THE GLEANER.

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY.

GRAHAM, N. C., Jnne 23, 1898 SUBSCIPTION, CASH IN ADVANCE:

The editor will not be responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

ADVERTISING RATES : One square (1 in.) 1 time \$1.00, for each sub sequent insertion 50 cents. For more space and longer time, rates furnished on applica iton. Local notices 10 cts. a line for fire insertion ; subsequent insertions 5 cts. a line. Transient advertisements must be paid for

J. D. KERNODLE, Editor.

A New Factor In The Philippines.

Now comes the report, said to be authentic, that German marines are occupying Manila, in the Philippines. The United States has sent two expeditions to Manila, another will leave next Monday and a fourth is in preparation. When our troops arrive, some of them due there now, there may be trouble; but the result is simply conjecture—it may be that the whole of Europe will get into war on account of the Philippines.

Some Late War News.

Cable connection has been established between Cuba and the Government at Washington, and the happenings of the preceding day are read all over this country the following morning.

On yesterday 8,000 troops were landed at Daiquiri, a point shelled the Spaniards, assisted days. by the Cubans in protecting the landing. There will be bloody work in a few days.

Hobson has not been exchanged. There is reluctance on the part of Spain.

The N. C. troops have at last been paid off. It took \$21,000 topay them up to June 1st.

It had the appearance some time ago that this State would were mentioned for the position, among them Capt. Geo. F. Bason, a native of this county, now of Charlottle. The matter took a political turn, of course, and the name of Chas. A. Cook, Bsq., of Warren, has been handed in for the position. If none other than a Republican was to one whose training and knowl- struggle is to take place. edge of military affairs fit him

The brethren of the press, composing the N. C. Press Association, convened in the good and hospitable town of Waynesville yesterday. The session lasts two ture of Santiago was to be left to the days. That they will be given army. a delightful time goes without saying. We wish them all a pleasant and profitable sojourn in the mountain town. This scribe hoped to attend, but a few days before almost the entire office force got sick and left us to fantry, cavalry and guerilla forces, get along the best we could for estimated by Admiral Sampson tothree or four days. We are all day to number 30,000 to 45,000 up and about now but not so men are stretched from Guantanamo strong as we hope to be.

BUTLER TRIUMPHS.

OMAHA, Neb., June 17 .- The Populist National Committee was in miliar with the situation fully exon all last night. It was almost 5 a. m. to-day when a motion to adjourn was put and carried over the men will stand the strain, if the the protests of the middle-of-the- fighting begins immediately after road crowd. Chairman Marion the long inactivity at Tampa and Butler's complete triumph was un-

questioned.

The resolutions declare that a late convention shall be called and that all the States must have full representation. No recommendation is made on the question of fusion. convoyed by the United States war-The defeat of the proposition to hold ships Indiana, Castine, Helena, an early convention means the ab- Annapolis, Bancroft, Morrill and points along the coast, where they solute discomfiture of all the reform Hornet. The passage was necessar- will be safe from any serious attack press association editors.

the-roaders, who still had some fighting breath left in them, held a secret meeting and talked about go- fleet was joined by the United States ing ahead anyway and calling a re- warships Detroit, Manning, Osceola, dum delegate convention of Wasp and Ericcson. their own radical wing this year. Leaving Port Tampa, it was the in-No decision was reached.

INVADING ARM BEFORE SANTAGO miral Sampson's fleet and a squadron of Commodore Schley. The 8.000 Spanish soldiers, a

16,000 MEN

Arrived Monday and Will Disembark in Two or Three Days.

Transports and War Ships Present an Imposing Spectacle.

