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SCHOOLS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

CHAPEL HILL, Jan. 5, 1886. There seems to be a considerable amount of discussion just now among a number of writers in the State concerning a much needed appropriation for the benefit of the University. It is proposed that an appropriation be made, sufficient to enable the University to give instruction free of tuition to all who will attend and thus raise our standard of scholarship so that it may compare favorably with other Universities.

All true North Carolinians would rejoice to see this institution which has given education to so many useful citizens and eminent statesmen, established on a permanent basis. Every one would be proud if all the youth of the State had an opportunity of receiving a fine education free of tuition. Let us reflect a moment. Is there not another branch of the educational question which should receive some attention? How about our public schools?

It is not first the paramount duty of the State to provide means for improving these, on which the great body of the youth depend for education? Would it not be wiser and better for all that the masses, out of whose pockets most of the money must come, should have an opportunity of giving their children a little education free of tuition, before the few who may be able to pay their other expenses at the University, should be given a finished education at the expense of the people? Our public schools are among the poorest of the poor. The standard is far below that of the adjoining States.

Many children, now growing up in ignorance, if they had an opportunity of acquiring a practical education, grow to be useful, an ornament to society, and a blessing to the country. It is universally admitted that the best of public schools furnish the cheapest and most efficient means by which the poor and the rich may obtain that education necessary for the peace of society and the welfare of the State. The terms of our schools are too short, and the teachers are inefficient. Those who are capable of doing good work cannot afford to do it at the wages paid, and consequently are forced to seek other employment. More money is needed. Will not our legislature do something in this direction?

Both houses of Congress reassembled Jan. 5. In the Senate Mr. Beck introduced a bill to create a revenue commission. Senators Wilson and Sewell spoke on the interstate commerce bill. In the House, a motion to suspend the rules and pass a bill to repeal certain internal revenue laws was lost, as were also motions to concur in Senate amendments to the Mexican pension bill and to fix a day for the consideration of the bill to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy.

THE CALENDAR. The Weather, Probable and Improbable. The Order, Jan. 12 Set right. This is the day for planting good resolutions. Many amiable persons will turn away from the temptations of tobacco or whiskey or some pet habit of swearing.

Gov. Cleveland Resigns. Governor Cleveland will send to both houses of the New York Legislature his resignation of the gubernatorial office, and Lieutenant Governor Hill will thereupon assume the governorship. The ex-Governor will go to Buffalo to attend a charity ball of which he is patron.

MOODY IN RICHMOND. No Emphatically Denies Having Aspersed Lee and Jackson. RICHMOND, VA., Jan. 4.—The arrival here yesterday of Mr. D. L. Moody, the distinguished evangelist, was looked forward to by Richmond people. This feeling was intensified by the published statements that Mr. Moody had made uncharitable allusions to Gen. Lee and Jackson in a sermon delivered by him in New York in 1876. The morning papers contained very emphatic denials of this charge from Mr. Moody. Many of those who attended his services this a. m. expected to hear some reference made by the evangelist to the charges made against him, but no mention was made of the matter, Mr. Moody contenting himself with the denials he had made through the press.

THE INTERNAL REVENUE.

What Some of the State Papers have to Say About its Abolition. The effort made by Mr. Hancock, (Republican from New York) to abolish the internal revenue on tobacco and cigars and on spirits made for medicinal or mechanical purposes, failed, as every such effort will fail until the import duties are much less than they now are. The removal of the tax on whiskey and tobacco would so reduce the revenue as to make the retention of high duties necessary, and it is a very safe prediction to make, that whoever may desire or work for the removal of the internal revenue, there is small chance to remove it.

Now that the \$146,000,000 internal tax on tobacco and whiskey can be collected by Democrats, we do not expect to hear such a general chorus in North Carolina about "the internal revenue system must go." Intelligent readers will remember that the "Star" has for two years opposed this blind, suicidal policy. It will be remembered that the "Star" has insisted that it was very meet and proper that the vices should be taxed and not the necessities of life. It will be remembered that the "Star" has urged that a portion of the internal tax—from fifty to seventy-five millions was needed to prevent a deficit in the United States Treasury and that the true way was to reduce the tax, retaining what was needed to carry on the Government, and changing the manner of collection.

It will be remembered that the "Star" urged that if the one hundred and forty-six millions of tax on the vices of the country was wiped out that this would necessitate a continuance of the present high tax on the commodities—the necessities of life. Such is the opinion of the ablest papers and ablest political economists in the country. The tax on whiskey, beer, &c., will not be abolished soon, if ever, and ought not to be. The tax on cigars and cigarettes ought to be retained also, and indefinitely. The Democratic Convention at Chicago declared in favor of retaining the tax until the war debt was paid and the last pensioner had been satisfied. The tax can now be collected without oppressing any one.

