SCOTT & ERVIN, PUBLISHERS.

W. W. SCOPT, Jr., Editor.

Publishers' Announcement. -SUBSCRIPTION :- 'n order to place THE TOPIC within the reach of every reading man and woman its price was reduced some years ago to ONE DOL-LAR per annum. It has recently been increased in size without any increase in price. The terms given below are farariably cash in advance:
ONE COPY, one year, ONE COPY, one year,
six months,
three months.

-ADVERTISEMENTS :- As an advertising madium, The Toric ranks "A No 1" among the news-proers of Western North Carolina In the counties of Caldwell, Watanga and Ashe its circulation is of Caldwell, Whitaing and Ashe to the greater than that of all other secular newspapers combined; while it has a large and constantly increasing circulation in Burke, Alexander, Mitchell, Wilkes and Alleghany and throughout the State, Advertisements inserted at low rates in proportion

-JOB PRINTING :- THE TOPIC JOB PRINTING department is complete. With good presses and a large assortment of new and beautiful type, job work of all kinds, pamphlets, circulars, posters, catalogues, mu utes, bill heads, letter heads, cards, &c., &c., executed on short notice and at the lowest

-REMITTANCES: -Mo ey may be sent at our risk, by check, registe ed letter, or post office money o der. Money ser, otherwise is at the risk of the

BE Communications containing items of local or general interest respectfully solicited. Manuscripts intended for publication must be written on oneside of the paper, and accompanied by the name of the writer, as a guarantee of good faith.

WE extend to Capt E. J. Hale, editer of the Fayetteville Observer, our sincerest condolence in his deep rilliction at the loss by death on the 9th instant of his son, Joseph H. Hale, paged 20. Our acquaintance with this promising young man was slight, as we had met him only once or twice, but we had a circle of matual triends and we are very much impressed now with the memory of the affection entertained in that circle for "Joe" Hale, as they loved to call

THE Supreme Court has lately decided a very important point in the land entry business and one in which the citizens of this section are deply Interested. The Attorney General and Secretary of State End decided that, under the new Cale, all lands cleared out of the Secretary of State's eil o, after Nov. 1, 1883, without regard to the date of entry were subject to lees of 25 certs per acre for every 100 acres or less and 50 cents for every additional acre. Mr. George R. Councill, of Watauga, appealed from this decision, taking a test case to the Supreme Court, and the deciston is that all entries made prior to Nov. 1, 1883, may be cleared out at say than thereafter under the old law at 121 cente per acre for 100 acres or less on 1 15 cents for every additional acre. Of course the customary feebill is not altered.

THE question of the next Presidency continues to be discussed but no definite conclusion seems to be arrived at. The old ticket of Tilden and Hendricks is at this time, more popular than any other combination on the Democratic side. The only objecton brought forward against this ticket is the old age of Mr. Tilden who is somewhere near 70 years of age. This should be no disqualification of his candidacy for he is still vigorous, has, according the law of chances, a probability or at least a possibility of several years' lease upon life. Old or young, stalwart or decrepit Samuel J, Tilden has a stronger hold upon the popular affections than any other man in America. More individuals, the Union over, know his name than know the name of any other two men of the age and that rame carries with it a significant meaning. It denominates the victim of a great wrong, it voices a pent up indignation against a high-handed reversal of the peoples verdict. If Tilden and Hendricks should be the candidates of the Democrocy the victory is sure. But in case that ticket is not put out the eyes of the country are turned toward the next strongest man on the Democratic side, that great statesman, Allen Granberry Thurman, of Ohio. Thurman could be elected even against heavy odds. Blaine seems to be the most popular man with the Republi-

