

The Carolina Watchman.

SALISBURY, N. C., JUNE 8, 1876.

NO 35

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[From the Scientific American.]
AMERICAN PROGRESS—I.—FROM 1776 TO 1820.

There are few darker pages in history than those which recount the condition of the thirteen colonies of North America during the months just previous to the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. A year had elapsed since arms had been taken up against the mother country; and although the colonists had resisted successfully the very fact carried fresh terror to the doubting; for it argued invasion, not by a few battalions sent to quell a rebellious mob, but by the grand armies of England, victors in a century of wars. If not extinction, then reduction beneath a tyranny, more grinding than that against which they had revolted, now menaced the rebels. Congress sat doubting, distrustful, divided in thought, seeing no glimmer of light in the prevailing darkness, thinking, as John Adams moved on the 10th of May, 1776, that the colonies should themselves establish separate governments, "adequate to the exigencies." But the stirring eloquence of Thomas Paine was ringing through the land, replete with the suggestion of a hope which none had dared to cherish. The war against England's blind and hea long oppression was fast becoming, through popular sentiment alone, a war against England herself; and it needed but the formal declaration of Congress to elevate the conflict from a mere rebellion to that of grandeur of war, which finds its parallel in all animate nature, the struggle for national existence.

To turn from the political to the industrial condition of the colonies is but to bring to view fresh evidences to show the fragility of the foundation on which the fabric of our country was reared. Iron and steel works there were none, nor woolen nor flax manufactures; all were suppressed by England. Iron foundries had been started, and in New England hats had been made; but Parliament declared American factories a nuisance, and crushed them ruthlessly. It allowed the production of pig iron; but the colonist was forced to have the material manufactured in England, and pay an enormous profit to the English founder. Agriculture, hunting, fishing, and cutting lumber England could not check; hence these furnished occupations to those who were not engaged in such few trades as were carried on. Probably the most extensive factory in the country was Baron Stiegel's glass house, in Manheim, near Lancaster, Pa. Operations were conducted in a curious manner, for the owner's ideas were of the feudal age. He built castles and mounted cannon wherewith to salute himself on arriving and departing; and when a guest was received, the workmen were summoned from furnace and foundry to attend the new comer with music and rejoicing. The war cut off the Baron's funds from Europe, and the works were soon after discontinued.

Shipbuilding existed in New England, and brick-making in nearly all the colonies. There were but two steam engines in the territory; one built in 1772, for use in a distillery in Philadelphia; the other had been imported in 1736, for the Schuylkill copper mines, at Passaic, N. J. Both were of the Newcomen type. No agricultural machines were known, except, perhaps, the grain drill, no cotton mills existed, and the green seed or staple cotton alone was cultivated. Not a printing press existed west of the Alleghenies; and there were only forty, all hand machines of the crudest type, in the colonies. Thirty-seven newspapers sufficed to spread intelligence. From Boston to New York was a week's journey by coach, sloops plied between New York and Albany; and in winter, colonists in Virginia were practically isolated from those in Massachusetts. Certainly no nation ever embarked on so gigantic a struggle without prepared; for of the material prosperity whence the sinews of war are drawn, the colonies were destitute. Canada, refusing to join them, furnished vantage ground for the invader.

The Spaniards along the Mississippi looked with no favor on the rebellion, and the English in Florida were actively hostile. Thus on the 10th day of May, 1776, just one hundred years before the opening day of the Centennial, the few colonies found themselves hemmed around with foes, bankrupt in money and in industries wherewith to gain it, menaced by an uprising among the Indians on the border wilderness, disunited in thought and feeling among themselves; and to crown all, a British army was preparing to attack New York, while all the seaboard cities seemed doomed to certain and swift destruction. Yet, in the face of these terrible odds, Independence was proclaimed, and the nation was born.

It is our purpose to present here some brief account of what Americans have accomplished in Science and invention since the bell in Philadelphia pealed forth "liberty throughout the land." Much too necessarily be omitted; of nothing can we take more than a passing glance, so vast and varied are the achievements which beyond all else, have combined to create a great and powerful nation in the shortest period known to history. To the same ancestry that asserted their rights as freeborn men, an ancestry gathered from the skillful workers of all countries, are due the frugal and industrious habits, the facility of adopting means to ends, and the indomitable perseverance and energy which characterize the American people; and it is well to remember that in the very restrictions placed upon their efforts toward progress were found the impelling causes of the war of independence.