A Conference Held with the Insurgent Leader and the City Expected to be Taken Before struggle for freedom, and they exthe End of the Week.

half way between Santiago and Shafter, arrived off Santiago at noon waters in the direction of Cuba in headquarters. Guantanamo. For miles up and to day. The disembarkation will search of hostile vessels. down the shore the warships probably take place in the next three

> When the fleet of 37 transports with its freight of fighting men, swept up the southern coast and ed city of Santiago de Cuba, the Principe. anxiously awaited soldiers were troops most heartily and in kind.

when the lookout on the armored mules. not have a Brigadier General in cruiserBrooklyn, reported seeing the the present war, and as soon as smoke of several steamers away to the matter was mentioned can- the southeast, and a moment or so didates began to bob up. The later he announced that a dozen names of several capable men transports were in sight. The signals were exchanged from ship to ship, gladdening the hearts of the weary blockaders. Then the United States auxiliary cruiser Gloucester, dashed away to meet and welcome

Half an hour later a grim forest of masts had sprung up apparently miles off Santiago de Cuba, this af from the sea, and the armada swept ternoon, the Seguranca, having on gracefully up from the horison to-board General Shafter and his staff, be honored it should have been ward the shores where the great left the other vessels lying to and

to care for his men in the line of three lines with the battleship Indi- miral Sampson. The general went ana on the extreme right and the on board the flagship, and later

Much satisfaction was expressed among the troops when became known that the actual cap-

place the operations and information of the ten days show now conclusively that bitter work is ahead for Shafter and his men before the Spanish flag comes down from Morro's walls. The Spanish into Cabanas a distance of 50 miles, ready to concentrate at the point of pect terrific fighting about Santiago. There is some anxiety as to how the weary voyage. There is no fear however for the final result.

VOYAGE OF THE TRANSPORTS.

The army of invasion left Egmon Key at noon on Tuesday, June 14th, ily slow, as two big water barges and by the Spaniards and will be able After adjournment, the middle-of- the schooner Stevens, also used for to keep the enemy in doubt for the water, had to be towed.

At Rebecca shoals lighthouse the

tention of those in authority to take is said Judge Norwood will the western course, around Cape the action of Gov. Russell in Antonio, but later it was decided to gring his office vacant. The rego via the Florida Straits, that being in Col. Lusk's hands was a shorter distance. After the fleet with the understanding that the tion would be taken without thatlon, and this investigation, a Norwood says, has not been Judge Norwood will the governor's action to three lines about 1,000 yards apart, while 600 yards separated the ships. It was one of the largest fleets ever gathered together, the grim looking men-of-war hovering the resignation and the like watchdogs on the outskirts of There were nearly sixty of them,

On board the Associated Press - At night every precaution was Dispatch boat Dandy off Santiago taken to guard against any possible de Cuba, Monday, June 20, 1 p. m., attack. No lights were allowed on via Mole St. Nicholas, Hayti, Tues- the transports and the gunboats in day, June 21.—5 a. m.—The United direction of the shore were doubled at the disposal of General Shafter States army for the invasion of Cuba, in number, while at frequent inter-

> Throughout the voyage not one Spanish gunboat or sign of the enemy was seen.

On Friday the convoying fleet o warships was reinforced by the slowed up within sight of the doom- Montgomery and Porter, off Puerto General Garica explained his plans

The weather throughout the voy greeted with ringing cheers which age was excellent and consequently, faintly echoed to the transports from there was little suffering from seathe decks of blockading ships far in sickness. But fourteen cases of tyshore, they were answered by the phoid fever and some measels de veloped, the former being especially It was at 10 o'clock this morning on the boats carrying horses and

> The first sight of land was obtained in the vicinity of Santiago de Cuba The men seemed confident of a swift and easy victory, but they seem to hope for hard fighting.

> The heat and confinement in the holds of the transports have told very severely on the men.

> > LOOKING FOR A LANDING.

As soon as the fleet of transport had arrived at a point about twenty steamed to the flagship of the Amer-The transports were ranged in ican fleet in order to visit Rear Ad-General Shafter, Admiral Sampson and a party of officers boarded the Seguranca, which went to Acerradeit ros, about seventeen miles west of special subjects. Chapel Hill is a Santiago, and near which place General Garcia is encamped with 3,000 Cuban soldiers. General Shafter Wherever the landing may take and his staff and Rear Admiral Sampson went ashore and proceeded to General Garcia's headquarters, about a mile inland, where they spent several hours in consultation with the Cuban general. The best information obtainable is that there will be no attempt to make a landing for two or three days.

