

LOCAL.

Mr. S. H. Wiley took the cars for Cambridge this morning, and will be absent for some days.

The time for holding the editorial convention at Beaufort has been changed from the 10th to the second day of July.

Stateville American: Dr. J. G. Ramon is to deliver a Masonic address at the Academy, on St. John's day, the 23d inst., by request of Lee Lodge, No. 243, located at that place.

Corn.—The wheat has been generally harvested, and for one time farmers are beginning to take down the oats, which is also good. And corn and cotton are looking unusually well for the time of year.

THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD has arranged a double service of trains for the summer: The freight and accommodation train will leave every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 10 A. M., and arrive at Henry at 5.40 P. M. The mail and express train will run daily with sleeping cars attached, leaving Salisbury at 10.45 P. M., and arriving at Swannanoa at 7.45 A. M.

RE-ASSESSMENT.—There will be a new valuation of property this year, and freeholders who have complaints or objections to make, or corrections to ask, are invited to meet the assessors in this township on the 30th or 31st day of July for that purpose. The assessors will attend at the Court House, on those days for the purpose indicated above.

Non-handlers are not so easily picked up in town as in the country. The farmer goes to the pine or papaw thicket and cuts down young saplings and after taking off the bark with a drawing knife puts them in the dry to season, and when a fine handle is needed he has it ready made at almost no cost at all. But in town we may travel around from shop to shop and not find suitable timber for a handle or a man very willing to take the job.

At a meeting of Salisbury Lodge No. 275, Knights of Honor the following officers were elected for the ensuing term: Director, John Y. Barber, Vice Director, C. E. Mills, Asst. do, W. H. Overman, Reporter, T. B. Beall, Finance Reporter, H. M. Jones, Chairman, R. R. Crawford, Guide, J. G. Hewitt, G. H. Parker, G. H. Slaver, Genl. Examiner, E. Rose Dorsett.

We are in receipt of the Catalogue of the Bingham School for 1873. It is no injurious to any other school to say that the shining 142 pupils from 14 States in the Union, and one from Asia, is better than any similar school in the South makes. We notice that the most liberal offers are made to the sons of clergy men and others, and that young men with small means can "mess," and thus get a first-class education with very little money.

We notice also that board, with furnished rooms, is reduced to \$12 per month, and that tuition is \$75 before the war and \$63.50 till now) will be \$50.00 hereafter; and the Superintendent claims that, with his able, thoroughly trained and experienced corps of teachers and with increased facilities, more satisfactory results will be secured and for less money than at any time since his connection with the School, begun twenty-two years ago.

FIRE CRACKERS! The Police Perplexed.—An Army of Private Detectives Appointed.—Two of Them Captured and Blacked.

We have a small sensation in Salisbury: About a week ago some one exploded a pack of fire-crackers on Innis street, near the Presbyterian church. Our new policemen, Price and Murphy, were aroused to duty, and went in search of the offenders. This quickened the ingenuity of the latter, who the next night let off more crackers, and the next, and the next, until the rattle reminded one of a deadly "encounter" between hostile armies. The police and authorities became excited, and a secret detective force, to the number of 16, was put on duty Monday night. But crackers continued to burst, even amidst spies and under the coat-tails of the police. Late in the night one of the detectives became so weary from watching and walking that he fell into a deep sleep—so profound that neither crackers nor point bushes could arouse him, and he got the benefit of both. Tuesday night witnessed a similar scene.—How the thing is going to end cannot be known; but the quickest way to stop development of this kind is to let it alone. If the boys do not wish to let it alone, they can easily find out, and will, and should then be made to smart for their fun.

Since writing the above we learn that several sick persons have suffered considerably on account of these disturbances. We believe it is only necessary for this fact to be known to insure quiet to the sick.

Franklin Zephyrs.

An unusually small quantity of rain has fallen this spring, but, notwithstanding this, the crops are in a very flourishing condition.

There is a good stand of oats, fully out in head, and sufficiently tall. Corn is as good as good as we ever saw at this season of the year.

