notice will be given. **A. WEILL & CO.**

## N. C. LEGISLATURE. MONDAY, Dec. 3.

**SENATE.**—Mr Avery, from the committee on Internal Improvements, to whom was referred the bill to repeal an ordinance to exchange the stocks of the State for bonds, reported back the same recommending its passage.  
The hour for the special order having arrived, the bill for the relief of honest debtors was taken up. Mr Speed offered a substitute, which was adopted, and on motion of Mr Speed it was ordered to be printed and referred to the Judiciary committee.

The bill to prevent fraud on the revenue of the State, came up on its second reading. Mr Speed offered a substitute for the bill, the question arising on the adoption of the amendment, Mr Speed called for the yeas and nays and the amendment was adopted by a vote of 28 yeas 7 nays. The question being put on the passage of the bill on its second reading, on motion of Mr Covington it was referred to the committee on Finance.  
A message was received from the House proposing to go forth with another ballot for Comptroller, the name of D. W. Bain in nomination from the House and the name of Mr Love withdrawn. Concurred in and Messrs Brown and Spencer superintended the election, and the Senate proceeded to vote. On this ballot the vote stood, for Mr Cowper 12, Mr Brogren 11, Holderby 6, Collins 4 and Bain 4.

**HOUSE.**—Mr Latham of Craven introduced a bill to continue the County Court of Craven. The bill was amended to include Mecklenburg and Cumberland.  
Mr Hutchison moved to amend so as to empower the County Court of Mecklenburg to hold extra terms for trial in criminal causes, which was adopted and the bill passed its several readings.  
A message was received from the Senate announcing the passage of engrossed resolution in relation to per diem and mileage of members of General Assembly. [Put Speaker per diem at \$10, Clerks at \$10, Doorkeepers at \$7, Members at \$6.]  
Mr Blythe moved a substitute reducing the Speaker's per diem to \$7, the members to \$4, &c.  
The yeas and nays being called for, the call was not sustained.  
The substitute was rejected.  
Mr Whitfield moved to strike out "66" and insert "63 in gold, or its equivalent at premium rates in Raleigh." Rejected, when the resolution was adopted.  
Mr Battle was re-elected Public Treasurer almost unanimously.  
Mr Ashworth by leave introduced a bill to protect honest debtors. Referred.

Mr Horton, of Watauga, moved to suspend the rules and take up the bill suspending the collection of taxes, until March 1st, 1867, in certain Western Counties, with amendment Mr Kenan offered an amendment which included the whole State under the provisions of the bill, which was adopted. The bill, thus amended, was referred to Finance committee.  
Several ballotings were had for Comptroller without effecting an election.

**A REPORT.**  
It is reported here by gentlemen, just from Raleigh, that Governor Worth has been notified by General Sickles, military commandant of this department, that there shall be no more corporal punishment in this State for cause. If this report is true, and it comes from gentlemen whose veracity we do not doubt, it is obvious that the General has an object in view, which we trust the Legislature will have the manliness to defeat. It is scarcely necessary to say that General Sickles has no right to issue such an order, but admit that he has, will the Legislature be bullied into compliance with his demands? Will the members impose upon the people of this State the heavy expense of building a State Penitentiary merely to gratify the squeamish notions of Sickles and his Northern allies? This seems to be the object in view.  
We have expressed our views with respect to taxing the people for the purpose of erecting a penitentiary, and since the announcement of this order, if such has been issued, we will add, that were we a member of the Legislature, we should oppose the measure, if there were no other objections, because of this unauthorized interference. We contend that the immense cost of erecting a penitentiary will be a burden upon the people that the amount accruing from a penitentiary will not be sufficient to remove. A penitentiary for a densely populated State may be all right and proper, but in a sparsely settled State like North Carolina, disjointed by mountains, the expense of conveying criminals to it, and other incidental expenses, will preclude the possibility of making it self sustaining. We therefore trust that the Legislature will not be bullied into the adoption of the measure, but will remain firm in their convictions of what is best calculated to promote the interest of the people, regardless of dictation from any quarter. If they are to become the mere puppets of the military, then their honor and self-respect alike, require them to resign and go home.  
But where does General Sickles get the authority to say what mode of punishment we shall adopt? How we shall punish criminals and how we shall not? Are his orders to be regarded in this particular? Is he to be permitted to set aside the laws of our State and the decisions of our courts? What use then have we for a Governor or a Legislature? If this is to be the case, if Gen Sickles or any other military officer, is thus to override all the functions of our civil Government *ad libitum*, we insist that the Legislature enter their protest, abolish the courts, and adjourn indefinitely.—**Salisbury Banner.**

If Gen. Sickles has issued any such order as alluded to above, we agree with the Banner that the Legislature ought to pay no attention to it. We are disposed to doubt the report. If true, President Johnson has it in his power to prevent such interference, and we presume he will do it.

