

Hillsborough Recorder.

HILLSBOROUGH, N. C.
Wednesday, May 13, 1868



All those indebted to this office for subscriptions, advertisements, or job work, are earnestly requested to make immediate payment. Our necessities require it, and our avarice is as much as the propriety of settling up our affairs.

A sudden spell of sickness has prevented the editor from attending to this issue of the Recorder, and its consequent delay.

The fate of the impeachment question is yet undecided. We understand that the vote is postponed until Saturday next.

SHOCKING ELOPEMENT.—This community was greatly shocked on Sunday at learning that a young and good looking white woman, or girl, for she was only thirteen years of age, had eloped from her parents with a negro man by the name of Wash Smith, formerly of Anson county. Up to this writing nothing has been heard from them. Their object is doubtless, to go to some other county or State and get married. In this, we suppose, they will have no difficulty, as their right to do so has been held by some of our military commanders, under the Civil Rights Act. The parents of the girl we learn, are respectable, and this occurrence must be a sad blow to them. The father has offered a reward for the apprehension of the "thief," but we scarcely know what advantage his arrest will prove to him, further than the recovery of his ruined daughter, and even this he may be unable to effect.

It is scarcely necessary to speculate upon this occurrence. The moral is plain to all, and it is much to be feared that such occurrences will, sooner or later, become frequent, as one of the consequences of the teachings now prevalent in the country among certain classes. *Salisbury Watchman.*

SENIOR SPEAKING AT THE UNIVERSITY.

Chapel Hill, N. C., May 2, 1868.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE SENTINEL.—Gentlemen:—The Senior speaking of this Institution began on the 30th ult. and continued two days. The weather was pleasant and everything passed off agreeably. The speakers were encouraged by the presence of the ladies, which contributed, to a considerable extent, to the complete success of the festival.

The entertainment was opened on the first day with a very eloquent address by Mr. William S. Pearson, of Morganton, on Daniel Webster. He was followed by a good many others, but none of any particular note, except Mr. Thomas A. McNeill, of Robeson County, who spoke of his fatherland "Scotland."

The exercises of the second day were opened by Mr. Eugene Morehead, of Greensborough, on the "Old North State," and closed by Mr. Paul B. Means, of Cabarrus County, on the "Evils and Instabilities of Democracies."

All of the speakers acquitted themselves well. The best speakers are as follows. They rank in the order of their names: Messrs. Means, Pearson, Busbee and McNeill.

The following are the grades of the Class, there being twenty Seniors: The first distinction was awarded to Messrs. Busbee, Burgwyn and Morehead. Mr. Busbee was awarded the honor of speaking the valedictory at Commencement. Messrs. Morehead and Burgwyn with the salutatories.

The second distinction was awarded to Messrs. Harper, Pearson and A. Graham.

The third distinction was awarded to Messrs. Fetter, Horner, Means, Strayhorn and Jones.

Messrs. McNeill and Porcell were regarded as mitemen, but not regularly graded. Speeches were awarded them with the other mitemen at Commencement.

The ladies are respectfully invited to be present at our next Commencement, and if they come, we promise them a very pleasant time.

Gov. Seymour, the gallant Connecticut Democrat, will deliver the address before the two Literary Societies, and the eloquent preacher, Rev. Mr. Moran, will pronounce the Commencement sermon.

Long life to the University!

Two surgeons in Massachusetts recently, in performing the amputation of a stiff finger while the patient was under the influence of ether, cut off the wrong digit. The mistake proved a serious one to the patient who has now only two serviceable fingers on his hand.

TERRIBLE VOLCANIC ERUPTION.

San Francisco, May 8.—The bark Comet, from the Sandwich Islands, brings accounts of a terrible volcanic eruption of Molokai. The demonstration began on the 27th of March. On the 28th over one hundred earthquake shocks were felt at Melina. During the two weeks following to April 13th, two thousand earthquake shocks occurred. The earth opened in many places. The tidal wave was sixty feet high, over the tops of cocoa trees a quarter of a mile inland, sweeping human beings, houses, and everything movable before it. A terrible shock prostrated churches and houses, killing many. In all about one hundred lives were lost, besides thousands of horses and cattle. The craters vomited fire, rocks, and lava. A river of red hot lava five or six miles long flowed to the sea at the rate of ten miles an hour, destroying everything before it, and forming an island in the sea.

A new crater, two miles wide, opened, and threw rocks and streams of fire a thousand feet high. The illumination extended fifty miles at night. The lava has pushed out from the shore one mile.

At Wais China, three miles from shore, a conical island rose suddenly, emitting a column of steam and smoke. The greatest shock occurred April 2d. Prior to the eruption there was a great shower of ashes and pumice.

During the great shock the swaying of the earth was dreadful. No person could stand. In the midst of this tremendous shock an eruption of red earth poured down the mountains, and rushed across the plains. The shock lasted three minutes. Then came the great tidal wave, and then streams of lava. The villages along the shore were destroyed by this wave. The earth opened under the sea, making the water red. The earth opening swallowed thirty persons. Great suffering and horror prevailed in the whole region affected. The sloop Live Yankee has been despatched with provisions to relieve the sufferers.