On the 14th, we measured a cotton stalk, over twelve inches in height, which had twenty-five leaves, and several bold bolls.

What is about all harvested, and is generally better than an average crop.

Indeed, we have seen very few fields of poor wheat.

Most of our farmers have worked their corn the second time.—The next working will lay it by. Cotton will be worked at least twice more, after which, there will be a short season of rest.

In every direction, we find the crops well worked, unusually clean, and in a flourishing condition, owing, in a great measure, to the improved agricultural implements now used, such as Walking Cultivators, Double-shovel Plows, &c., the latter of which, is now to be found on the plantation of almost every enterprising farmer. The old style of plowing only one furrow at a time, will soon be banished with things of the past. We regard the invention of the best Double-shovel Plow, as a public benefactor, in having produced the most sensible, durable and effective cultivator ever yet made and so cheap as to be within the reach of all.

We have had several fine showers lately, and the weather is quite warm, the mercury ranging from 85 to 90° in the shade. W. R. F.

Young Men's Christian Association.

In June '73 a few Christian young men of Salisbury formed a Christian Association in this place. Since that time the Association has been steadily increasing in membership, and has become a most successful organization. It has held several public meetings, and has been instrumental in securing the erection of a new church in this place. The number of members now amounts to about twenty-four hundred some of the larger Associations containing more than three thousand members. The Association has been successful in securing the attention of the public, and has been instrumental in securing the attention of the public, and has been instrumental in securing the attention of the public.

For the Watchman.

Commencement at Davidson College.

The annual commencement at Davidson College occurred last week, on Wednesday and Thursday, and was an occasion of peculiar interest and attention. The Trustees closed their sessions on Wednesday, and it is understood that they regard the college in every respect in a sound and growing condition. The number of students has been twenty more this year than last; the year has been marked by earnest study, and the most excellent order, no case of discipline having required the attention of the faculty; and the financial affairs of the college are satisfactory. Its six classes, delivered by trained preachers, were held faithfully at work. And in the mean time one of them, Prof. Sampson, found time to bring to a climax, a matrimonial arrangement for himself. It is understood that he was married on Wednesday of commencement to Miss Annie Woods, of Charlottesville, Va., at least so said the report, received by the writer, several days in advance. On Tuesday night the societies held their reunions, and it is believed that cheerful times were enjoyed in each. But that is a secret, whispered here and there by venerable alumni to each other in confidence, but the particulars are never entrusted to the types.

On Wednesday morning the spacious Chambers Hall, capable of seating 1,200, was pretty well filled to hear the annual oration by Duncan K. McRae, Esq., of Wilmington. Col. McRae is an orator of the first water, and he enlivened his audience with the spell of his eloquence for an hour and a half—with no weariness or artlessness. His general subject seems to have been the relation between the "Gentle Talker," or "Every body," and the Architect of his own Fate. He announced as the dramatic person of his discourse a poem, "A Poet, a Painter, a Dog, an Assassin, a Jurist." But how wittily and wisely he made these characters play their part, one must needs have been present, in order to know. He mistook not few that audience will ever let slip an opportunity to hear the stirring sentences of the silver-tongued orator of the Cape Fear. At the close of the address the audience lingered, refusing to leave their seats. At last some one called for Judge Fowle, and in a moment the hall re-echoed with cries of "Fowle! Fowle!" He rose, and said that he was like an ancient soldier who declared that "he did not dare to speak of war in the presence of Hannibal," bowing to Col. McRae. In a moment the ready orator replied that "since he had just described Hannibal as a very ugly specimen of mankind, he could not take Judge Fowle's remark as a compliment to Judge Fowle's remark, on the subject of war, with laughter, on the rostrum and throughout the hall, the audience dispersed. At 4 o'clock in the evening, the crowd assembled again to hear the Alumni address from Anthony White, Esq., of Sumter, S. C., of the class of 1847. Thirty-two years ago, the students used to speak in glowing terms of the graceful eye style, and polished elocution of "Tin White" who had just graduated. It is a privilege enough to say that his old address were not disappointed with the sober and mature thoughts of the middle-aged man, whose love for his Alma Mater has not abated one jot, and who pleaded for an earnest effort to sustain and enlarge the influence of the college.