The industries of the country being practically ruined when the war began, the record of invention and scientific progress

of the signs of remarkable progress were everywhere discernible. In ten years the population had increased by nearly two millions. The exports for 1799 were \$78,665,522 against \$79,069,148 imports, and during the previous decade 306 patents had been granted.

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Now followed one of the most important advances in steam navigation, although the fact was not recognized for years after. It was the practical demonstration of the efficacy of the screw propeller, by Colonel John Stevens of Hoboken, who in 1804 built a boat containing a Watt engine, a tubular boiler of his own invention, and the blades screw. It was a pirogue some fifty feet long. The machine itself is still in existence, and was illustrated in these columns some time ago. During the same year, Oliver Evans ran an amphibious, stern paddle-wheel boat on the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers. This was driven by a double action high pressure engine—the first of its kind—which rotated wheels when the craft was ashore, and operated the stern paddle when afloat. In 1806, Thomas Blanchard, of Massachusetts, invented a machine which made 500 tacks per minute, with perfectly finished heads and points. Soon after, he devised an apparatus for turning gun barrels throughout their entire length by one self-directing operation. This was the initial work which culminated, twenty two years later, in the magnificent invention of the lathe for turning irregular forms. Blanchard's inventions are now applied to many operations in making musket stocks, and comprise no less than thirteen different machines for making different portions of the weapon.

The following year, 1807, witnessed the triumphal voyage of Robert Fulton's steamer, the Clermont, from New York to Albany. Fulton at that time was already an inventor of repute, both in England and in the United States. He had devised a mill for sawing marble, machines for spinning flax and making ropes, an excavator for canals, and he had successfully tried, probably, the first submarine torpedo boat. It was in relation to the latter that he returned to this country from England. Here he received a congressional appropriation, and made some successful experiments in blowing up vessels; but ultimately Commodore Rodgers reported the system impracticable. Later, he obtained the exclusive right to navigate the Hudson river in his steam vessels. In 1814, Fulton built the first United States government steam vessel, a boat on the Potomac by a stream of water driven out through the stern by a steam engine. In 1790 Jacob Perkins, of Massachusetts, invented a machine for cutting and heading nails, which produced those useful articles at the unprecedented rate of 200,000 a day. On the 31st of July, 1790, the first United States patent was issued, the patent and copyrights laws being both first enacted in that year; and thereafter a marked increase in the number of inventions becomes visible.

At this period, the growing cotton industry of the country seemed to have encountered an obstacle, which bid fair to be a serious one. Hand-cleaning of cotton was slow and costly; and unless mechanical means could be devised, the new staple could never become a source of wealth. It so happened that there then came to the house of Mrs. General Greene a poor student, from Yale College, named Eli Whitney, who, in various ways, showed himself possessed of considerable mechanical skill. While some officers, his guests, were one day regretting the absence of the machine above noted, Mrs. Greene laughingly suggested that Whitney should invent one. The young man overheard the words and remembered them. He had never seen cotton in his life; but making his way to Savannah, he obtained a small quantity and, shutting himself up in a room, went to work. It is said that the saw gin was suggested to him by the accidental use of a toothpick to try the tenacity of the seed. Within ten days after he began experimenting, he made a model which was capable of cleaning 50 lbs. of green seed cotton daily. This was completed one of the greatest inventions of modern times, and one which the inventor lived to see result in increasing the cotton production from 5,000,000 to 215,000,000 lbs.

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Our other man, that of David Rittenhouse, of Philadelphia, may be noted besides that of Franklin, whom he succeeded as President of the American Philosophical Society. Rittenhouse was a clockmaker, and carried the perfection of his art into the manufacture of orreries, which still exist, and which show the movements of the heavenly bodies for a period of 5,000 years, and their positions for each year, month, day, and hour with marvelous accuracy. He made a successful observation of the transit of Venus in 1769, and on account of his great mathematical attainments was elected a Fellow of the British Royal Society.

