The Weekly Star.

WM. H. BERNARD, Editor and Proprietor.

WILMINGTON, N. C.:
Friday, December 3d, 1875.

TERMS TO CLUBS.

10 or more copies, each, 1 year, post-paid, ... $1.25

It is not required that Clubs be made up at one Post-Office. The number is all that is necessary to secure the rates to those who constitute the Club, as the paper will be directed to as many different Post-Offices as there are subscribers, if desired. *Payment must accompany every order.* A copy of the paper will be furnished without charge to those who raise Clubs of 10 or more.

☞ Remittances must be made by Check, Draft, Postal Money Order, or Registered Letter. Post-Masters will register letters when desired.

☞ Only such remittances will be at the risk of the publisher.

☞ Specimen copies forwarded when desired.

LET EVERY SUBSCRIBER TO THE WEEKLY STAR READ THIS.

Under the new law which goes into effect January 1st, 1876, we are required to pre-pay postage on the WEEKLY STAR. And while this will add to the cost of publication, we shall make no advance in price of subscription, except in rates to clubs. We cannot afford to furnish the paper at $1.00 per year and pay the postage besides.

The following will be our revised terms of subscription:

One Copy 1 year, postage paid,	$1 50
" " 6 months, " "	1 00
" " 3 " "	50

Clubs of 10 or more, postage paid, $1.25 per copy.

Under this new arrangement we shall enforce the cash system more rigidly than ever before; and unless our subscribers remit promptly many names will be dropped from our list.

A statement of account will soon be sent to each subscriber, and we trust all will respond without delay.

Remember that we send all papers *free of postage* after January 1st.

MAKE UP CLUBS.

Now is the time for getting up Clubs to the WEEKLY STAR. Show the paper to your neighbors and friends, and get them to join in. We want the biggest subscription list in North Carolina.

We have no club rates for any but yearly subscribers; but for 10 or more subscribers the paper is only $1.25 per copy per year, free of postage.

MR. FERRY'S VIEWS—THE NEW YORK HERALD "BACKS."

A Washington special to the New York *Times* says Mr. Ferry, of Michigan, who has become acting Vice President by the death of Mr. Wilson, is not regarded as "in accord with the Administration on the currency question," and there will undoubtedly be an attempt to displace him from the chair. Two years ago he was fierce for "more money," but we have seen newspaper statements this season that he has "modified" his views on this subject.

The New York *Herald* has secured a clear and comprehensive exposition of the possible President's opinions at the present term on this important question. He is opposed to fixing a date for resumption. He was the head of the committee in the Senate which framed the law requiring the Treasury to pay specie on and after January 1, 1879; but he makes no secret of his opposition to that feature of the law, and explains that he consented to it only by way of compromise. Other members of the committee favored January 1, 1876. Mr. Ferry was opposed to fixing a specific date at all; but he yielded so far as to consent to place it in January, 1879, wishing to extend the period as far as possible to give time for preparation.

The *Herald*, which has been one of the straitest sect of the Hards and Immediate Resumptionists, says that a great deal could be said in defence of Mr. Ferry's opinion that it was unwise to fix a definite date for resumption. It further says "that the act of last winter was not a measure of finance, but a manœuvre of politics. The Republican party had just been disastrously beaten in the elections and thought it necessary to do something to retrieve its sinking prospects. The measure it adopted was a mere lip service to specie payments. It amounted to nothing, because no provision was made for the intermediate steps. It was as absurd as it would be to say to a workman that at the end of precisely four minutes he must stand on the topmost round of a high ladder when the ladder had no rounds and none were supplied for the first forty feet from the ground."

That is to say, the *Herald*, published under the very shadow of Wall street, is moved by a sagacity that sees the evil result of enforcing its own policy rigidly, to call off its dogs and beat a retreat. Its cry now is, "No resumption until the country is ready for it," just what the maligned "inflationists" have all along demanded and just what common sense statesmanship requires.

