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S. A. ASBE. - - - . EDITOR WE are indebted to Gen. Cox for favors, and also to the several departments for courteously sending us copies of the reports of the different secretaries.

Most of the newly elected county officers could not give their official bonds, and the board of commissioners forthwith installed DR. LAFFERTY, who lectured here Thursday, pays Wilmington a well deserved compliment in writing to his paper

that "there was something in the manners

of the people, their houses, their history,

JUDGING from the Tarboro Southerner

the Democrats of Edgecombe are happy.

that mark them as of bullion - genuine and solid." ENGLAND'S offer to France to take the permanent presidency of the commission to manage the Egyptian debt is a remarkable concession to that power. England, however, will control the country, no matter what becomes of the debt. It is trade and the 'profits of commerce the

British seek.

WE are authorized by Gen. Leach to say, that an interview purporting to have been had with him by a correspondent, or some one connected with the New York Herald, and copied by us, is wholly untrue. He was interviewed by no person and no correspondent of any newspaper in the city while there, and never uttered to any person, the language attributed to him.

Onto has a returning board. There were three contests before it for certificates of election to Congress and the board awarded the certificates in each case to Republicans. Ohio played a preminent part in the Louisians returning board fraud, and the question now is did the Radicals in Louisiana learn from Ohio, or did the Ohioans take pattern after Louis-

DR. JOHN WILLIAM PALMER declares himself the aut or of the lyric "Stonewall Jackson's Way." He says he wrote it at Oakland, Md , to the tune of the guns of Antietam-we call it Sharpsburgwhich he could hear as he wrote. Dr. Palmer is a native of Baltimore, as also is James R. Randall the author of "My Maryland."

THE legislative committee of the Mutual Benefit Associations appointed at a recent convention in New York, met last week in Cincinnati, and condemning the unbusines-like practices of some of the associations declared it to be the duty of all societies to use their influence to procure legislation to govern these bodies in all the States. The spectator suggests that some action should be taken to require the establishment of reserve funds.

A PROPOSITION to require the names of all pensioners to be published has stirred up opp sition. Oh, yes! certainly. It would be the means of detecting fraud, and hence it is "not desirable." It might hurt the feelings of those fraudulent fellows who are getting the better of the public Treasury, and certainly would hurt their pockets. By all means let's have

THE friends of Hos. W. T. Dortch, of Goldsboro, are pushing him for Senator in place of Gen Ransom, while the friends of Gen. Ransom propose to stand up to him. We do not know what turn affairs will take, but it is not longer doubtful that Gen. Ransom will have active apposition. It is entirely a matter inside the Democratic party, and the Democratic members of the Legislature are apt to reflect the sentiment of their constituen:s in making the selection.

Donsey and the star route thisves have exhausted all the artifices known to "reputable criminals," and they have at last been brought face to face with the music. Last week the chief of the klan came before the public with a long letter of explanation, asserting that no flithy lucre ever stuck to his polished palms, but there was much rottenness in Denmark which might come to light if they persisted in prosecuting him. His wail of woe caused only a smile-there being none so noor as to do him reverence. Tuesday the jury to try him was completed and was duly gm. paneled and then there came forth a strong appeal for a continuance-"his eyes" were not in order! But his judge was indifferent to Dorsey's eyes, and the trial is to proceed, Let it be short, your honor-and let's get on to something new.

Postal affairs are very near the people. They concern every business man touch the interest of nearly every citizen. An examination of the report of the Postmaster General reveals the great improvements that have been made in the service. In 1877-five years ago-the revenues of the department were \$27,-531,585. Since there have been yearly increasing revenues, until in 1882 the amount reached is \$41,876 410. The in crease last year was five millions of dollars. The railw y routes in 1877, over which the mails were carried, footed up 72,348 miles; last year the figure was 100,563, an increase of 40 per cent. The star routes had likewise increased from 194,567 miles to 227,621 miles. There are 46,231 postmasters; 7,100 clerks. The total postal force is 65,777. The postage on new-papers was \$1.565,-103; newspaper stamps \$1,002,060; our own solar system are inhabited.

