By WILLIAM H. BERNARD. WILMINGTON, N. C .:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, Feb. 14, 1877.

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. Engene 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 as 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 magnificence of the plans, there appears to be no limit to the future demands.

"It is certain that the extravagant demands will not be met. Many members are willing to lose what is already spent rather than the State shall be led along step by step to the enormous amount necessary for the completion of the work. But it is more probable that it will be curtailed 'to proportions and cost consistent with the means of the State."

SHEEP RAISING SHOULD BE PRO-

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 unfavorable 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 'settlements' much.

"The disposition of the people to go into sheep raising grows stronger every year, and of course the ravages of dogs are increasing-the evil growing more aggravating, the necessity for suppressing it becomes stronger. We shall see the proofs of the natural consequence in such cases: the determination of people to protect them-selves. We shall hear of the free use of poisons and of dog-killing, and neighborhood hostilities and strifes 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 pre-vent this state of things by the necessary

"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 it. It is easy to see how some persons of peculiar dispo-sitions 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 Rockbridge 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 burthens shall not be imposed on lands; that while they should bear their fair burthens, they should 1 not bear more.

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

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

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-saven cents. The average price of stock sheep is two dollars and fifty-eight cents per head.

6. The average price of mutton is reted at three dollars per head.

These are important facts, which are the same and conclusively established by levislative and other investigations which

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 potwithstanding its immense value country, not withstanding its immense value in the way of profit, sheep have diminished greatly in numbers. In the year-1800 the State of Virginia, before the dismember ment, had 1,043,269 sheep, while in 1870, after her division, Virginia had only 370,—145, and West Virginia had only 552,327—being 120,797 less than she had ten years being 120,797 less than she had ten years previously. Georgia, in 1860, had 512,618 sheep, but in 1870 had only 419,465, and according to her tax receivers, in 1873 had only 319,328. California, in 1860, had 1,888,002, 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 4,928,635, showing that in ten years they had increased 1,381,868. In Missouri, in 1860, there were 987,445, and Missouri, in 1860, there were 987,445, and in 1870, 1,852,001, showing an increase of 414,556. In the three last named States of Ohio, California and Missouri, if I am 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 herein-before referred to. We find, however, that in Georgia from the same source from which the number of sheep in the State is obtained, that there are 99,415 dogs, and that they destroyed between April 1st, 1871, and April 1st, 1875, 28,625 sheep, worth \$73,852, 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 protections. duty of providing means to insure protection to a most profitable and valuable interest that pays well for the amount invested, as is clearly shown by the facts

"But this is not the only way in which sheep raising pays. We glean the follow-ing facts from the report of the Commissioner of the State of Georgia, a gentleman who seems to be intelligent and well in-formed in regard to the subject on which he writes, and whose statements are, therefore, 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 25,544 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 net per bale, \$637,600." It follows, then, if there were two millions of sheep in that State, as there would be if sheep raising were properly protected, the increased production at the rates stated would be \$4,-

000,000.
"If this bill shall fail to pass several members are awaiting its failure with the purpose of introducing local bills for their espective counties, firmly convinced that the protection of sheep and their increase can only be secured by such legislation as is proposed in this bill. Is it not 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, with which 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

"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 sub-ject of taxation that will yield a large revenue (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 and honesty, and every obligation of public and personal 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 Caroina cotton were sent, together with samples of American railroad iron, spikes, stoves, nails, shovels, locks, 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 factures.

Home government versus carpetbag 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 sed 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

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. Maish, 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 521,949 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."

The Lobby of Congress. [Baltimore Sun.]

