WILMINGTON, N. C.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1877.

NORTH CAROLINA TROOPS.

The Norfolk Virginian, after waiting two weeks to digest the Raleigh Obsurere farticle in reply to Col. Taylor's account of the battle of Gettyaburg, piffalished in a Philadelphia paper, and recopied by the

there from Engelhard's, Young's Lane's reports, just as Col. Taylor did when it suited his purpose and convenience prove his side of the question, and totally ignoring those facts which tend to disprove anything that was said in his retimony and assertion, that he saw with his own eyes, and consequently of his own personal knowledge wrote, that while he

tery Hill at Gettysburg, he "watched with

half hour, the men flushed with victory, to the office of Coroner at an early day."

to make out the report of the part taken forward to do his tardy duty. A goatleman who occupies a position of ventable but ellete law. Col. Taylor's account in the Times, and the Localiticht ming. teaching was in a different school.

so we care not for Col. Taylor's or the Vir- majority of cases investigated by him. ginian's compliments. Keep them to The law as it now is, is sadly deficient, public print about North Carolina, write for the public print about North Carolina, write for instance, a body is found which has the facts, and we will be satisfied, know- upon it marks of violence. Suspicion is creditable.

Col. Taylor acted in making extracts from his opinion, but the law has blocked this Gen. Lee's report of the battle, copied so road to enlightenment by offering a sum much as suited their purposes, and left the less than one-half the curent rate paid by balance untold

in this particular, more especially is he competent,

For thrice is he armed who hath his quar-As a North Carolinian, therefore, and one who feels the injustice done to his native State, proud of the record North Carolina troops made during the war, in the Army of Northern Virginia, whether THE NORPOLK VIRGINIAN, upon the heights of Gettysburg or in the COLONEL TAYLOR AND THE dense forests of the wilderness, whether in the trenches around Petersburg or on that ever-memorable retreat to Appomattox here they made the last charge, we feel is as much our duty, as any one, to come lorward in defence of our noble old State and transl with the infamy they deserve, Virginian has at last come out with a two the detractions that are uttered against the column article, making extracts here and last time of her noble heroes of the war

North Carolinians fought the first battle upon Virginia soil at Big Bethel, and North Carolinians fired the last volley upon an invading foe at Appomattox Court House. In the language then of our soble old commander, Gen. Lee, "God pert. Thus, Maj. Engelbard's own to- bless North Carolina; she is first and last a every struggle."

[COMMUNICATED.]

was thiside of the comen's works on Come- The Putility of Coroners' Inquests. painful anxiety the fight upon Pickett's futility of Coroners' Inquests. We will enough extreme right, for upon its success de- start out with the assertion that the ends pended the tenableness of our position. of justice would be as easily accomplished Surrounding me were the soldier's of Pen- without them as with them, as now mander's, Heth's and Pickett's Divisions, and aged. That not only in this country, but it required all the resources at my com- in Great Britain, where the laws nearly mand to prevent their following on masse resemble ours, Coroners' Inquests are of the retreating enemy." o o o sale doubtful utility that a member of "We remained in quiet and undistrated the British House of Commons last year possession of the enemics works for a full gave netice that "he would call attention

cager to press forward. But when the right In Alagland, there has been since the of Pickett's Division was compelled by the death of the great geologist, Sir Chas. overpowering attack upon its right flank Lyell, in 1875, a steady, growing dissatisto give way, the heroism which had driv- action with these Ceroners' Inquests. on back everything in its way being una- It will be remembered that Sir Charles ble to withstand the natural larriers | died of disease of the heart, as certified to which protected the attacking force on by an eminent physician, his attendant. A the flank, there was nothing left for us to newly appointed Coroner in the excess of taining to the coroners devolve upon them do but to surrender ourselves as prisoners, his zeal, despite the certificate of this which was much the safest course, or physician, insisted on holding an inquest, withdraw in confusion before the converg- and had the coffin broken open for that ing lines of the enemy, those in our im- purpose. For this over-zealous act he mediate front not having rallied. Our was justly reproved by his superiors, and tested. loss on the retreat was greater than on the condemned by the public. But the notaadvance, but we retreated in good order, the case which has caused the threatened and long before dark Pender's Divis- legislation in the Br. House of Commons, been performed since the war, in no case ion presented a shortened but a solid and is that of Mr. Bravo, a young barrister, has such an inquest led to the detection determined line of battle, behind which who was mysteriously poisoned by anti- of crime, or has had any special features General Lee made his preparations for te- mony in the hands of murderers not yet in its favor over a preliminary examinaletected. After a lapse of weeks, tion by a magistrate; that the people's Now why don't the Virginian publish long chough after the occurrence money has been wasted in going chrough the above extract also? Here was an eye for the merderers to have destroyed the farcical performance of an inspection, witness, and a participant with the line every ve tige of their crime, and not always ending where it should only fairly of battle, a man of integrity and uning only after a reward was offerered by the have began : that is to say the cononer