## THE FINAL FATE OF THE UNIVERSE.

From the Scientific American.  
If two bodies were placed in space without any force acting upon each other than their own gravity, they would immediately start toward each other, and would rush together. The sun and planets, which constitute the stellar system, to which our solar system belongs, are prevented from running together into one mass by their revolutions about each other. The revolutions of the planets around our sun, and of the satellites about their primaries, have been ascertained, with that wonderful precision, which is the just pride of astronomical science, and astronomers are now engaged in the sublime problem of unravelling the revolutions of the countless suns that make up our stellar system. Already the cluster of the Pleiades is indicated as the proximate locality of the centre around which our sun, with its attendant planets, is sweeping his vast orbit; and it is suggested that it is probably the common centre of the orbits of all the stars of our stellar system.

If the force of gravity extends across the inconceivable spaces which separate the several stellar systems of the universe, those systems must rush together unless they are held apart by revolutions around each other.  
If light were an emanation, as held by Newton, the spaces between the solid bodies of the universe might be absolutely empty; and in that case, the revolutions of the bodies around each other might go on forever. On the other hand, if light is a vibration in a subtle fluid, the fluid must obstruct the motions of bodies revolving in it, and they must finally come together in one mass. The experiment so ingeniously devised by Arago, and carried out with such honorable regard for the frame of its designer by Messrs Foucault, Fizeau and Berque, to determine whether there is a difference in the velocity of light in its passage through air and water, has demonstrated that light is a vibration. It follows from this that, as far as light extends, space is filled with a material fluid which resists the motion of bodies revolving in it, and bodies within this space must gradually wind their way inward, and ultimately come together into one mass.

The moon must be drawing very slowly nearer and nearer the earth, and the two bodies, in the far distant future, will come together. The solid crust of the earth will be broken up by the shock, an immense quantity of heat will be generated by the destruction of the moon's motion, and the two bodies will fuse together into one molten globe. As the new and enlarged earth is cooled upon its surface, a second series of geological deposits will be constituted, accompanied, perhaps, by strange and inconceivable forms of animal and vegetable life.  
At the same time, the earth is winding its way inward toward the sun, and must ultimately fall an inconsiderable pebble, into the vast glowing mass. The same fate awaits all the planets, and our solar system must one day be but a single globe. When this globe is cooled to the right temperature, it may be covered with a multitude of inhabitants, and astronomers may rise who will watch its revolutions among the associated suns of our stellar system. If their knowledge and intellect are equal to the science of our astronomers, they will foresee the ultimate coming together of all these suns into one common globe. And not this only, for they will predict the final coming together of all the stellar systems of the visible universe into one vast matter.

When this mass is first collected, it will be intensely hot from the destruction of motion in the several suns and systems of suns as they come together. The heat will be radiated outward into the universe, and the one mass of matter will be gradually cooled. During the cooling there will be the same play and mutual interchange of heat, light, electricity, magnetism, and other imperponderable forces that is now upon this earth. As the cooling proceeds the action of these forces will diminish; when 877 degrees is reached, light will cease and darkness will fill the universe. As each vibration of heat leaves the material mass, it will expand outward at the rate of 192,000 miles per second in all directions, in the form of a swiftly swelling hollow globe. When the temperature of absolute cold is reached, (—493—2 degrees,) the last vibration of heat will leave the mass of matter and will expand outward through all infinity of space and time.  
Supposing, however, the ethereal fluid which fills the visible portion of the universe is limited in extent, so that the last vibration of heat will reach its boundaries and cease, what then becomes of the force of the universe and of the doctrine of the conservation of force.

**CASUALTIES IN THE FEDERAL ARMY DURING THE WAR.**—The records of the War Department show that at the close of the war there were in the Federal army, in the field, on the 30th day of April, 1865, 1,000,516 men actually in service, and an enrollment of 2,245,063 men subject to draft. This would make the total fighting force of the free States, between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, and in good physical health, and not including foreigners not naturalized, to be 3,245,579 men.

