

THE WESTERN ASYLUM.

The Western members of the Legislature two years ago were resolved on having an asylum for the insane erected in the Western part of the State. We remember reading with care a very elaborate and admirable report of Dr. Eugene Grissom, the present excellent Superintendent of the Raleigh Insane Asylum, in which he proved very satisfactorily, by facts and figures, that it was much better—much cheaper to enlarge the present institution than to erect another one elsewhere. His figures as to the economy of the former were simply unanswerable.

Well, the Doctor's figures have been sustained in a most unexpected manner. It appears now that the new asylum building in course of erection at Morganton promises to be a very expensive and unmanageable affair. The Legislature or the State evidently "drew an elephant."

Col. Jno. W. Cameron, of Hillsboro, writes to the Recorder from Raleigh as follows:

"The bill for the prosecution of the work on the Western Asylum has developed a painful picture of extravagance where it was least to be expected. Additional provision was demanded for the insane. The West demanded the erection of the additional Asylum in that section, and Morganton was selected for the site. \$75,000 was appropriated with the expectation that little more would be needed. The money is nearly all spent, and the building little advanced above the foundations. More and larger appropriations are asked, and from the magnitude and magnitude of the plans, there appears to be no limit to the future demands.

SHEEP RAISING SHOULD BE PROTECTED.

We desire to supplement what we have already said with some facts which are well worth considering. Virginia is now considering the necessity and utility of a dog-law so that sheep may be protected. We are quite surprised that the Old Dominion is, like our own State, very much behind the age and enlightened legislation in this most important matter. The Richmond Dispatch, in an editorial upon the "Protection of Sheep," says:

"The disposition of the Legislature has been heretofore favorable to any bill protecting sheep from dogs, while all know that if it was to protect sheep from wolves, if there were any about, they would go for the very last scalp. And yet dogs are more destructive than wolves ever were, and are a heavy charge for subsistence upon the community, while wolves never cost the settler's much.

"The disposition of the people to go into sheep raising grows stronger every year, and of course the ravages of dogs are increasing. It is unquestionably a legislative duty to prevent the necessity for protecting it becomes stronger. We shall see the proofs of the natural consequence in such cases: the determination of people to protect themselves. We shall hear of the free use of poison and of dog-killing, and neighborhood hostilities and strife resembling conditions of barbarism. It is understood to be the object of legislation to promote the security of property and insure order within the boundaries of the State, and it is unquestionably a legislative duty to prevent this state of things by the necessary enactments.

"We never could see that there should be any difficulty in the way of the performance of this duty. Mere demagogism should not be an obstacle to the duty to see how some persons of peculiar dispositions and moderate ability, as well as merits, might count upon a number of canine constituents; but certainly their numbers should be too small to control the legislation of so civilized a State as Virginia."

Ought dogs to be taxed? That is the great question for North Carolina. Ex-Gov. Letcher, of Virginia, a man of large experience and fine abilities, says that dogs should be taxed, and he gives some admirable reasons for it. We propose to avail ourselves largely of a speech he made not long ago in the Virginia Legislature, for he represents Rookbridge county in that body. He says:

"As one of the means proper to be adopted now, under the embarrassed condition of public affairs, a tax on dogs strikes me as wise, and suited to our present condition. It is our duty to adjust our revenue system so that unequal and onerous burdens shall not be imposed on lands that while they should bear their fair burthens, they should not bear more.

In the State of Georgia great attention has been given to sheep husbandry, and the following facts are regarded as conclusively established:

- 1. The average annual profits on the capital invested in sheep in Georgia is sixty-three per cent.—a better per cent. than is yielded by any other investment.
- 2. The average annual cost per head of keeping sheep is only fifty-four cents. The average cost of raising a pound of wool is only six cents, while the average price for which the unwashed wool is sold is thirty-three and a third cents per pound.
- 3. An average of seventy-four lambs is raised for every hundred ewes, notwithstanding the ravages of dogs.
- 4. An average yield of unwashed wool to the sheep is about three and a half pounds, which, at twenty-seven and a third cents net, gives an average clear income in wool from each sheep of ninety-four cents.
- 5. The average price received for lambs sold to the butchers in Georgia is a dollar and eighty-seven cents. The average price of stock sheep is two dollars and fifty-eight cents per head.
- 6. The average price of mutton is received at three dollars per head.

