

PUBLISHER'S ANNOUNCEMENT.
THE MORNING STAR, the oldest daily newspaper in North Carolina, is published daily, except Saturday, at \$75 per year, \$6.00 for six months, \$3.25 for three months, \$1.00 for one month, and \$1.00 for weekly subscription. Delivered to city subscribers at the rate of 15 cents per week for any period from one week to one year.

THE WEEKLY STAR is published every Friday morning at \$1.50 per year, \$1.00 for six months, 50 cents for three months.

ADVERTISING RATES (DAILY).—One square cent, \$1.00; two days, \$1.75; three days, \$2.50; four days, \$3.00; one week, \$4.00; two weeks, \$8.00; three weeks, \$12.00; four weeks, \$17.00; three months, \$34.00; six months, \$60.00; twelve months, \$60.00. Ten lines of all announcements of Trade, Political Meetings, &c., will be charged regular advertising rates.

No advertisements inserted in Local Columns at any price.

Notices under head of "City Items" 50 cents per line for first insertion, and 15 cents per line for each subsequent insertion.

Advertisements inserted once a week in Daily will be charged \$1.00 per square for each insertion. Every other day, three fourths of the rate. Twice a week, one-half the daily rate.

Notices of Marriage or Death, Tributes of Respect, Resolutions of Thanks, &c., are charged for ordinary advertisements, but only one rate when paid for services rendered. This is \$1.00 for a simple announcement of Marriage or Death.

Advertisements to follow leading matter, or to occupy any special place, will be charged extra according to the space desired.

Advertisements on which no specified number of insertions is marked will be continued "Until filled," at the option of the publisher, and charged up to the date of insertion.

Advertisements discontinued before the time contracted for, have expired, charged time rates for the time actually published.

Advertisements kept under the head of "New Advertising" will be charged 50 cents extra.

An extra charge will be made for double-column or full-page advertisements.

All announcements and recommendations of candidates for office, whether in the shape of communications or otherwise, will be charged as advertisements.

Announcements, Auction, and Com. Advertisements on which no price is given, for each insertion.

Contract advertisements will not be allowed to exceed their space or advertise anything foreign to their regular business without extra charge at transient rates.

Advertisements for transient advertisements must be made in advance. Known persons, or strangers with proper reference, may pay monthly or quarterly, according to contract.

Advertisers should always specify the name or names of the persons to whom the advertisement will be inserted in the paper. Where no name is given, the advertisement will be inserted in the Daily. As an advertiser contracts with the paper to be sent to him during the time his advertisement is in the paper, he may change his address by mailing the paper to his address.

Romittance must be made by Check, Draft, Postal Money Order, Express, or in Registered Letter. Only such remittances will be at the risk of the advertiser.

Communications, unless they contain important news, or discuss briefly and properly subjects of real interest, are not wanted; and, if acceptable in every respect, will be rejected if the real name of the author is withheld.

Correspondents must write on only one side of the paper.

The Morning Star.

By WILLIAM H. BERNARD.

WILMINGTON, N. C.

SATURDAY MORNING, Jan. 12, 1878.

THE PARDONING POWER.

It is the part of good citizenship to favor good laws and their faithful execution. They should be made with exceeding care, and should be executed with fidelity and impartiality. An old writer, Anacharsis, says:

"These written laws are just like spiders' webs; the small and feeble may be caught and entangled in them, but the rich and mighty force through and despoil them."

There is too much truth in this.

When it can be said with truth that the goddess who presides in courts of justice sits with bandaged eyes and dispenses the law with an even and unbiased hand, then that country is indeed rich in such a possession. But if the Judge holds the scales unevenly; if he administers in the courts in obedience to the behests of arbitrary and usurping power, and makes himself the pliant instrument of a flagitious and venal party, he becomes a curse to society, and deserves to be held in everlasting reproach. The time will never come when the corruptions of the immortal Bacon will be forgotten, or when the crimes and cruelties of Jeffreys will be condoned or softened. The great writers at least will not prostitute their pens that scoundrels may be canonized and crimes transformed into virtues.

Good laws are absolutely essential to the well being of society. They should not only punish vice, but, as Goldsmith said of Chinese laws, they should reward virtue. Lord Clarendon, one of the most eloquent and splendid of English writers, says "the law is the standard and guardian of our liberty; it circumscribes and defends it; but to imagine liberty without a law, is to imagine every man with his sword in his hand to destroy him who is weaker than himself; and that would be no pleasant prospect to those who cry out most for liberty."

