State Library

THE WILSON ADVANCE.

Claudius F. Wilson, Editor. "LET ALL THE ENDS THOU AIM'ST AT, BE THY COUNTRY'S, THY GOD'S, AND TRUTHS'." $1.50 a Year, cash in Advance

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BILL ARPS LETTER

HE SAYS EVERY RACE HAS ITS OWN SIR ORACLE.

THE COLORED RACE EVIDENTLY THE MOST UNFORTUNATE OF ALL—WHAT THE PRESENT MOVEMENT MEANS.

Of course it was a trick-somebody's trick—this gathering of the negroes to go to Africa. The mystery about it all is $1. They could have gotten $2 just as easy, maybe $5. But it wasn't the trick of our people. The credulity of the negro is amazing. One would think they had learned something since freedom came, something about trusting strangers. The idea of going to Africa for $1 and a postage stamp would convict anybody of lunacy. Two thousand of the dupes in Atlanta with their tickets and as many more all along the line to Washington, all waiting for the agent and the ships. Some went from Cartersville, and are on the road somewhere They won't talk. They are bound to secrecy. They have been hoodood. Education does not seem to rid the negro of the superstitions and vagaries that belong to the race. Every community has its oracle, its conjurer, its fortune teller. There is one over on the hill back of us. The women and the girls have more faith in her than in their preacher. If one of them loses anything she goes to the old woman, who listens to her story and floats some coffee grounds in a saucer and tells the truth, for she is smart and knows her nabors. My daughter's nurse went to her yesterday to have her fortune told, and said the old woman told her she would get a present before night from the good lady she was nursing for. Well, of course that was a compliment and my daughter dident go back on the colored oracle. Her good will is worth something when nurses are scarce.

But I was ruminating about the exodus to Africa—not about the desire to go. Is it a sign of anything? Ever since I was a boy there has been talking and writing about the Jews going back to Jerusalem, and sometimes the signs of it are pretty good, but they have never made a start. And now the wise men say that Providence planned the slavery of the negro for his good and waited 100 years for his civilization, and then sent Stanley to Africa to get the Dark Continent ready, and now that same Providence is inclining his mind to go there, and this is the beginning of the great exodus that is to come. Well this may be so or it may not be, but it is all right if it is. Our people are willing and waiting. But the negroes can't swim and they can't be floated over for $1.02. One thing is certain, they will go when their time comes and not before.

This thing was tried half a century ago and it was too soon and dident work. The Colonization Society meant well and spent lots of money. They built ships and sent agents over to Liberia to prepare the country for the colony. They took thousands and thousands of negroes who had been set free by their masters in Maryland and Virginia, but they died like cattle with the murrain. Most of the states had laws which forbade slaves from remaining in the state after they were set free. They had to go north or go to Liberia. But still there was a great many free negroes in the south, negroes who were born free, and they were a middle class between the slaves and the whitefolks. They were not up to the one nor down to the other. Like the Irishman's definition of a fairy. "They are the spirits of folks who are not quite good enough for heaven, but are a leetle too good for hell." And so when freedom came to the slaves, the old-fashioned, high toned free negro was in a fix, His middle station was knocked out and he felt it keenly and was mad. He was either down to the level of the "common nigger" or they were brought up to his. Most of them were respectable mulattoes and had trades and occupations in the towns like white folks. From that class, all our southern barbers came, but as one of them said to me not long ago: "I was always a democrat, sir, and mixed with southern gentlemen, sir. I was in the Mexican war, sir, and I was intimate with General Henry R. Jackson and Governor Colquitt, and all the blooded stock. I associated with gentlemen, sir, before the war, but one day Lincoln took his pen in his hand and set all those black niggers, free, and before we knowed it, there was about 40,000 new barbers jumped up with a brush in one hand and a razor in the other, and we old fashioned free niggers haint had any comfort since.

I knew one of those high strung mulattoes who got rich, and owned a plantation, and bought some slaves and worked them. He never forgave the yankees for taking his property without paying him for it, and what was worse, they raised up the other negroes to be his equals.