THE LEGISLATURE. The Democratic Candidates and the Organization. The caucus this morning of the Democratic members of the Senate chose Senator E. T. Boykin, of Sampson, as the candidate for President pro tem; Mr. H. M. Furman, of the Asheville Citizen, for Secretary; Mr. Phil. Holliday, Jr., of New Bern, for Reading Clerk.

Exactly at 12 o'clock, the Senate was called to order by Secretary Furman, and the oath of office was administered by Judge Gudgeon. All the Senators except Messrs. White (colored), of Craven, and Johnson (Democrat), of Rockingham, were present. Senator Gudgeon, of Buncombe, nominated Mr. Boykin, and Senator Winston, from Granville, seconded and nominated. Mr. Boykin received 47 votes, he himself having voted for Mr. Alexander, of Mecklenburg.

When he took the chair, he said: "Senators, I profoundly appreciate the high and responsible position to which you have called me, and sincerely thank you for the honor. I promise that I will use every effort so that the dignity of the Senate shall be maintained, and the State lose nothing. The Senate is ready for business."

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AMATEUR TRAIN ROBBERS.

PORT DEPOSIT, MD., Jan. 4.—William Trainor and Leon or "Bud" Griffith, both of whom are about 19 or 20 years of age, have been committed to court on the charge of robbing passengers on a railroad train near Rising Sun, Cecil county, Md., as stated in Saturday's Sun. They are looked upon as a pair of yellow-country youths, whose weak intellects have been misdirected by dime-novel literature, and who thought they were going to immortalize themselves by a gallant exploit.

The circumstances attending the occurrence closely resemble those which are usually supposed to characterize similar performances in the far West. The train on which the episode occurred was the accommodation train on the Baltimore Central Railroad, running between Oxford, Pa., and Rising Sun, Cecil county, Md. On Friday night the two youths bought tickets at Rising Sun for Sylmar, on the Pennsylvania line, and boarded the train which left Rising Sun at 7:30 p. m. The train consisted of two cars. The youths entered the rear car and sat down, and the conductor, Mr. E. L. Gilligan, took up their tickets.

There were very few passengers. When the train was about one and a half miles from Rising Sun some of the passengers noticed the two young men whispering and apparently carefully surveying the other occupants of the car. Finally the smaller one of the two jumped up, and flourishing a pistol, started down the aisle, threatening the passengers, and demanding their money and their watches and jewelry.

The brakeman, Edward Tarring, was backed into a corner of the car by one of the youths at the point of his pistol, and told that if he gave any alarm or offered any resistance he would be shot. At the same time Trainor was relieved of his watch. The other robber waited on the passengers in the car, and collected a watch of two and various small sums of money from them.

Mr. Geo. O. Garay, editor of the Northeast Star, who was on his way to Oxford, Pa., was relieved of a fine gold watch. Mr. George P. Passmore, treasurer of the Eureka Fertilizer Co., saved his timepiece by slipping it into his boot-leg. Israel Huggins, who gave up \$34, also saved his gold watch and chain by hiding it in his boot-leg. He says he expected when the two boys got on the train that they would raise a row, but did not anticipate robbery. The first person approached was a colored man. He had one dollar about his person, which was taken; the next man was Huggins and the third Mr. Garay. These were the only robberies committed so far as known.

Thinking their time about up the men endeavored to give the signal by bell cord to stop the train at once, but baggage master, Wm. Ray, who was in his car, supposing it was the conductor's signal to stop at the next station, repeated it in that way and the train sped on. The robbers finding the train did not slack up, and that they were in danger of being carried into Sylmar, jumped off while it was going at the rate of 25 miles per hour, and were some distance away before Conductor Gilligan, who was in the front part of his train, was notified of what had been going on. On reaching the first telegraph station a report was made of the affair to Superintendent Loda, Central Division Pennsylvania R. R., at Media, Pa., who arranged immediately and sent a special train to the spot with detectives to work up the case. The train, with Detectives Ottey and Miller, of Philadelphia, arrived about 2 o'clock on Saturday morning.

The detectives and local officers proceeded at once to scour the neighborhood. Many supposed at first that the affair was the work of the Abe Buzzard gang, which has so long terrorized a portion of Lancaster county, Pa., only a few miles away, but later indications pointed to the two young men, Wm. Trainor and Leon or "Bud" Griffith. The detectives were soon on their track. They trailed them towards the home of both Trainor and Griffith, near Brick Meeting House, Cecil county, Md. About 2 p. m. the house of Griffith was approached, and he was discovered sitting by the fire. Detective Ottey was placed at the back door. Detective Miller entered at the front. As soon as Griffith heard him coming he made a rush for the rear, and was confronted by Ottey. Griffith attempted to draw his pistol, but Ottey covered him with his revolver and told him that if he drew it he would shoot him. Griffith, finding himself caught, submitted to arrest and allowed the officers to place him in irons. Trainor was found a short distance away helping a farmer to butcher hogs. His pantaloons were torn at the knees and his shoulder was covered with yellow clay, which he had received when he fell from the train. The knuckles of one hand were badly skinned, where it is said, Conductor Gilligan kicked him as he jumped. He submitted quietly to arrest, and the two culprits, ironed together, were marched to Rising Sun, where they were given a hearing before Justice Isaac R. Taylor.

