

NEW YEAR.

We greet our readers at the opening of the New Year, and wish them uninterrupted health and prosperity.

We know in the light of experience and under the inexorable decrees of Providence in the government of man and of the Universe, that this to all, is not to be expected. The events of each past year, with its dark record of death and disaster, of pestilence and famine, of conflagration and shipwreck, of blasted crops and commercial disaster, rise vividly before the memory. The same sad reiteration is to be repeated through all time. Yet to the masses the future is always gilded with bright presages, and that hope, which springs eternal in the human heart, leads them forward into the shadowy future, with brave hearts and confident expectation.

May such truthfulness and such hope inspire all our readers, and may the close of 1874 find them all blessed in health, and crowned with prosperity.

THE PUBLIC DEBT QUESTION.

On our first page will be found a letter of our Senator, Mr. Norwood, and the bill which he has offered as a substitute for that of Mr. Worth.

The bill of the latter gentleman is before the public, and a synopsis of its plans and principles have already appeared in this paper.

The question is one of grave consequence to the State and upon the settlement of which hangs its future destiny. It is eminently right that it should be gravely and deliberately considered, and that no questions of mere expediency and no pious present necessity should drive to conclusions which may be fraught with future shame, and that nothing should be done to imperil that fame for integrity for which in times past North Carolina had so prominent a claim.

It is the right of every one to entertain and express opinions upon a subject in which every citizen of the State has an equal stake. And it is only by this free expression of opinion that legislators can be guided in framing plans for relief, and in finding an extrication from the labyrinth in which the financial interests of the State are entangled.

In the exercise of this right, we are free to say, that neither the bill of Mr. Worth nor that of Mr. Norwood meets our full concurrence. The latter gentleman assumes a condition of things to which we are not ready to assent, namely, a state of absolute poverty and inability to meet more than current State and County obligations, and therefore proposes a confession of pauperism, and an appeal to the generosity of the General Government, for the assumption of the State debt.

Supporting the appeal to be successful, the result would be the complete abnegation of State sovereignty, the farther strengthening of the growing idea of national consolidation, the tying of another captive to the chariot wheel of Federal Usurpation. If it is not successful, and under the general demand for retrenchment, and the manifest diminution of the resources of the national Treasury, it most probably will not be; there is added the humiliation of denial, to which may be affixed a sneering reprimand to the sturdy beggar to supply his own wants.

And the reprimand will not be undeserved, for it cannot be said that North Carolina is poverty stricken beyond hope of recovery. Poor she is comparatively, beyond a doubt. The ravages of war, the loss of slave property, and the changed system of labor have crippled her terribly. But the principles of recuperation are in her and actively at work, and soon restore our people to a condition of comparative pecuniary independence.

The glowing pictures of Reverdy Johnson may be over-wrought and his eloquent appeals to State pride, and the statement of honor may be ascribed to the facile eloquence of the paid advocate. Yet there is enough of truth in them to strip us of the defense of poverty, and enough of encouragement to cheer us on to active exertion.

With a production of cotton bringing North Carolina high up in the rank of the cotton states, with a tobacco yield which makes her third on the list in the production of that staple, with the highest rank as a producer of naval stores, with her valuable fisheries, with her stores of forest, mineral and agricultural wealth, she cannot long remain under present depression.

And it is in contemplation of those resources, that we are not prepared to yield an assent to all the provisions of Mr. Worth's bill. There is a class of debt included in his classification which we think should not be scaled. It is a debt for which full value was received and which was incurred under circumstances so gratifying to State pride, that its integrity should never

be jeopardized. The whole anti war debt was created out of that confidence in the honesty of North Carolina, and the skill and integrity with which her finances had been handled. Most of those bonds sold above par, and the proceeds were expended in the State for the designated purposes. Whether the investments or purposes were profitable is not the question.

In the settlement of this question the condition and necessities of the present are not alone to be considered. The life of a State extends through many generations, and not only the probable future wants of the existing population, but that justice due to its successors, demand that care be had that no steps be taken to embarrass us or them by legislation which affixes an indelible stain upon State character.