About fifty years ago an old gentleman died in our county leaving a large estate and over 100 slaves. He left a will in which he set free thirty-seven of them, and directed that his executors should send them to Liberia. He charged that they should be provided with abundant clothing, and when they embarked they should be given $200 apiece in gold. These negroes were his favorite house hold servants and their parents and their children, they had been raised by him and he was attached to them. They were reluctant to go but finally consented and old William, who was the trusted and confidential agent of his master, made preparations to go with them, as his master had directed. Their departure was prevented by a bill of injunction that was sued out by one of the heirs and the case had to go to the supreme court, where the will was sustained and the executor ordered to proceed with its provisions. Those negroes were sent from Savanah to Liberia on the ship Elizabeth. Three years after their departure the old man, William and six others very unexpectedly made their appearance in our town and delivered themselves to the executor. They reported all the others dead and asserted that they had tried for a year to get back but were refused transportation by every vessel that came.

Finally they hid themselves in the hold of a trading vessel one night, and kept hid until the ship had been three days at at sea. Their rations gave out, and they came on deck and begged for favor from the captain and got it, for he was a kind hearted man, and brought them safely to Philadelphia. The abolitionists of that city tried very hard to keep them from coming south, and would give them no money to pay their traveling expenses. William was well acquainted with Howell Cobb, who had been his master's guest in the old times, and who was then a member of congress, and he wrote to him at Washington; and Mr. Cobb sent them money and they came to him. and he gave them enough to come home on, and the old darky's face fairly shone with illumination as he told of their trials and sufferings, and how happy he was to get back to his old home, where he could live with Mas' Tom, and die and be buried in the old family graveyards.

Mas' Tom soon heard of their return and hurried in to meet the old darky who had taken care of him from infancy to manhood and they wept and sobbed upon each others shoulders and there never was a more touching, loving scene than that. This is not much of a story, but it is is a true one, and my father was that executor.

The attachments that bound together the great majority of masters and their slaves were strong and beautiful; but they have passed away, and now it seems that the negro wants to go. The two race are living together merely by force of circumstances over which neither has any control, How long they can live together depends upon their good sense and forbearance. I feel sure that I can live with them and keep their respect and their friendship, but perhaps it is because I used to own slaves and feel and maintain my love and my superiority. Our class will soon pass away, and so will the old slaves who love to do us honor. How the coming generations will harmonize I cannot foresee nor foretell, but from the signs I fear there will be less forbearance from the one and less humility from the other. The problem is not solved, and such political measures as the force bill will only make it more complicated, not that the force bill will ever be enforced to our injury, but the animus of it is bad. If the conflict comes it will not be precipitated by us or our negroes, but it will be the same old strife that still rankles between us and our northern enemies. From that enemy I know of no discharge unless we fall back upon that scripture which says: "If a man's ways please the Lord, ever his enemies shall be at peace with him.

BILL ARP.

TOBACCO CULTURE

A VALUABLE AND INSTRUCTIVE TREATISE ON THE SUBJECT.

THE FIRST STAGES OF THE CROP—THE PREPARATION AND SOWING OF THE PLANT BEDS—A PAPER OF INTEREST TO THE NEW BEGINNERS.

There are two modes for raising plants—in hot bed or cold frame, or in the open air; one or the other of which has preference according to locality—the former being more practiced north of forty degrees latitude, while the latter is preferred south of that line. We will here give both, that planters may choose for themselves:

PREPARING THE PLANT BED.

For a hot bed, select a southern or southeastern exposure, sheltered on the north, dig and shovel out a space five by twelve feet or any required length, to the depth of eighteen inches. Place straw to the depth of three or four inches in the bottom of the trench, and cover with fresh unrotted manure from the stable to the depth of six or eight inches; then cover the manure with soil (woods mould is best) five inches deep. How to cover the bed with canvas will be presently described.

Tobacco seed is sown on the bed thus prepared at the rate of two teaspoonfuls to a bed five by twelve feet. To sow regularly, mix the seed with a fertilizer, ashes, or plaster, and sow in drills three inches apart. When the plants have pretty well covered the surface of the bed, remove the canvas during the day, and only replace it when there is danger of frost, or to keep off the flea bugs. There is the advantages of having earlier plants by this mode and perfect security against the flea bug, which will repay for the additional cost of raising at least a portion of the plants needed for the crop by this safe mode.

