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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 1886.

The people of Virginia may now be regarded in the light of sponges—it is so wet over the line, you know; the magnet are bound to absorb.

The tariff bill will hardly be reached by the House before the 15th of May, it appears now, and the prospects for the passage of the measure do not brighten with the lapse of time.

JOHN RUSKIN is a man after our own heart. Speaking of the girls, he says: "My primary thought, is how to serve them and make them happy; and if they could use me for a plank bridge over a stream or set me up for a post to tie a swing to, or anything of the sort, not requiring me to talk, I should be quite happy in such a promotion."

The labor committee is reported to have had a monkey and parrot time over the educational bill, and made no progress in the matter as a matter of course.

The disarmament of Greece at the bidding of all the European powers save Russia, is, we suppose, another check to the Czar.

The cause of cremation as a method of disposing of the dead is advancing with a rapidity that few realize. It has had several hard knocks recently, however, and not the lightest of these was given by Bishop A. Cleveland Coxe, of New York, in a recent number of the Forum.

The boycotters seem to be getting justice in the New York courts. The latest instance of the fact is the report that a musical union, known as the Carl Salm club, boycotted one Theiss, a beer garden man, because he hired musicians that belonged to another union than theirs.

Capt. James R. Thopen died near Baltimore Monday morning. He had gone there for treatment of an affection of the eyes. His death was sudden and unexpected. He was widely known in the State as a thoroughly practical farmer.

A new law in New Jersey prohibits any person from catching black bass less than seven inches in length, or trout less than six inches, under a penalty.

OBSERVATIONS OF TREE-LIFE.

We are requested to announce that the United States department of agriculture, in its forestry division, has prepared a schedule for observations of tree-life; and accompanying it, of weather conditions, for the purpose of exciting an interest in forestry work, and of arriving at certain results explained in the schedules.

It is desirable that these observations should be noted by a very large number of persons; and everybody interested will be welcome to apply for the blanks to the department. As the season is rather advanced, not all the points required may be taken this year, but even a partial report will be acceptable.

The objects of the observations are set forth by the department are: 1. To note the progress of local developments in tree-life, for the purpose of enlarging the knowledge of biological conditions. 2. To arrive at conclusions as to the relative climatic conditions expressed by the phases of plant development, and also vice versa, as to the dependence of such developments on such conditions.

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The Wake cattle club. We are glad to note the final steps in the organization of Wake county breeders of fine cattle. There can be no business of greater importance to the farming interests of the State than that represented by the Wake cattle club.

The conditions which now exist in North Carolina are more favorable to stock and cattle-breeding than they have ever been and under the enforced system of smaller and more thoroughly cultivated farms it is to the interest of every farmer to keep the best cattle he can obtain only.

The efforts of the gentlemen of Wake who have organized the new club exerted in behalf of better cattle cannot be too highly commended. They have done as great service to the State in arousing an interest in the matter they have in hand as they could have done in any other way, in any other position, however proud or conspicuous.

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The New Education.

ALBERTSON'S, DUBLIN CO., N. C., April 24th, 1886.

In the WEEKLY NEWS AND OBSERVER of April 20th is a communication on the "New Education," by Dr. Dabney, which I am unwilling to let pass unchallenged, although other pressing duties may prevent me from going beyond a few suggestions to others whose time and ability may enable them to do full justice to the Doctor's views.

But to his argument that our public school system should be viewed with caution and checked perhaps, in its dangerous influences, because in Massachusetts, where "education of every kind, public and private, has been longer established, and is more munificently endowed and more thoroughly administered than in any other State in the Union," paupers and criminals greatly increased in numbers from 1850 to 1880, there are cogent objections.

As to the subjects taught in the Massachusetts schools and the methods of instruction, they are substantially the same as Cousin found in Germany half a century ago, and nobody claims that the Germans have been damaged by education.

On the contrary it is doubtless true of the Germans, as all history shows it to have been true of all races of men, that the moral sense has increased in vigor as the intellect has been enlightened. Nor can I allow Massachusetts to be adduced in disproof of this inference, because a poor child put into a workshop at fifteen years of age, as is the case in that State, and forced to struggle for a living against a superabundance of competing laborers, not only is not, but in a vast majority of cases, never can be enlightened.