have been devoted to the question, particularly in some of the Southern States—Georgia and Tennessee—and in many of the Western, Northwestern and New England States. The dogs are the principal, and most generally, the only obstacle to profitable and successful sheep raising, and hence it is that in many parts of our country, notwithstanding its immense value in the way of profit, sheep have diminished greatly in numbers. In the year 1870 the State of Virginia, before the dismemberment, had 1,043,369 sheep, while in 1870, after her division, Virginia had only 370,145, and West Virginia had only 532,327—being 120,797 less than she had ten years previously. Georgia, in 1860, had 519,818 sheep, but in 1870 had only 419,465, and according to her tax receivers, in 1873 had only 319,828. California, in 1860, had 1,888,000, and between that time and 1870 the sheep had increased to 2,768,187. Ohio, in 1860 had 3,546,767, and in 1870 they had increased to 3,923,935; showing that in ten years they had increased 1,351,968. In Missouri, in 1860, there were 987,445, and in 1870, 1,393,001, showing an increase of 414,556. In the three last named States of Ohio, California and Missouri, if it is correctly informed, the legislation has been directed to the protection of sheep raising, and, as a matter of course, sheep have greatly increased in numbers, while in Virginia, West Virginia, Georgia and Tennessee they have seriously diminished. These are striking facts, worthy of the most serious consideration, and they appeal strongly to us for immediate and efficient legislation.

The difficulty of ascertaining the number of dogs is very great, indeed, if it is not impossible, in the several States heretofore referred to. We find, however, that in Georgia from the same source from which the number of sheep in the State is obtained, there are 49,426 dogs, and that they destroyed between April 1st, 1871, and April 1st, 1875, 28,625 sheep, worth \$78,852, or nine per cent. of the value of all the sheep in the State. The loss, therefore, is very serious and alarming, and should suggest the necessity and duty of providing means to insure protection to a most profitable and valuable investment, as is clearly shown by the facts heretofore presented.

"But this is not the only way in which sheep raising pays. We glean the following facts from the report of the Commissioner of the State of Georgia, a gentleman who seems to be intelligent and well informed in regard to the subject on which he writes, and whose statements are entitled to great weight. He states: 'That 100 sheep regularly folded will fertilize so as to double the yield of crops, eight acres a year. At this rate, even the number at present in Georgia will fertilize annually 55,444 acres. Suppose this area were planted in cotton, and that without the sheep manure it would produce only half of a bale of cotton per acre. The increase on that area would be 12,772 bales of cotton, worth \$50 per bale, or \$637,624. If there were two millions of sheep in the State, as there would be if sheep raising were properly protected, the increased production at the rates stated would be \$4,000,000.'

"This bill shall fail to pass several members are availing themselves of the purpose of introducing local bills for their respective counties, firmly convinced that the protection of sheep and their increase can only be secured by such legislation as is proposed in this bill. It is better, then, that legislation should be universal, operating throughout the entire State, than partial and special, as it would be if adopted in a portion of our counties only.

"There are eighteen or twenty special laws now in force in our State, and the people are satisfied. These are enough to demonstrate the wisdom of such legislation. Why not, then, have a general law which shall operate universally throughout the State?

"Such a law will encourage sheep-raising, increase the wool-growing interest, add to our productive wealth, stimulate our industry, and provide means for the payment of our debts by the introduction of a subject of taxation that will yield large revenues, not less than two hundred thousand dollars and which has up to this time been exempt from a burden it can bear, and should be made to bear. The object we have in view is most important, and every consideration of honor, honesty, and duty demands that we should march boldly up to the work and do all in our power to demonstrate to the world that we intend to fulfill our promises in letter and spirit."

We cannot add anything to the force of these valuable statistics. They speak loudly to all legislators, and they should arrest, too, the attention of every farmer. We may add that the new constitution requires the Legislature to protect sheep husbandry by proper laws. Will our Legislature do its duty in regard to this important industry, or will they through cowardice dodge their responsibilities? We will see.

We note that recently Philadelphia manufacturers have been shipping to the European markets cotton prints from thirty establishments. Also samples of Texas, Louisiana and Carolina cotton were sent, together with samples of American railroad iron, spikes, stoves, nails, shovels, looks, tacks, hollow-ware and an assortment of hardware. These samples make up a considerable portion of the cargo, and they are intended to introduce these staple American goods to the Italian markets. These samples will be distributed upon arrival at Leghorn to the Chambers of Commerce and other public commercial bodies in that city, and also in Turin, Genoa, Florence, Rome, Naples, Palermo and Messina. The direct cotton print exportation to Italy is intended to forestall a circuitous exportation now going on in those articles from this country to Manchester, and thence to Italy, where the goods are sold as English manufactures.

Home government versus carpet-bag rule. In Mississippi in 1872, the tax was 30 per cent. greater than it was last year. In 1873, 92 per cent. greater; in 1874, 115 per cent. greater; in 1875, 42 per cent. greater. Such differences speak volumes for the government under the control of honest native whites. O, the villainy and baseness of that carpet-bag rule.