Recently more enlightened and liberal views are promulgated from the money centres. Not only are such influential journals as the *Herald* and *Sun*, of New York, modifying their former utterances on the currency issue, but we have seen some clear notions advanced by a Boston authority of high value. The *Commercial Bulletin* of that city, meets an argument of the extreme contractionists, concerning an assumed redundant currency, thus:

"Just here is the capital error into which most contractionists fall. The existence of the gold premium indicates a redundancy of currency, but beyond this we can affirm very little. It has been demonstrated time and again that many other influences affect the premium, and that a rise or fall in the latter is not except in the roughest way, a measure of the decreasing or increasing redundancy of paper money. During the war gold made the sharpest advances when there was no new emission of currency, and declined or remained stationary in the face of the emissions. After the return of peace it rapidly declined without contraction, and the downward tendency was almost as marked after the cessation of contraction as before."

It is hoped by all who sincerely desire to see the financial question settled without injury to any section of the country but on the basis of exact justice to all, that the Congress to meet next week will repeal the law providing for resumption in 1879. Such a measure we think, could pass the House without difficulty. If the Senate will ignore any fancied advantage to the dominant party in that body by leaving this question open, and will likewise vote to repeal an injurious statute which cannot be carried into practical effect, it will deserve well of the country.

IS IT WAR OR PEACE?

Spain says she concedes nothing, that she must be allowed to govern her own realm as she pleases. Meantime the work at the navy yards goes on.

Is it war or peace? We do not believe there will be war, though we are satisfied the Washington Administration desires it. The country is not in favor of war unless it shall become necessary to defend the national honor which is not assailed. The country recollects what was the attitude of the Administration at the time of the *Virginius* affair. It feels that *then* was the time for Grant to have exhibited backbone. Now it asks for and will have no war and no third-term.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE ON THE DIGNITY OF HIS POSITION.

Chief Justice Waite is an honorable man with just views of the dignity of his office. These views he has expressed, having been solicited by friends to become a candidate for the Presidency. The Chief Justice refuses to descend into the political arena, assigning such forcible reasons as these furnished to a Toledo, Ohio, newspaper. He says:

"Of course I am always grateful to my friends for any efforts in my behalf, and no one ever had those more faithful or indulgent, but do you think it quite right for one occupying the first judicial position in the land to permit the use of his name for political position? The office came to me covered with honor, and when I accepted it my chief duty was not to make of it a stepping stone to something else, but to preserve its purity and, if possible, make my name as honorable as those of my predecessors. No man ought to accept this place unless he shall take a vow to leave it as honorable as he found it. There ought never to be any necessity for building from below, all additions should be above.

In my judgment the constitution might wisely have prohibited the election of a chief justice to the presidency. Entertaining such a view could I properly or consistently permit my name to be used for the promotion of a political combination as now suggested? If I should do so could I at all times and in all cases remain an unbiased judge in the estimation of the people?"

THE CHARLESTON NEWS AND COURIER.

The Charleston *News and Courier* has been enlarged from a twenty-eight column to a thirty-two column size, and is decidedly the best-looking daily newspaper now published in the Southern States. It is almost a complete journal of information and amusement, publishing the latest news with all needed fulness and accompanying it with intelligent criticism. We have an abiding faith in the development of journalism in this section to creditable proportions, and that, too, within the day that now is.

There is a serious breach in Pennsylvania between Simon Cameron and the President. Grant's hope is to beat Old Sime at his tricks in getting control of the Republican State Convention. But Cameron has made an early start.

A North Carolinian and a talented gentleman, is looming up for Clerk of the lower House of Congress, Mr. Shober will make an excellent Clerk, if elected, as we hope he will be.

BLAINE'S TACTICS.

Those who think that Mr. Blaine is out of the Presidential field entirely will now have an opportunity to revise their judgment by the light afforded by a perusal of his proposed amendment to the Constitution. This proposition relates to the public school question which Republican agitators are endeavoring to bring into the discussions of the next campaign. It reads as follows:

"No State shall make any law re-
"specting an establishment of re-
"ligion or prohibiting the free exer-
"cise thereof; and no money raised
"by taxation in any State for the
"support of public schools, or derived
"from any public fund thereof, shall
"ever be under the control of any re-
"ligious sect, nor shall any money so
"raised, ever be divided between re-
"ligious sects or denominations."