General Garcia gave the Americans assurances that they need have no fear of contracting diseases on the Southeastern coast of Cuba, as the attack. But starving and harrased climate there is not unhealthy, only from the inland by the insurgents, extremely hot at this season of the the situation of the Spaniards is year. The Cuban general declared despecate, and naval officers fa- that his own troops, ill fed and clothed as they were, were in goed

health. General Shafter examined the condition of the Cuban soldiers during his visit and was impressed with their hardy and soldierly bearing, though he recognized the fact that they need clothes and provisions, both of which were given them during the day.

The interview glosed with the understanding on the part of both Generals that small bodies of treops are to be landed at once at several present, as to their ultimate inten-

Among the troops that will be landed first are a number of men from the engineer corps, who will begin work at once, preparing for the movement of the main body. Generals Shafter and Garcia will

consult further to-morrow.

in which it has been accept like watchdogs on the outskirts of There were nearly sixty of them, the human freighted ships.

men-of-way, comprising Rear Admiral Sampson's fleet and th

The 8,000 Spanish soldiers, and perhaps 2,000 Spanish sailors guarding the city of Santiago de Cuba, doubtless concluded that there was but a small chance of overcoming the force of America n soldiers, which will be hurled against them before the present

week is over. According to the naval regulations established at the outbreak of the war, not a light was visible on any of the ships and the cordon of men-of-war under the Spanish guns at Morro Castle kept their vigil with more than usual core during the dark hours of the night to guard against the approach of a destroying torpedo boat, which might attempt to run out of the harbor and with one well directed shot sink a troopship in the depths of the sea and send the souls of those aboard into the realms of eternity.

AMERICANS VISIT GARICA. The Cubans showered upon their distinguished visitors all the blessings of Cuba Libre for the assistance of the United States in the Cuban pressed the conviction that victory was at hand, and that the power of Spain would soon be driven from the combined strength of American and Cuban arms. They were received by the Cubans with all military bonors, and horses were placed and Admiral Sampson to ride up

The Cuban commander's tent is rude hut, covered with leaves and containing only a meagre camp outfit. Here, after words of greeting had been spoken, the consultation was held. It lasted several hours. fully; told how he had the Spanish general, Pando cooped, up in Manzanillo, with the possibility of his being able to co-operate with the before the American officers maps leading to Santiago from the most convenient landing places east and west of the harbor entrance.

Deafness Cannot be Cured

by local applications as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, Deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by Catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness (caused by Catarrh) that cannot be cured by Hail's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars, free. F. J. CHENEY & CO.,

Sold by Druggists, 75c. Hall's Family Pilis are the best.

The University Summer School for teachers will begin on June 21st, and last one month in the University buildings at Chapel Hill. thorough instruction in methods and

teachers are already there enjoying trip has been authorized on all the railroads, tickets on sale from June 18 to July 12, good returning until July 21st.

A Cure for Constipation

I was troubled with Constipation for several years, and frequently went for nine days without my without success. This last winter a the idea, but purchased one dozen boxes. Since that time I have used three boxes and am now enjoying the best of health. I recommended the best of health. I recomme them to my customers and the result is I have sold six dozen boxes already. - M. J. Browning, druggist, Germantown, Ky. For sale by J. C. Simmons.

Are You Weak?

Weakness manifests itself in the loss of ambition and aching bones. The blood is watery; the tissues are wasting—the door is being opened for disease. A bettle of Browns' Iron Bitters takes in time will restore your strength, anoths your nerves, make your blood rich and red. Do you more good than an expensive special course of medicine.

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tab lets. All druggists refund the mone; if it fails to cure. 25c.

ZAMONS INERPILLS AND TONIC PELLETS

Cure all forms of disease caused by s Singgish Liver and Bil The Pink Pill Cleanses

The Touic Pellet Invigorates

For sale by J. C. Simmons.

The following ordinances have been adopted for the government of the

Secrios I. Any person placing any wood, stone or empty boxes, lumber or litter, on any of the streets of the town, or in any way obstructing the same, further than be necessary for the transaction of business, shall be fined one dollar for each offens

SEC. II. Any person who shall ride, drive or lead on the sidewalk, or hitch any horse or mule, ox or cows to any of the trees on the public cian, lightning-rcd agent, portrait or miniature painter, daguerrean artist square or or sidewalk, or shall fasten any cow so near to the sidewalk that she can get upon same, or shall allow any horse to run at large, shall be fined one dollar for each offence.

