

Absence from home for a week on our annual pleasant Christmas visit to Wilmington must plead with our readers for apparent neglect of our editorial columns; at a time, too, above all others, when the demand seems most imperative for earnest work.

THE NEW YEAR.

In times past we have indulged in moralizing reflections upon the death of the old year and the birth of the new; upon the calamities and the disappointments of the one, and upon the new hopes and reanimated courage to enter upon the uncertainties of the other.

A CATECHISM ABOUT MONEY.

We refer our readers to the able communication on the third page of this issue under the above caption. It is the production of one of the most distinguished scholars and thinkers of the State, and we gladly give it a place in our columns; for though differing essentially from him on this one point of national faith and the duty of its maintenance, he accords with us in those sentiments which we have endeavored to inculcate in regard to the preservation of State credit.

Our distinguished correspondent very frankly admits that this is a question upon which there is a wide liberty of opinion, and that freedom of thought involves no infidelity to party. We candidly avow our total want of sympathy with the bond holders and attach little weight to their clamor for the preservation of public faith, because their interest is not so much concerned with the fair fame of the American name as with the more selfish consideration of large profits and enhanced value to the subject of a lucky investment made when that national name was in low repute, and their purchases made in a nearly discredited currency.

The Mexican war cloud seems to have dispersed for the present, and all is quiet again along the frontier. The hostile feeling along the border is not allayed, but it has become evident to the United States Government that war with Mexico is not desirable even as a pleasant diversion to a troubled administration.

It turns out that out of 350 rioters at El Paso, only five have been identified as Mexicans.

Congress meets again on the 16th inst.

DEATH OF HON. R. M. PEARSON.

Judge Pearson left his home in Yadkin County on Friday last, in a buggy on his way to attend the Supreme Court at Raleigh, intending to take the train at Winston.

Judge Pearson was born in 1805 and was therefore in the 73rd year of his age at the time of his death. He graduated at Chapel Hill in 1823, studied law under Judge Henderson and was admitted to the bar in 1826, and was a member of the House of Commons from Rowan from 1829 to 1832.

As a member of a Court distinguished from its very creation for profound legal learning and remarkable natural talent, Judge Pearson made no unfavorable comparison with his predecessors. His knowledge of law was extensive and his readiness in the application of its principles remarkable; and he has not been excelled in the acuteness of his reasoning powers, and overmastering strength of his logical faculties.

As a lawyer, and as an expounder of the law, he was all that his eminent position demanded. It was only in the latter days of his judicial career that his fair fame as a judge became complicated with political questions, and the truth of history exacts the confession that that fame was seriously tarnished by rulings dangerous to constitutional liberty when the life of that liberty was imperilled.

We are glad to see the Observer takes up the subject of Sorghum Culture as a field of industry and profit to the farmers and people of North Carolina. The Observer takes the same views as expressed by us in an article in the Farmer and Mechanic, saying that "North Carolina can supply herself with all the Molasses she needs from that formerly much despised crop, Sorghum."

We clip from the Washington (D. C.) Gazette the following complimentary notice of a North Carolinian and a citizen of this vicinity: "Captain James I. Waddell, who commanded the Shenandoah with distinction during the war, and who, since has been in the service of the Pacific Mail Steamship line, is stopping at the Metropolitan. His career, both as seaman and soldier, has been a brilliant one.

Mr. James N. Blair, of Caswell county, once a teacher of some distinction in Pennsylvania, has just returned home after a sojourn of several months in Texas. He advises that the young men of the border to stay at home.

Hotelport county in Virginia taxes dogs, and raised this year \$1500 from this source. We do not know in North Carolina what a prolific fund we have unused.

When we saw the negro military companies leave Wilmington on the night of the 26th to take part in the Emancipation Celebration at Raleigh on the 1st of January; and when we saw all the pomp of parade, all the bravery of flags and feathers and glittering armor and glistening muskets, and heard the clangor and the din of martial music and listened to the pompous and confident tones of command as the battalion moved to its destined place on the cars, we could not but contrast the perfect liberties of the Southern negro, recognized by law as a part of the State troops, armed and equipped by the State, and commanded by colored officers equal in rank with those of the white organizations, with their brethren of Ohio, shut out from such privileges or such responsibilities by the fatal brand of a black skin.

Morganton State says, Mr. James Cline, son of Mr. Mike Cline, one of the most successful business men of Hickory, returned from Texas, last week, with the old story, "North Carolina is the best State after all."

Governor Hendricks won't be interviewed on the silver question.

Sitting Bull has crossed into the U. S. with a large force.

WASHINGTON ITEMS.

Washington, Jan. 3.—Falling off in Internal Revenue receipts for last month, \$418,000. Cause, proposition in Congress to reduce taxes on whisky and tobacco, which has paralyzed movements in those products.

Senator Patterson's condition is somewhat improved with the exception of his head. He passed a restless night, but is sleeping this afternoon. Mrs. Patterson is not so well to-day.

The Star says: "On dit—that Senator Patterson of South Carolina contemplates resigning on account of ill health. If this be true and a democrat succeeds him, which is of course absolutely certain the Senate will be 'all and 'self, politically.'"

Washington, D. C., Jan. 3.—The following dispatch from Col. Hatch has been received at the War Department, forwarded through General Sheridan and Pope: EL PASO, December 31.

Have just returned from town below here. I find all quiet. Peace and confidence are being restored. Many of those who fled in fear of the rangers are returning home.

