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At Mount Holly, on the North Eastern Railroad, 8 C. on the 29th ultimo, Mrs. ZILPHIA HAM-LETT, wife of J. W. Hamlett, and a native of Wilson county, N. C., aged about 38 years. An affectionate and devoted wife, a kind and faithful friend, a sincere and pious Christian, she is mourned by all who knew her.

At the residence of her husband, near Lillington, New Hanover county, at 7 A. M., September 24, 1898, MARTHA ELEN, wife of John W. Herndon, and youngest daughter of Messrs. Edwards, deceased, in the thirtieth year of her age.

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AGRICULTURAL CONVENTION.—The Agricultural Convention called to assemble in this city on yesterday was held agreeable to appointment, and at 12 o'clock met in the Democratic Club Rooms.

On motion of D. McMillan, Esq., President of the New Hanover County Society, the meeting was organized by the election of Dr. Chas. Duffy, of Onslow, as President, and Geo. E. Shepard and Jno. C. James, of New Hanover, Secretaries.

The President on assuming the Chair addressed the Convention in the course of a few remarks, setting forth briefly the object of the Convention and urging the high importance of united and continued effort in promoting the great ends of agriculture.

It was ascertained that five counties were duly represented, viz: Onslow, New Hanover, Brunswick, Columbus and Bladen.

On motion of D. T. Durham, Esq., of New Hanover, a committee consisting of Messrs. A. R. Black of New Hanover, Thomas C. Meliheny, of Brunswick, T. S. Memory, of Columbus, and Henry Nutt, of Bladen, was appointed to prepare and submit business for the action of the Convention.

During the absence of the committee, Dr. H. H. Robinson was called upon to address the Convention. He responded in an appropriate manner, urging the importance of agriculture; the necessity of thoroughly studying its science and bringing to bear all our mental as well as physical energies in advancing this great cause.

He urged the cultivation of a variety of crops in order that if one should fail a source of redemption might be found in another. He also desired a combination of effort and a reasoning together of the body agricultural in developing and fertilizing our soil.

At the conclusion of Dr. Robinson's remarks, Mr. R. K. Bryan, of New Hanover, responded to a call. He directed his remarks principally to the labor system of the country. Its unreliability was deplored, and a remedy proposed in the introduction of immigrants. The health of our climate and the susceptibility of our soil to great improvement and extensive cultivation were urged as inducements to immigration if we will bestir ourselves and detract it from the tide now flowing into the Northwest.

There was not only a demoralization among our laboring element, but there was a deficiency existing which can only be remedied by the co-operation of the entire agricultural community of the State. He therefore urged a more perfect and general organization, especially in Eastern North Carolina.

The committee having returned begged leave to report, and submitted the following: WHEREAS, The fact is painfully apparent that under our present system, not only our agricultural, but all our productive interests are in a languishing condition, not being remunerative nor capable of supplying our necessities—millions of dollars worth of corn, bacon, pork, flour, and even hay, are imported annually; and whereas we are able to export the articles, and nearly all of our surplus, it is especially manifest that the land is fertile, and especially in the South, and, whereas, every consideration, both public and private, urges us to use our best efforts to improve our agriculture, and to give more attention to the agricultural interests of the State.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Convention there is no question so closely connected with our prosperity as that of our agricultural labor; and that we regard our present labor as unreliable and wanting in sufficient intelligence; that we desire a change in our educational system, whose duty it shall be to consider and report on this question in connection with that of our State authorities, the importance of giving more attention to the agricultural interests of the State.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to issue an address to the producers of the State, inciting them to greater efforts in their respective departments, and urging on them the importance of adopting a scheme of education better suited to their wants than our present.

On motion of Dr. D. M. Baie, of New Hanover, the report was received. Before entering into a consideration of the report, Dr. W. W. Lane, of New Hanover, offered the following resolution, which was adopted: Resolved, That this Convention, as a body and as individuals, do cordially approve of the enterprise and energy of Mr. W. F. Bernard, of this city, in having started an agricultural journal in our midst for the better enlightenment of our farmers on the many subjects coming in their sphere, by introducing to their notice new and improved farming tools, and keeping them posted on all modern improvements in the science generally.

Resolved, That this Convention, being impressed with the great importance of a local Agricultural Chemist, for the purpose of making a prompt and cheap analysis for our people, that we will appoint a committee of three to make the necessary arrangements with some Chemist for the purpose above stated.

