

LOCAL.

THURSDAY, DEC. 23, 1880.

NEW TERMS. After the first day of January, the subscription price of the Watchman will be as follows: One year, in advance, \$1.50; three months, 2.00; six months, 3.00; payment delayed 12 months 2.50.

Our merchants are complaining. Mr. Gaskill is a live man, and is doing a big business. The young people are looking forward to the holiday season and parties.

Several revenue officers have been doing duty in the city and vicinage. Two wagons were seized last Monday.

The music will be a feature in the Presbyterian church, Christmas eve—in connection with the Christmas Tree.

The town tax collector now has charge of all uncollected claims for several years back to 1880. He desires those in arrears to come forward, as the payments will be made.

Mr. High School. This excellent institution under the management of Mr. J. R. McNeill, will open its Spring Term on the 3rd of January next. See advertisement in this paper.

ACCIDENTAL SHOOTING.—Last Tuesday, Harry Traylor, a lad, was fooling with a gun in the front door of Maloney's store, when it was discharged. Mr. John H. Maloney and his son James, who were standing in the drug store door just opposite, both received shot in their faces. Mr. Maloney was seriously hurt. The whole family passed in a few inches of Mr. Theo. Maloney's body, who was passing Maloney's store at the time. Several windows of glass were broken on first and second floors of the drug store.

The sermon delivered at the First Presbyterian church in this city last Sabbath, by Rev. J. R. McNeill, upon the duties and responsibilities of Legislators, should certainly create in the minds of law-makers, and the public, serious thoughts upon the advisability of placing statutory limitations on the manufacture and sale of liquors within the borders of this State. The speaker showed very conclusively that the liquor traffic of today is a hindrance to material prosperity, the greatest enemy to morality, to education, to a high standard of social order, and, undoubtedly, the greatest obstacle in the way to the rapid advancement of the Christian religion.

CHRISTMAS. Will be observed this year as usual. The preparation of our merchants and shopkeepers for the holidays rather excellent, we believe, anything they have heretofore done. Dry Goods Houses have already commenced displaying their most attractive goods and notions, and their clerks have assumed their most exquisite smiles and profoundest bows. Among those who especially merit our notice is the Dry Goods House of

J. D. GASKILL, where will be found the largest and most complete stock in town—comprising everything in the dress line for any lady or gentleman may desire; and of heavy goods, all that housekeepers and families require.

Next to him we should mention MESSRS. HOSS & GREENFIELD, whose fine taste and mercantile skill has gained for their House a popular fame. They too are fully equipped for the holidays, and also ready to buy all the cotton they can get.

KLUTZ & BENDLEMAN Are the best stocked men in town in Coffees, Sugars, Syrups and Substantial Dry Goods, in which shoes may be especially mentioned. They keep the largest variety of the former articles, and can meet any demand.

JONES, McCUBBINS & CO. In the same row, have a beautiful stock of general merchandise besides a great variety of notions suited for holiday presents.

J. & H. HORAH Can be decked out with jewelry of any conceivable pattern or style. Their store is all ablaze with burnished silver and gold, from a thimble up to heavy table sets of silver ware.

A. C. HARRIS, is well supplied with candies, fruits, nuts, family groceries, cigars, tobacco, &c., &c. He is fully prepared for the season, and never fails to give satisfaction. But

TIED. BEHRBAUM deals in this line, having won the inside track in a fair contest. His store of candies, fruits, cigars, &c., is one of the most attractive places in town, and is especially popular at this season.

J. D. McNEELY'S House is never lacking in the substantial goods of life, and is always ready to set before you mountain dainties as well. He has in addition to his usual stock a full line of the manufactured woolen and cotton goods of the Elk's Factory, which is just now becoming so popular.

BILLY OVERMAN Can shoe from a kitten to a prince—the largest and best stock of shoes and boots in town.

MELONEY Is a winning man in fancy goods, candies, fruits and family groceries. His store is always crowded.

But time would fail us to tell of McCubbins & Co's. general stock—of R. J. Holmes, the Messrs. Bernhardt, Knox, Wallace, and of Meroney & Bro. who so often fill orders no one else can; of our Hardware men, D. A. Atwell, Crawford & Taylor, and Wm. Smithfield, and many others. Suffice it to say, the town is wide awake, and just now business houses are especially anxious to please customers.