But there is no question that open air beds are cheapest. And where this mode of raising plants is practicable, it is greatly to be preferred for the main supply of plants. It is a well established opinion that plants raised in open air stand transplanting better and usually grow off quicker than plants raised in hot bed or cold frame.

On the selection of a proper locality for a plant bed, and its preparation largely depends the timely supply of strong, healthy plants, without which it is impossible to raise a crop of fine grade. The planter, therefore, cannot be too careful in choosing a sheltered spot, neither too wet nor too dry, as rich naturally as can be found, and located so as to possess different degrees of moisture.

Go into the woods—original forest, if possible—and select a spot near a branch or stream of water, embracing both hillside and flat, and having a southern or southeastern exposure, protected by woods on the north. Burn over the plat intended for plants, either by the old or new method. The first consists in placing down a bed of wood on small skids three to four feet apart on the ground well cleared and raked. Then fire this bed of wood and permit it to remain burning long enough to cook the soil brown for half an inch deep. With hooks, or old hoes fastened to long poles, pull the burning mass of brands a distance of four and one-half or five, feet, throw on brush and wood and continue burning and moving the fire until the bed is burned over. Never burn when the land is wet. It will require from one and one-half to two hours to cook the soil properly.

Or, better still. Rake over nicely the plat to be burned, then place down poles from two to four inches in diameter, three and one-half to four feet apart, over the entire surface to be burned. Then place brush thickly over the plat and weight down with wood, over which throw leaves, trash or other combustible material; over this sprinkle kerosene oil, and set the whole on fire and burn at one operation.

But any mode of burning the plat will suffice, provided that it is effectually done. After the plat has been burned, and has cooled, rake off the large coals and brands, but let the ashes remain, as they are essentially a first-class manure. Then coulter over the plat deeply, or break with grub-hoes, and make fine the soil by repeated chopping and raking, observing not to bring the subsoil to the surface, and remove all roots and tufts. Manure from the stable, hog pen or poultry house, or some reliable commercial fertilizer, should be chopped into and thoroughly incorporated with the soil while preparing the bed to be sown. Experience has demonstrated that it is better to use both.

A good tobacco fertilizer mixed with equal quantity of poultry house droppings and thoroughly incorporated, makes a most excellent manure for plants, and so does a compost made with selected chemicals, stable manure and rich moist earth. The latter when composted in time is the best and surest. But beware of using manure containing grass seed. The judgment of the planter must guide him in the amount of fertilizing material to be applied at this stage; but it is well to remind him that the tobacco plant rarely responds to homeopathic doses of plant food, but that the allopathic usage suits it best.

Sow at the rate of a tablespoonful of seed, which is about half an ounce, on every fifty square yards at first sowing, and later resow with a heaping teaspoonful over the same surface, to secure a good stand. Injury by frosts or bugs may require a third or fourth sowing. Sow a little thick rather than too thin, to meet contingencies, and secure a good stand in time.

The best way to sow the seed is to mix them thoroughly with a fertilizer or dry ashes, and sow once regularly over the bed, reserving seed enough to cross-sow to promote regularity. The tobacco seed is the smallest of all farm seeds, and consequently requires a light covering. If the seeds are sown before the 20th of February, the best way is to firm the surface by treading it over closely, but if sown later, sweep lightly over it with a brush or light rake. Then run surface drains through the bed, with inclination enough to pass off the water. To do this properly, run them off, then open with a narrow grubbing-hoe to the depth of three or four inches. Then trench deeply around the outside of the bed, to ward off surface water and prevent washing.

MULCHING AND COVERING.

Hog hair whipped fine and scattered thinly over the bed attracts and retains moisture, protects the plants from frost and acts as a manure. There is no better covering for a plant bed but unfortunately it is rarely ever in full supply. Fine brush should be placed thickly over the bed, or, if not handy, cover with straw or chaff free from grain. A covering of some such material is necessary, or the young plants are likely to be killed by frost or suffer from drought, and they thrive better with some protection.