Good laws then are necessary for the good order and preservation of society, and for the safety and perpetuity of real liberty. But they must be executed promptly, equitably and equally. They must not be as nets, to which they have been compared, through which the big fishes break and the little fishes escape, only catching those of medium size. They must be for all offenders, of great and low degree. They must protect equally the rich man in his elegant home and the poor man in his cottage. The chief, the important thing is to have the law enforced.

The STAR has always stood by an honest, capable and faithful judiciary. Without specially championing the merits of men, it has been ready to advocate the principles of justice and right. This much we have said, before referring to a matter of very great importance to the people of this country. We allude to the exercise and abuse of the pardoning power

by the President and Governors of States. We may add, that in what we shall say in this and another editorial we shall not refer to any particular executive officer, or any special act, but shall consider the question upon its merits. That there has been gross abuse no informed person will gainsay; and that the abuse should be abated appears equally plain. We believe that a serious injury has been done to society and the best interests of the State by the too frequent use of the pardoning power—a power that is far too great to be entrusted to any one man, however pure, conscientious and exalted his character.

In many of the States the Governor has no pardoning power. In New Jersey, Florida, Nevada and a dozen other States the pardoning power is entrusted to the Governor and other persons specified in their respective constitutions. In some of the States the Governor, the Attorney General and the Justices of the Supreme Court constitute the pardoning board. It appears that these States regarded the power to pardon as somewhat remarkable at a time when lawyers of every grade are using every possible appliance to secure a place on the Bench. The salary is certainly small, and ought to be more. Many of our best lawyers make more than the salary, and cannot afford to give up a lucrative practice for the honor and pay of a judge.

The New York Herald's report of Hon. A. M. Waddell's lecture in that city on "Moses and Maury" says:

The lecturer did not hesitate to pronounced "Moses the greatest benefactor of commerce that ever lived," and expressed his admiration at the efforts which have been made to settle Man's services and tribulations of his family. Mr. Waddell paid a glowing tribute to the memory of this other great American, and closed his interesting lecture with a beautiful poetic figure in which he illustrated the future fame of these two illustrious Americans by the story of the St. Elmo's fire, which in the future shall be a better meaning for mariners.

The drop-curtain is so called because gents go out for a drop while it is down:

"Badeau," says the Boston Post, "in his bad humor." The joke itself is beginning to smell.

The opportunity to see the greatest tragedians on the American stage should not be neglected. *Bostons* etc.

Westfield, cigar makers advertised

the "Keramic cigar." How suitably they spot the beautiful alliteration. *Smoke em*, *caramic* cigars, etc.

You can get a very good idea of "natural selection" in its practical workings by viewing a celery glass after it has been around the table. *Burlington Hawkeye*.

—Mince pie and coffee took the place of the wine-glass at many New York houses on New Year's Day, and now the question arises whether it is better to live a dyspeptic than to die a drunkard.

The South is solid about one thing, at least. It will be very careful how it casts another solid Democratic vote for any editor of the New York Tribune to be President of the United States. *Peterburg Index-Appeal*.

Louisville Courier-Journal:

The banker bowed his silvered head: "And must this be indeed my fate?"

The banker raised his silvered head: "Not much. I'll rehypothecate."

Baltimore papers tell of "A Bird that Caused a Divorce." It was a duck (of a boudoir) probably. *N. Y. Commercial*.

A Good (or a husband) more likely. *Boston Herald*. A swallow (of whiskey). *Worcester Press*. A lark (of a fellow) possibly. *Norfolk Virginian*.

—Boston Bulletin: Good style of bill-head—*bust of Shakespeare*. A card of matches—*Wedding announcements*. Vaulting ambition—*The competition among the safety deposit companies*. Friends whom everybody would like to cut on New Year's Day—*Courts*.

—If this sort of things goes on much longer, it will be in order for the railroad bosses to call round regularly at the banks, insurance offices, Excise Department, etc., and for the porter to vociferate lustily: "All aboard, fast, Montreal, Suspension Bridge, Vigo, Brussels and Rio Janeiro." *N. Y. World*.

—Can he push that thing at the cost of breaking his hold upon the Senators whose aid the country sorely needs in defense of its honor? He has power, on the other hand, to unite the Republican party by a course of wisdom and tact, to bring the greater number of its Senators to feel that it must not be doomed to die by votes of the side of Democratic repudiators; to rouse its friends all over the land to feel that they can waste no thought on minor issues but the public crisis has been sorely maintained. Will his example in such a cause be wanting?

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Uniform in style, binder and with the "World of Library" series, and costs Board \$3.50. Cloth \$3.00. Fine Gilt \$4.00.

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