cards \$3,516,015; stamped pes \$6,150,000; ordinary stamps \$25,678,528. Five years ago newspapers paid but \$1,014,000; newspaper stamps \$945,000; postal cards \$1,508,000; stamped envelopes \$4,360,000; ordinary stamps \$18,773,000. The increase in postage has been enormous during the past five years, making the postal service entirely selfsustaining, in fact yielding a surplus of about \$350,000. Under these circumstances it is suggested by the President to reduce letter postage to two cents, al though the Postmaster General does not go that far. He thinks it would be wiser to se'l the stamped envelopes at three cents, but Congress evidently takes the other view and has quickly taken steps to bring forward a bill on the line of the President's suggestion. We notice that the drop letter postage, or local postage in the large cities, nets a good income to the government over all expense connected with the system of free delivery. These letters bear but one cent postage. It would seem therefore that by reducing the cost of stamps to two cents, more would be used and the income of the department would not suffer greatly by the reduced price. What we have at heart in regard to the postal service is, however, not in this line. We want to see a better star route service in old established and thickly settled communities. We wish to see the postmasters at the country cross-roads paid something for their time and trouble so as to induce them to attend to the business. There are thousands of postmasters-in North Carolina there are hundreds-who render the service chiefly for the convenience of the neighbors. These men, not receiving any pecuniary compensation, pay but little attention to their duties. We think this should be changed, and the compensation of the fourth-class pestmasters should be increased. Then the pay of the mail carriers ought to be raised to a reasonable sum We believe a very important starroute between Raleigh and Red Mountain has quietly stopped gone out of existence -ended in smoke, simply because no one will take it at the price offered. There may be other such cases. The whole star route service in North Carolina ought to be carefully revised with a view to improvement. We commend this matter to our representatives in Congress.

THE transit of the planet Venus across the apparent surface of the sun was observed with absorbing interest all over the continent of North America, Wednesday, but with rather unsatisfactory results. The value of these scientific observations depends wholly on the accuracy with which they are obtained as points widely separated by distance. In Consua and the United States the view was on the whole unsatisfactory, the early part of the day having been cloudy so that only occasional glimpses of the transit could be obtained. At a few points, however, the clearness of the atmosphere permitted the accumulation of valuable data.

When the last previous transit of Venus occurred, notwithstanding the costly and elaborate preparations made for its observation by various nations the general result was blank disappointment. The calculations of the various observing parties were widely different. There was a margin of several millions of miles in the scientific estimates of the distance from the earth to the sun. Thursday's obser vations may correct this trifling discrepancy, but the chances are against any con dusive settlement of the questions left unsettled by the transit of 1874.

A SPECIAL from Morganton, printed elsewhere, announces the election by the Board of Directors yesterday of Dr. P. L. Murphy, of Sampson county, to the superintendency of the Western Insane Asylum, and of Dr. W. D. Hilliard, of Buncombe, to the office of assistant super

Dr. Murphy is a man of 32 or 33 years of age, is a graduate in medicine of the University of Virginia and of the Medical Department of the University of New York, and during the last three or four years has sery d as assistant superintendent of the Virginia State Asylum for the ineane at Staunton. H will thus bring to the discharge of his new auties the enthusiasm of youth and the skill and wisdom of the experienced practitioner. He is a man of talent and of the highest character. Dr. Murphy is a son of the late Patrick Murphy, a well known and highly esteemed member of the Wilmington bar. Dr. Hilliard is also a young man. He is about thirty years old and is a graduate of the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia. He is a physician of ability and will be found a valuable assistant to Dr. Murphy in the important work to which the two have

THE observations made by astronomera of the transit of Venus were taken for the purpose of obtaining data which would ascertain with precision the distance from the earth to the sun. While generally the day was so cloudy as to prevent many observations, yet some were taken under such favorable circumstances as to justify the expectation that the end has been accomplished. But more than that, some of the phenomena observed point strongly to a most important discovery. It is nothing less than that Venus has an atmosphere. It is an ordinary suggestion that the other planets, like the earth, have atmospheres, and that life exists upon their surfaces in some degree similar to what we have here, but this is a mere fancy. Of its truth no evidence has heretofore been obtained, and doubtless the subject is beyond the reach of any direct evidence that man can obtain. But if Venus has an atmosphere, the circum stance strengthens the suggestion and gives a foundation for the fancy. If that were demonstrated, inductive reasoning would lead to a conclusion satisfactory to most men that life in some form existed on that planet. It is in this view that the beautiful ring of light said to have been observed encircling Venus just as the planet touched the limb of the sun, becomes of great scientific interest. It this phenomenon, which was noted at Phila delphia, was observed elsewhere with such clearness as to establish the fact that it wes not an illusion, but a reality, the most natural explanation will be that Venus has an atmosphere, and the ring of light was caused by the refraction of the sun's rays on passing through that medium. This would seem to be the inevitable conclusion to be drawn from the observation, and this would then be regarded as confirmatory of

the theory that most of the planets of

William J. Long.