commander had been mortally wounded. In allustrations of the workings of this matter of impossibility to get a thorough

trust and responsibility in our present A man accidentally falls overboard any doctor whose opinion would have State government, honored by his fellow- from a flat, in the presence of witnesses. been worth having, for the paltry sum of citizens for valuable services rendered the lits body is recovered, is identified, and \$10, and therefore the jury was and is State during and since the war, who, over stangletway the covener gets together a now left to guess at the cause of death. his own signature, writes of his own knowl- in y to promote the stereotyped verdict But matters have been growing from bad edge, facts condemning and controlleding | - Ville lon of Gol," or some thing just to worse, and instead of allowing the

impartial Virginian totally ignores the in an drops suddenly dead in the eral doctors by offering \$5 which some as given here, and makes other cath ... street in a fit, (he having been un- refused to accept; -very properly. We and by sophistry and many ingentions at - dir treatment for years by some legal contend that the County Commissioners, guments, tries to make Engelband's had practitioner,) and without other inquiry whatever they may think about its efficacy, Young's and Lane's reports contradictory and othe case, a jury of gaping and ignor- have no right virtually to abolish a law. Out upon such fairness and impartially, and by tonders is selected, the perfunctory It is their duty, and we say it a lystenders is selected, the perfunctory If this be a sample of the I'- bu ness is gone through with, the old to vitalise the law by having examinations ginian's idea of right and wrong, justice vertice is put in the jurors' mouths, and only when they can subserve justice by and truth, to fallen herces, to the brave the public is informed just what detecting crime, and in such cases employand heroic dead, and to the honorable live they could have guessed before ing competent physicians at such fair prices ing, then we are glad to say that our the verdict was rendered; but the as they would expect to get in selling their coroner has carned his fee and very likely own merchandise. If a post mortan is And then in a sort of saiving way tong Wed with the requirements of the not worth more than five do'lars they are the Virginian goes on with some dispose law.

ing twaddle and nonsense about Col. And it is very evident that in neither giving that sum. Taylor's opinion, and what it has heard of the cases cited could the claims of jushim assert, viz: "That no State executes then be furthered by such an inquisition, North Carolina in her contribution of men and if the law was not framed for the deand material during the war, and that tection of criminals, it has no meaning or none equated her in her care for her use. The coroner is surely not paid for soldiers." As we care not what Col. the light which he lends to science by his Taylor's opinion was or is, in regard to us, inquests; it does not seem so from the

ing that if this is done, the conduct of attached to certain persons. A jury is North Carolina troops during the war, in sammoned. The first step in the process any and every engagement in which they towards er lightening the jury is, how participated, will compare favorably with was this violence done? Was it sufficient there. California did tetter than that, any troops that ever faced an enemy in to have caused death in this case? and line of battle in the history of the world. The jury nature'ly lacks the experience of In like manner has the Virginian and an expert. A physican is called to give private citizens for similar service. We In writing this much in reply to the speak advisedly when we say that there believe would summarily deal with the

Virginian's article, we are not presuming is not a physician in the town so leading members of the Mormon church to attempt any reply for the Observer, much in need of business that party. His experiments were not at all As the Virginian and every one else well he would make a minute examinaton of a knows, the knight of the quill that pro- cadaver, sufficient to form an opinion "twin relic of tarbarism," polygamy, will sides over the catorial columns of the upon, at he cheap rates, and if there disappear, and that there will be no good Observer needs no champion and no as- is such an one, the amount of light excess for interference by the Governsistance at our hands, being quite compe- he would furnish to the jury would tent to handle the Virginian, Col. Taylor not be worth the pitiable fee paid for and the whole of Pickett's "magnificent it. Very few men have the capacity matters aside from mining than any Virginians", if necessary, on this subject to fill the office of Coroner. For, other. or upon any other that they choose to in a ldition to honesty, must be added

It is the custom, and perhaps the law, in some States to select Coroners from the medical profession. But the whole system of Coroner's jurous, while right in the main, right in intention, is a miserable failure. It needs vitalizing. It needs a more intelligent execution. As it stands now it is a shameful waste of people's money. Upon no subject could some member of our legislature do more good service than by taking this matter in hand.