VICK'S FLORAL GUIDE.—Of the many Guides and seed and Plant Catalogues sent by our Seedsmen and Nurserymen, and that are doing so much to inform the people and beautify and enrich our country, none are so beautiful, none so instructive as Vick's Floral Guide. Its paper is the choicest, its illustrations hand some, and given by the hundred, while its Colored Plate is a gem. This work, although costing but 10 cents, is hand some enough for a Gift Book, or a place on the parlor table. Published by James Vick, Rochester, N. Y.

SERENADE.—The Salisbury Band gave a grand wedding serenade to Mrs. A. H. Boyden, last Monday night, at the residence of her father, Hon. F. E. Shober, to which she and her popular husband had just come from their Spartanburg home, to spend Christmas. By a combination concatenated adverse coincidences, this eminently merited compliment missed payment sooner. And the band, in dread of a like inevitable dispensation of fate, resolved, in defiance of the snow storm, to serenade this beautiful, brilliant lady—and sweet son-in-law, once, lest she should elude them again, by unexpectedly flying South.

And just as a funeral in a snow storm is intensely depressing so is a serenade in a snow storm intensely exhilarating; for, aside from the music, a band that will brave the rigors of a snowy winter night to play such a long and spirited serenade, hold this winter couple in very high esteem. To this must also be added a strong feeling of gratitude to Mrs. Boyden for the frequency and value of the aid she cheerfully lent them in their concerns, by singing in

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"A voice as sweet, as if it took Its music from her form and face."

For the Watchman.

Mr. Editor: Another large assembly of participants in hymenial festivities, was gathered in the residence of Mrs. Wm. Murphy, one night last week, at the grand reception she gave in honor of her son, Capt. Tom Murphy and his charming and accomplished bride, Miss Kate Worth, of Fayetteville.

The levee was large to brilliancy, without being a jam. It was a very enjoyable occasion, and was managed with great tact, and success, by the amiable hostess; and, hence, was characterized by general agreeability—than which nothing in the course of life is so fascinating. Gorgeous dress may dazzle, beauty ely and wit fatigue, but general agreeability is as winning and durable as it is exquisitely delightful.

The bride was affably entertaining and favored the guests with some excellent volcans. Michel said: "To be a man in a trade is, in the first place, and above all things, to have a wife." And it was generally conceded that Captain Murphy—in choosing a wife—had followed the advice of "Wm. Penn, which is: "Never marry but for love, but see that thou lovest what is lovely."

The sapper was sumptuous and artistic in decoration, being supervised by the amiable J. Wren, and it was considered his *coup de maître*—the greatest effort of his life—in such matters.

Don't you to the young couple and many thanks to the elegant lady hostess.

A GUEST.

Clear Streets and Promenades.

Mr. Editor: The real question last week was whether there existed any sort of "Menn et Tamm" law to preserve the streets and sidewalks wholly for public use; and to check the impulse of common humanity from encroaching on the rights and safety of public travel. It is well known that the proprietary rights of merchants do not extend one inch beyond their building lot; and, while none could or would dare to trench on private property adjoining theirs, some of them presume to appropriate the public promenades and streets, in the belief that, in a multitude of proprietors,—no single one will muster moral courage to protest or denounce, for fear of inciting the inevitable J. Wren, and it was considered his *coup de maître*—the greatest effort of his life—in such matters.

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ROWAN COUNTY.

BY J. R.

AFRICAN SLAVERY.