What would be the consequence of legislation which taking the matter into its own hands; would decide for one side without the participation or consent of the other? Would it not bear the character of semi-repudiation? What would be the value of the new bonds issued to replace the old ones so arbitrarily displaced? What confidence that these in turn would not have to give way for others of still less value? What hope that the State should ever expand in greatness or increase in population by the addition of strength from other territory?

Upon the payment of the ante war debt, we have had but one opinion; that it should be paid, or at least fully recognized and secured, with a provision for such a rate of interest as the present means of the State should warrant, increasing gradually to the present legal rate. This recognition would at once re-establish the character of the State for honesty and facilitate all future operations in financial negotiation.

As regards the balance of the debt it may be regarded as a fit subject of reduction, and which would probably encounter no obstacle from the holders of the bonds representing the debt.

The special tax bonds may be assumed valid by the Courts. Until they are so definitely declared, we repudiate them, and believe the State will be sustained in so doing by the moral sense, and the financial judgment of the world.

THE VALLEY OF THE AMAZON.

The Administration of Mr. Fillmore.

In the year 1850, at the instance of Lieutenant Maury, then at the head of the National Observatory, Gov. Graham the Secretary of the Navy under Mr. Fillmore with the approval of the President, issued orders to detach Lieutenants Herndon of Virginia, and Gibbon of North Carolina, from the Pacific Squadron at Callao, with instructions to cross over the Andes to the head of the Amazon river, stopping at some of the principal cities on the route, to procure geographical and statistical information from the Libraries of the Monasteries, and to descend the river to its mouth upwards of 4,000 miles, and make a thorough exploration of its valley in that vast extent, the permission of the Peruvian and Brazilian Governments for this enterprise having first been obtained.

The object of the expedition was, in the event of a favorable report, to induce Brazil in whose immediate dominion this valley is situated, with the exception of an inconsiderable portion embracing the bend of the river belonging to Peru, to open the Amazon, which was found to be navigable for sea going steamers nearly to its source, as well as its vast tributaries in the North and South of the main river, to the free navigation, not of the United States only but of the world. The Brazilian minister at Washington, Mr. Magdo afforded every facility to the expedition, and was understood to favor the grand commercial project in contemplation, as far as his duty to his sovereign and deference to public opinion at home might allow—and he was complimented by order of the Department with a passage in a man of war of the United States on his return from his mission. The officers above named having divided the territories to be explored, Mr. Herndon completed his work and returned in 1852. Mr. Gibbon not until 1853. Their respective reports made a great addition to geographical and scientific knowledge.

Brazil perhaps then jealous of the purposes of the United States, from the recent war with Mexico, declined to concede those privileges of navigation desired at that time, but the information diffused by the reports of this expedition would not permit so extensive and fertile a region of the globe to remain shut out from the habitation of civilized man and the commerce of the world. Brazil, and with her Peru, has in course of time yielded, and the ships of all nations may now ascend the Amazon nearly to the Andes.

We have been led to these remarks by the following which we extract from the New York Express, and think it but just to recall attention to the early measures by which so grand a result has been achieved: 'In 1867 Brazil opened the Amazon to

the commerce of the world, and Peru followed her example in 1868. There are now three monthly lines of steamers from Para to Havre, Liverpool and New York. Within 25 years Para has arisen from nothing to a populous city of 70,000 inhabitants. The Amazon is now navigated by a British company which has absorbed the Brazilian and Peruvian steamers, and is constructing ten new ones for the same trade upon the Mersey of various burdens, from 367 to 731 tons. Such rapid growth of commerce could not be stimulated in a wilderness without the presence of the greatest natural facilities.

The Amazon transcends in length, breadth and magnificence the Mississippi, the Nile and Yangtze. It is about 4,000 miles in its extreme length, and 180 miles wide at its mouth. Thirty-five miles inland its width is 10 miles, and at a distance of 2,800 miles from its mouth it measures 500 yards in width. The region traversed by this flood of waters is unequalled in the wealth and variety of its timber, but it is uninhabited except by savage tribes. The soil is unequalled in fertility. It abounds in oacoutchou, cocoa, Brazil nuts, hides, sarsaparilla and other medicinal drugs and roots, which can be utilized to supply the world. Cotton is indigenous to the soil and climate, and can supply an unlimited quantity.