SEC. III. Any person who shall pull down, cut, nail or tack signs or posters to, or in any way injure any of the trees on the streets, sidewalks or public square, or who shall injure any property belonging to the town, shall be fined twenty-five dollars; provided, that the Mayor in his discretion may remit a part of the fine.

SEC. IV. Any person who shall indecently exhibit a stallion or jack n the corporation shall be fined ten dollars for each offense.

Sec. V. Any person who shall retail spirituous, vinous or malt liquors within the corporation, without license, shall pay a fine of fifty dollars for

Src. VI, Every peddler liable to pay a public tax by the State law who shall offer his articles for sale in Graham, shall pay a tax of one hud dred dollars for each year. Any person offering for sale his goods with out first obtaining license, shall be fined five dollars for each offense, SEC. VII. Each and every exhibition for reward of natural and arti

ficial curiosities within the corporate limits of the town shall be subject SEC. VIII. It shall be unlawful for any person to deposit melon rinds on any of the streets of Graham or on the public square. A fine of one

dollar shall be imposed for violating this section. SEC. IX. All persons between the ages of twenty-one and forty years living within the corporation shall perform police duty, and it shall be the duty of the police officer to give notice when such services are required

and any citizen failing to perform such duty shall be fined five dollars. SEC. X. It shall be the duty of the town constable or police officer or either of them to arrest all persons found intoxicated within the corpora-16,000 strong, commanded by Gen. vals shifting searchlights swept the the steep trail to General Garica's tion, or disturbing the peace by loud noise, cursing or swearing or otherwise, and bring them before the Mayor as soon as practicable, and each

person so offending shall be fined five dollars. Sec. XI. Any person failing to abate or remove any nuisance pointed out by the board of health or police officer on his or her lot, or any corporate company on its premises, shall pay a fine of five dollars for every

welve hours such nuisance shall remain unabated after notification SEC. XII. Should the town constable after being notified, or informed, or knowing of the violation of any law, refuse or neglect to enforce the same, he shall upon conviction before the commissioners be fined ten dollars fo every such refusal or neglect,

SEC. XIII. Any bar-keeper who shall sell spirituous liquors to minors or shall allow in his bar any female person whatsoever or any male person under the age of eighteen years, or allow drinking at his bar on the Spanish troops in Santiago and laid Sabbath, shall be fined five dollars for each offense; and any female person whatsoever and any male person under the age of eighteen years, showing all the mountain tralis who shall enter any bar in the town of Graham, shall be fined five dollar

> SEC. XIV. Any peason who shall feed any stock of any kind on the sidewalk or public square in the corporation, or keep any hog or pig pen within ten feet of any of the sidewalks, shall be fined one dollar for each offense. Any person failing to remove any such hog or pig pen, after being notified by the constable to do so, shall be fined one dollar for every twenty-four hours such pen shall remain.

> SEC. XV. All persons failing to pay or secure the payment of such fines and costs as may be imposed upon them shall be retained at such labor as the Mayor may impose upon them at a fair compensation until such fines and costs are paid.

> SEC. XVI. Any person who shall urinate or deposit filth of any kind n or against any part of the court house building shall pay a fine of two SEC. XVII. Any person who shall ring or toll the court house bell,

except for court, sales, public meetings, religious services, meetings of Good Templars, fires and funerals, without permission of the Mayor, shall pay a fine of five dollars for each offense.

Sec. XVIII. That any person permitting any bitch to run at large

Sac. XIX. No person shall discharge or shoot a gun, pistol or firearms of any description, or set fire to or explode any fireworks or other The most famous teachers in explosives of any description, or shoot any gravel, shot or other articles America have been engaged to give from what is known as a bean shooter or rubber sling within the limits of the town without permission of the Mayor. Any person violating this ordinance shall pay a fine of one dollar. This ordinance shall not extend to discharging firearms on days of public rejoicing nor to soldiers or delightful summer resort and many militiamen on parade.