For the Watchman.

Jackson Hill Letter.

DEAR SIR: In your issue of 15th ult., in a communication headed "Fayorsville Letter," the writer, in speaking of his mountainous county, says, in substance, that in winter slight often forms on the timbers on the high knobs, while there is not a leaf on the trees, and that in the spring often kills all the vegetation below, while all above a certain level is left green and flourishing. He also says that he knows these to be facts, but cannot explain them. I too have often witnessed similar phenomena among the hills of Davidson and Randolph counties; and have, as often, been perplexed to account, and have been quite a number of years ago, entered, and more expected, it is believed that next year will be still more prosperous than the past. ALEXANDER.

For the Watchman.

Tribute of Respect.

HALL OF SALISBURY H. & L. Co. No. 1, June 12th, 1879.

At a called meeting, for the purpose of attending the funeral of the Fourth Director of the company, Mr. John A. Mankins, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted: Whereas, we are indebted to the memory of our company, Mr. John A. Mankins, who has been a good member, and the community a quiet and useful citizen.

Resolved, That in his death this company has lost a good member, and the community a quiet and useful citizen.

Resolved, That a page in our minute book be inscribed to his memory, and that we wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

Resolved, That the sincere thanks of the company be tendered those liberal citizens who aided the company in bearing the expenses attending the sickness and funeral of the deceased member.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be furnished the family of the departed comrade, and also a copy to the town.

Natural Philosophy, such cold heavy strata are always kept buoyed so high, and superimposed on warmer and lighter air, and so on, with their faces, been fully explained, and is a matter too complex for the scope of this letter. Its philosophical explanation, together with an explanation of the various collateral questions that would arise, and some of which were suggested in a previous part of this letter, would constitute a wholesome nut for "sane and professional" to crack.

The sun is the great prime source of heat; the earth is the great secondary source. It borrows its heat from the sun, and imparts by radiation, contact and reflection its heat to every object upon its surface, or in the circumambient air. The sun, and the earth, together with the barometric states of the air, has principally, I conceive, the explanation of all the phenomena of frosts and sheets, of freezing and thawing, of rain and snow, of winter and summer, &c., but not of the flight of birds, especially the hazzard, which seems to defy without effort the powers of gravitation. By its various powers, according to its degree of expansion or contraction, ponderable agents throughout the material world, it gives rise to infinite numbers of currents in infinite numbers of directions throughout the air, causing what is termed atmospheric pressure, as indicated by the thermometer, various bodies to evaporate, or assume a gaseous form, while at certain lower degrees producing their condensation, or return to a solid, semisolid, or liquid form.

When water is evaporated, it has only assumed a gaseous form, the gas formed being air, consisting of oxygen and hydrogen, a hydro-oxygenous gas. This gas, I presume, is the most abundant of all the gases, except common air, which is a nitro-oxygenous gas. When the air (nitro-oxygenous gas) is heavy laden with hydrogenous gas, we say the weather is damp; and if condense this latter gas, at a very great elevation, hail or snow will be formed; if at the elevation of common cloud, rain; and if at the surface of the earth, frost or dew, according as the degrees of coldness and atmospheric pressure most favor the one result or the other.

Atmospheric pressure is a most potent agent in its influences over all earthly bodies, whether existing naturally in a solid, liquid, or gaseous form. Many bodies, solid by nature, which relieved from atmospheric pressure by artificial means, assume instantly a gaseous form; and on the other hand many natural gases, when subjected to sufficient atmospheric pressure by artificial means become solid, semisolid, or liquid, respectively.

For the Watchman.

THE VALENTIERY

was then delivered by F. P. Ramsey, of Troy, Alabama. Tender and touching were his words, welling up from a full heart. His was the struggle of the unknown youth, and many the difficulties he overcame. But scholarship and character made themselves felt, and the first great victory crowned him with laurels that day. If his life is spared we shall doubtless hear from him, and he shall still richer laurels will crown his efforts.