THERE is a manifest disposition on the part of the Republican leaders, since the Virginia election and the Civil Rights decision, to shy from the issues being made up between the two parties and to lug back the bloody spirit and the negro into politics. This is a sign of their dsepondency and a clear indication that they despair of making a winning fight upon a fair gage of battle upon the tariff and ether economic questions. Senator Mahone's bitter address, which makes grosser and falser charges than ever were made in the bloody shirt days, and the return of the New York Times and the other leading journals of that party to the worm out theme of Southern injustice to the negro plainly demonstrate the fact that if it is possible to stir up the people of the North to another sectional campaign it will be done. We still have our doubts as to the event of their being successful in this nefa'

rious design, but, as we have had occasion to remark before, it is dangerous to count too certainly upon what the people of the North can be wrought up to by designing politicians. We would not do the Republicans the injustice to think that they have already had their secret agents at work in the South for the purpose of whispering sed tion into the negroes' cars in order to raise tumults and thus arouse the popular projudice of the North. But this practice has been so usual with them heretofore that, by the light of history, we may still hold ourselves prepared to meet just such bushwhacking methods. A word to the wise is sufficient.

CONGRESS will meet the first of next month and the following from the Charlotte Observer is of interest as indicating which way our repre sentatives will vote on the Speaker-

There are now three recognized candidates on the Democratic side for the Spea ership of the House of Representatives: Messrs. Randall, Cox, and Carlisle, and the position of representatives from North Carelina is of some interest to our readers. Of the seven recognized Democrats from the State we feel authorized to say:

Bennett and Skinner will vote for Carlisle of Kentucky.

Dawd, Greene, and Cox, will vote for Cox, of New York.

R. B. Vance, and Scales will vote for Randall. York, Liberal, who has always

claimed to be a Democrat, will probably vote for Carlisle, and O'Hara, Republican esucus and vote for the regular nomince of that party.

THE time has come when the peo-

ple need no other arguments but those suggested by logic and reason. Partizanship is disgusting. It was becoming the fashion to believe that sectionalism had died away; when Southerners, and North Carolinians especially, went to Boston and fraternized with their kinsmen of the old Bay State. We still think that such a semi-millenium is at hand. But what censure is too great to be visited upon so great an enemy to his country's good as one who would place a stumbling block in the way of a reconciliaton between the sections. It is not unjust to say that such a man is no better than a traitor. Mr. William Mahone, of Virgiria, has committed this crime. He has issued an address to the country in which he faulty clanders the State that has done nothing but confer benefits upon him. He employs the most intemperate language and indulges in the most insulting epithets. He accuses the Democrats of committing wholesale murder and slaughter upon the ne. groes to gain their victory over read justerism, declares "war to the knife" and closes by appealing to the Federal government for protection for the ne grees. He attmpts to resuscitate resuscitate the dying embers of past sectional hatred and makes a strennous endeavor to arouse the prejudice of the North against the South as in the unhappy past. This is a most impious scheme of Mr. William Mahone's and should earn for him the undivided execuation of a reunited people. One bright feature of this business is the strong current of condemnation setting in against him even on the part of the ultra Republican papers of the North. The Southerners are just to the negroes and do not hate the North, we would have our Northern friends know, despite the gross calumnies of desperate dema-

SKINNER ELECTED BY 1,000 MA-JORITY.

ELIZABETH CITY, N. C., Noy. 21,-The Falcon has received returns from the district as follows: For Pool-Pasquetank, 568 majority; Pergimans 94; Cowan, Chowan 161; Martin, 185; Washington, 378. For Skinner -Camden, 108; Patt, 450; Beaufort, 300; Pamlico, 61; Carterett, 600. Judge Pool concedes Skinner's elec tion by from 800 to 1,000. The Democrots are jubilant.

The Last of Three Murderers.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., Nov. 22 .-Andy Taylor, the last living of three brothers, who murdered two sheriffs and captured a railroad train with one hundred passengers aboard, compel ling the engineer to carry them twenty miles, at a dangerously high speed, about a year ago, is to be hanged tomorrow at Loudon, Tenn. Teday while being taken from Knoxville to Loudon, he slipped a revolver out of the pocket of one of the guards, and though heavily manacled, managed to get the muzz'e of the pistol within a few inches of the head of Sheriff Foute. of Loudon, but owing to the fact that Taylor thought it a selfcocker, he was knocked down before Le could raise the hammer of the pistol. He remark. ed, "If I had not mistaken the pistol for a self cocker, you would have gone to hell several hours before me." Tay.

flor is but twenty one yearsold,

NORTH CAROLINA

As seen through the glasses of the Ral eigh, Charlotte, Greensbero and Wilmington Dailies and of the leading Weeklies in the State.