I have been asked by those whose wishes could not well disregard to write a notice of the death of William J. Long, late of Randolph county. The request coincides with wishes of my own. But there has been a good deal to dissuade If I could only reproduce to my readers this gentleman as he was when he was himself, I should set about the duty with pleasure. A skilful pen in the hands of one who knew him well might make a picture that would arrest the attention and regard of even a stranger. But to be forgotten entirely is scarcely a worse fate than to be mis-remembered. The former is the comparatively happy lot of most of the dead, whilst of those who

[Cor. of THE NEWS AND OBSERVER.]

November 29, 1882.

that be the proper word, and praised or blamed, for that which in truth they were Mr. Long was by origin one of the small and highly respected community of North Carolina Friends. He told me during the present year that his grandfather went to Randolph county just about one hundred years since, from the Virginia county of Loudon. I had been speaking to him of some summer days spent in that county, of its great agricultural beauty and wealth, its bright streams and blue hills, its orchards and grain fields, horses, herds and dairies. It is still

also, as is well known, a strong hold of

seem to escape oblivion even for a brief

period, the rarest number do so in re-

ality,-a vast majority of those whose

names are current being recollected-if

Mr. Long's father was John Long, for several terms a member of Congress from the old district of Chatham, Randolph, Davidson and Rowan. This gentleman was a citizen of conspicuous worth, and lived and died "amongst his own people," an object of great respect and attachment in that fertile and quiet community at the junction of the counties of Randolph, Guilferd and Alamanee, where there had been much no doubt in the soil and forestry about 1782 to attract the eye and judgment of one accustomed to Loudon, and at the same time a marked qualificatien of the sharp Potomac air.

Mr. Long's mother was a sister of the late John Newlin, of Alamance county, a prominent firiend still borne in most respectful and kindly memory by persons who were acquainted with the country betwirt Pittsboro, Hillsboro and Graham twenty years ago and earlier. Mr. Newlin was a person well worthy of mention. Acute of intellect, sagacious in judgment, discreet in dealing, and economical in administration, it is no wonder that in the course of a long and active life he accumulated a large estate. He was, mercover, a shrewd observer of public affairs, intelligent and liberal in view, and pungent and witty in discourse. But it is more pleasant and profitable now to recollect his senevolence, cordiality, thorough simplicity, undaunted courage of opinion and consistency of life. Upon the whole, I recollect no one amongst our people who presents to memory a more picturesque individuality than the Quaker, John

Of this extraction Mr. Long preserved marked flavor to the end. He was one of five brothers, four of whom were gradnates of the University. The oldest was educated at West Point, and died many years ago, an officer in the army; the second was for some years a prominent physician and excellent citizen of Hillsboro, dying in middle life; our friend was the third; the fourth was a well known and highly respected member of the bar and editor in Greensbore; and the youngest, also well known and highly respected as a physician near the old home. They were all men of delicate constitution, and, excepting the subject of this notice, died before the decline of life. As it is now, betwixt removal and death the family that was founded by the emigrant from Loudon has nearly disappeared from our State. A single century covers its advent amongst us, the period of its recognition for valuable qualities, public and private, its reasonable prosperity and its departure. This is a matter for sincere regret by all good North Carolinians.

I have said that Mr. Long had many of the characteristics of the Friends. In the first place he was above all things himself friend-true, sympathetic, sturdy, sellforgetiul. Then he was a man of marked simplicity in habit and manner-in food, dress, speech and behavior. He appearce to be, and was, perfectly sincere, and a the same 'me was gentle and unoburnsive. He was fond of social intercourse, and pine self a very bond of the bar society in his circuit. The infectious and innecent humor which enlivened his addresses to the fury, and his talk around the fireside at times when he had su rendered an even ing to the briefless barristers and other friends who thronged his room-crowding chairs, tables and couch-was perhaps the characteristic by which he was most commonly known, but charming as we felt him to be in this mood, his friends and those who had occasion to seek advice from him marked him for traits of as great excellence upon the serious side of life. He lent a ready and interested par to any matter, professional or other, about which his opinion might be desired, and he brought to the duty the exercise of a well poised judgment. His sympathy and tact readered him a persuasive advocate, and his candor and courtesy gained the ear of the bench to quite an exceptional extent in the time of those excellent and lamented magistrates who made the Circuit Court of North Carolina venerable in the decades which preceded the war. I particu larly recall with great pleasure little incidents in term time betwixt him and the solemn although genial and admired Caldwell, or that charming gentleman, Bailey, with both of whom he was a pronounced favorite.