"What constitutes a State?" A returning board of four, with J. Madison Wells at the head, according to the Republican definition.

The General Assembly of Florida passed a resolution last Saturday declaring the four million Littlefield bonds unconstitutional, null and void. This revives very pleasant memories of Littlefield bonds in North Carolina. We think M. S. L. will find Florida the ultima thule of his bond business.

"The Aldermen of New York city receive \$4,000 each per annum." Each member of the Board of Aldermen and Board of Audit of the city of Wilmington will receive 4,000 applications for office, which is much more comforting.

The Concord brass band is making commendable progress in their efforts to produce a "Concord of sweet sounds."

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS.

A New Plan for Choosing Them. The Cooperstown (N. Y.) Freeman's Journal, whose editor, S. M. Shaw, is a Democrat of marked influence in State matters, suggests the following method for choosing Presidential electors, much like that offered in the House of Representatives on Wednesday, by Mr. Maisch, of Pennsylvania:

"Let the votes be cast directly for President and Vice President, and on each ballot let there be printed also the names of the requisite number of electors; divide the whole number of votes cast in each State for the several candidates by the number of electors to which such State is entitled, and that gives the ratio for each elector; then ascertain the number of electors to which each candidate is entitled, and give certificates to those so chosen who stand first on the tickets, or let the requisite number be drawn from a box by some State officer designated to perform that duty. The practical operation in this State at the late election would be as follows: Whole number of votes cast, 1,011,156; number of electors, 35; ratio, 28,890; Tilden, who received 621,949 votes, would be entitled to 18 electoral votes; and Hayes, who received 489,207 votes, would be entitled to 17 electoral votes. Some of the advantages of this mode of choosing the President occurring to us are these: The popular voice of the people would be respected, and the majority would rule; a minority candidate would not be inaugurated; the minority in each State, if large enough to entitle it to an elector, would be represented in the Electoral College; there would be more fairness shown at the election, for the inducements to practice fraud would be largely decreased; the motive for carrying a State election, held a few months before the Presidential election, would be far less; there would be less unhealthful excitement; returning boards would be done away with, as now organized in a few of the States."

PERSONAL.

—One sentence in Everts' argument on the Florida vote contained 361 words.

—It would be impolitic for the Democracy to pitch into Judge Bradley at this stage of the proceedings.—Chicago Journal.

—Nilsson is in Vienna. Carlotta Patti is at Leipzig. Mile. Titiens is singing in Ireland. Sauret, the violinist, has gone to Germany.

—Beecher has not suffered so much in reputation that the Governor of Michigan is not proud to introduce him to a Detroit audience.

—Mr. Corcoran, the wealthy Washington banker, is the son of an Irishman, and he made most of his money as financial agent of the government during the Mexican war.

—Mr. Waldglas Sohawczuga has just been naturalized at Pittsburgh. Let this be remembered when Mr. S. comes before the Electoral Tribunal of the future as an ineligible elector.

—If David Dudley Field should go to the place the Republican papers are recommending him to, he will not need an overcoat. It is astonishing how Republicans hate to see a Republican robe impaled.

—John Stevens ran away from his wife in Elmira thirty-four years ago. Recently she discovered him in California, where he had accumulated \$100,000, and another wife. She is willing he should retain a third of his fortune, and is likely to get it.

—Samuel J. Bailey, a religious convert in Birmingham, N. Y., became crazed by excitement. He read about the death of Mr. Bliss at Ashtabula, and thought that to send persons to death in that way would insure their salvation. He misplaced a switch on the Erie Railroad close to a bridge, and a train would have been wrecked, with an awful loss of life, had not the act been discovered in time.

Senator Cameron's Widow. A Washington correspondent thus tells the story of Senator Cameron's widow, who values him to the amount of \$50,000:

Senator Simon Cameron was sitting in the Senate to-day, with his hair in several directions and his legs in two, when a page brought a card to him. "Let him come in here," said the Senator, and a sharp-faced young fellow walked up to the Senator's mahogany desk and handed a paper to him. The Senator looked surprised; opened the paper—looked more surprised; read the paper—looked surprised all over. Senator Cragin looked over Cameron's shoulder, and lay back in his own chair and shouted. The paper was a summons in a breach of promise suit, brought by Mary S. Oliver, to the amount of \$50,000. The news spread rapidly. All the old boys came over to congratulate Simon. Jones, of Nevada, laid hands on his head in a kind way, and said, "Bless you, my boy, it isn't every man that has \$50,000 worth of affection at seventy-eight." Senator Christianity stood at easy distance—condemning distance—and said, "Senator Cameron, you had a great deal better have followed my example, if I am younger man." Several of

a sinking fund to provide for the payment of principal and interest of the United States bonds issued to them. In the interest of decency and honest legislation Congress ought at once to free itself from this crying disgrace.