Dr. Skinner, who has returned from the State Baptist convention, says it was the largest and most successful ever held.

In a few days the committee of twenty one, appointed to make certain arrangements with regard to the State exposition, will report, it is thought, and then the beginning of regular measures will come. The interest in the affair does not abate, but increases.

We are informed by a gentleman, who says that he knows whereof he speaks, that within the past 6 weeks seven happy fathers in this "City of Oaks" have each been presented with

Col. H. C. Jones tells us that the appeal of Thos. I. Shields goes over to the spring term of the Supreme court and will be heard about next May. Should the finding of the Superior court be affirmed. Shields will have to remain in jail until after the fall term of Mecklenburg Superior court in 1884, when the sentence of the law will be passed upon him. Taking into consideration the past record of our jail as a prisoner killer, it is a matter of exceeding doubt whether or not the unfortunate Shields will ever live to see the end of his case in the courts.

We have heard a good deal said about the sagacity of animals, but old Baldy's blacks did somethig yesterday that proves that animals have sense. For years the afternoon train for Richmond has been leaving. here at 4 oclock in the afternoon, but Sunday a change went into effect, the train going out several hours later. Yesterday the usual hour for hitching up the blacks to the 'bus at Wads worth's stables arriving, and old Baldy not appearing, the four horses left their stalls one after the other and took their places at the 'bus, two at the sides of the tongue and two in the lead, ready to be hitched up. Nobody appearing to hitch them, they waited about fifteen minutes, and then started by themselves for the hotel, the same as if they were hitched to the 'bus and old Baldy had hold of the lines. The horses had nearly reached the Charlotte Hotel before they were caught and brought back. When old Baldy heard of this smart trick in the horses, he went into their stalls and hugged each one.

Considerable excitement was cre ated at Company Shops, last week by the arrest and carrying to Salisbury of Capt. Jim Murphy an old, respected engineer of the North Carolina road, on the charge passing a forged order for \$9.80 on Mr. Chas. Traylor, of Salisbury. It turned out to be viz: another Murphy.

Capt. E, M. Hayes, of the United States Army, arrived in the city yesterday for the purpose of establishing a recruiting office in Charlotte for the army, and has rented offices in the iron banistered building on Trade

Wilmington.

We learn that there was an old gentleman, 68 years of age, in attende ance upon the late : ynod as a lay delegate, who had never seen a steam boat or vessel of any sort previous to his visit here. He went on board of the New York steamer, and was greatly surprised at her dimensions and the manner in which she was fitted up. He was from the western part of the State.

Sheriff Tweed informs us that Mr. W. R. Shelton, a successful merchant on Shelton Laurel, Madison county, keeps the larger part of his stock of goods on his front porch, never under a lock and key, and, though he has been doing this for years, never had anything stolen. This shows what a splendid country Mr. Shelton lives

Asheville's water works are in process of completion. This enterprise is a feather in Asheville's cap.

Morganton.

The negro, Bart Ellis, who was tried in Cleveland last week for the murder of old Mr. Logan, was found guilty and sentenced by Judge Gilmer to be hanged on December 14. The jury agreed upon the verdict im mediately after leaving the box.

BURNED TO DEATH. - A distressin accident took place in Icard township in this county, near the residence of Mr. Warlick last Thursday night. A man named Mike Cline and his wife went to the woods for shingle blocks leaving a little four year old girl and a child still younger at home to take | his paper against dueling,

care of the house. On their return they were horrified to find their little girl in the yard dead, her clothing consumed and her body burned to s crisp.