This proposition is an effort of the ex-Speaker to get up with Grant in the contest for the nomination. The President led off on this line in his celebrated Des Moines speech. He thought it was a good start in the race. Blaine comes a little behind, it is true, but with something more specific in his hand—a proposition to settle the vexed question in such a way as to make him the hero of the hour.

These agitators deserve a violent overthrow of their mad schemes. There is no apprehension in the country on the subject. Religious toleration was never more complete, sectarian feeling was never at a lower ebb and the power of religious harmony was never greater than it is now. Outside of certain districts in New England and the puritan Western Reserve there is no fear of Catholic domination of the school system. Protestant parents have more sense and broader charity than to imagine the dangers which such scheming politicians and office seekers as Grant and Blaine are depicting. And the Catholics of this country, we are satisfied, have no predatory designs on the educational or any other system that obtains in this land. Hence, we maintain, the subject will not be mooted in the Presidential campaign, or, if it is, its agitation will destroy the Republican party. Any party which seeks to array one religious class against another is dangerous and will be put down by the strong arm of the people, who will have no religion in their politics and no agitators against the peace of society in their places of authority.

THE HERALD FOR RANDALL.

The New York *Herald*, which has always had, whether justly or not, reputation for oracular wisdom, takes sides in the Speakership contest and comes out strongly for Randall. The ponderous issues of the great Metropolitan journal may assist Mr. Randall very materially, or they may do him serious hurt. Just at this time, it being on the eve of the election, the chances are that the *Herald's* advocacy will help the accomplished Pennsylvanian to win the Speakership.—The *Herald* seems to be backing its Wall street friends just now with a vengeance that smells of the leaping and riving lightning.

ANOTHER ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

It is reported that several well-known nautical men of New York have determined to make an expedition to the Arctic regions early next spring in search of the records hidden by Sir John Franklin. A vessel has been chartered and the services of the well-known Esquimaux "Joe" secured. The expedition will be under the lead of Captain B. S. Osborn, and only practical navigators will be allowed to join, each of whom is to pay his own expenses.

A sensation is abroad in the shape of a report that Bristow and the President quarrelled Tuesday, and that the former will resign after Congress assembles. This is a Richmond *Dispatch* special from Washington.

Vice President Ferry wants to substitute greenbacks for national bank currency, fix the maximum at $800,000,000, and let the country grow up to specie payment.

Emma mine was too much. The Republican press seems to be united in demanding the recall of Minister Schenck. Hoff with 's 'ead!

Old man Spinner stands by that 3.65 bond schedule, and expects next year's election will be won on it. Go it, me boy.

Will seek Another Station.

Many will regret to learn that Rev. J. T. Gibbs, the highly esteemed Pastor of Fifth Street M. E. Church, will deem it necessary on account of declining health to seek a station for next year in the middle or west part of the State. He preached his farewell sermon to a large congregation on Sunday night. The reverend gentleman has made hosts of friends during his short stay among us.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE.

First Days Proceedings of the 39th Annual Session of the North Carolina Conference of the M. E. Church South.

For the last two or three days the delegates, both clerical and lay, of the above body from different parts of the State have been arriving in our city, until yesterday morning the greater number had reached here. Among them are many prominent men both in church and State, and the body being as it is the collection of all those in authority in the N. C. division of the Southern M. E. Church, its meetings are naturally looked forward to with considerable interest, especially by our Methodist fellow citizens.