THE PETITION. This is a resort for a remedy of grievances at the hands of government very seldom resorted to by the Southern people, yet is one which acts more powerfully upon Congress than any form in which the wishes and sentiments of constituencies can be expressed. The right among us, fell into disuse, into contempt, in fact became odious, from its abuse during the hateful and hostile days of abolition aggression, and we do not recall an instance since those days where the people have come before the ruling powers in what may be considered their individual capacity.

Yet the population of the North and West understand the power of petition and make no stilted use of it. If an expansion of the currency is wanted, it becomes the subject of petition. If a relief from an oppressive tariff is demanded, that is a subject of petition. If protection to a subject of manufacturing enterprise is sought for, that becomes a subject of petition. Everything in truth, the subjects of human necessity or human cupidity, becomes the subject of petition.

And the method is effective. Congress is brought face to face with the people. Their wants are presented in such a way, that they cannot be 'pooed, pooed,' cannot be whistled down the wind. It is a direct personal demand for relief or redress, which is to be heeded. A petition is invested with a force and a dignity which never finds place in a bill.

If our Southern people would get together frequently, express their grievances, and bring them to the attention of Congress, much would be accomplished. It would more than almost anything else convince that body that the South has a permanent interest in the country, and that it has the same reliance upon and faith in the duty and power of the government to afford to it the same reliefs that are granted to the other sections.

There may be nothing immediately practical in the above suggestions, but it is well to recal to the minds of our people the fact of the possession of a remedy, long since disused and almost forgotten, to many troubles which embarrass their prosperity.

COFFEE.

The price of this beverage is going up so rapidly that it will soon be classed among the luxuries. It is not needed to restore the tax upon it to drive it from general consumption. The successive failures of the crop in Brazil, and the vastly increased demand for the article both in this country and in Europe have driven the prices up to war rates. A decline can hardly be looked for this year, and consumers must make up their minds to pay more or use less, either alternative equally hard.

MINISTER TO SPAIN.

Caleb Cushing has been appointed to succeed Sickles. His policy will be friendly to Spain and hostile to the Cuban patriots. Therefore no farther danger of war, as all matters of disagreement will be amicably settled.

It is said that in the event of the failure to confirm the nomination of Williams, some present member of the Supreme Court will be made Chief Justice and Hon. S. P. Phillips will be made an Associate Justice of the Court.

A NEW BOOK.

USBEK'S North Carolina Justice and Form Book now in Press, and will be ready for delivery and sale Feb. 1st 1874. Price: Half bound sheep back & muslin sides \$2.00 Full Law Sheep style 2.25 Sent by mail on receipt of price. Sent in your orders. JAN 11 1874, P. H. BISHOP, Raleigh.

Williamson Upchurch & Thomas. Wholesale Grocers Cotton Factors AND Commission Merchants, 53 Fayetteville Street, Raleigh, N. C. We sell Cotton for Fifty cents per Bale. KEEP constantly on hand a large stock of Bagging and Ties. Refers to—J. W. Cook, Durham. W. F. Strain, Chapel Hill. Jan 7m

John Armstrong. No. 1 Fayetteville Street, Raleigh, N. C. BOOK BINDER AND Blank Book Manufacturer. NEWSPAPERS, Magazines and Law Books of every description bound in the very best style and at lowest prices. Jan 7 ly.

St. Mary's School, RALEIGH, N. C. Founded, 1842. FOR more than thirty years this School has been conducted by the Rev. Albert Smedley, D. D., His son the Rev. Bennett Smedley, A. M., is his assistant. Bishops Atkinson and Lyman are visitors. In respect to accessibility and healthfulness of situation, extent and convenience of buildings and grounds, and moderation in charges, this School challenges a comparison with any similar institution. The sixty fourth term will open Jan. 29th. For a circular containing full information, apply to the Rector.

TOBACCO FACTORY FOR RENT. THE Factory now occupied by Webb Roulhac & Co., will be rented for the year 1874. Apply to JAMES WEBB, Jr., Jan. 1 12.

J. E. SCHOOLFIELD, & Co. DEALERS IN HARDWARE, CUTLERY, Cooking Stoves, Wagons and Buggy Material. DANVILLE, VA. Pepton's old stand opposite Hickson and Tyack. Jan. 8 74. 17.