Practically there appears to be

three houses of Congress, the Senate, the House of Representatives and the lobby. The lobby is organized, and is said to be recognized, inexcusably enough, by the other two bodies. Its members are self-elected, whether men or women, and appear to be composed of very indifferent mate-rials. Nevertheless they act as if they were the accredited agents of Congress, and it is said to be difficult to get a hearing from that body except through these middle men and women, which is very much to the discredit of Congress if it be true. No national legislative body in the civilized world except the American Congress permits the avenues of approach to it to be in the hands of such agents. There is an English law regulating the practice before committees of Parliament, the adoption of which here would effectually dispose of these birds of prey. An act was introduced in the Senate, and also in the House, about two years ago, having in view the extinction of the lobby, but both of them disappeared. Two-thirds of the lobby are said to be better fitted for penal in-stitutions than the Capitol. If Congress must have a lobby it should at least insist that it should be of a respectable character. If agents must be employed to secure the attention of the Representatives of the people to the business of their constituents, Congress should insist that they should be at least honest and intelligent. If men who have business in Congress must engage lobbyists, as men do lawyers to present their case in court, Congress should, like the courts, drop from the roll of those attorneys all persons of a disreputable character. The members of the lobby are said now to be operating in great force, both on the Senate and House of Representatives. In the latter body they have become prised; opened the paper-looked the goods are sold as English manu- so persistent as to obtrude themselves | more surprised; read the paperin large numbers on the floor of the looked surprised all over. Senator House, and on a late occasion so crowded it that members were much | der, and lay back in his own chair inconvenienced and irritated by the and shouted. The paper was a manner in which they were crowded at every turn and solicited to vote suit, brought by Mary S. Olifor this or that measure. Representative Durham, of Kentucky, deserves news spread rapidly. All the old great credit for his courage in making a move to clear the floor of members of the third house, but still they come, women included. The Texas and Southern Pacific lobby are said to be the prevailing nuisance in the House, while they are rivalled, if not exceed- Christiancy stood at easy distance-

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 nuisauce, 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 Switzer-land, 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 drill. Suddenly there was an outburst of gas, which was lighted by the flame of a candle and the explosion killed both of the

- The Courier des Etats Unis thinks that the rascalities 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 peni-

- The Indianapolis Sentinel fear 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 count-ed chickens before they were hatched." It

- The fact that but two actors can be found to enjoy the luxurious surroundings of the Forrest Home is a grander monument to the dramatic profession in this country than the generous tragedian dreamed of when he made his bequest .-Cincinnati Commercial

- Everybody has read the story of Henderson, the man who, last summer, swallowed a cherrystone, which, refusing to become dislodged, has, while in his stomach, grown into a small cherry tree. The man who wrote the story is a relative of George Washington, who refused to cut

- Nearly 20,000 alligator skins are yearly used by the boot and shoe manufac-turers in the United States. Only portions of the hides are serviceable. These are packed in strong brine, and shipped to the Northern tanner, who keeps them under treatment from six to eight months, when they are ready for use.

- A meek-eyed married man offered as a test at a spiritual seance, that the medium name the articles in his wife's upper bureau drawer. The medium said the spirit would repeat the contents of Webster's Dictionary, or any other light task, but that life was too short to attempt the task proposed, and the rash proposer was hustled out of the hall.

PERSONAL.

-One sentence in Evarts' argument on the Florida vote contained 361

- It would be impolitic for the Democracy to pitch into Judge Bradley at this stage of the proceedings. - Chicago - Nilsson is in Vienna. Carlotta

Patti is at Leipsic. Mlle. 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 Detroit audience. - Mr. Corcoran, the wealthy Washington banker, is the son of an Irish-

man, and he made most of his money as financial agent of the government during the Mexican war. — Mr. Wladgslaus Schawczuga 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 Republi-cans hate to see a Republican rogue im-

- 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 the second wife, but she demands a third of his fortune, and is likely to get it.

- Samuel J. Bailey, a religious convert in Binghamton, N. Y., became crazed by excitement. He read about the 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 Camepon's Widow.

A Washington correspondent thus tells the story of Senator Cameron's widow, who values him to the amount

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 sur-Cragin looked over Cameron's shoulsummons in a breach of promise ver, to the amount of \$50,000. The boys came over to congratulate Simon. Jones, of Nevada, laid hands on his head in a kindly way, and said, "Bless you, my boy, it isn't every man that has \$50,000 worth of affection at seventy-eight." Senator ed in numbers, appliances and impudence by the lobby working in the Senate in the interest of the present Pacific railroads, and against an fair bill to compel them to establis m a younger man." Several of

congratulate the Senator from Pennsylvania, but he objected, and they remained to condole. To his friends the Senator pronounced it a blackmailing job. His suitor is a goodlooking 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. Relief Promptly Extended when Asi ed 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, apon the representation of the superintendents that they had no provisions or money for their further maintenance, an appeal was made in be-half of a third State institution—the Colored Orphan Asylum, which was in like straightened 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 assist-ance as such. The matter was drop-ped 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.

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.

THE OBSERVER TEEDS NO FORMAL STATEMENT OF PRIN-

ciples, nor elaborate recital of what it will de or expects to do, in the coming year. It can offer no stronger guarantee for its future than is afforded by its past conduct. It will labor earnestly and faithfully for the advancement of the Democratic party, and for the good of the State, which it believes to be one and inseparable.

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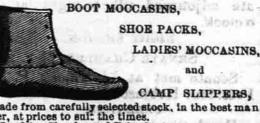
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