The N. C. Conference comprises the following district: bounded on the East by the Atlantic Ocean; on the North by Albemarle Sound and Roanoke River to its intersection by the Virginia State line and by said State line (but including Union church in Mecklenburg county, Va.) to the Blue Ridge; on the West by the western boundary of Surry, Wilkes, Caldwell, Burke, McDowell, Rutherford and Polk counties, to the South Carolina line; on the South by the State line of South Carolina to the ocean. This section comprises ten districts, each under the jurisdiction of a Presiding Elder, as follows: Rev. J. P. Moore, Raleigh district; Rev. L. L. Hendren, Hillsboro district; Rev. N. H. D. Wilson, Greensboro district; Rev. D. R. Burton, Salisbury district; Rev. L. S. Burkhead, Shelby district. Rev. J. S. Nelson, Charlotte district; Rev. S. D. Adams, Fayetteville district; Rev. W. S. Black, Wilmington district; Rev. E. A. Yates Newbern district; Rev. W. Closs, Washington district.

THE PROCEEDINGS.

The delegates met yesterday morning at 9½ o'clock in Front Street M. E. Church. The edifice had recently been under the care of the ladies of the congregation, and their industrious and tasty hands had made everything bright and cheerful to greet the delegates. The genial warmth of a glowing fire in the furnace could be felt throughout the entire building, serving to dissipate the chill of the morning, while an array of flowers peeped from just in front of the pulpit, adding a charm to the surroundings. It was evident that the delegates had been nicely prepared for.

Bishop McTyeire presided, announcing the opening hymn, "And Are We Yet Alive and See Each Other's Face," which was sung by the assembled delegates, assisted by a number of ladies and gentlemen of the congregation who were present.

The Bishop then offered up a long and fervent prayer to the Throne of Grace, begging the blessing of the Most High on the assembled delegates, to enable them to do and act His will in the deliberations about to take place.

At the conclusion of his feeling and impressive prayer, the Bishop read the 12th chapter of Romans, after which he called upon Rev. L. S. Burkhead to deliver a prayer. That gentleman responded in a fervent supplication of some length.

Then was sung by the assembled body the hymn "Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound," after which the Conference proceeded to regularly organize.

By direction of the Bishop, the Secretary of the last Conference, Dr. B. Craven, called the clerical roll of the Conference, when the following named gentlemen answered to their names:

Daniel Culbreth, James B. Alford, Wm. Closs, William M. Jordan, John W. Lewis, Joseph H. Wheeler, Robert P. Bibb, Ira T. Wyche, Washington S. Chaffin, T. Page Ricaud, Thomas C. Moses, Thos. B. Reeks, Lemon Shell, William H. Bobbitt, Lingirn S. Burkhead, Paul J. Caraway, John W. North, Zebedee Rush, Henry H. Gibbons, Linville L. Hendren, Charles H. Phillips, Thomas W. Guthrie, Hilary T. Hudson, Daniel May, Stockley D. Adams, Chas. M. Anderson, Clarendon M. Pepper, Isaac W. Avent, James E. Mann, Junius P. Moore, Isaac F. Keerans, Jesse S. Nelson, Simon D. Peeler, Wm. S. Black, Jas. B. Bobbitt, Oscar J. Brent, Jesse A. Cunninggim, John W. Puett, Moses J. Hunt, Marcus C. Thomas, James W. Wheeler, Marcus L. Wood, Robert G. Barrett, Jas B. Bailey, James S. Ervin, Alexander D. Betts, Wm. C. Gannon, Sam'l V. Hoyle, Jas. F. Smoot, David R. Bruton, B. Craven, V. R. A. Sharp, John R. Brooks, Robert A. Willis, Bernice B. Culbreth, Thomas H. Edwards, Peter L. Herman, R. T. N. Stephenson, Richard S. Webb, Franklin H. Wood, William H. Moore, Edwin A. Yates, John D. Bule, John C. Hartsell, Thomas A. Boon, Martin V. Sherrill, Hiram P. Cole, Joseph R. Griffith, William H. Call, Maxwell H. Hoyle, Baxter C. Phillips, Leonidas W. Crawford, Thomas P. England, John F. Heitman, Edward Howland, William D. Lee, James Mahoney, Aug. A. Bushamer, Robert M. Brown, Lamuel H. Gibbons, Junius T. Harris, Frank L. Reid, Miles Foy, James Wilson, Robah F. Bumpass, John T. Bagwell, Frederick D. Swindell, Wm. C. Norman, Jesse B. Gulbe, Philip Greening, Jos. Sandford, T. A. Coon, T. W. Smith, James J. Carden.