RALEIGH NATIONAL BANK OF NORTH CAROLINA. Paid in Capital \$500,000. Designated Depository of the United States and Financial Agent. W. H. WILLIARD, President. C. DEWEY, Cashier. Make collections in any part of the country at our rates. DIRECTORS: C. Devere, W. H. Williard, A. S. Morrison, R. S. Tucker, W. A. Hawkins, A. G. Lee, W. G. Upchurch. Nov. 29th 1873 ly.

Steam Engines and Boilers. SAW MILLS. WOOD WORKING MACHINERY. Grist Mill Machinery AND MILL FURNISHING GOODS ALSO Second Hand Engines and Boilers. Send for Circular. RAHM & HUNTER, RICHMOND, VA. Dec. 3 3m.

ORANGE COUNTY—Superior Court. James M. Corbin and Elbert H. Pogue, Copartners trading under the firm and style of Corbin and Pogue. Franklin L. Gardner and Charles L. Clifford, Copartners, trading under the firm and style of F. L. Gardner & Co. Sumsmons. STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA. To the Sheriff of Orange County—Greeting: YOU are hereby commanded a summons, against the defendants above named if they be found in your county to be and appear at the ensuing Term of our Superior Court, to be held for the county of Orange at the Court House in Hillsboro, on the 8th Monday after the 1st Monday of March 1874, and answer the complaint, which is deposited in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of said County on the 2nd day of January 1874, and let the defendants take notice that if they fail to answer the said complaint within that term, the Plaintiff will take Judgment against them for the sum of Three Hundred and Ten Dollars and Eighty cents, with interest thereon, and for cost of this action. Herein fail not and of this Sumsmons make due return: Given under my hand and seal of said Court this 2nd Dec. 1873. GEO. LAWS, Clerk. C. E. PARISH, Superior Court att'y for Plaintiff's.

ORANGE COUNTY—Superior Court. James M. Corbin and Elbert H. Pogue, Copartners trading under the name and style of Corbin and Pogue. Franklin L. Gardner and Charles L. Clifford, Copartners, under the name and style of F. L. Gardner & Co. Attachment. THREE Hundred and Ten Dollars and 80 cts., due for Tobacco sold and delivered. Warrant of Attachment returnable before George Laws, Clerk of the Superior Court of Orange County, at his office in Hillsboro, on the 2nd day of January 1874, when and where the Defendants are required to appear and answer as to matters touching this Attachment. GEO. LAWS, Clerk. C. E. PARISH, Superior Court, Dec. 2nd 1873, 1m.

George Allen & Co., NEWBERN, N. C. Cider Mills, Wood's Mowers & Reapers, Cotton Gins and Presses. Threshers, Horse Powers. Manufacturers of THE WILEY PLOW. The Champion Plow and Cultivator. The Dickson and Allen Saws. Either of which save one half Labor of man and horse. Sent for catalogue and Prices. Dec. 11 6m.

FOR SALE. A New Wheeler Sewing Machine. Owner has two. Enquire at the ORANGE HOUSE. Dec. 8 B.

Hughes' Academy. THE next session of my school will commence on the second Monday in January 1874. EXFES: Board, including all necessary expenses \$75 00. Tuition per student of 20 weeks \$20 00. except washing and lights. \$20 00. Payments made as follows: \$25 at beginning of term, and balance in close of term. Address S. W. HUGHES, Cedar Grove, N. C. Dec 17 17.