After peace had been declared, the country found itself exhausted in resources, and in men as well, and saddled with a debt of forty million dollars, with no system of public revenue wherewith to provide for it. Financial disaster followed, and private confidence fell in the wreck of public faith. It was no time to wait the slow development of events, and the people recognized the fact. It seemed as if every one worked with a will. The whirl of the spinning wheel and creak of the loom were heard all over the land—Every family became a manufacturing factory. In 1787 New Jersey alone had forty-one fulling mills for woolen fabrics and not a woolen factory in the State. In two counties in Virginia, 315,000 yards of flaxen cloth, 45,000 yards of woolen, 30,000 yards of cotton, and 45,000 of linsey woolsey were made in one year by household labor. One family completed 1,355 pair of shoes in a year. The inventor's skill was quickly called into action.

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AN INTELLIGENT JURY.

Last week Hon. R. A. Hill, Judge of the United States District Court, now in session at Jackson, determined upon getting rid of the ignorant rabble that has so long cumbered the jury table in that tribunal, by calling upon all of the jurors summoned and discharging every one who could not read, write and compute interest.

Judge Hill has hereby done himself honor in thus vindicating the purity of his jury system. That he has acted wisely, no one can truthfully deny. If Judge Hill is right in making this discrimination for the United States Court, then why should not our State Courts adopt the same rule. It is almost an axiom, that ignorance and crime go hand in hand. Let ignorance, then, be eliminated from the jury-box, and thereby secure a better administration of both civil and criminal law.

The Judge above named was born in this county, eleven miles North of Statesville, on the Cove Gap road. His father was Dan'l Hill, uncle of Thomas M. Hill. His mother was Rhoda Andrews, of Statesville, from Back Creek in Rowan county. Judge Hill went to school when small to James L. Hill; and when 10 to 12 years old, his parents moved to Sumner county Tennessee. There he grew up, got an education, and removed to Mississippi, where he soon acquired a great reputation as a lawyer and jurist. He had sent out many men to the West who have honored the place of their nativity.—American.

Yes, very many. No county in the State excels her in intelligent and virtuous.

NEWS AND NOTES

An album of a Baltimore belle recently sold for \$2,000.

Lydia Thompson has abandoned her proposed trip to America this summer.

Stanley, the famous English baritone, will retire after the present musical season.

Nelly Sartoria's baby died on the second anniversary of that lady's marriage.

Spiggins says: "If drinking interferes with a man's business, why, give up the business."

The monument of James Fisk, Jr., in Brattleboro, Vt., which has just uncovered, attracts many visitors.

It is proposed to amend the constitution of Connecticut by adding a section making nine members of a jury competent to render a verdict.

Hon. George H. Penitton was re-elected president of the Kentucky Central Railroad at the director's meeting in Covington on Tuesday.

In announcing the marriage of Miss Mary Hoops the Boston Advertiser proclaims that "she will still continue to wear her maiden name."

A northern man has pledged two hundred and fifty dollars toward another cotton factory in Augusta Ga., provided local subscriptions are made to an equal amount.

An English physician has discovered a specific for cold in the head: Triacetate bismuth, six drachms; acacia powder, two drachms; hydro chlora of morphia, two grains. Swell.

An Iowa editor, speaking of the line of men who left their native town for the Black Hills and disappeared behind the horizon says: "They seemed to go down into the hatchway of heaven."

Rev. Dr. Pierce, believed to be the oldest Methodist minister in this country, now in the ninety-fourth year of his age and the seventy-second of his ministry, is a delegate in the Baltimore conference.

Hon. W. H. Ruffner, Superintendent of public Instruction in Virginia, will read a paper on "The moral Element in Education" before the National Educational Association soon to meet in Baltimore.

Dom Pedro note paper and envelopes are the latest thing out in stationery. The paper measures six and a half inches by four, and is covered—without folding—by envelopes of the same size.

The list of A. T. Stewart's employes who had been for ten years and over in his service, and who consequently take legacies under the dead merchant's will, numbers about three hundred. They take \$205,750.