The occasion was enlivened by the excellent music of the Salisbury Cornet Band, No. 2, under the direction of Professor Seave. Our young men gave satisfaction, in their first appearance at Davidson, and no doubt enjoyed their visit there.

The exercises of the college will be resumed on the third Thursday in September next, and the next commencement will be on the third Thursday of next June, each one week later than the present year. Upon the whole the commencement of 1879 was a perfect success, and least so says every body. The ladies lauded the speakers with flowers, after each effort. Remember, ladies, next year to arrange for bonquets for the boys.

Special attention is called to the fact that the Board of Trustees have opened the college to the sons of ministers of all denominations free of charge for tuition. As the graduating class is small, and a limited number have already entered, and more expected, it is believed that next year will be still more prosperous than the past. ALEXANDER.

For the Watchman.

Editor Watchman:

DEAR SIR: In your issue of 15th ult., in a communication headed "Fayorsville Letter," the writer, in speaking of his mountainous county, says, in substance, that in winter slight often forms on the timbers on the high knobs, while there is not a leaf on the trees, and that in the spring often kills all the vegetation below, while all above a certain level is left green and flourishing. He also says that he knows these to be facts, but cannot explain them. I too have often witnessed similar phenomena among the hills of Davidson and Randolph counties; and have, as often, been perplexed to account, and have been quite a number of years ago, entered, and more expected, it is believed that next year will be still more prosperous than the past. ALEXANDER.

Resolved, That a page in our minute book be inscribed to his memory, and that we wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

Resolved, That the sincere thanks of the company be tendered those liberal citizens who aided the company in bearing the expenses attending the sickness and funeral of the deceased member.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be furnished the family of the departed comrade, and also a copy to the town.

Resolved, That the sincere thanks of the company be tendered those liberal citizens who aided the company in bearing the expenses attending the sickness and funeral of the deceased member.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be furnished the family of the departed comrade, and also a copy to the town.

Resolved, That the sincere thanks of the company be tendered those liberal citizens who aided the company in bearing the expenses attending the sickness and funeral of the deceased member.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be furnished the family of the departed comrade, and also a copy to the town.

Resolved, That the sincere thanks of the company be tendered those liberal citizens who aided the company in bearing the expenses attending the sickness and funeral of the deceased member.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be furnished the family of the departed comrade, and also a copy to the town.

At the conclusion of each day's labor the prisoners are marched to some place near by, where they are put in sheds or camps and guarded.

A PRECONCEIVED PLAN. The guards suspected the attempt at escape, and a full supply of the best arms and ammunition was sent up this road not long since. The convicts seem to have had an idea, despite the number of their terrible experiences to the contrary, that by making a bold rush they could get away from the guards. These last were unusually vigilant, and were prepared at all times to give good account of any prisoner who should make an attempt at escape. One of these gangs is now stationed at a point about where the railway crosses the Moore county line. Among the prisoners composing it was

A DESPERATE CHARACTER. This man last year committed the crime of horse-stealing at Wadesboro, and fled towards this city. He was pursued here and continued his flight to Greene county, where he was captured. He was immediately taken back to Wadesboro, and court being in session, was speedily tried for the offense, convicted and sent to the penitentiary. He was considered a desperate man, and since he has been in the gang of prisoners he has been the master spirit in the plans for escape.

A BOLD AND NOVEL IDEA. The gang each night had to march some distance along a road to their camp. On Tuesday evening, at the close of work, they were being carried there, and when a farm house was reached, ten men of the gang, led by Huntly, made a sharp dash right through the yard. The guards were not taken by surprise, and in an instant

TEN LEVELLED RIFLES. vomited leaden death among the flying men. Eight dropped at the flash. Two escaped, not being touched by a second fire which instantly followed the first. Dashing forward, the guards found four all badly wounded. Among the latter was the desperate Huntly. As the convicts rushed through the yard the people of the farm house were at their vocations. A woman was stooping, milking a cow. One of the gang ran toward her, and just as he reached her only a few feet away, a bullet pierced his brain and he

FELL DEAD AT HER FEET. She almost fainted from fright, but was not harmed. The other convicts of the gang made no attempt to fly, and it was only the ill-fated ten who took part in the foolish plan.