F. W. KERCHNER. WILMINGTON, N. C. IN STORE IN STORE! Hogheads and 31 BOXES D. S. Sides, 20 Hds. and BOXES D. S. Sides and Shoul- ders, 15 BBLs. PORK. 150 Hds. and Bbls. S H Molasses, 100 Hds. and Bbls. Cuba Molasses, 400 Bbls Golden Pleece Syrup, 20 " Fine Syrup, 700 " Flour, 200 Bags Coffee, 100 Hds. and Bbls Sugar, 100 Bbls Apples, 150 Boxes Cheese, 200 " Candles, 150 " Candy, 15 Bbls and half Bbls Snuff, 50 cases 1 and 2 of Snuff, 100 Boxes Soda, 250 Boxes Soap, 250 Kegs Nails, 2,000 Bushels Oats, 20 cases Axle Grease, 225 Bbls Glue, 150 " Whiskey, 25 " Brandy, 200 Cases Brandy Peaches, 100 " Schnapps, 25 " Tomatoes, 25 " Fresh Peaches, 75 Boxes Starch, 40 Tons Hoop Iron, 100 Dozen Water Buckets, 200 Reams Wrapping Paper & Co. For sale by F. W. KERCHNER, 27, 28 and 29 North Water St. 29. Jan. Wilmington, N. C.

To the Ladies. LOW & SONS English Soaps, L G doz. English Tooth Brushes, Ladies Dressing Combs and Brushes. EXTRA PUFF BOXES. Lubin's and o'her Extracts. And Toilet articles generally. Just received at O. HOOKER'S, Drug Store.

To Painters. Full Supply of Dry Paints. LIQUID PAINTS: all colors; ready for use; if unsatisfactory return. Brushes, no mark. VARNISHES: good and cheap. OILS: all kinds usually kept in this market. BRONZE and Gild Leaf. U. HOOKER'S, Drug Store.

DRUGS. I HAVE and am constantly receiving a full supply of BLANKETS for the afflicted. PROPRIETARY Articles. A few Nostrums, and above all a full supply of Pure Genuine Drugs, for Prescriptions, which I promise to handle with satisfaction day or night and at prices to suit. O. HOOKER, Druggist. Sept. 3.

State of North Carolina. ORANGE COUNTY. Petition to sell Land for payment of Debt. Pride Jones, as Ex'r of Cadwallader Jones deceased. Cadwallader Jones, P B Ruffin and wife Mary, Josiah Collins and wife Sally, Mary, Rebecca, Robin, Sarah and Lucy Jones, heirs of Robin Jones, deceased. IT appearing to the satisfaction of the Court, that the Defendants, Cadwallader Jones, Mary, Rebecca, Robin, Sarah and Lucy Jones, heirs of Robin Jones, dec'd., are non-residents of the State: It is therefore ordered that publication be made in the Hillsboro Recorder, a Newspaper published in the Town of Hillsboro for six successive weeks, notifying them to appear at the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Orange County, within that time, to plead answer or demur to the Complaint filed in said office, or judgment will be asked for the relief demanded in said complaint by the Plaintiff. Witness George Laws Clerk of the Superior Court of Orange. GEO. LAWS, Clerk. Superior Court Orange Co. 18th Nov. 1873 6r. 210.

PRATT'S ASTRAL OIL. Absolutely safe. Perfectly odorless. Always uniform. Illuminating and superior to gas. Burns in any lamp without danger of exploding or falling fire. Manufactured expressly to dispel the use of volatile and dangerous oils. Its safety under every possible test, and its perfect burning qualities, are proved by its continued use in over 300,000 families. Millions of gallons have been sold and no accident—directly or indirectly—has even occurred from burning, storing or handling it. The Insurance Companies and Fire Commissioners throughout the country recommend the Astral as the best safeguard when lamp-gas is used. Send for circular. For sale at retail by the trade generally, and at wholesale by the proprietors, CHAS. PRATT & CO., 108, Fulton Street, New York.

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JAMES W. GIBSON, (Successor to Kellogg and Gibson) Importer and Dealer in China, Glass, Queensware AND HOUSE-FURNISHING GOODS. No. 1207 Main Street, Richmond Va. Sept. 23 3m.

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WATKINS & COTTRILL, IMPORTERS AND DEALERS IN Hardware AND SADDLERY GOODS, Gum Packing, Belting and Hose, Anker Brand Bolting Cloth, 2507 Main Street, RICHMOND, VA. CLAUDE WATKINS, G. L. COTTRILL, sept. 24 3m

1873. FALL TRADE, 1873. WEISIGER & CO., Wholesale Clothiers, 1216 MAIN STREET, RICHMOND, VA. LARGE STOCK, Prices Low, EXCLUSIVELY WHOLESALE & CO. sept 24 2m, WEISIGER & CO.