It seems that Mr. J. Lee Latta, of crooked check fame, has escaped from jail in Atlanta, Ga., and is now in Western North Carolina. Constable Perry received a telegram Monday, directing him to look for Latta on the west bound train and arrest him.

Six U. S. Prisoners were brought down from Asheville to this place Monday night and lodged in Morgan ton jail. This make 18 prisoners at Mr. Lane's "boarding house."

Indian Summer.

Communicated.

Like some fell destroyer, bleak winter with its chilling winds and its freezing breath, comes and blights the beautiful Indian summer, and who dees not mourn the departure of this ever enchanting season, which to me is the most pleasing one of the year? In nature so pathetic, so en chanting, so peaceful, so brief! It is full of suggestive life lessons. And around it fond memories cluster, In my boy-hood days, with buoyant spirits and innocent sports, it was my delight to roam over hill and through dale during these beautiful, bright days. And the night, how in lescriba. bly beautiful! The deep blue vault of heaven decorated with myriads of glittering stars striving as it were to vie with each other in dazzling splendor, and bounded with a horizon of a soft mellow has incidental to the season is a scene worthy an angel's pen to describe and engender pro found admiration of the great Architect of such ineffable grandeur.

Perhaps it was in these baleyon days, while tending his flocks by night, that the oriental shepherd gazing upon these sublime scenes, caught the spirit of inspiration evince ed in the following:

"When I consider the heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man? that thou art mindful of him, or the son of man, that thou visitest him."

O, "Sun-burned, beautiful enchan tress," many have admired thy charms. Would thou could'st tarry with us long.

The Synod of North Carolina.

Vilmington Star. The Stated Clerk presented the

following statistical report of the Synod of North Carolina to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church of the United States: "The Synod of North Carolina

respectfully reports to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church in the United States, that it consists of five Presbyteries, and that these consist in whole, of 116 ministers and 234 churches, having sunde: their care 4 licentiates and 20 candidates,

Orange Presbytery-19 ministers, 64 churches, 1 licentiate and 7 can-

Concord Presbytery-19 ministors, 38 churches and 1 licentiate.

Fayetteville Presbytery-21 min isters, 51 churches and 4 candi

Wilmington Presbytery-15 minis tere, 31 churches, 2 licentiates and 1 candidate.

Mecklenburg Presbytery-31 min isters, 50 churches and 8 candidates. Total-116 ministers, 234 churches,

4 licentiates and 20 candidates. The Synod further reports that its next stated meeting will be held in the Presbyterian church, Winston, N. C., on the 2nd day of October, 1884, at 7.30 o'clock, P. M.

By order of the Synod. WM. S. LACY, Stated Clerk.

Justice Meted out in Forsythe.

WINSTON, N. C., Nov. 22 .- In the Superior court here today, Judge Shipp presiding, Athert Davis, Tom Lee and Abram Watkins, all colored were convicted of the murder of An. derson McCallum, colored, and sentenced to be hanged December 23th. Thre appeared to the Supreme court

A Southern Speaker.

The latest nevs from Washington that can be trusted is that Mr. Carlisle's chances for election to the Speakership are very good indeed. In fact, the probability is that he will be elected. Mr. Cox is sanguine and has an enthpsiastic following Mr. Randall's chances, it is believed this week, are not as great as the have hitherto seemed to be.

AN EDITOR KNIGHTED.

Rewarded by the Pope for Taking a Stand Against Ducling. CHARLESTON, S. C., Nov. 22.-A dispatch from Rome states that the Pope has created Mr. F. W. Dawson, editor of the News and Courier, of this city, a Knight of the Order of St. George for the stand he has taken in TIMELY TOPICS.

The Durham Plant says that Mr. Fred D. Fanning, the cashier of Morehead's Bank in Durham, died Sunday before last.

Week before last the Norrolk and Western depot at Norfolk was burned, destroying 5,000 bales of cotton yal ued at \$250,000.