The sword worn by Gen. Montgomery when he fell at the battle of Quebec is now on deposit in the library of the Virginia Military Institute, at Lexington, Va. It has a steel blade, straight and long, with an ivory ribbed handle, with hilt.

Lord Mandeville, heir apparent to the Duke of Manchester, was wedded on Monday last in Grace church New York; by Rev. Dr. Dix, to Miss Consuelo, daughter of Antonio Yznaga del Valle, the wealthy Cuban merchant of New Jersey.

Yon Hollen, the defaulting Chicago collector, writes from his hiding place to say that he hopes to get some copying to do, and to square up to that \$100,000 defalcation. He will thus "gradually, but surely, pay off" his not very oppressive debt.

Sarah Bernhardt is a sculptor as well as a great actress. All last winter the cold-weather morning found her in studio at seven where she worked until rehearsal. As she also writes well, the French journal *L'Art* has a combination of Moliere, Michel Angelo and Madame de Sevigne. Her work is not only very good, but very original.

BUCKEYE BEE-HIVE.

Persons wishing to purchase the rights to use of this most perfect invention in the following Counties, will call on the undersigned, to wit: Rowan, Cabarrus, Stanly, Davie, Catawba, Beaufort, Burke, McDowell, Lincoln, Cleveland, Gaston, Davidson.

Have reduced the price on farm rights from \$100 to \$50.

Have also determined to offer County and Township rights at a very reduced price.

HENRY CAULFIELD,
Salisbury, N. C.

Attention FARMERS' GRASS SEED.

Just received a fresh supply of Clover Seed, Orchard Grass, Blue Grass, Red Top Timothy, which I will sell cheap at ENNIS'S.

Will buy one Box of Concentrated Lye at ENNIS'S.

THE OLD and RELIABLE SALISBURY Marble Yard.

Main Street,
Next door to the COURT-HOUSE.

The cheapest and best place in North Carolina to get first class Monuments, Tombstones, Head Stones, &c., &c. None but the best material used, and all work done in the best style of art. A call will satisfy you of the truth of the above. Orders solicited and promptly filled. Satisfaction guaranteed or no charge made.

JOHN H. BEUS, Prop'r,
176-178

ON and OFF Slick as Grease!

WM. A. EAGLE respectfully announces his continuation of the old and reliable "Drug Store." He is always ready and anxious to accommodate customers in the most perfect manner possible. He has prepared to do first class work and can compete with any northern shop on hand made goods. His machine, laths, &c., are of the latest and best patterns. He keeps on hand ready-made work and stock equal to any special order. His machinery is of the best quality, and is promptly done at reasonable prices. Satisfaction guaranteed or no charge.

Orders by mail promptly filled.

Jan. 30, 1876. WM. A. EAGLE, 156-160

FLORENCE

comes in with its self-regulating tension, sewing from muslin to leather without change of thread; needles then from right to left and left to right—while one style of the machine sews to or from the operator, as may be desired and with stitch alike on both sides. In elegance of finish and smoothness of operation, variety of work and reasonableness in price, the Florence has won the highest distinction. F. G. Cartland Greenboro, N. C., is the agent. He is also Agent for

Bickford Knitting Machine

upon which 30 pairs of socks have been knit per day, without seam, and with perfect heel and toe. Hoods, Shawls, Scarfs, Gloves, &c., may be knit upon this *Woman's Friend*, which costs but \$30.

Correspondence in relation to either Knitter Sewing Machine is invited, and samples of work sent upon application. All orders by mail receive prompt attention. Machines shipped to any part of the State, and satisfaction guaranteed. Agents wanted in every County.

Address all communications to J. E. CARTLAND, Salisbury, Or, F. G. CARTLAND, Greenboro, N. C.

In the absence of Salisbury agent, call on Mr. Schloss, at the National Hotel. (234)

HARDWARE—the only

When you want Hardware at low prices, call on the undersigned at No 2 Granite Row.

Day A. ATWELL,
Salisbury, N. C., May 13, 1876.

Agents wanted. Out terms free. TRUE & CO. Augusta, Maine. March 9, 76; 1 yr.

Cheap Chattel Mortgages, and blank for sale here.