The same records show that the total casualties during the war were as follows:

Deaths from wounds,	96,089
Deaths from disease,	184,331
Desertions,	199,045
Honorably discharged,	174,577
Discharged for disability,	224,806
Dis Honorably discharged,	5,890
Resignations,	22,281
Missing, &c,	7,062
Total,	914,081

**FIVE CENT COINS.**—A correspondent writes to ask why our merchants, dealers and traders generally, continue to take and circulate the filthy five cent paper currency, when they can receive from the United States government the new and beautiful coins of that denomination, on application, and without cost of exchange or coinage?  
The fools and madmen of this "nation" never grow tired of hitting their heads against the granite truths built up by history and experience. Philanthropic fools and madmen are the same everywhere, and only a few examples are needed to prove it.  
When the Abolitionists of England clamored for emancipation in the West Indies, the great argument adduced in its favor was a pecuniary one—it was contended that free labor would make those islands "blossom like the rose," and that their imports and exports would be quadrupled. The argument was a telling one, and an appeal to John Bull's pocket was never yet made in vain; so emancipation was decreed and England's West India possessions have never been worth anything to her since. Robespierre and St. Just preached the same doctrine in France in 1789, and Haiti was "re-generated and disenthralled." And where is Haiti now? It has relapsed into wilderness, the negroes into savages, and the whites have nearly all left the island. So little do men heed history and profit by its teachings, that we heard just the same class of arguments when abolition agitation commenced here, as were employed to secure the action of the British and French Governments upon the question of emancipation in their colonies. "Liberate your slaves," we were told, "and a million of freemen will rush to the South the first year of the act." Well, they have been liberated, and it is now eighteen months since the deed was done, but "the million of freemen" have not been forthcoming.  
Again; it was predicted by a famous Radical orator of abolition, in a speech in New York city shortly after the war, that "in two years America would resume her supremacy in the cotton market." But six months of the two years are left for the fulfillment of this prophecy, and yet we see nothing which promises to verify the prediction.  
The most liberal estimates of the cotton crop for the present year which have come to us from different sources, do not exceed one million of bales, against four millions the year before the war! So dirt cheap and mean do the Abolition orators and press feel at being exposed in their deceit and falsehood that they are trying to explain the deficiency in various ingenious ways, ascribing it to bad weather, long droughts, poor seed and cotton worms; but it will not do. The stubborn, cruel fact stares them in the face that cotton has not been produced as they predicted, and has not been cheapened as they swore it would be by the abolition of slavery. And these base, false prophets are indicating their own want of confidence in the truth of their victimizations about the future of cotton by advising their people to go to raising wool and flax! Does that look as if they expected cotton to be hereafter abundant and cheap? Does it argue well for the truth of the men who belong to the party of "Progress" and great moral ideas when we hear them advising a return to the condition of their ancestors, who pulled flax and spun with the distaff? Verily, the car of civilization has balked in its path, and is about to be rolled back by the model reformers of the age! Surely the world should not again take to weaving flax and wool if "cotton is to regain its supremacy" by the aid of free labor.—*Richmond Times.*

## FALSE PROPHETS.

**IMPORTANT TO MANUFACTURERS OF YARN.**  
—The following decision of the Internal Revenue Department will prove of interest:  
WASHINGTON, Nov. 15, 1866.  
Sir: In reply to your letter of the 13th inst., I have to say that under the act of July 13, 1866, "yarns and warp for weaving, braiding, or manufacturing purposes exclusively" are exempt. This provision virtually exempts all yarns, as the term "manufacturing purposes" is very broad, and may cover all uses to which yarns are generally put. The quantity of yarn used for other than manufacturing purposes, if any, would be so small, and so difficult to get as to be hardly worth taxing.  
**THOMAS HARKING, Commissioner.**

**THE COTTON TAX.**—The New York Chamber of Commerce, at a special meeting on Thursday, adopted the report of its special committee, recommending the abolition of the government tax on cotton, and memorializing Congress to that effect. The ground taken is that said tax is both unconstitutional and oppressive.  
An Italian painter drew a representation of Lucifer so vivid and glowing, that it left the canvass and came into the painter's soul; in other words, haunted his mind by night and day, became palpable to his eye even when he was absent from the picture, and produced at last a frenzy which ended in death. We might wonder that a similar effect was not produced upon Milton's mind from the long presence of his own terrific creation, (to be thinking of the Devil for six or ten years together looks like a Satanic possession,) were it not that we remember his mind was more than equal to confront his own workmanship. He was enabled besides, through his habitual religion, to subdue and master his tone of feeling in reference to him.

**INVESTIGATION OF THE COTTON FRAUDS.**—Parties High in Authority Implicated.—The Hetchum Committee which is now holding its session in this city, has been busily engaged to-day investigating the cotton frauds. The investigation has the effect of implicating parties occupying high and influential positions under the Government with these frauds. The committee has made some astonishing developments in this regard. A great deal of fraud has been practiced upon the Government and citizens of the South by the cotton agents. It appears that these agents were in the habit of confiscating large quantities of cotton in the name of the Government, and after it had remained in their hands for a short time they would turn it over to an outside party, who sold it and divided the proceeds with the agents. Another game which was resorted to extensively by these men was to release the cotton upon the payment of a handsome bonus. Large numbers of witnesses have been called here from different sections of the country to testify in relation to these frauds.—*N. Y. Herald.*