Brakeman Tarring identified Griffith fully as the man who presented the pistol to his head and swore he would shoot him when he (the brakeman) was about to pull the bell-cord. Baggage master Lay caused a good bit of amusement to the great crowd assembled at the hearing by holding his lantern to each of the culprits in turn and gazing intently into their faces, an ordeal which they endured without flinching. The railroad agent at Rising Sun identified them as having bought tickets for Sylmar the night before, and a storekeeper at Rising Sun testified to Trainor's having purchased cartridges for a navy revolver from him the day before, which weapon was used in the raid on the train, and afterwards found on Trainor's person, with all six chambers loaded. After all the evidence had been heard, Justice Taylor committed both to court, and they were brought through here last night on train No. 26, in charge of Detectives Ottey and Miller, and sent by special train from here to Elkton, where they were lodged in jail. At every station along the route great crowds had collected to gild the faces of them, and they were greeted everywhere with shouts of "How are you, 'Abe Buzzard'?" "Hallo, Jesse James," &c.

THE BUSINESS SITUATION AND OUTLOOK.

The replies received by the New York World to a circular letter of inquiry sent to a number of presidents of chambers of commerce in various parts of the country in regard to the causes, extent, remedy and probable termination of the present depression of trade, exhibit little agreement of view except as to the probability of a revival of business in the near future. Most of the replies assume that bottom prices have been reached, and some of them promise a "general improvement in the summer of 1886." The cause of the present bad times is ascribed by such of "World's" correspondents as are not afflicted with the crookedness of vision that comes of a belief in high tariff taxes to the overtrading of 1880, which led to the building of too many mills, furnaces and factories; then a reaction from this overtrading, attended by liquidation and slackened demand for goods; next the collapse of the railroad and other stocks that were manufactured in such large quantities in 1881. The distrust created by other circumstances was materially increased by bank failures, that seemed to teach the moral that unreliable men were at the head of many of our largest financial institutions. It is noticeable that in accounting for the absence of a demand for our manufactures the want of a vigorous foreign commerce is almost overlooked in the replies the World publishes. It is a little curious that there is but one letter from the more Southern States, and that one is very positive that there is at present no trade depression at all in the South, except perhaps to some small extent in cotton goods.

Christmas passed off quietly. The moaning zephyrs brought no grating sound of horrid oaths from Bacchus, the king of terror. Only now and then was heard a great signal gun denoting the approaching day which ushered in and brought us around a nice Sunday School and Christmas tree which everybody enjoyed.

Mrs. Mary McNeely departed this life today. I learn she was a member of the Baptist church and died at the ripe age of 107 years, so her two sons informed me last night, both of whom are now regarded as old men; some think she was not so old. I visited her in her last hour; she passed off apparently without pain. She was one of whom my friend, Old Hal, doubtless did not know.

Mr. F. D. Shell, the distinguished chair-maker of Watunga county, is now following his trade at Sherrill's Mills. He informed me today that he had made for the people of Watunga county, 1556 chairs, 78 big and 12 flax wheels, and is just now in his prime.

One day last week Smith Twitty's wife, in the absence of her husband hung herself. One of her neighbors seeing her in this attitude ran to her relief, and cut her down. She resuscitated in about an hour. The cause not known. They live just across the line in Tenn.

Our friend, Empsy Gragg, has sustained a great loss. His daughter, who had to some extent lost her mind, went to her aunt's in Mitchell county. After remaining there some time, started for home, lost her way and wandered into a laurel thicket and froze to death. Her father, becoming uneasy, went in pursuit, and after several days hunt, found her where she had been for a month, still frozen, but natural and sound. He buried her decently in a wandering land and returned with a sad heart.

At Mr. Benjamin Greer's some three weeks ago there fell a shower of meat about 20 feet square. Which resembled the shoulder, meat of a hog cut in small pieces, some say it looked like frog meat minced. Your correspondent is informed by reliable sources that it lay plentiful on the ground, one piece hitting Jones Greer's wife while falling. Some suggest that buzzards while passing over threw it out, but the parties who saw it say it was a clear day and they looked up but could not discover any aerial voracity. If understood there may be no mystery in it.

Giving you and my brother N. N., our Sugar Grove correspondent, a happy New Year's greeting, I desire,