San Francisco, May 8.—Honolulu correspondence of the Bulletin gives details of the volcanic disturbance, showing that the earthquake shocks extended to all the islands of the Hawaiian group, but there was no damage except around Molokai. Numerous extensive land slides, accompanied by other phenomena, destroyed life and property. The summit and side of a hill fifteen hundred feet high was thrown one thousand feet over the tops of trees, and landed in the valley below. The gases that issued afterwards destroyed vegetable and animal life. Bottomless fissures opened in the mountain sides. A lava stream flows under the ground, breaking out in four jets, six miles from the sea, and throwing lava and stones from a thousand to fifteen hundred feet high.

The island thrown up is now four hundred feet high, and is joined to the main land by a stream of lava a mile wide. A large stream of water has burst from the mountain where the earth eruptions occurred.

The base of the volcano, about three hundred miles in circumference, is desolated. At least half a million property is destroyed.

THE EMPRESS OF MEXICO.—The Brussels correspondent of the London Post writes:

The royal family are taking daily drives and horse exercise among their loyal subjects, and it is most touching to see the Empress Carlotta of Mexico seated in an open carriage, driven by the Queen, saluting with graceful but sad smiles the people, whose idol she is and always has been from her childhood.

The Empress is looking very pale, and is dressed in deep mourning. The attention paid to her by the Queen is beyond all praise, and there can be no doubt that her recovery from the mental prostration brought on by the sad event so well known to every one is chiefly owing to the energy and devotion of her royal sister-in-law.

The widow of the late General Miramon, the bosom friend of the late Emperor Maximilian, has arrived here with her children within the last few days, with the intention of making Belgium her permanent home. It is said that she has had an audience at the palace.

The Mississippi river, near Vicksburg, is said to be threatening to change its channel. The point on the Louisiana shore of the river opposite that city is being gradually worn away, whilst a sandbar is being formed near the Vicksburg shore, and it is feared the river will ultimately break a new channel and close up Vicksburg harbor altogether. The press of that city are in serious alarm, and advise that piles be driven and boat loads of stones sunk so as to prevent any further crevasse, and force the river back to its old channel.

ABYSSINIA.

We clip the following from Colton's Journal of Geography for January. It will repay a perusal.

Abyssinia is being invaded by a hostile British expedition against its monarch, and in consequence has become, as all theaters of war have and will ever become, a central point of the public attention.

This country is one of those localities which appear to be shut out from the world, and relating to which very little is known. It has a remote history, however, which arrogates to its people an ancient grandeur not possessed by them in modern times. It is supposed to have been a portion of Ethiopia—the Cush of the Old Testament; and tradition has it that the kings of Abyssinia have descended in direct line from a son of Solomon and the queen of Sheba, whose visit to the man of wisdom is spoken of in the Old Testament. The ancient glory of the Abyssinians, however, has long been supplanted by the baser realities incident to a semi-civilized country divided into hostile sections, over which the nominal emperor held but a feeble sway.

The origin of the difficulties which have resulted in hostilities is as follows: Theodoros, the emperor, sent a letter to the British Government in 1863, but to which no answer was made. After waiting a year or more for reply, Theodoros seized and imprisoned the English consul and several other British subjects. Their liberation was demanded by the British Government, and refused. To enforce the demand, a military and naval expedition was organized, the landing of which on Abyssinian soil has recently been effected. Our design is not to speculate on the consequences of this event, or as to the probability of the expedition being destined to effect other than the ostensible purposes for which it set out. The country invaded is extensive enough for a second Indian empire, and the British are no laggards in commercial progress. A new market in northeastern Africa may be the ultimatum, and through it a more perfect civilization than is now possessed by the Abyssinians. Leaving, therefore, the speculative to the future, our endeavors will be confined to a collation of the information respecting the country collected by the most approved authorities, premising that our knowledge acquired from these sources is vague and unsatisfactory.

Abyssinia is a vast country (about 500,000 sq. miles) which faces easterly on the Red Sea and the Babel-Mandel, and extends back to the confines of Nubia on the northwest and Sennar on the west. Its southern border is undefined. Generally it may be said to extend between lat. 7 and 19 degrees north, and between long. 35 and 43 degrees east. The tract of country thus defined has been generally considered as a cluster of petty states, and collectively an empire. That there has been any political cohesion of the several parts, however, is very doubtful. Thus the country was divided in 1854 the principal states being Tigre, Amhara, and Shoa. In that year a young man from Gondar, claiming to be of the royal line, aspired to the throne, and by his energy, courage, and ability, succeeded in overcoming the local princes and establishing himself under the title of Theodoros, Emperor of Abyssinia, and announced his intention of reproducing Ethiopia with all its former grandeur. So far, however, his reign has been a continual warfare with the neighboring tribes, especially the Gallas, a warlike people of the South, and other races inhabiting the borders of his possessions. This man is the same who has at length arrayed against himself the hosts which now invade his dominions.

