WILMINGTON, N. C.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1880.

ENTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AT WILMINGTON, N. C., AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.]

### VIEWS AND REVIEW.

A Cincinnati criticism on 'The Pirates of Pensance: 'The thin pirate with terrific moustache had his right calf on wrong side out.'

One of the grounds on which Mr. Say demands a divorce, at Lafayette, Ind., is that his wife, 'although well knowing that the plaintiff was a Democrat, refused him the privilege of bringing Democratic papers to his house.'

The German War Department is busy with a plan for the fortification of Berlin after the fashion of Paris. Several of the Continental newspapers are already discussing the details. The defences will include some twenty outlying forts.

A somewhat foolhardy act has been per formed at Calais by an actress, who entered the lions' cage at the menagerie, and there recited Victor Hugo's 'Caravane, Her musical voice evidently had the traditional effect of 'soothing the savage breast,' as the lions never attempted to interrupt her performance.

Mr. Gladstone wants Englishmen still to be punished for breach of promise to marry. He is epposed to the abrogation of the present law on the subject. 'I am unwilling,' be says in a recent letter, 'to part with the imperfect check upon mis conduct supplied by the present law un. til I shall see that better ones have been provided.

The annual fair for the hiring of Dor setshire (England) farm laborers, male and semale, took place on a recent Saturday, when in wet and mud above 1,000 'hinds' paraded the streets and stood in groups waiting to be hired by the year. The farmers have in vain tried to put down the fair, which was this year styled in posters the 'slave fair.'

Married women in England are agita ting for their property rights. The 'Mar. ried Woman's Property Committee held its annual meeting in London on the 4th of February, and resolved to use every means to pass a law that 'a married woman's property shall be her own after, as before marriage, liable for har obligations and subject to her control.'

The proposed increase of the German army, both in numerical strength and efficiency appears likely to be promptly followed by a similar augmentation of the armed forces of other Continental powers. In France a complete reorganiszation of both the infantry and cavalry of the army is purposed by the Minister of Warand in Italy an increase of 10,000,000 lire in military estimates for 1881 is propos-

The most recently published figures show that suicide is on the increase in France. Before the Franco-German was the average number of suicides only slightly exceed 5,000 a year, and now they exceed 6,000. In Paris there are three times as many suicides committed as in the country. Most of the men who destroy themselvee are bachelors. The spring is the time of year when suicide is most frequent, and death by hanging is more usually resorted to than any other mode of self-destruction, being considered more expeditious.

Mr. Bliss, a conductor on the Rock Island Railroad, was only five feet in height, and Mr. Henry, a passenger, was almost seven. Henry put his ticket in his hat band and stood up straight when the little conductor came along. Bliss could not reach the ticket, even by stand ing on his toes, and his comical efforts made the passengers laugh uproariously; but, without changing countenance, he brought a step ladder, leaned it against the big man, climbed up to the ticket and then went on as though nothing had happened.

In Bavaria a quaint custom obtains, rendering it obligatory upon every prince of the reigning house to perform at least one day's active duty as a private soldier in the royal army. On the 24th of Jancousin to the musical King, completed his 18th year and attained his majority. Greatly to the entertainment of the Munich public, which crowded the Marienplatz to contemplate his performance, he celebrated his birthday by doing duty as sentry in front of the principal guard house of the capital. Being an uncom. monly good-looking youth, he was gazed at with admiration and approval, during some curiosity exhibited as to when and utterance to their feelings by plaudits some quarters that it has grown when he was relieved from his post in the to usual manner, and marched off to bar- binding on all conventions, through the racks, rifle on shoulder, with the relief force of custom only, and not by any

We appreciate the kindly spirit in which the Raleigh Observer has made the amende. It was distressing to us to think that an old and a tried and true friend should have misunderstood us, even in the heat of argument, and we are glad to find that no wrong was intended The two papers, and the two Editors have heretofore worked in harmony to gether for the advancement of a common cause and we trust that there will never again arise a misunderstanding between

### MASONRY AND TAE OBELISK

Several distinguished Free Masons have given their opinions in the New York Herald upon the relation to Masonry of the discoveries recently made in Egypt by Con mander Gorringe. Authorities are divided on the main point. Many do not believe that the emblems found are Ma sonic, nor that the stones and implements described are in any way whatever significant of the mysteries of this order Others insist that these discoveries at once establish for the order a very great antiquity; for, although the obelisk was not placed on its recent site in extremely an cient times, it is to be observed that those who assume that the stones found be neath it are Masonic at once leap further and carry the date of their o der to the toundation of the pyramids for no perceptible reason. Mr. Singleton, of Washington, is the most intelligent of the ob jectors to the theory of the Masonic rela tions of the emblems. He not only does not assent that some ancient order of Ma sons demolishes the antiquity of Hiram, but he does not even admit that Hiram needed demolition, and holds that this ane cient friend of the workingman had more historical relation to Masonry than an allegory on the banks of the Nile

### INADMISSABLE.

We have received a copy of a bill draws by Mr. H. E. Scott, a Representative from this city, relative to the sale of the West ern North Carolina R. R., which he pro poses to submit at the called session of the Legislature. It is as follows:

SUBSTITUTE FOR THE BILL FOR THE SALE OF THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA RAFLROAD.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact :-

Section I That the Governor, Treasurer, Secretary of State, and Attorney General of the State of North Carolina be. and are hereby appointed Commissioners on the part of said State to sell, assign and transfer all of the interests of the State in and to the stock, property and franchises of the Western North Carolina Railroad Company, at public auction, to tne highest bidder or bidders for Cash at a price to be designated by said Commissioners, after first having advertised the same for three months in one or more of the leading newspapers in the cities of Raleigh, New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Baltimore, St Louis, Chicage and Boston.