TWINKLINGS.

—A writer in the Springfield Republican thinks that the English sparrows are a nuisance, and that it would be a good thing if they were killed off.

—If it were not for experiments in science nothing would ever be learned; at least this was the opinion of the Newark man who asked his wife to put her tongue to a cold lamp-post.

—Summing up the work of the Electoral Commission up to date, the New York Herald declares that there is little hope left for the Democrats. Is there any hope left for popular government?

—Norristown Herald: "A Kentucky lady has asked for a divorce on the ground that her husband is not a Christian. If the poor man can't become a Christian except by a separation from his wife, let her have a divorce by all means."

—Italy has declared its seventeen universities open to women, and Switzerland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark have taken similar action, while France has opened the Sorbonne to women, and Russia its highest schools of medicine and surgery.

—Two well diggers were at work in Bloomington, Ill., and had, after reaching forty feet, begun to bore deeper with a gas, which was lighted by the flame of a candle and the explosion killed both of the men.

—The Courier des Etats Unis thinks that the realists of the Louisiana returning board prove that all human affairs hang upon eventualities, and it would therefore be hazardous to predict the final result—perhaps a returning board in the penitentiary.

—The Indianapolis Sentinel fears that the end is not yet, and declares that those who thought that the Electoral Commission would bring the question within the narrowest possible limits, "have counted chickens before they were hatched." It may be so.

The Hon. A. H. Stephens. WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.

To-day is the sixty-fifth birthday of Hon. Alexander H. Stephens. Contrary to general expectation one week ago Mr. Stephens has lived to witness the return of the anniversary, with assurances of recovery. His condition is so much improved to-day that he acknowledges himself, for the first time since his late serious illness, that he is better.

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NEEDS NO FORMAL STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES, nor elaborate recital of what it will do, or expects to do, in the coming year. It can offer no stronger guarantee for the future than is afforded by its past conduct. It will labor earnestly and faithfully for the advancement of the Democratic party, and for the interests of the people, and will be one and inseparable.

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Or, to any one who sends us \$6 for twelve annual subscriptions, the whole of the above will be forwarded, by mail or express, free of all charges, for four annual subscriptions, or \$24, for twenty-four annual subscriptions, or \$240, for all charges, and a commission of TEN PER CENT. OF THE AMOUNT REMITTED.

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congratulate the Senator from Pennsylvania, but he objected, and they remained to condole. To his friends the Senator pronounced it a black-mailing job. His sutor is a good-looking young Pennsylvania widow, whom the Senator befriended by procuring her a situation in the Treasury Department. The complaint is a definite and somewhat specific statement of the widow's wooing.

AN APPEAL FOR THE COLORED ORPHANS TO GOV. HAMPTON.

Better Promptly Extended when Asked for in the Right Way. [Special dispatch to the News and Courier.] COLUMBIA, Feb. 11.

It will be remembered that when Gov. Hampton took charge of the Penitentiary and Lunatic Asylum, upon the representation of the superintendents that they had no provisions or money for their further maintenance, an appeal was made in behalf of a third State institution—the Colored Orphan Asylum, which was in like straitened circumstances. Gov. Hampton refused to respond to that appeal, on the ground that the trustees and officers of the Asylum refused to recognize him as Governor, while they sought his assistance as such. The matter was dropped at that point; but the officers of the Asylum, finding that further delay of such recognition would necessitate the closing of the institution at an early day, determined to change their tune, and Nash, the chairman of the board of trustees, yesterday made a formal written application to Governor Hampton, addressing him as Governor, again soliciting aid, which was at once granted in the form of a check for one thousand dollars, which will be sufficient to meet the necessary expenses of the institution for some time to come.

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AND 500 MEN OF BUSINESS
WANTED TO LEARN THE BUSINESS
OF SELLING THE GREAT
COMPENSATION LIBERAL, BUT
CHARACTER & QUALITY
OF THE AGENT. FOR PARTI-
CULARS, ADDRESS
Wilson Sewing Machine Co., Chicago,
891 & 892 Broadway, New York, or New Orleans,
La., 100 N. 10th St., New Orleans, La.

\$66 a week in your own town. Terms and
conditions of sale. Hallett & Co., Portland, Maine,
100 N. 10th St., New Orleans, La.

\$2500 a YEAR. AGENTS WANTED ON
representing