CANVAS COVERING FOR PLANT BEDS.

A covering of thin cloth has been found to hasten the growth of plants and protect them from freezing and injury by the flea bugs. This makes the bed warmer, and acts as a cold frame, the canvas taking the place of glass.

First, boards should be placed all around the bed close so as to prevent the little black beetle, or flea bug from creeping through, eighteen or twenty inches high on the upper side and slopping to ten or twelve inches on the lower. Then prepare a lot of small stakes (small round poles, one and one-half inches in diameter, make good ones,) sawed into lengths graduated from two feet to eighteen inches long, and sharpened at one end. Drive these stakes six feet apart, in rows, through the bed for the laths, two inches wide and one inch thick, to rest upon. The middle lath should be a plank one inch thick and six inches wide. Then drive ten-penny nails, eighteen inches apart, all around the outside of the boarding, and from five to six inches from the top edge. Also drive nails in the middle board eighteen inches apart. Make the covering in two pieces, each the size of half the bed—say ten by ten yards—and sow on the outer edge, all around each cover, loops of cloth, made of common domestic, eighteen inches apart, to receive a cord of twine which runs through loops all around and tie, and the cover is ready to be placed over the bed and fastened by pulling the twine or cord over the nails all around, letting the two covers meet in the middle over the six inch board By this arrangement the cover is kept fast over the bed at the right distance above the plants, and may be removed and placed over it at will in less time than by any other known contrivance.

A STANDING PLANT BED.

Every planter ought to have a standing plant bed, which may be secured in the following way: Some time in July or August select one of the best of the old plant beds, and with hoes shave down the green plants over its entire surface, and cover over thickly with straw or leaves, then place green brush thickly over the bed and weight down with wood. When the whole is dry, some time in the late fall or early winter, set on fire, and thus reburn over the bed. Then chop and rake fine, sow and trench as when first prepared. Repeat the same operation every year, and, if the bed is manured properly, it will improve and prove a stand by for many years.

UNBURNED BEDS.

Plants may be raised by going into the forest, selecting a moist rich plat after raking off the leaves, coultering or chopping the surface fine, manuring heavily, and sowing the seed. But such beds rarely hold out well if the season be dry. They never "repeat" well after the first "drawing" like burnt beds, which are most reliable for a successive supply of plants as the season advances.

TIME OF SOWING SEED.

The time of sowing varries with the latitude, variety, and season. Between the parallels of 35° and 40° north latitude, compassing the great tobacco belt, beds may be sown any time between the 1st of January and 20th March, and the sooner the better for bright grades, which ought to be planted early to mature, ripen and yellow, preparatory to being cured early in the fall, when the most successful curings are usually made. Yellow tobacco ought to be planted out in May, but June plantings usually do best in heavy dark grades. The planter will consult his interest by sowing at a proper time to suit the grade he desires to raise Plants set out after the 10th of July rarely pay for growing and handling, and if not planted by that time, it will be wise to plant the hills in peas, potatoes, or something else.

HASTENING THE GROWTH OF PLANTS.

As soon as the plants become "square" i. e., have four leaves—you may begin to force their growth, if necessary., Nothing is better at this stage of their growth than to apply dry stable manure, rubbed fine, and sowed over the bed, applying at the rate of five bushels to every one hundred square yards. Be sure to have it dry and fine, and apply when the plants are dry. This is a favorable time to apply a good fertilizer, and the best time to apply it is during a shower, or when it is apparent that one is impending. Every planter should compost in time stable manure free from grass seeds along with prepared chemicals suited to tobacco. using just enough moist rich earth to promote fermentation. Nothing is better than this compost for a top dressing on plants to promote rapid, vigorous, stocky growth, defying the ravage of the flea beetle and hastening their preparation for transplanting.

LOOK OUT FOR THE "FLEA BUG,"

If the "fly," as it is called, begins to devour the young plants, apply plaster, in which rags saturated with kerosene oil have lain for a few hours, covering the plants with the plaster, if necessary to keep the little pests from devouring them. Repeat the application after every rain unless the fleas have left.

