

## THE ROANOKE NEWS.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1878.

The letter of our correspondent "X" equals anything that has appeared since the days of Ju-los, and while full of solid sense will be found rather ausing to read.

## OUR COMING FAIR.

We refer our readers to the letter from the Farmer and Mechanic published elsewhere. It gives a brief outline of the extra attraction which will make the next fair of the Roanoke and Tar River Agricultural Society the most successful ever held under the auspices of that organization. We desire however to call the attention of the people a little more fully to these attractions than is done in the letter referred to.

6. "Recent History of the Burials Question." Epitomizes the recent history of this question, and urges that the burial of the dead should be a sanitary, not an ecclesiastical matter.

7. "The Later Greek Nation." Reviews Finlay's History of Greece. This article is written by H. A. Freeman, the historian.

8. "The Congregational View of Religious Communion."

9. "Contemporary Literature."

The periodicals reprinted by The Leonard Scott Publishing Co. (41 Barclay Street, N. Y.) are as follows: The London Quarterly, Hibernia, Westminster, and British Quarterly Reviews, and Blackwood's Magazine. Price, \$1 a year for any one, or only \$15 for all, and the postage is prepaid by the Publishers.

The attraction for the first day is a Pigeon shoot. To the successful shot a fine breech-loading gun will be awarded and the reputation for marksmanship already attained by the gentlemen who have entered for this contest makes it certain that the man who carries off the prize must make a clean score.

For the next day we have a grand Military display and competitive drill of volunteer military companies for a flag and target shooting for a gold medal. And Friday, the last day of the Fair, brings us the tournament over hurdles and with sabres, to the victor in which, besides the usual privilege of choosing a queen of love and beauty from the myriad of fair maidens in attendance will be given a fine thoroughbred horse. This is an entirely novel feature in fair programmes and we shall be disappointed if it does not attract a very large crowd.

In addition to the extra features of interest thus enumerated we have every reason to hope that the regular features will be found much more interesting than formerly. Already we learn from the farmers in the neighborhood that they and their wives and their daughters are making preparations to make the agricultural exhibit all that can be desired. And already the owners of six stables of race-horses have promised to bring their horses here.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Richmond and Dispatch writing to that paper from Weldon speaks as follows:

It is expected that a number of merchants from this vicinity will accompany the excursionists to your city August 6th. There is but little doubt that, with proper efforts, the bulk of the trade of this section can be secured for Richmond.

To this remark we desire to express our hearty approval. By proper efforts the bulk of the trade of this section can be secured for Richmond, and our opinion now is that not much of an effort will be needed. The great difficulty, which has heretofore stood in the way of this consummation has been removed by the placing of the management of the Petersburg Railroad in the hands of Mr. J. S. Sly, whose wise foresight may be relied on to give all possible assistance to an enterprise, which must exert a lasting benefit to the corporation over whose destinies he presides so faithfully and intelligently, so that the only thing left for the Richmond merchants to do, is to let the advantages of their city be known and shown to the purchasers of this locality that they may get as good bargains in Richmond as elsewhere. How this shall be brought about, whether by documents or by advertisement in the local papers, distinctly forbids us to advise. That it may be done, we are certain, and we are inclined to believe that the trade now given to other cities which could be diverted to Richmond, would add very considerably to the prosperity of that place.

The British Quarterly Review for July has been republished by the Leonard Scott Publishing Company, 41 Barclay Street, New York. The following is a summary of its contents:

1. "Taine's Philosophy of Art." The reviewer takes up M. Taine's recent works on the Philosophy and Ideal of Art in Italy, Greece, and the Low Countries, examines his definition, and analyzes his account of the workings of the physical, intellectual, and social peculiarities to which it is due.

2. "Ethics of Evolution." Discusses at great length Herbert Spencer's conception of God, and of the origin and nature of conscience, and points out its inconsistency with other portions of that writer's sociological scheme.

3. "Bryan Waller Proctor." A pleasant sketch of the life of one better known by his pseudonym—Barry Cornwall.

4. "The Russian and Turkish War."

5. "Future Punishment." Remarks the recent changes of sentiment among professed believers in relation to the subject of the eternity of future punishment, and contends that the amiable dreams of the Universalists are not of keeping with the facts of experience as well as with the principles of Revelation.