The more marked physical features of Abyssinia consist of a series of table-lands of various and often great elevation, and of numerous ranges of high and rugged mountains. Inclosed in these mountains, are vast natural repositories of water, which, pouring down by the deep ravines which everywhere intersect them, impart extraordinary fertility to the plains and valleys below. The mountain scenery is thus on the most stupendous scale, including waterfalls of prodigious height. Notwithstanding, however, the wild and rugged appearance of the country generally, it contains numerous valleys and plains of unequalled beauty, fertile beyond conception, and producing luxuriant vegetation. The most extensive is the plain of Dembea, emphatically called the granary of the country, where there reigns a perpetual spring. Toward the Red Sea the mountains subside by a series of terraces, and near that sea a partial plain stretches through nearly the whole length of the country. But access to the interior is difficult, and only attained through rugged passes. It thus possesses in its impenetrable nature one of its chief defenses against external enemies.

The scarcity of water in the coast region is also an abstacle to an enemy's advance.

Abyssinia, though situated within the tropics, has its climate greatly modified by its prevailing physical characteristics. In the valleys it is delightful, but on the mountains exceedingly cold. In other places, especially on the borders of the Red Sea, the heat is intense, and in the south this excessive heat is increased by hot simoons. The atmosphere of these districts is loaded with malaria. The rains, always accompanied by tempests, begin in June and continue till September, during which period they are so violent as to put a stop to outdoor enjoyments. The finest months of the year are those of December and January.

The vegetable productions, though various, are nearly those of the temperate zone. The principal grains are millet, barley, wheat, maize and teff. The wheat is of the finest description. Tef (poa Abyssinica), a very small seed, is a favorite with all Abyssinians. Two crops are obtained yearly, the seed being sown in one field, while the crop is being gathered in the next, and in localities there are three harvests. Legumes are also extensively grown, and the vine is cultivated. Flax and cotton, coffee and sugar, are also cultivated. The woods produce excellent timber, and the sycamore grows to a vast size.

The population of Abyssinia is composed of various tribes—Arabs, Jews, Ethiopians, &c. The blacks are everywhere in a state of slavery. The Abyssinians generally are a sensual people, but are not without some redeeming qualities, of which charity to the poor and hospitality to the stranger are the most conspicuous.

The religions of Abyssinia are Christianity (which became the national religion in the fourth century), Islamism, and Judaism. The Christians are divided into three hostile parties, all deeply sunk in superstition; nor do the Mohammedans entertain great zeal for the religion they profess. The Jews live chiefly in the neighborhood of Gondar and Shelga, and to the northwest of Lake Dembea. They are extremely ignorant, but are much more laborious than other Abyssinians.

The spoken language of the country is the Amharic, which supplanted the original tongue in the fourteenth century, and though spoken in a great variety of dialects, it is also the only one which has assumed a written form. Literature, however, has made but slender progress.

The Abyssinians have made considerable progress in manufactures, and excel in the tanning of skins. Axes, plow-shares, and spear heads are made at several places, and sword-blades, scissors, and razors at Gondar, and large quantities of coarse cotton cloth are manufactured by the women, and also a finer kind, with red and blue border, for the wealthier classes. Coarse woollen stuffs are also made, and in all parts of the country pottery is manufactured.

The population is variously estimated at 2,500,000,000.

There are very few places in all Abyssinia worthy the name of towns. Ankobar in Shoa and Gondar in Amhara are probably the most extensive, but both are mainly in ruins. Antalaw in Tigre may also be considered as a principal town; it contains a palace and a church, the latter the finest edifice in the country, and here in the neighboring villages a considerable trade and several manufactories are found. The low country between the eastern mountains and the Red Sea is almost uninhabited. Massouah, on an islet of the same name, is a small town with a good harbor, and is the principal trading station. It was here that the British expedition first landed, and thence proceeded to the interior. Arkiko is a small place on the mainland, opposite to Massouah. Adulle, or Zulla, is a miserable town on Anesley Bay. Duroia is a village on the Bay of Amphila.

RUSH OF EMIGRANTS TO AMERICA.—A Cork (Ireland) letter of the 8th instant says: The extraordinary number of emigrants passing through this city on their way to the New World, by way of Queenstown, is almost unexampled. To-day nothing could exceed the busy animation on the various wharves where the emigrants are embarked at Queenstown, and where upwards of 1,800 people will leave this day and tomorrow. The railroad running from this city to Queenstown suddenly found their resources exhausted, and were obliged to use first class carriages for the use of the emigrants. The emigrants almost exclusively belonged to the agricultural class, and had among them very few representatives of extreme age or tender infancy.

If a Wisconsin farmer plants a row of trees along the road, he is exempted from working on the road.