Suspension of Messrs. B. R. Smith & Co. Telegrams were received in this city yesterday afternoon, between 5 and 6 o'clock, announcing the suspension of B. R. Smith & Co., cotton brokers and commission merchants of New York. The firm is composed of B. R. Smith ex-mayor of Charlotte, J. M. Smith and Bart S. Johnson, all Charlotte men and it may be imagined that the announcement created quite a sensation in the community social as well as business circles. As yet there are no particulars as to the assets or liabilities. It is well known in business circles that the firm have been doing a large business as brokers for parties in the South, dealing in futures.

A private telegram from B. R. Smith to a gentleman here states that the necessity for suspension was brought about by the failure of parties for whom they were buying to pay up the margins on contracts, and assures him that the suspension will only be temporary. The gentlemen referred to in the above, who is familiar with the nature of the business of the firm, accounts for the failure by the fact that many of the parties for whom they do business live in the extreme Southern States, that the margins were not received in time to meet the demands. The moment they fail to pay the first draft, the fact is made known and the necessity for suspension comes at once.

The suspension was a surprise in Charlotte. The firm has always been considered very safe and reliable. Business men generally do not doubt their ability to pay out dollar for dollar; and in any emergency Charlotte people will not suffer as the firms liabilities are entirely with Northern parties.—Charlotte Observer.

HOMICIDE IN RUTHERFORD COUNTY. A correspondent at Shelby writes the Observer that William Wilson, aged 45 years, son of Robert Wilson, of Rutherford county, was killed last Saturday afternoon at 14th, at Amos Owen's, on Cherry mountain, in Rutherford county, by Watson Grigg, son of Jack Grigg, of Cleveland county. The homicide was the result of a free fight in which about ten braves participated and in which rocks, rails and pistols were freely used. The fact was fully stated in the head by Powell, by the name of Hardin and Powell, began the affray in which Wilson was slain, and over his corpse on the following day many drank whiskey, cursed and played the fiddle. Several received wounds, but only one man was killed in the drunken affray. James Powell was badly hurt in the head by fence rails and rocks. William Powell was sent in the breast and head by rocks; he fired seven shots from his pistol; P. Hardin, a brother-in-law of the deceased, was slightly injured.

Wilson was shot in the head by a pistol and died in a few minutes. His body lay neglected and exposed until Sunday afternoon, at the spot where he fell. Watson Grigg denies the killing and alleges that he had no pistol in the fight. Grigg has not been arrested and it is thought that he has fled the State. As all parties were intoxicated, and three pistols were used in the fight, it may be difficult to prove who slew Wilson.—Charlotte Observer.

GETTING INFORMATION.—As a pedestrian I was lately proceeding toward Toms, he asked a man who was breaking stones by the roadside how long it would take him to reach that place. The man looked at him without speaking and resumed his work. The question was repeated with the same result, and at last the traveler walked on. He had not proceeded more than a few yards when he was called after him, and made a sign for him to return. When the pedestrian reached the stone breaker, the latter said to him: "It will take you an hour to reach Toms."

"Then why did you not tell me so at first?" said the traveler.

"Why," replied the man, "it was necessary for me to see at what rate you walked; and from the way you stepped out, I am able to say that you can do the distance in an hour."

Judge Kerr is able to be up and to walk about.

CONVICTS SHOT DOWN. A large number of prisoners are employed in the work of constructing the Cape Fear and Yorkin Valley Railway, on that portion of the line between the Gulf in Chatham county and Greensboro. These convicts are for convenience divided into gangs, and are armed with the best breech-loading rifles, furnished by the

State. At the conclusion of each day's labor the prisoners are marched to some place near by, where they are put in sheds or camps and guarded.