A covering of green cedar brush has driven off the fly when other remedies failed, and saved plants. If the flies are numerous the planter can save his plants only by vigilant and constant attention. Hard burning early and thick sowing, liberal and frequent application of manure, are the best safeguards, which rarely fail to reward the planter with an early and full supply of stocky plants, and with some left for less provident neighbors. Some planters, if such they may be called, always fail—some never. Follow the latter, and you will always be right.

Canvas covered beds are the surest protection, and seem the best every way.—Maj. R. L. Ragland in Henderson Gold Leaf.

A NEW IDEA

embraced Ely's Cream Balm. Catarrh is cured by cleaning and healing, not drying up. It is not a liquid or snuff, but is easily applied into the nostrils. Its effect is magical and a thorough treatment will cure the worst cases. Price 50c.

Mothers, you can relieve your baby of its discomfort without administering opium, that deadly drug; by using only Dr. Bull's Baby Syrup.

R. R. COMMISSION.

A PRETTY FULL SYNOPSIS OF THE BILL.

THREE COMMISSIONERS AT A SALARY OF $2,000 ANNUALLY, AND A CLERK AT $1,200 TO BE APPOINTED.

The full title of the railroad commission bill introduced in the Senate by Mr. Butler, of Sampson county, is "An Act to provide for the General Supervision of Railroads, Steamboat or Canal Companies, Express and Telegraph Companies Doing Business in the State of North Carolina." It consists of twenty-eight sections, and is entirely too long for our columns.

Section 1 provides that there shall be three commissioners to be elected by the general assembly, to hold office six years, the terms of those elected first being arranged so that there will be one commissioner to elect at each session of the legislature. It also provides that these commissioners shall not own stocks or bonds of corporations

Section 2 fixes the salary of the commissioners at $2,000 a year to be paid out of the general fund, and authorizes the employment of a clerk at a salary of $1,200 a year. It requires that an office be kept at Raleigh.

Sections 3 and 4 prohibit excessive charges for passenger or freight transportation, and unjust discrimination in rates.

Section 5 empowers the commissioners to make rates for freight and passenger transportation, and authorizes them to consider the circumstances of the companies affected. It empowers them to make rules for the regulation of rates and the prevention of discrimination, and to regulate the differences between long haul and short haul rates. In cases of discrimination in transporting freight from beyond state limits, it is made the duty of the commissioners to make complaint to the inter-state commission. Authority is given to the commissioners and corporations jointly to make special rates for the purpose of developing mining, manufacturing, etc., and recognizes the right to make excursion rates for pleasure parties.

Section 6 empowers the commissioners to make and alter schedules of rates for all transportation companies, subject to appeal to the courts, and provides for speedy hearings.

Section 7 authorizes them to inspect the books and papers of transportation companies and to examine agents and employees to ascertain if the regulations are complied with.

Section 8 provides that agreements between companies as to division of earnings shall be submitted to the commissioners for approval.

Section 9 provides for a penalty of from $500 to $5,000 for a violation of the regulations unless full compensation be made to the person wronged or injured.

Section 10 recognizes the right of any person who has suffered a wrong or injury to bring suit against the company, and recover as under existing laws.

Section 11 provides that all fines and penalties collected for violation of the provisions of the act shall be paid into the state treasury.

Section 12 defines the meaning of certain words and terms in the act.

Section 13 provides that shippers may demand and receive duplicate freight receipts specifying the class of freight and the rate thereon, and that the agent at the place of delivery shall collect the rate according to the receipt.

Section 14 directs the commissioners to make annual reports to the governor, and to recommend such legislation as they may deem advisable.

Section 15 authorizes the commissioners to subpœna witnesses to testify to any of their investigations; provides for paying witnesses and enforcing their attendance.

Section 16 provides for a penalty of from $500 to $5000 for refusal or willful neglect to furnish information to the commissioners, or to hinder them in the discharge of their official duties.

Section 17 permits the commissioners to ride free while in the discharge of their duties.

Section 18 repeals all laws authorizing railroad companies to charge higher rates than the commission may allow.

Section 19 requires the commissioners to notify corporations of violations of the rules, and if such violations continue to report the facts to the attorney general.