It is indeed when we recall the names of these who were Long's friends, in a special sense, that one feels how strong he was. Let noscitur a sociis be applied to him. The great Chief Justice, who has done more for the lasting same of the State than any other of her citizens-the Moreheads, Gilmer, Badger, Graham, Jonathan Worth, Charles Manly-I mention only a few; of such were the men who sought his company, and enjoyed it, and whose partiality, in turn, was appreciated by him as an immediate jewel of

Others there are still surviving who hold scenes of which be made a part amongst the most pleasant within the compass of their recollection.

Our friend, at his death, was no longer young. But several years of sad seciu sion from business and society, occasioned by disasters incident to the war, have made such a discontinuance of our im pressions of his person that we habitually

recall him as he was twenty years ago, when the associates, some of whose names I have mentioned, who cherished him and whom he so greatly admired, were still

ad . 'og North Carolina society. For a r two past the clouds which had settled upon him had lifted and were partially broken. Coming forth and looking around him upon the face of a North Carolina so greatly changed, and being attracted besides by some matters of personal advantage and promise in Mincesota, he resolved to move to that S ate. This resolution be carried out early in the present fall. He did so with a resolution and an exhibitation which were quite touching to observe. Recognising and saying that the end of life was for him in any event mear, he looked cheerfully and confidently to an unclouded evening and sunset in a strange land. Alas, sir, with how little reason. His time of life was that so impressively presented in ancient poetry as one in which long rain is followed, not by a clearing of sky, but a return of clouds, and so it proved for him. Such return was too much for his years and exhausted system. After a sharp challenge of the intrusion, he ceased from the struggle as unavailing, and about a month since passed over to that better world which his faith and exemplary life in years most engrossed in business and society, assure us that he has apprehended, or rather, in higher speech, been appre

It remains to say that Mr. Long had been very happily narried in early life to a daughter of Dr. James Webb, that fine figure ia hase of Orange county life now past. They have several children. whose welfare and happiness are an object of the warmest wishes of their father's S F. P.

A. D 2 112.

[Cor. of THE NEWS AND OBSERVER.] CHAPSE HILL, December 6, 1882. Prof. Gore made the necessary preparations for observing the "transit," and after 11 o'clock the phenomenon was centinuously observed. On account of the clouds it was impossible to see the beginning of the "transit," the planet being well advanced on the sun's disc before it was visible. This prevented any data being obtained. The next "transit" of the planet will take place at the descending node in June, 2,004. The "transic" to-day was at the ascending node, and will not be repeated until December, 2,117. These "transits" do not always occur "in pairs" at the passing of each node. For several cycles past we have had "pairs," and for sevaral cycles to come we shall have "paire" of "transits." Then there will be a period when only one transit will occur at each node. This depends upon the nearness of the conjunction to the node in the first transit, If the observations made

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"I tell you sir, that they are one of the neatest "I tell you sir, that they are one of the neatest combinations ever produced and me experience of that sort of thing has been wide enough to entitle my judgment to some respect."

"Oh, I don't know," responded the first speaker's fri nd with a little awn as hough he didn't take much interest in the subject, "I have never been able to see much difference in those things. They are all pretty nearly the same size, and made of about the same sum?"

The take of which the foregoing is a fragment, took place in Galla'in, Missour, not long ago, in the snug office of Dr. M. P. Towers, one of the leading physicians of the State, who followed up the veil in which he had introduced it substantially in these words:

words:

"Nonsense, that is the right a rie of a boy or rather of a man who either doesn's know or doesn's care wha, he says. Those things, as you call them, are jut as different as the moon is from green cheese.

ju tas different as the moon is fr m green cheese, ow, liniments, lottons and oin ments are very good in most cases for the restef of pain or inflammation. But in the first place they are unclean. They soil the hands and the linen, besides being always out of reach when they are most wanted. "Well, my drar Doctor" sighed the traveler from the Noth, what would you naver this is wictched world anyhow, and a thing is ever at hand when it is wanted. You can't signest anything."

"Yes, I can." broke in the Doctor, thumping the table with his fist. I can suggest BE 180 N'S CAP. CINS PUROUS PLASTER. I have tried it on my patients, and I have tried it on my patients, and I have tried it on my for Preumonia and in all cases relief has followed in from three to forty eight hours. The old plasters in from three to forty eight hours. The old plasters are stage coaches—the Capoine is a te egraphic dispatch for instance, in cases of Neuralgia, Musoular Rheumatism. Lumbago, retarded action of the

"I give it up, Doctor, and in case of need Pil buy
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