The names of the lay delegates were then called and the following gentlemen responded: Rev. T. G. Whitaker, A. S. Webb, J. C. Phœnix, James Southgate, Alexander Walker, L. B. Bynum, C. W. Carr, W. C. Doub, L. C. Hanes, B. Allen, B. F. Samson, G. W. Flowers, Dr. B. F. Dixon, Dr. A. A. Scroggs, Rev. J. P. Shorer, M. Duve, Geo. D. Wolf, T. A. Clark, E. J. Lilly, George S. Cobb, Rev. Louis Phillips, K. K. Council, W. J. Parker, Capt. J. E. Legget, W. P. Kornegay, A. B. Thomson, W. Arendell, T. D. Gay, T. C. Williams and T. H. Guthrie.

The Bishop then stated that the election of a permanent secretary was in order.

Rev. Dr. Craven was nominated and unanimously elected to occupy that position, no other nomination being made.

A motion to form a committee, consisting of one minister and one layman from each district to nominate standing committees was made by Rev. L. S. Burkhead, which was afterwards amended to create the ten Presiding Elders that committee and adopted.

The members of the committee then retired to make their nominations.

On motion of Rev. L. S. Burkhead, the Committee of Presiding Elders were instructed to appoint also a committee to take into consideration the celebration of the 100th anniversary, which occurs next year, of the introduction of Methodism into North Carolina.

Revs. W. S. Black, J. E. Mann, J. T. Gibbs and Capt. J. E. Leggett were appointed a Committee on Public Worship.

On motion of the Secretary, a committee consisting of five, with E. J. Lilly, Esq., as chairman, was appointed to inquire into the means of having the minutes of the Conference published daily as rapidly as may be.

On motion, Revs. W. H. Moore, H. H. Gibbons and T. W. Guthrie were appointed a Committee on Memoirs.

The rolls of the examiners of the 1st, 2d, 3d and 4th years of ministers of the Conference were called and a partial report made, the final report being postponed.

On motion, it was decided to have with open doors the examination of character, which consists in asking the 20th question according to Conference rules, viz, with regard to a minister, "Has he been blameless in life and in official character."

The Committee on the Nomination of Standing Committees entered and made the following report, to which no objection being made, it was adopted:

Education—Clerical: H. T. Hudson, W. H. Moore, M. L. Wood, J. R. Griffith, M. V. Sherrill, J. P. Wheeler, J. Sandford, F. H. Wood, S. V. Hoyle; Lay: A. A. Scrogg, Jas. Southgate, W. C. Doub, R. R. Crawford, R. L. Hunt, T. A. Clark, J. W. Leak, J. W. McGee, W. F. Kornegay, T. J. Gatlin.

Sabbath Schools—Clerical: J. J. Renn, F. L. Reid, P. L. Herman, J. W. Wheeler, J. T. Harris, A. D. Betts, T. A. Boon, J. B. Alford, J. H. Wheeler, W. H. Call; Lay: Luther Bynum, Thomas G. Whitaker, O. W. Carr, B. F. Samson, B. F. Dixon, M. Doye, L. Phillips, W. J. Parker, Wm. Arendell, T. C. Williams.

Books and Periodicals—Clerical: S. A. Sharp, J. W. Jenkins, A. A. Boshammer, T. A. Boon, J. S. Irvin, C. M. Pepper, W. S. Chaffin, T. W. Smith, J. R. Brooks, A. R. Raven. Lay: B. Allen, A. Walker, S. A. Riddle, G. W. Flowers, J. W. Gidney, J. J. Shaver, G. S. Cole, K. K. Council, T. D. Gay, B. W. Brown.