A PRECONCEIVED PLAN. The guards suspected the attempt at escape, and a full supply of the best arms and ammunition was sent up this road not long since. The convicts seem to have had an idea, despite the number of their terrible experiences to the contrary, that by making a bold rush they could get away from the guards. These last were unusually vigilant, and were prepared at all times to give good account of any prisoner who should make an attempt at escape. One of these gangs is now stationed at a point about where the railway crosses the Moore county line. Among the prisoners composing it was

A DESPERATE CHARACTER. This man last year committed the crime of horse-stealing at Wadesboro, and fled towards this city. He was pursued here and continued his flight to Greene county, where he was captured. He was immediately taken back to Wadesboro, and court being in session, was speedily tried for the offense, convicted and sent to the penitentiary. He was considered a desperate man, and since he has been in the gang of prisoners he has been the master spirit in the plans for escape.

A BOLD AND NOVEL IDEA. The gang each night had to march some distance along a road to their camp. On Tuesday evening, at the close of work, they were being carried there, and when a farm house was reached, ten men of the gang, led by Huntly, made a sharp dash right through the yard. The guards were not taken by surprise, and in an instant

TEN LEVELLED RIFLES. vomited leaden death among the flying men. Eight dropped at the flash. Two escaped, not being touched by a second fire which instantly followed the first. Dashing forward, the guards found four all badly wounded. Among the latter was the desperate Huntly. As the convicts rushed through the yard the people of the farm house were at their vocations. A woman was stooping, milking a cow. One of the gang ran toward her, and just as he reached her only a few feet away, a bullet pierced his brain and he

FELL DEAD AT HER FEET. She almost fainted from fright, but was not harmed. The other convicts of the gang made no attempt to fly, and it was only the ill-fated ten who took part in the foolish plan.

Suspension of Messrs. B. R. Smith & Co. Telegrams were received in this city yesterday afternoon, between 5 and 6 o'clock, announcing the suspension of B. R. Smith & Co., cotton brokers and commission merchants of New York. The firm is composed of B. R. Smith ex-mayor of Charlotte, J. M. Smith and Bart S. Johnson, all Charlotte men and it may be imagined that the announcement created quite a sensation in the community social as well as business circles. As yet there are no particulars as to the assets or liabilities. It is well known in business circles that the firm have been doing a large business as brokers for parties in the South, dealing in futures.

A private telegram from B. R. Smith to a gentleman here states that the necessity for suspension was brought about by the failure of parties for whom they were buying to pay up the margins on contracts, and assures him that the suspension will only be temporary. The gentlemen referred to in the above, who is familiar with the nature of the business of the firm, accounts for the failure by the fact that many of the parties for whom they do business live in the extreme Southern States, that the margins were not received in time to meet the demands. The moment they fail to pay the first draft, the fact is made known and the necessity for suspension comes at once.

The suspension was a surprise in Charlotte. The firm has always been considered very safe and reliable. Business men generally do not doubt their ability to pay out dollar for dollar; and in any emergency Charlotte people will not suffer as the firms liabilities are entirely with Northern parties.—Charlotte Observer.

HOMICIDE IN RUTHERFORD COUNTY. A correspondent at Shelby writes the Observer that William Wilson, aged 45 years, son of Robert Wilson, of Rutherford county, was killed last Saturday afternoon at 14th, at Amos Owen's, on Cherry mountain, in Rutherford county, by Watson Grigg, son of Jack Grigg, of Cleveland county. The homicide was the result of a free fight in which about ten braves participated and in which rocks, rails and pistols were freely used. The fact was fully stated in the head by Powell, by the name of Hardin and Powell, began the affray in which Wilson was slain, and over his corpse on the following day many drank whiskey, cursed and played the fiddle. Several received wounds, but only one man was killed in the drunken affray. James Powell was badly hurt in the head by fence rails and rocks. William Powell was sent in the breast and head by rocks; he fired seven shots from his pistol; P. Hardin, a brother-in-law of the deceased, was slightly injured.