Resolved, That the Convention individually and collectively agree to give our cordial support, patronage and influence to the Chemist selected. This committee consists of Mr. Henry Nutt and Drs. H. H. Robinson and W. W. Lane.

Mr. Nutt presented a communication from Mr. L. Froelich, in regard to foreign immigration. On motion of Mr. A. R. Black, the Convention acknowledged his receipt, returning thanks to Mr. Froelich, and ordered its reference to the proper committee.

Mr. Nutt then addressed the Society on the subject of foreign immigration. On motion of R. K. Bryan, Esq., it was resolved, That when this Convention adjourns it will adjourn to meet again on fourth Thursday in November next, at which time a pamphlet of the surrounding counties are invited to attend as participants.

Col. T. S. Memory, of Columbus, exhibited to the Convention a species of native grape, the discovery and history of which, so far as known, he endeavored to explain to the Convention. His remarks were appreciated—so were his grapes.

After returning thanks to the President and Secretaries, the Convention adjourned to meet in this city as above.

THE FOLLOWING was taken by a Confederate soldier of this city from a Southern paper just at the beginning of the war.—He thinks that it was either in the latter part of 1860 or not later than the first of '61. He has had it in his possession ever since, having carried it with him in his pocket-book all through the war.

It is a singular prediction in every point except one—that "the people would re-embrace each other in great joy and love." However, it attaches to itself singular interest, which is not decreased by the recollection of the fact that the prophecy was made as early as 1609.

SINGULAR PROPHECY.—We translate the following from the *Courier des Etats* No. of the 29th of May, 1861. Although many of the predictions made by Nostradamus (especially those concerning the death of Henry IV and Louis XIII) have been verified, they are generally discredited in our times. But in the *Prophetes et Vaticinations* of that great man, vol. 2 (edition of 1860) we find the following, which would seem to deserve some attention.

"About the year 1861 a great quarrel and contest will arise in a country beyond the seas—America. Many poor devils will be hung and many more will be killed by the sword than other than a cord. Upon my faith you may believe me. The war will not cease for four years, of which none should be satisfied. It is a great misfortune, for there will be no want of hatred and obstinacy in it. At the end of that time, prostrate and almost mindless, the people will re-embrace each other in great joy and love."

Now, here is something very confirmatory of the prophetic genius of Nostradamus, but in no way to be taken as a prediction of the future. It is a theory, which reconciles all the known facts of the case. Though we may not claim that the Nebular hypothesis has, as yet, attained to the dignity of a theory, nevertheless its plausibility appears to be increasing, and, therefore, it may or may not have truth for its corner-stone.

The Nebular hypothesis is the conception of a great French geometer named Laplace, and is based upon the theory of gravitation only dealt with the heavenly bodies as he found them. The Frenchman, soaring beyond that, attempted to deal with the origin of the system, and to comprehend them, and to show how, when the world was without form and void, the various physical processes took place by which the inorganic matter of the universe was condensed into suns, aggregated into planets, thrown off and converted into satellites, and so forth.

Col. Kennan Accepts. KENNESVILLE, N. C., Sept. 22, 1898. GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 19th inst., informing me of my nomination by the District Convention at Newbern, as the Democratic candidate for Congress.

THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE. Commodore M. F. Manry, in the course of his address on the occasion of his recent installation as Professor of Physics in the Virginia Institute, in addressing the young gentlemen of the institute, alluded at various points to the great question of the Bible and Science.

Strive in all things as if to be right-minded; and as you are conducted along those beautiful walks in the fields of physical research, which modern investigation has made so lovely and instructive, guard against the seductive arguments of those authors who delight to point out what they call contradictions to the Bible.

My dear young friends, always remember the author of that book is nature's God—that the revelations of science and the statements of that Bible are both true, and that truth cannot be divided.

Now, when you fancy you discover, as many say they do, discrepancies between science and the Bible, be not fast, as Colenso and others have been, to pronounce the Bible wrong. Keep from presumptuous assertions, and do not straighten off from the carriage to the side of the road, but forward and nearly in the place in which the wheels turn.

It is a rotary motion, like the wheel, and in the same direction. Bearing in mind this homely illustration, let us return to the original nebulous mass. It is highly heated and easier of attraction by being globular in form.