SEC. XX. No person shall wash his or her person, or wash or rinse the campus and library and rest clothes, utensils, bottles, or vessels of any description, ice or vegetables in the shade of the majestic oaks. on the platform or in the trough, water cattle or horses or other stock up-One first-class fare for the round on the platforms of the town pumps. Neither shall any person be allowed to wash off horses, buggies or other vehicles within one hundred feet of said pumps. Any person violating this section in any particular shall be fined two dollars for each offense.

> SEC. XXI. Any tavera keeper or other person selling spirituous liquors who shall permit a drunken man to lie in his piazza or on his steps shall be fined two dollars.

SEC. XXII. Proprietors of circuses shall be required to pay a tax of twenty-five dollars. All theatrical performers and dancers a tax of five dollars. All jugglers and sleight of hand performers a tax of five dollars bowels moving. I spent several to the town before they are permitted to exhibit within the limits of the dollars for the cure of same, but corporation; and for concerts and lectures, and all other exhibitions to the town before they are permitted to exhibit within the limits of the without success. This last winter a where the object is to make money, except for churches and other chari-salesman insisted on me buying some table objects, a tax of two dollars shall be paid, and the town constable is Ramon's Liver Pills and Tonic Pul-lets, remarking that they were the best on the earth.' I laughed at use ten dollars a year.

> SEC. XXIII. Any person in any way or manner interfering with the town constable, Police or Board of Health, in the lawful discharge of their duties, shall be fined ten dollars for each offens

> Sec. XXIV. Any person butchering within the town limits, failing to remove the offal out of the corporation, shall be fined two dollars for each

SEC. XXV. It shall be unlawful to play at ball or marbles on the public square or on any of the streets of Graham. Violations of this section subject to a fine of one dollar.

game of chance whatever, for money or property or anything of value, whether the same be in stake or not, or engage in any other species of gambling, shall pay a fine of five dollars for each offense.

SEC. XXVII. Any person or persons, when about to meet any other person or persons on the plank walk, shall take the right hand plank, and

any one intentionally failing to comply with this section shall pay a fine of two dollars for each offense.

SEC. XXVIII. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to establish or set up or open for public use any shooting gallery, bowling alley or alley of the like kind, Lagatelle table or stand or place for any other games or play with or without name, without first obtaining a license from the town commissioners, which shall be ten dollars, and any person or persons falling to comply with this section shall be fixed five dollars for each of license.

SEC. XXIX. That any person whom the Mayor shall adjudge to be a tramp or vagrant, refusing to leave the town upon notice from the Mayor to do so, shall be fined one dollar for every hour he shall be found in town after said notice has been served upon him.

SEC. XXX. That every itinerant deutist, medical practitioner, optiperson who shall carry on any of the above mentioned businesses before paying said tax, shall pay a fine of two dollars for each offense.

SEC XXXI. That any and all persons living within the town of Graham, owning or keeping a dog within the corporate limits, shall be required to pay a tax of one dollar per head, and upon refusal to list or give in above tax to town constable, shall be fined double the tax mentioned. That any and all dogs running at large in the town of Graham, N. C., be and are hereby declared a nuisance and the town constable is hereby directed to take up and put all such, as may not have on the "tax paid" license tax, in pound, and, if not reclaimed in 36 hours, they shall be destroyed.

SEC. XXXII. That every itinerant auctioneer, selling any goods or wares or merchandise, either for himself or as agent, whether by ascending or descending bids or at public outcry, whether on the streets or in rented house for that purpose, shall pay five dollars per day, subject to all the regulations and exemptions set forth in chapter 3 in the Code of the North Carolina, entitled "auctioneers."

SEC. XXXIII. That any person or firm doing business in the town of Graham, that shall open his or their place of business for the general sale of any goods, or who shall solicit or induce trade on the Sabbath day; shall pay a fine of five dollars for each offense: Provided, that nothing in this ordinance shall apply to druggists compounding and selling medicines, or merchants furnishing burial clothes.

SEC. XXXIV. Any person who shall indecently expose himself or herself in any place in the corporation, or shall make any obscene marks or drawings in any public place, shall pay a fine of five dollars for each

SEC. XXXV. Any person riding a bicycle on any of the side-walks in the town of Graham south of the colored Baptist church shall pay a fine of one dollar for each offense.