Section II That no bid shall be en tertained by said Commissioners for a ess sum than five hundred and fifty the u sand dollars (\$550,000).

Section III. That the said Commis sioners are hereby granted full and ample powers to make all and every stipulation with the highest bidder or bidders, for the transfer of the Western North Caron lina Railroad, and everything appertaining thereto, and for the time of comple. tion of said Road, and for the employment of the State's surplus convicts, and for the payment of the bonded debt of said for accidents, mamma?' S P-Well, Road, and for every other condition which sir?' Tommy-Well, I make mistakes t ey may deem necessary for the protec- by scoident! tion of the interest of the State of North

Carolina. Section IV. That all laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby

Section V. This act shall be in force

from and after its ratification. In point of equity, so far as the value of the road is concerned, Mr. Scott's bill is to us preferable to that by which tt is proposed to transfer the road to Mr Best and his associates, inasmuch as it is not in fayor of a preferred bidder but places all on an equal footing. Still, it is inadmissable from the fact that there are no State guarantees reserved, as it opens the field to those who might purchase and run this road strictly in the interest of otherStates and to the detriment of sea ports and towns in this State. This consideration alone, to our mind, renders Mr. Scott's bill totally inadmissable.

THE TWO-THIRD , RULE. In reference to the statements which are freely circulated that the mooted project to abolish the two-thirds rule in the National Democratic convention are prompted in the interest of Mr. Tilden, it is of interest, says the Baltimore Sun, to say that the proposition looking to the usry, Prince Alphonso of Bavaria, first consideration of this question and decision on the same by the State conventions. which was offered in the St. Louis convention of 1876, received general support, and at that time oculd not have been devised in the interest of any para ticular individual. In fact long prior to the St. Louis convention prominent Democrats had discussed the advisability of rescinding this rule. There has been his 'spell' on guard, by great numbers of under what circumstances the two-thirds Munich dames and damsels, who gave rule was adopted, and it is held in

be considered a rule,

formal action of recognized authority.

It is possible that this may be an error, although it seems to be borne out by such information as is attainable. In 1872, when the National Democratic convention met at Ba timore, there was ne op position to the nomination of Gen Jack son for a second term. Mr Van Buren was neminated for Vice-Presi ent, receiving more than two-thirds of all the votes cast, but there is nothing in the records of the convention to show that two-thirds vote was necessary In 1836 the next convention was held at Battmore and a rule was adopted requiring not only two-thirds of all the votes to make a nomination, but also to decide any ques tion connected therewith. Mr Van Buren was unanimously nominated on the first ballot. In 1840 the convention was again held at Baltimore, and Mr. VanBuren was again unanimously nominated, and it is not of record that any action was taken in regard to a two-thirds vote. In 1844, also at Baltimore, the convention adopted the two-thirds rule. Mr. VanBuren received at one time a maj city of the votes, at d after three days Mr Polk received the re quisite two-thirds and was declared the nominee. In 1848 and in 1852, both times at Baltimore, the conventions each for itself adopted the two-thirds rule. In 1852 Gen. Cass on one occasion received a majority of the votes, and it was not until the forty-ninth ballot that the requisite two thirds vote was cast, and Franklin Pierce, who had scarcely been thought of at first, received the nomination. In 1856 at Ciucinnati, in 1860 at Charleston and Baltimore, in 1864 at Chicago, and in 1868 at New York there does not seem have been any adoption of the twosthirds rule, or, in some instances, any mention of it. In 1872, at Baltimore, nothing was said about it, as Greeley received on the first ballot 686 out of the 724 votes f the convention In 1876 Mr. Tilden receiven more than two thirds of the votes on the second ballot. Of eleven National Democratic conventions only IRON BITTERS. four appear to have adopted the twothirds rule, and, therefore, although it did not seem to be thought proper at the time, there really appears to be no reason why it should not have been perfectly proper for the St. Louis convention in 1876 to adopt the majority rule without remitting the subject to the State conven tions of this year.

# MUUNBHINE

A Danbury young man off uded one of the lady clerks in a fancy goods store at a party a few evenings ago. A day or two later he went into the store and inquired if she had 'gentlemen's gloves. She answered, 'Yes.' 'I want to get a pair,' he said, 'Who are they for? she asked, looking him straight in the eyes. 'Why-for-me, he gasped, turning scarlet under the insinuation in her inquiry.

A postess says : 'I fling my past behind me like a robe.' That is right. Always wear the past as you do your panier-behind. And always fling the future before you; and if an orator at a woman's rights convention asks you to 'look back into the future,' don't you do it. We make no charge for this advice.

Stern parent 'Now, Tommy, you haven't looked at this? If you make one mistake I shall whip you! Tommy-I thought you never whipped us

It is nice when a wife gives her husband a box of cigars on his birthday. but it somehow takes the romance all out of it when she quietly observes next morning, 'You'll have to give me some money to pay for those cigars; I spent all mine for other things.'

Our little four-year-old being forbidden by his mother to est any more pickled beets because they might inure him, asked: 'Mamma, if they make me sick and I die, will I turn into a dead beat?

When old Mr Higginsworth was For 35 Cts. meh 3 4w asked if he took a newspaper, he replied that 'since our member of Congress has stopped sending me the Congressional Record I don't take any but I guess I kin get along without

it. It never gives much news, anyhow.' 'What is hell? asked a Sunday school teacher of a boy, in a class, last Subbath. 'A shirt with a button off ma'am,' replied the boy. 'Explain yourself, what do you mean sit?' demanded the meek spirited but surprised teacher. 'Well, I heard pa say to ma, the other morning, when he put on a shirt with the neck button off, 'Well, this is bell.' That's all I know about it'

# Maine News.

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