The history of society in Rowan county would not be complete without a glimpse at the system of domestic slavery as it existed here from the first establishment of the county. The early settlers were slaveholders, and on the registers of the county will find here and there a "Bill of Sale" for a negro slave, and in the volumes of Wills you will see how the fathers of the early days bequeathed the negro man Pompey, or Caesar, or Ned or Joe, to one son, and Scipio or Hannibal, or Cato, or Adam to another son, while their daughters received bequests of negro girls and women, by the names of Bet and Sal, Luce and Dinah. The institution may sometimes have been raised in their minds whether it was right to hold men and women in perpetual slavery; but when they opened their Bibles and read how Abraham bought slaves and had slaves born in his house; and how Moses, by divine direction, provided for the release and redemption of Hebrew slaves; and how provision for the release of the slave for foreign birth but allowed him to be bought and sold at the will of their masters; and when they read how slavery was recognized by Christ and his Apostles, their doubts as to the rightfulness of the institution in the sight of God vanished. They did not feel themselves responsible for its introduction among them. That had been accomplished a hundred years and more before their time, when the Dutch sold slaves to the Virginians at Jamestown in 1620, or when citizens of Massachusetts, in 1636, built a Slave ship at Marblehead and sent it to Africa for slaves. Bancroft relates that the representatives of the people ordered the negroes to be restored to their native land and imposed a fine twice the price of a negro upon any one who should hold any "black mankind" to perpetual service. He however ingeniously admits that the law was not enforced, and that there was a disposition in the people of the colony to buy negroes and hold them as slaves forever. (Hist. U. S. Vol. 1, chap. 5.) Stephens, in his History, states that many of the most prominent men of the Colony of Massachusetts purchased slaves out of the first cargo brought from Africa in 1633, in the Marblehead ship, "Desire."

As population drifted into North Carolina, slavery came along with it from Virginia, from Pennsylvania and from the most Northern States. And when, in time, it was discovered that slavery was an unprofitable institution in the bleaker regions of New England, and the moral sentiments of the people began to recognize it as unlawful as well as unprofitable, many of the slaves were sold off to the genial latitude of the Southern States, and the reclaimed wilderness of North Carolina furnished an inviting field for the employment of slave labor. And in general, just as fast as the early settlers accumulated enough money to purchase a slave, it was expended in that way. This was peculiarly the case with the English and Scotch-Irish settlers, and immigrants from Virginia, but not so prevalent among the German settlers, though many of them also followed the same practice. As stated before the records of the early days of Rowan shows the presence of slaves in the county. At the first census in 1790, there were 1,329 negroes in the county, including the territory now embraced in Davidson and Davie, as well as Rowan. In 1800 there were 2874 negroes. In 1830 the number had increased to 6,324. The separation of Davidson and Davie counties reduced the number to 3,433 in 1840 and it rose to 4,097 in 1850. The last named year the white population of Rowan was 10,522, or about 23 whites to each negro.

The character of Rowan county slavery was generally mild and paternal. On a few plantations probably, where a considerable number of slaves were quartered, and it was necessary to employ an overseer, there was a severity of discipline, and hard labor. For the overseer himself was a hireling, and it was important for his popularity that he should make as many barrels of corn and as many bales of cotton as possible with the least outlay of money and provisions. But even then the overtasked or underfed slave had access to his master, either directly or through the young masters and mistresses, who felt a personal interest in the slave, and would raise such a storm about the ears of a cruel overseer as would effectually secure his dismissal from his post. The slave represented so much money, and aside from considerations of humanity, the prudent and economical owner could not afford to have his slave neglected and his value impaired. There was of course room for abuse in all this, and there were heartless and tyrannical masters, and there were oppressed and suffering slaves, just as there is tyranny and oppression in every form of social existence.

But with many families, where there were only a few slaves, the evils of servitude were reduced to a minimum. The slave was warmly clothed, as securely sheltered and as beautifully fed as his master. He worked in the same field, and at the same kind of work, and the same number of hours. Sometimes the clothing was coarse and the food not so delicate, but of the same kind from the same loom and the food from the same pot. The negro had his holidays too, his Fourth of July, his Christmas and his General Muster gala day. And where the family altar was established, evening and morning the negroes, old and young, brought in their chairs and formed a large circle around the capacious hearth of the hall room, while the father and master priest opened the big family Bible, and read the words of life from its sacred pages. And when the morning and evening hymn was sung, the negroes, with their musical voices joined in and sang the "particulars" in the name of Widdowson or Sessions, Ninety Fifth or Old Hundred. They worshipped in the same church with their masters, comfortably seated in galleries constructed for their use, and when the Lord's supper was administered, they came forward and sat at the same tables where their masters had sat, and drank the sacred wine from the same cups.