SEC. XXXVI. That bar-keepers shall be required to close their places of business not later than 10 o'clock each and every night, except that on Saturday night they shall be required to close not later that 11 o'clock and failing to comply with this section, shall pay a fine of five dollars for

SEC. XXXVII. That any person or persons, who shall ride or drive through the streets of the town of Graham at a reckless or unnecessarily fast gait, shall be arrested and fined one dollar for each offense.

SEC. XXXVIII. That it shall be unlawful for any railroad company, or individual, or corporation to stop its "cars, or engines, or vehicles of any kind, or in any way to block up the street between the clear posts as fixed by the town on the railroad crossing the street leading from the court house to the depot for a length of time exceeding five minutes. Any company, or corporating, or individual, violating this ordinance, shall be fined ten dollars for each offense.

Mr. John Bevins, editor of the Press, Anthon, Iowa, says: "I have used Chamberl in's Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhoea Remedy in my family for fifteen years, have recommended it to hundreds of others, and have never known it to fail in a single in-

stance. For sale by all druggists. The commissioners of New Han over were barred out of their room by the unlawful republican board, the doors being securely fastened. They got in the window then opened the door and proceeded to do business.

I was seriously afflicted with a before. I have used many remedies without receiving much relief, and the at T. A. Albright & Co.'s. being recommended to try a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, by a widow, gave it to me. I tried it, and with the most gratifying results. The first bottle relieved me very much health for twenty years. I give this certificate without solicitation, simply in appreciation of the gratitude elt for the cure effected. -Respect-

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the him that his own troops had begun money if it fails to cure. 25c. to sack Washington

To Cure a Cold in One Day Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tab- circulation all the time." lets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25c.

\$1.00 a year in advance.

Constipation

s really trick no about it. Anybody

A Clever Trick.

It certainly looks like it, but there

can try it who have Lame Back and Weak Kidneys, Malaria or nervous troubles. We mean can cure himself right away by taking Electric Bitters. This medicine tones up the whole system, acts as a stimulant to Liver and Kidneys, is a blood purifier and nerve tonic. It cures Constipation, Headache, Fainting Spells, Sleeplessness and Melancholy. It is purely vegetable, a mild laxative, and restores the sys-tem to its natural vigor. Try Eleccough for several years, and last fall tric Bitters and be convinced that had a more severe cough than ever they are a miracle worker. Every bottle guaranteed. Only 50c a bot-

> Terrible News from Spain. A correspondent of the Atlanta

Constitution writing concerning some of his recent experience in the and the second bottle has absolutely Spanish West Indies, says that as a cured me. I have not had as good rule the Spanish papers had either McKinley or Sampson or Dewey killed every day, "and we used to make a pool the night before as to fully, Mrs. Mary A. Beard, Clare- whose obituary we would read in more, Ark. For sale by all druggists, the morning.!' Twice the President was reported to have committed suicide-once after news reached to sack Washington, "The statement that he was a naturalized Chinaman, born in Canton, was in

The board of agriculture adjourned Thursday. It drew four days' pay and mileage. J. W. Bailey in-Subscribe for The Gleaner, only troduced a resolution requesting John R. Smith to resign as commissioner, but the resolution was defeated. The board appropriated \$1,000 for farmers' institutes from now to September 15 and orders D. Reid Parker to hold them. It also requires that the names of brands of fertilizers shall be registered and that other brands will not be allowoods ed registered if the names are apparently like these electrics.

B. A. SELLARS & SON

The Live, Wide Awake, Hustling and Up-to-Date Merchants, of

BURLINGTON, N. C.,

Have a magnificent combination for the people. A popular line of the latest spring attractions. An unlimited variety in every department of the store. The determination and ability to make the best prices. We are offering these inducements with the best and handsomest spring goods you ever saw. Qualities as you like them. tyles and fashions the latest. Assortment complete, and all right prices. Don't fail to see our splendid stock and take advantage of the inducements offered in

Dry Goods and Clothing, Notions, Furnishing Coods, &c.

All the latest and nicest styles of the season. Honest Goods that possess worth and merit.