Section 20 authorizes the commissioners whenever they deem that repairs are necessary upon any railroad, or that additions to its rolling stock, or an addition to or change of its stations is reasonable and expedient in order to promote the security, convenience and accommodation of the public, to notify the corporation of the improvement or changes which it considers proper, and upon the failure to comply, subjects the corporation to a penalty of from $200 to $2,000.

Section 21 prohibits railroad companies from discontinuing stations without the consent of the commissioners.

Section 22 provides that stations and depots may be changed with the consent of the commissioners and the local authorities.

Section 23 empowers the commissioners to require railroads to provide separate accommodations for white and colored passengers.

Section 24 provides that railroads may be required to use safeguards in the construction of frogs, switches, etc., to prevent accidents to employees.

Section 25 requires all common carriers to afford reasonable facilities for the interchange of passenger and freight traffic between their respective lines.

The last three sections contain formal provisions, the last clause providing that the act shall go into effect on the first of April, 1891.

Scrofulous all his Life,

I consider my cure by S. S. S. one of the most wonderful on record. I had the worst type of Scrofula from my infancy until I was 22 years old. My whole young life was embittered and made miserable by the loathsome disease. I not only suffered from the Scrofula, but was so marked that I was ashamed to associate with and was avoided by my playmates and fellow workmen. I tried every known patent medicine, and was first and last attended by more than a dozen reputable physicians but in spite of all, the disease continued to grow worse. About four years ago a friend from Pittsburg advised me to S. S. S., which I did and after taking seven bottles I was cured sound and well and well. The old skin peeled off and was replaced by a new skin, as smooth and free from scars as any person. I have had no return of symptom, of disease. HENRY V. SMITH, Belmont, W. Va.

Treatise on blood and skin diseases mailed free SWIFT'S SPECIFIC CO. Atlanta, Ga.

No North Carolina Women There.

The soft kiss of the morning breezes in Galveston is sweeter than the lips of women.—Galveston News.

A Safe Investment.

Is one which is guaranteed to bring you satisfactory results, or in case of failure a return of purchase price. On this safe plan you can buy from our advertised druggist a bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption. It is guaranteed to bring relief in every case when used for any affection of Throat, Lungs or Chest, such as Consumption, Inflamation of Lungs Bronchitis, Asthma, Whooping Cough, Croup, etc., can always be depended upon. Trial bottles free at A. W. Rowland's Drugstore.

Another Dye Pot Slasher.

One morning last week the mountains were white with snow and the sun came up and glorified them. The deepest coves were illuminatd, and the crags gleamed like burnished silver with a tint of gold upon it. In some places where a mist had settled into deep hollows the waves of mimmic lakes ripple against shadowy shores. Here and there phantom white cities seemed to rise into the sky with shining domes and spires. So unsubstantial, so ethereal did they appear, though in reality built of solid mountain, that it was a question with the beholder whether they belonged to the earth or the heaveus. The city that John saw in his vision could not have been grader than one of these.—Franklin Press.

Merit Wins

We desire to say to our citizens, that for years we have been selling Dr King's New Discovery for Consumption, Dr. Ding's New Life Pills Bucklen's Arnica Salve and Electric Bitters, and have never handled remedies that sell as well, or that given such universal satisfaction. We do not hesitate to guarantee them every time, and we stand ready to refund the purchase price, if satisfactory results do not follow their use. These remedies have won their great popularity purely on their merits A. W. Rowland Druggists.

Juha E. Johnson, Stafford's P. O. S. C., writes "I had suffered 13 years with eczema and was at time confined to my bed. The itching was terrible. My son in law got me one half dozen bottles of Botanic Blood Balm, which entirely cured me, and I ask you to publish this for the benefit of others suffering in like manner.

Tuesday evening of last week the dwelling of Geo. Gainor, of Bethel, was destroyed by fire.

Dark rings around the eyes indicate the existence of worms. Hasten to use Shriner's Indian Vermifuge to expel these miserable pests. It is a safe and reliable agent. Always use it according to directions, and it will do its work well,

There are seventy-eight students at the agricultural and mechanical college.