In all this we are not affirming that there was social equality, or that the slave was always contented with his lot in life. No doubt he often chafed under the yoke of bondage, and sometimes when his master dealt hardly with him he ran away, and hid in the swamps and thickets of the life by stealing, or by the aid of his fellow servants, who sympathized with him and who faithfully kept his secret from his master. Our week's newspapers used to have pictures of fugitive negroes, with a stick over their shoulders, and with a bundle swing in to it, and the startling heading in large capitals—"RAN AWAY." Something after this style.

And many a time the white children on their way to or from school, would almost hold their breath as they passed some dark swart or deserted house, when they would be aware that a RUNAWAY had been seen in the neighborhood. Generally the runaway got tired of lying out in a few weeks, especially if winter was near, and voluntar-

ily came home and submitted to whatever punishment was decided upon.

Occasionally there were cruel hardships suffered by them. When the thrifless master got in debt, or when the owner died and his estate was sold at vendue, or if the heartless master chose, the negro husband and wife might be separated, or parent and child might be sold from each other, one party falling into the hands of a negro trader, and carried off to Alabama or Mississippi. Such cases occurred at intervals, and under the law there was no help for it. But in all such cases the feelings of the humane and christian elements of the community were shocked. Generally, however, arrangements were made to purchase, and keep in the neighborhood, all deserving negroes. As sales would come on it was the habit of the negroes to go to some man able to buy them and secure their transfer to a desirable home. Sometimes, however, all this failed, and the "negro trader" had the longest purse would buy and carry off to the west husbands or wives, or children against their will. Older citizens remember the gangs of slaves that once marched through our streets with a hand of each fastened to a long chain, in double file, sometimes with sorrowful look, and sometimes with manly energy. The house of the Trader was perhaps a comfortable mansion, in some shady square of town. Near the centre of the square, and embowered in trees and vines was his "larragoon," or prison for the unwilling. There a dozen or two were carefully locked up and guarded. Other criminals on the lot contained those who were waiting and willing to go. On the day of departure, the west the trader would have a grand jollification. A band, or at least a drum and fife would be called into requisition, and perhaps a little rum be judiciously distributed to heighten the spirits of his sable property, and the neighbors would gather in to see the departure. First of all one or two elegantly dressed wagons, would file out from the "larragoon," containing the rebellious and unwilling, in hand-cuffs and chains. After them the rest, dressed in comfortable attire, perhaps dancing, and laughing, as if they were going on some holiday excursion. At the crowd of the town and its vicinity, the present faded away, and the curious crowd, who had come to witness the scene retraced to their homes. After months had rolled away the "Trader's" wagon came back from Montgomery or Memphis, Mobile or New Orleans, loaded with luxuries for his family. In boxes and bundles, in kegs and casks, there came jewelry, ribbons and feathers, candies and tropical fruits, wines and cordials, for family use and luxurious indulgence, all the profits of an accursed traffic in human flesh and blood, human tears and helpless anguish and oppression. This was the horrible and abominable side of this form of social institution. It was evil, wretchedly evil. But it had and has its counterpart, in the social evils of the poorer classes of all ages and all lands. Multitudes to-day, by inevitable necessity, by poverty and the demands for certain kinds of service, are as hopelessly enslaved by circumstances as these were by law. It was not a mere excuse or apology for a crying evil, but only an intimation that he who is without sin may consistently throw stones at the vanished spectre of African slavery in the Southern States. And glad are we that the spectre has vanished from our fair land.

For the Watchman.

The Yadkin Railroad.

Away back in the aboriginal days, tradition tells us, the Indians and the buffalo made trails across the country from the sea-board to the mountains, and up and down the land in various directions. These were natural channels, indicated by Nature to her untutored children, and who, as the white men settled the land he found that as to course and route, he could not improve upon the men's ingenuity in the choice of the trails, and these aboriginal trails were adopted as the best, because the most natural routes for great thoroughfares of trade. Railroads built upon these natural lines, and who, as the white men settled the land he found that as to course and route, he could not improve upon the men's ingenuity in the choice of the trails, and these aboriginal trails were adopted as the best, because the most natural routes for great thoroughfares of trade. 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