Wilson was shot in the head by a pistol and died in a few minutes. His body lay neglected and exposed until Sunday afternoon, at the spot where he fell. Watson Grigg denies the killing and alleges that he had no pistol in the fight. Grigg has not been arrested and it is thought that he has fled the State. As all parties were intoxicated, and three pistols were used in the fight, it may be difficult to prove who slew Wilson.—Charlotte Observer.

GETTING INFORMATION.—As a pedestrian I was lately proceeding toward Toms, he asked a man who was breaking stones by the roadside how long it would take him to reach that place. The man looked at him without speaking and resumed his work. The question was repeated with the same result, and at last the traveler walked on. He had not proceeded more than a few yards when he was called after him, and made a sign for him to return. When the pedestrian reached the stone breaker, the latter said to him: "It will take you an hour to reach Toms."

"Then why did you not tell me so at first?" said the traveler.

"Why," replied the man, "it was necessary for me to see at what rate you walked; and from the way you stepped out, I am able to say that you can do the distance in an hour."

Judge Kerr is able to be up and to walk about.

CONVICTS SHOT DOWN. A large number of prisoners are employed in the work of constructing the Cape Fear and Yorkin Valley Railway, on that portion of the line between the Gulf in Chatham county and Greensboro. These convicts are for convenience divided into gangs, and are armed with the best breech-loading rifles, furnished by the

State. At the conclusion of each day's labor the prisoners are marched to some place near by, where they are put in sheds or camps and guarded.

A PRECONCEIVED PLAN. The guards suspected the attempt at escape, and a full supply of the best arms and ammunition was sent up this road not long since. The convicts seem to have had an idea, despite the number of their terrible experiences to the contrary, that by making a bold rush they could get away from the guards. These last were unusually vigilant, and were prepared at all times to give good account of any prisoner who should make an attempt at escape. One of these gangs is now stationed at a point about where the railway crosses the Moore county line. Among the prisoners composing it was

A DESPERATE CHARACTER. This man last year committed the crime of horse-stealing at Wadesboro, and fled towards this city. He was pursued here and continued his flight to Greene county, where he was captured. He was immediately taken back to Wadesboro, and court being in session, was speedily tried for the offense, convicted and sent to the penitentiary. He was considered a desperate man, and since he has been in the gang of prisoners he has been the master spirit in the plans for escape.

A BOLD AND NOVEL IDEA. The gang each night had to march some distance along a road to their camp. On Tuesday evening, at the close of work, they were being carried there, and when a farm house was reached, ten men of the gang, led by Huntly, made a sharp dash right through the yard. The guards were not taken by surprise, and in an instant

TEN LEVELLED RIFLES. vomited leaden death among the flying men. Eight dropped at the flash. Two escaped, not being touched by a second fire which instantly followed the first. Dashing forward, the guards found four all badly wounded. Among the latter was the desperate Huntly. As the convicts rushed through the yard the people of the farm house were at their vocations. A woman was stooping, milking a cow. One of the gang ran toward her, and just as he reached her only a few feet away, a bullet pierced his brain and he

FELL DEAD AT HER FEET. She almost fainted from fright, but was not harmed. The other convicts of the gang made no attempt to fly, and it was only the ill-fated ten who took part in the foolish plan.

Suspension of Messrs. B. R. Smith & Co. Telegrams were received in this city yesterday afternoon, between 5 and 6 o'clock, announcing the suspension of B. R. Smith & Co., cotton brokers and commission merchants of New York. The firm is composed of B. R. Smith ex-mayor of Charlotte, J. M. Smith and Bart S. Johnson, all Charlotte men and it may be imagined that the announcement created quite a sensation in the community social as well as business circles. As yet there are no particulars as to the assets or liabilities. It is well known in business circles that the firm have been doing a large business as brokers for parties in the South, dealing in futures.

A private telegram from B. R. Smith to a gentleman here states that the necessity for suspension was brought about by the failure of parties for whom they were buying to pay up the margins on contracts, and assures him that the suspension will only be temporary. The gentlemen referred to in the above, who is familiar with the nature of the business of the firm, accounts for the failure by the fact that many of the parties for whom they do business live in the extreme Southern States, that the margins were not received in time to meet the demands. The moment they fail to pay the first draft, the fact is made known and the necessity for suspension comes at once.