As it continued to cool and contract, the outer particles continued to flow inward, and, as in all revolving bodies, the particles at the circumference travel faster than the particles near the centre—these in-rushing particles carried their momentum from the circumference to the centre, impressed it there, and gradually accelerated the revolving motion to such an extent that the centrifugal force at the circumference became greater than the centripetal, and so a lump or a ring was thrown off to the left, and in the same direction.

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These fragments were not thrown off in the solid state, but as liquid or gaseous matter; for we know that Saturn, Jupiter, Mars and the earth are all spheroidal, and of such shape as a mass of matter only in the solid state could assume, and we know that the interior of the earth is still in a fluid state, which is quite consistent with the idea that the whole was once fluid.

Saturn is still in the sky with his rings to attest this mode of sloughing of matter; nor is the sun altogether without them. The rings, so he holds the theory—were afterwards broken up into one or more planets with or without moons—with or without rings; all of which continued to move nearly in the same plane, and to rotate on their axis; they revolve, every one in the same direction revolving about its own axis, and in the same direction around their primaries.

The stream of the asteroids between Mars and Jupiter now stand out under this grand and simple hypothesis, not as fragments of a broken planet, but as pieces of a severed ring.

November and August meteors constitute a ring. The zodiacal light is also a ring, and some of the most remarkable nebulae in the sky are rings. Striking analogies are afforded by some of them in favor of the hypothesis, as the nebulae in Canes Venatici with its central agglomeration, its rings and planetary nebulae were in the distance.

Then again, in Leo, Lord Ross' telescope reveals nebulae that make still more plausible the great Frenchman's hypothesis. In other parts of the sky, and as if to show that nebulae do grow into stars and planets, that monster telescope has picked up planetary nebulae that are apparently in the process of formation.

But Saturn presents the most grand and striking example of all, though we find in the heavens nebulae of more fantastic forms and curious shapes than Saturn with his rings and moons.

THE PUBLIC DEBT INCREASING. Enormous Public Expenditures—Radical Tricks Exposed—Old Balance of Appropriations Used—Average Expenditure Yearly Since the War Over \$400,000,000—A Deficit of \$155,000,000—Eighteen Years' Receipts—Total Receipts Given to Manufacturers—Agriculturists to Pay it.

The Treasury Department has let it leak out a little in advance of the official statement that there will be "another small increase of the national indebtedness" this year. We take the language of the Washington telegram as the "small increase" but the correspondent says "it may possibly reach two million five hundred thousand dollars"—that is, at the rate of thirty millions a year.

It is something but a flattering prospect of our national finances. The expenditure of the Government continues to be enormous. They are war expenditures in amount, though the country is at peace, and has been for more than three years past.

The heaviest is for the War Department in carrying out the radical measures of reconstruction. We learn, at the same time, that the receipts from internal revenue are surprisingly small, and that the cash in the Treasury has been pretty well reduced.

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DEAD LOCK BETWEEN COMMISSIONER BOLDS AND MR. McCULLOCH AND THE PRESIDENT, there is a deadlock between the three. A hundred millions or taxation were taken off for the benefit of a few New England and other manufacturers, while the expenditures and appropriations remained on the largest scale.

We see this extraordinary anomaly in the condition of the country, that while the crops are most abundant and general prosperity prevails, the debt is being increased and the Treasury approaching bankruptcy.—N. Y. Herald.

REMARKS. Mr. McCulloch made a public statement when Congress had under consideration the party reducing the income from the Jacobins, to take off taxes from manufacturers, as follows:

"Should the bill referred to become a law, I think it may be fairly estimated that the total revenues for the next fiscal year will fall from a hundred to a hundred and twenty millions below the estimates made in my last annual report. It is exceedingly desirable that taxes should be reduced, and I should hail with pleasure the proposed bill, if I felt assured that it would be accomplished with a corresponding reduction of expenditures. I am free to say that I am greatly apprehensive that such a reduction of expenditures will not be made, and that the revenues of the country for the next fiscal year, if it be not now before the Senate, or in the hands of your committee, should become a law, will be insufficient to meet the interest on the public debt and the current expense of the Government."

It is clear, then, as we stated yesterday, that we stand on the brink of a precipice, and at the bottom of the dark abyss will be found, under the Radical policy, financial bankruptcy and national disgrace.—Indeed, nothing can save us from impending ruin but an immediate change of policy. Elect one more Radical Congress, sustained by a Radical Executive, and national repudiation is inevitable.—The people can change the position by a change of policy, as indicated by the elections this fall, and that it will be too late.—National Intelligencer.

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