New York, Jan. 3.—A London special says the salvage difficulty with regard to Cleopatra's needle, now at Ferrol, Spain, having been settled, another attempt will be made to tow it to that city on the 10th inst.

WAR NEWS.

LONDON, Jan. 3.—The Post publishes a paragraph in official form to the effect that the Cabinet yesterday by no means assumed Russia's answer to shut the door to overtures. The paragraph points out that England, when communicating Russia's answer to the Porte, will be expected to accompany it with advice. Therefore, it will be very natural if England, before taking this step, inquires what conditions the Russian commanders have been instructed to demand. By approaching Russia again, England would be giving proof of her earnest desire to spare Europe further danger.

Edinburgh, Jan. 5.—The Scotsman's London correspondent under stands that Lord Derby will inform Prince Gortschakoff that the British government is decidedly opposed to Russia making peace without the conditions being first communicated to England and the other great powers.

London, January 5.—The Standard's Constantinople special reports that Sofia is completely evacuated.

The Times' Paris correspondent also observes that the claim of Greece to be represented in any European conference really points to the acquisition of Thessaly and Epirus, and possibly Crete. The Porte will strongly urge on the powers the danger of allowing the question to be brought forward, as it is calculated to create fresh complications fatal to peace.

Gold 93.

Prospectus Weekly Ledger,

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

THE undersigned propose publishing in the town of Chapel Hill, Orange county, commencing January 10, 1878, a twenty column weekly newspaper to be entitled "THE WEEKLY LEDGER."

Terms of subscription \$1.50 per year. Six months \$1. Subscription payable in advance or on receipt of 1st copy of paper.

Adrian and Vollers, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL EMPORIUM

For every variety of GROCERIES and family and Paution supplies. North East Corner of Front and Dock, WILMINGTON, N. C.

FRENCH OIL CHROMOS.

THESE are the best executed and most pleasing figure pictures that have recently been issued. The general verdict is, that they are beautiful.

MISS MANGUM'S Private Home School.

THE next session, of twenty weeks, of this School for young ladies will begin on the 25th of January 1878.

Administrator's Notice.

HAVING qualified as Administrator upon the estate of Dr. Francis J. Smith, dec'd, I give notice to all creditors of the estate to present their claims within the time prescribed by law, and to all debtors to the estate to make payment of their indebtedness.

Boarding and Day School.

THE Misses NASH and Miss KOLLOCK will re-open their School on Friday, February 1st, 1878.

NOTICE.

WILL be sold in the highest bidder, at the 10th day of January 1878, one lot or parcel of land, lying in the town of DURHAM, bounded on the North by Railroad Street, on the East by lot of D. C. Parish, on the South by lot of J. S. Carr, and on the West by lot of John Barlee.

Mrs. Mattie Taylor,

MILLINER AND DRESS MAKER, At the house formerly occupied by J. R. Gattis.

FALL SUPPLY OF MILLINERY

Fancy Goods and Notions. TERMS CASH, at the lowest possible rates. She is receiving weekly the latest novelties in Millinery &c., from the best houses, and guarantee that her work and her GOODS will come up to the highest recognized standards of taste.

W. A. MYATT, WHOLESALE GROCER, Cotton Buyer AND Commission Merchant,

RALEIGH, N. C. HIGHEST Prices guaranteed to those who bring their Cotton to him. Liberal advances made when desired. Oct. 23rd.

HOME AGAIN.

Marble Front is building on Ten Penny Nails for Breakfast at Hillsboro.

WE offer for CASH or PRODUCE for 90 days for whom it may concern!

50 Cases Boots and Shoes. 10 Cases BOYS, YOUTHS and MEN'S HATS; 4 Cases Fine ready made Clothing—for Men or Boys; 5 Cases of Notions and DRESS GOODS; 4 Crates Crockery; 1,000 Yards RICH DRESS GOODS as half COST of importation—

FARM IMPLEMENTS

Farm and Road Wagons, FARMERS FRIEND PLOWS, OLIVERS CHILLED PLOWS.

YOUNG AMERICA Corn & Cob Mills, Indispensable to every feeder of Stock.

METAL LINKED CUCUMBER WOOD PUMPS, PATENT WELL FIXTURES.

The Celebrated HORIZONTAL CHURN. Circulars and Price lists of this Churn sent to any address.

Magie Cuckie Screens,

The only implement which will take the Partridge Pea, and 4 cckle out of Wheat. Smith's Patent Straw Cutters, Plow Castings.

E. H. POCUE, Tobacco Manufacturer,

HILLSBORO, N. C. OFFERS to trade the following brands of TOBACCO: ANTELOPE, 11 and 10 inch, 5 and 6 to 10 LEGAL TENDER, 11, 10 and 9 inch, 5, 6 and 8 to 10.

H. MAHLER,

MANUFACTURER AND DEALER IN ALL KINDS OF Gold and Silver Ware, MASONIC JEWELRY, HAIR JEWELRY, WATCHES, CLOCKS, &c.

John H. Tyler & Co,

Successors to MITCHELL AND TYLER, 1005 Main Street, RICHMOND, VA.

Waldman & Scherer,

PRACTICAL Tuners Plumbers, Gas Steam Fitters Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Stoves, Tinware, Gas Fixtures &c.

LEVY BROTHERS,

1917 and 1919 Main Street, RICHMOND, VA. THE GREAT CLOSING OUT SALE. STOCK MUST BE REDUCED. Prices Reduced so as to work off Stock.