So Mr. Editor after all this flourish of trumpets, and twelve months of anxious suspense, all the people have got is five smashed up bills of indictment and some hundreds of dollars by way of bills of costs, and the promise of other hundreds to pay on the other bills, when the same shall be subjected to the crucial eyes of Day and Joe Moore. Verily the "New Bloom" sweeps clean. What I picked up and here offer you were fragments of history, left after the bloom was wearing away. A round, unvarnished tale I have told the people of this County. I have extenuated nothing and put down nothing in malice. As a plain blunt man I have spoken plain truths, and now in all candor I ask if the Inferior Court is not an abominable failure.

X.  
P. S.—Since writing the above I have learned that Col. Clark, one of the Court had written out his resignation at the last term—disgusted, I suppose, but was deterred from handing it in by his friends. I wonder if it's so?

COL. J. R. ZOLLICOFFER.

SOUTHERN NEWS, N. C., I.

August 14, 1878.

If that charming bar-history is to be believed, a certain Dutch admiral once sailed up the Throne, with a new broom called to his main mast, for an ensign, signifying thereby that he would sweep things clean. So in the organization of our Inferior Court, the new broom policy was adopted. But also for the Dutchman. Alas for the Court! For one sailed back with the English broom sweeping in his rear, the other, is doing around the pines and gables of its former friends. The "Old Field Court" is a failure. The object, chiefly for which it was imposed upon the taxpayers, convicting the County Commissioners, has eluded it. And I, a simple layman, propose in a few lines to preserve some fragments of its short and brilliant history.

Having been a tales jar at several of its terms, and watching its doings with something of curiosities, I claim the right to speak concerning it.

All things must have a beginning and so this began. The first term was exchanged in a violent struggle between the Clerk, Court and Solicitor, as to who had a patent-right for running the machine. At the end of the week it was a drawn battle. Many however of the irreverent sort asserted that the Clerk had won on whose broom sat smiling victory. But alas for human hopes, his triumph was short-lived, the second hand was too much for his mettle and so he "scrubbed" early in the week, leaving the field to the other contestants, who did manful battle for the broom.

At this stage brighter fields and greener pastures for him opened upon the enraptured gaze of the Solicitor, and he too abandoned the contest, leaving the Court in a disputed possession, these pastures being four bills of indictment against the County Commissioners. All of which the Grand Jury returned as true, which does not necessarily mean, in this Court, that the parties will be convicted, as the sequel will prove. I say this parenthetically as a matter of history.

This brings us down to the third term of the Court, when contrary to all expectation these stupid Commissioners demanded a speedy trial. This unreasonable demand was received from day to day until Saturday, the last day of the term, when the Solicitor called up their cases. All answered, and my surprise, for I came there to convict the guilty dogs, and the surprise of all lookers on may be better imagined than expressed, when instead of trying on the bills, that were set for trial during the term, the Solicitor with the permission of the Court first had and obtained, read one of four new bills (fresh from the hands of the Grand Jury) made a long speech, in which he dwelt upon the enormity of the crimes charged and asked the Court to bind themselves over on the new bills without further affidavit or allegation than that contained in his speech. This motion, unheard of in an American Court of justice, so I have been informed by lawyers, the defendants' counsel earnestly objected to, Captain Day characterizing the order as smacking of the Russian koum and not of Democratic justice. But the Captain was reciting without his host and had to apologize for such an enthusiastic protest. This last scene was too much for a Halifax county man's notion of fair play, and the defendants gave their bond, with good Democratic names thereon, without leaving the Court house. Many of the bystanders remarking that this proceeding was a travesty on justice. The Solicitor then bowed himself home, and the court adjourned.

This brings us to the fourth term of the Court at which term the Solicitor had promised to try the Commissioners, if notified, so that he could be present when the jury was drawn. The notice was properly served by the sheriff, with the time and place for drawing the jury designated. The Commissioners held their Court open two days at a considerable expense to the county, waiting the presence of the Solicitor who did not come. On Thursday of this term the defendants again demanded a trial. The State signified its readiness. The Solicitor then moved that the defendants be tried separately, alleging that the defendants would have too many challenges if they were tried jointly. It is said that there is nothing new under the sun, but I am informed by members of the bar that this is a new reason for a motion to sever; however novelties are nothing new in this case.

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T. M. JONES, President.

July 6 pm.

JNO. T. GREGORY,

Clerk Superior Court,

Halifax County.

T. N. Hill, atty. for plaintiff.

June 15 d. w.

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