Chatlotte had a big fire last week by which several houses were burned.

The citizens of the Virginia second district had the biggest jollification ever known in the tide water country at Norfolk of Tuesday of last week The occasion was the rejoicing for the victory over Mahoneism. The citi zens of Norfolk, Portsmenth and the surrounding counties paraded the "twin cites by the sea" at night in a grand cavalcade of horsemen fallowed by a vast concourse of pedestrians. The fire works and illnminated mottoes were gorgeous, the speeches good and the enthusiasm unstinted.

Newton had a fire, Saturday week, which a couple of backets of water happily extinguished.

Charlotte is stirred up by the prom ised revelations of Adams the railroad peculator, and is standing on tiptoe to hear who is implicated,

Charlotte is in what was once Pee Dee county. We will publish next week a rare discovery by Secretary of State Saunders of this whilom county.

Turner's N. C. Almanac for 1884. This popular Almanoc, "The old Reliable," which for forty six years -nearly half a century-has been paying its annual visits to the homes and firesides of our people, has been received from the publisher, James H. Enniss, Raleigh, N. C. As usual, it is full of important information, to all classes, and especially the farmer, gardener and housekeeper, to whom it is -invaluable. A very valuable feature of Turner's N. C. Almanac is its annual State record, in which are recorded the most important events. The publisher proposes to print, free of charge, the business card of all merchants who sell the Almanac, on the outside page. For terms etc., address J. H. Enniss, Raleigh, N. C

J. T. Lippard & Co,

BOONE, N. C., Have just received a good assort

SCHOOL BOOKS,

Also a new supply of

GROCERIES, CONFECTIONER-IES AND FAMILY MEDICINES.

A FINE LOT OF LEMONS. Prices low and terms cash or

CALL AND EXAMINE THEIR STOCK

POST OFFICE. LAND SALE.

By virtue of a mortgage executed to Celia Bryan on the 27th of July 1878 by G. W. Thompson and wife Phoeba to accure the sum of \$700 with the inwife Phocha to seem the sum of \$700 with the in-terest thereon, which mortgage is registered in Deed Book No. 4, Letter D. on page 69, 70, and 71, of Alleghamy county, I will sell for each on the premises on the 16th day of February A. D., 1884, a veloable tract of land in Alleghamy county on Glade Creek adjoining the lands of Francis Bryan and others, being the lands included in the mortgage above referred to to which mortgage and registration thereof reference is given for a horre specific descripthereof reference is given for a more specific descrip-tion of the land. STEPHEN JOHNSON, Executor of CELIA JOHNSON—formerly Ce'ia Sparta, Alleghany Co., N. C., Nov. 2, 1882.

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THREE-SIDED MIRRORS.

Enable of all sides of the face at the same time. They are the nicest goods for the toilet, especirlly for ladies or for a shaving glass. A number of handsome styles are made for ornaments, forming a handsome picture when closed, or for the display of a statuette or piece of bric a brac. They are also well adapted for a traveling mirror, and are, therefore, suitable for wedding or birthaay presents,

Ask your fancy goods dealer or brincipal druggist to get them for you.

HALL, NICOLL, & GRANBERY. Importers of Artistic and Well-finished Fanay Goods

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WE HAVE A SPLENDID STOCK OF FALL AND WINTER GOODS WHICH WE OFFER TO SELL AT BED ROCK PRICES.

To secure bargains come and see us. We want all the CASH, wheat, corn, oats, rye, peas, beans, flour, eggs, butter. Beeswax and all other marketable produce we can get. Read notice in Local Column.

MELSONS

DISSOLUTION!

The firm heretofore existing as Echerd Bros. is this day dissolved by mutual consent. All persons owing said firm will please call and settle. Respectfully,

> J. M. ECHERD. W. E. ECHERD.

NEW FIRM!

The undersigned have formed a co-partnerseip under the name of Hamilton & Echerd, and would be pleased to see their old friends and customers at the new stand

S. W. HAMILTON. J. M. ECHERD.

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