The suspension was a surprise in Charlotte. The firm has always been considered very safe and reliable. Business men generally do not doubt their ability to pay out dollar for dollar; and in any emergency Charlotte people will not suffer as the firms liabilities are entirely with Northern parties.—Charlotte Observer.

HOMICIDE IN RUTHERFORD COUNTY. A correspondent at Shelby writes the Observer that William Wilson, aged 45 years, son of Robert Wilson, of Rutherford county, was killed last Saturday afternoon at 14th, at Amos Owen's, on Cherry mountain, in Rutherford county, by Watson Grigg, son of Jack Grigg, of Cleveland county. The homicide was the result of a free fight in which about ten braves participated and in which rocks, rails and pistols were freely used. The fact was fully stated in the head by Powell, by the name of Hardin and Powell, began the affray in which Wilson was slain, and over his corpse on the following day many drank whiskey, cursed and played the fiddle. Several received wounds, but only one man was killed in the drunken affray. James Powell was badly hurt in the head by fence rails and rocks. William Powell was sent in the breast and head by rocks; he fired seven shots from his pistol; P. Hardin, a brother-in-law of the deceased, was slightly injured.

Wilson was shot in the head by a pistol and died in a few minutes. His body lay neglected and exposed until Sunday afternoon, at the spot where he fell. Watson Grigg denies the killing and alleges that he had no pistol in the fight. Grigg has not been arrested and it is thought that he has fled the State. As all parties were intoxicated, and three pistols were used in the fight, it may be difficult to prove who slew Wilson.—Charlotte Observer.

GETTING INFORMATION.—As a pedestrian I was lately proceeding toward Toms, he asked a man who was breaking stones by the roadside how long it would take him to reach that place. The man looked at him without speaking and resumed his work. The question was repeated with the same result, and at last the traveler walked on. He had not proceeded more than a few yards when he was called after him, and made a sign for him to return. When the pedestrian reached the stone breaker, the latter said to him: "It will take you an hour to reach Toms."

"Then why did you not tell me so at first?" said the traveler.

"Why," replied the man, "it was necessary for me to see at what rate you walked; and from the way you stepped out, I am able to say that you can do the distance in an hour."

No paper in the State has improved so much within the past year as the Salisbury Watchman. We opine that its venerable and most excellent editor is now giving much of his own time to it. At all events few better papers come to the Observer office.—Charlotte Observer.

Wilkes county correspondent Salem Press: Mr. Woodruff was at work with several hands in his cornfield, and very narrowly escaped being swept away by a waterspout which fell in his field, greatly damaging the land. Others, more fortunate, living on the waters of Big Elkin, were only injured by the uncommon freshet, caused by the falling of the waterspout and the excessive rain.

WEARING APPAREL EXEMPT.—State Treasurer Worth, replying to an inquiry from Mr. M. Cronly, tax assessor for Wilmington township, decides, as he says, with the approval of the Attorney General, that wearing apparel is exempt from the Legislature of 1876-77, this class of property had to be listed for taxation along with other property, and this decision of the Treasurer, exempting it now, is worth the attention of assessors and others.—Charlotte Observer.

Of the leading candidates for the presidency Grant is 57 years old, Hayes 48, Sherman 56, Conkling 51, and Blaine 48. On the Democratic side, Thurman is 66, Tilden 65, Davis 61, Hendricks 63, Bayard 51.

Mr. Ira D. Sankey is resting at Llandudno, Wales. He will assist Mr. Moody in a campaign of six months in St. Louis next winter.

THE LAND OF DIVORCES.—From being the "land of steady habits," New England is fast becoming the land of divorces. In the last 19 years 7,223 divorces have been granted in Massachusetts, and the number is steadily increasing. In Rhode Island and Connecticut, according to late statistics, the divorces are one for every 1,200 of the inhabitants. This is certainly a bad exhibit for New England.