The saying, time is money, is best illustrated by the prompt action of Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup in all cases of coughs, colds, &c. Price 25 cents.

25 cents invested in a bottle of Salvation Oil will do a great deal of good. Buy it, try it.

NEWS OF A WEEK.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD AROUND US.

A CONDENSED REPORT OF THE NEWS FROM OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

Eph Means, colored, of Concord, sixty years old, is sending his wife aged thirty, to school.

The Rocky Mount Cotton Mills are running night and day in order to keep up with their orders.

Wineoff & Eddleman bought 2,257 rabbits during the month of December.—Concord Standard.

Evangelist Fife has purchased a handsome residence in Fayetteville and will make that place his home.

Seven thousand bushels of merchantable peanuts were raised on seventy-five acres in Edgecombe county.

Judge Peffer, who is elected Senator to succeed Ingalls, is an advocate of low tariff and will stand by the Ocala platform.

The Concord Standard hears of an untaught boy, eighteen months old, who could read the Bible. He read until he was four years old and then died.

R. W. Elliott, of Long Creek, who is in his 82nd year, one day last week, without assistance, built a fence of 120 panels, and 10 rails high.—Charlotte Chronicle.

Thomas Munday, aged 15, was killed by an engine passing over him at Asheville. He tried to catch on to a moving engine, says the Citizen, when missing his hold he was thrown under the wheels.

By the last school census, there were 4,365 white and 3,647 colored children in Nash county, between the ages of six and twenty-one. There are 54 white and 44 colored school districts in the county.—Argonaut.

Last week the work shop, stables, all the corn raised on his Old Sparta farm, fodder, cotton seed, tools and farming implements, of Wiley G. Webb, were utterly destroyed by fire. The loss is about $1,000.

This "takes the cake." At Kansas City January 9th, W. R. Gregory was sent to jail for stealing a red hot stove, the oven of which was filled with biscuits. He sold it at a second hand store, biscuits and all, for $3.

E. F. Moore, the ex-President of the People's National Bank, of Fayetteville, was last week bound over in a justified bond of $5,000 for his appearance at the United States Circuit Court, which meets in Raleigh next June.

A short time ago a Canadian magazine offered a prize to any one who would make the greatest number of words out of "British North America." Miss Sallie Kelly, a young girl of Charlotte, won the prize, making 300 words.

The President has again nominated J. H. Young, col., to be Collector of Customs for the Wilmington District. Some months ago he was nominated, but the white Republicans of Wilmington raised such a row that the nomination was for awhile "hung up."

A good steamer for use as an oyster gunboat has been chartered and is at New Berne. It will start in a day or two and will constantly patrol the sounds which have been infested by the pirates. Col. Wood and his military force, which was on the steamer Vesper, has returned to Elizabeth City.

One of the largest hogs in America, if not, in fact, the largest hog in the world, was reared by a Junction City, Kansas man. The length was 8 feet and 9 inches; girth of neck, 6½ feet; girth of center of body 8 feet; width across the hips, 30 inches; weight, 1,532 pounds.—St. Louis Republic.

The Alliance of Beaufort county has taken steps to organize a fair to be held near Washington this fall. A meeting has been called in Washington on the 2d Saturday in February to consider the matter. The counties of Pitt, Martin, Washington, Hyde and Pamlico are invited to send delegates.

The truck shipping season has begun. Mess. Hackburn & Willett are already sending off the Early Jersey Wakefield and Flat Dutch varieties. A good shipment went off yesterday morning. Peas were being shipped from here last season up to the middle of November. Thus one season comes so near meeting the other that there is only two months in the year between the cessation and renewal of shipments. Only two months in the year when crops are not being gathered! Who wants a climate that will do more than taht?—New Berne Journal.

Boston Faison, a well known colored farmer of Northampton county, was drowned in the Roanoke river eight miles below Weldon on last Saturday night. He was in a canoe with two other negroes. The river was much swollen from the recent rains and the current strong. When they were about half across the river Boston fell into the water, and having on a heavy overcoat went down like lead and was lost. His body has not been removed.—Cor. Richmond Dispatch.