The above article was written some time ago and laid aside until now the whole question is reopened by the course the County Commissioners have taken in consolidating the duties of the county physician and coroner's physician, and we should say in consolidating the pay. The Commissioners are anxious to get rid of the expense, but they must see at once that they are far from accomplishing the intent of the law thereby. The law says that the physician shall be paid \$10, or such other sum as the Commissioners deem just, or in words to that effect. stating \$10 as the minimum sum and leaving the maximum sum to the wisdom of the Commissioners, so that in making this salaried office they have exceeded their powers, and have stricken the last We desire to call your attention to the blow at a law which was already weak

> Toremedy the imperfect law and make it subserve the ends of justice many amendments are necessary. Only such cases should be submitted to coroner's inquest as have a suspicion of foul-play about them, and this must necessarily be determined primarily by an intelligent coroner. And a coroner to have sufficient knowledge to determine these cases should have a medical education, and to cover the objection of unnecessary examination by the job he should have a salary. We believe now that the coroner has no option. In the State of Massachusetts the offices of coroner have been abolished, and in their stead medical experts are appointed by the Governor, and the duties once per-Under the old law the expense of inquests

was a great burden, and rarely resulted in good; the new law is spoken of favorably, and of course remains to be thoroughly We would say then, that of the hun-

dreds of coroner's inquests which have examination of the body knew he had by Pender's Division after its lamented liet we used not go so far from home come to a head halt, for it was always a inspection of the viscera of the body b paltry \$10 they - have astonished sevactually throwing five dollars away in

WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 11, 1377. The last act of Mr. Hayes, before starting on his political hunt in Ohio, was to order the removal of the high officers of the New York Custom House for engaging in politics to such an extent as to interfere with their official duties. There seems to be an inconsistency here, which, in view of

Maine holds her election to-day, and a prophecy of Democratic gains in the Legslative is made made by intelligent Dembut the position in Maine is complicated by the ancient folly of some of the party 0 10 leaders.

General Grant, influenced by Rev. Mr. Newman and others, favored a policy which looke I to the entire extirmination of Mormonism by extra constitutional means. He appointed Territorial officers. successful. With the death of Brigham Young the hope is entertained that the ment in the affairs of Utah more than in those of any other Territory. Utah is much more prosperous in all material

This city has been a rich field for life! insurance companies. Immense sums are offer him the gauge of battle. But some knowledge of law and of medicine. paid out at the end of every month in

cash, by the Government, and the Life Insurance agent found his profit here. A few days since several large policy holders, who had lost money by the failure of companies or feared that existing conpanies were unsound, called a meeting to iscuss insurance matters. There is reat interest in the matter here, but the first meeting was in part made up of persons who had grievances against various companies, and the really interested parties secured an adjournment to a later day, when, it is believed, an organization will be formed which will have considerable influence in life insurance matters

throughout the country. A resolute effort is being made here to lieve the very poor. We have more of his class than any other community of he like size, as thouands of impoverished blacks made their homes here during and after the war, and remain with us. It is noticed and much commented on that he only efforts so far made, by public meeting or otherwise, to relieve the immediate distress of these people, have been made by private citizens.

There has been no expression of symeathy from any authority. Between the me of Mr. Hayes' return frm New England and his departure for Ohio, there were work appeared, has happily ended, and a several meetings held by our best citizens new course of commercial and industrial activity has been commenced. to provide means of much needed relief but no word of approval or promise of aid was heard from the White House or the Cabinet. I remember that when our German fellow citizens, certainly no more respectable than those who held these meetings, met to become jolly at one of the - annual festivals, a mouth or two tant sieges maintained; of which the details Mr. Hayes and his Cabineat, but floral are as yet preserved only in the newspapers or in the trasient publications of the day, and which ought now to take their place in Mr. Haves and his Cabineat, but floral tributes from the White House gardens. But the poor of Washington do not vote Ohio and the Germans do.

GURDGE.

Miscellaneous.

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