1. Since about 1850 the almost, if not quite, overwhelming voice of public sentiment has been that written compacts and solemn obligations may be disregarded at will—nay, that it is the highest duty of man to violate an obligation whenever a great demand for reform seems to call for such violation.

2. Long before 1850 and with increasing intensity since that date, those who think for the people have taught them that they had a right to still further pauperize the "nauper" laborers of Europe—their own kith and kin—in order that they might far sumptuously themselves.

3. Since 1850 the unthinking people have been taught through the press, the pulpit and all other means known to the agitator demagogue, that it was not only their right but their duty to do violence to those who differed with them about the construction of a written compact.

4. These people have been taught ever since 1865 that it is their right—down to the camp-follower—to fatten on pensions, bounties and retired half-pay, wrong in part from the impoverished Southern people whom they had outraged to the full extent of their ability, who owed them nothing then or since.

5. Having thus been taught to live by dishonest means; is it any wonder they are criminals? Having thus been taught to live on the labor of other people, is it any wonder that they, like the Spaniards of Mexico and Peru, have lost the habit of laboring and have gradually moved to the poor-house?

Very respectfully, B. F. GRADY.

For the Supreme Court Bench.

LAGRANGE, N. C., April 24.

As the Democratic executive committee has appointed the 25th of August next as the time for the convention to meet in Raleigh to nominate candidates for supreme and superior court judges, it may now be in order to suggest the names of some gentlemen who could fill the different offices. I would suggest for supreme court judges the following names: For chief justice, A. S. Merrimon, of Buncombe; for associate justices, G. V. Strong, of Wake, and J. M. Clement, of Davie. These gentlemen are all about the same age, between 50 and 57 years of age, in the full vigor of all their mental and physical powers.

As to their legal abilities and fitness for the place, it is unnecessary to mention; for wherever they are known everybody recognizes them as the leaders of the bar in their respective sections. Judge Strong and Mr. Clement have not been before the public as prominently as Judge Merrimon, but where they practice they are regarded as the ablest lawyers in their circuit. Strong being an eastern man would satisfy the centre, while Merrimon would be acceptable to the trans-montane section.

It is very wise to set our faces against superstitions, but who in his secret heart does not encourage a favorite one? I never met the person that did not.

Another cannot endure a stranger who parts him from a companion with whom he is walking in the street; others will not raise umbrellas over their heads in the house, and there are men who turn pale if they spill salt.

It is said that the mother of the Rothschilds always lived in her queer little house, in a crooked street, "to keep her sons their luck." Every morning servants took her to their splendid houses in a sedan chair, but she always slept in the house where they were born.

Most people have a special dream that forebodes evil; and I know many who declare that it is a fact that one who boasts of being "so very well" today, finds himself ill on the morrow. There may be some good reason for this; it actually happens so often.

To tumble up stairs is supposed to postpone a wedding. "You'll not be married this year," cries some one. And to turn back three times is regarded by many as a warning to remain at home.

Terror seizes a bride's heart if it rains on her wedding morn, and to wear the marriage ring for a moment before it is put on for good is believed to bring very ill luck indeed.

Public squares are a great blessing to the community. We can say the same of Dr. Bull's Baby Syrup; it is the best remedy for the cure of all diseases babyhood has to encounter. Price 25 cents.

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A LOST DIAMOND

"But Archy, Mildred can't be proved innocent. How can she be, when I know she took it and there was no one else to take it," and Mrs. Torrence paused with suspended cup, her great wondering eyes searching for a reply.

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SALEM BRANCH.

Northward. Jan. 18, 1886. Southward. No. 51. No. 52. Daily. Daily. Arr. Arr. 8 35 10 10 Greensboro. 8 30 10 00

STATE UNIVERSITY RAILROAD.

Northward. Jan. 18, 1886. Southward. No. 3. No. 1. Daily except Sunday. No. 4. No. 2. Arr. Arr. 4 55 10 30 University. 4 55 11 55

RALEIGH & GASTON R. R.

CONDENSED SCHEDULE. Trains going North. No. 47. No. 3. D'y except Sunday. D'y except Sunday. Nov. 15, 1885. 8 25 a m 8 15 a m

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