Church Property—Clerical: W. C. Wilson, J. W. Lewis, John Tillett, C. M. Anderson, J. E. Thompson, B. B. Culberth, J. W. Avent, J. B. Bailey, J. P. Simpson, R. O. Burton. Lay: J. F. Moore, D. C. Hanes, James Pinnix, C. Gidney, A. S. Webb, G. D. Waite, J. W. Leak, J. E. Leggett, B. Thompson, Thomas H. Gatlin.

Bible Cause—Clerical: O. J. Brent, S. D. Peeler, H. F. Wiley, J. F. Heitman, W. M. Jordan, J. F. Simosh, B. C. Phillips, J. F. Bagwell, R. S. Willis, Jere Johnson. Lay: F. A. Clark, B. F. Dixon, T. W. Flowers, L. C. Hanes, Luther Bynum, R. L. Hunt, E. J. Lilly, J. E. Leggett, A. B. Thompson, T. C. Williams.

Centennial—Clerical: L. S. Burkhead, R. S. Webb, B. Craven, L. W. Crawford, H. T. Hudson, P. J. Carraway, J. T. Wyche, J. E. Mann, W. C. Garrison, R. O. Burton, W. H. Bobbitt. Lay: T. S. Whitaker, Jas. Southgate, R. T. Gray, W. C. Doub, R. R. Crawford, A. Scroggs, F. A. Clark, E. J. Lilly, J. W. McGee, W. F. Kornegay, F. C. Williams.

The examination of the Superannuated List was then taken up, the welfare and condition of the several members of the Conference whose names were thereon being considered and the individual cases disposed of.

At the request of the Bishop, Rev. Dr. Closs offered up a beautiful prayer for the welfare of those of the Conference who were still upon the superannuated list.

The Committee upon examinations of applicants for the ministry for the first year were called and reported.

J. M. Rhodes, Mt. Olive Circuit, B. B. Hall, Fayetteville Circuit, and J. B. Carpenter, Rutherfordton Circuit, having received a favorable report from the Committee on Examination, and after a strict and inquiring scrutiny into their moral characters and capacities, were duly elected members of the North Carolina Conference.

Rev. J. D. Carpenter of the S. C. Conference, an applicant for admission into the N. C. Conference, was after some discussion duly admitted.

On motion of Rev. Dr. Craven, the following gentlemen were elected assistant secretaries: Rev. O. W. Carr, Recording Secretary; Rev. N. A. Sharpe, Financial Secretary; Revs. A. S. Webb and P. L. Herman, Statistical Secretaries.

Several announcements of the meeting of Standing Committees to take place yesterday afternoon and last evening, were made.

The Committee on Public Worship announced that Rev. J. H. Wheeler would occupy the pulpit of Front Street M. E. Church last evening, and Rev. A. A. Boshamer would occupy that of Fifth Street M. E. Church.

The Presiding Bishop announced that the hour of meeting of the Conference each day would be 9½ o'clock and that of adjournment would be 1½ o'clock, with afternoon sessions if necessity should dictate.

The hour of adjournment having arrived the Doxology was sung, and after benediction by the Bishop, the body took a recess until this morning at 9½ o'clock.

The People of Pender vs. County Officials.

Complaint having been made against some of the officials of Pender county, on the ground of the insufficiency of their bonds, Judge McKoy will hear the case at Cowan, the county seat of Pender, on Monday, the 20th of December, being the first day of the regular term of the Superior Court for that county. The law in this case is to the effect that if any five citizens of a county shall enter complaint that the bond of any official thereof is insufficient, the Judge for the District in which such complaint is made, is empowered to hear and investigate the matter.

A SERIOUS RIVER ACCIDENT.

Sinking of a Lighter Loaded with Salt—Narrow Escape of the Men on Her, &c.

An accident quite destructive in its results occurred at the wharf of Messrs. Kerchner & Calder Bros., yesterday, about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. It appears that a lighter, or flat, belonging to Mr. John M. Robinson, had been loaded with about five hundred sacks of salt, and, as the hands were in the act of pushing her from the wharf, the side of the lighter next to the wharf seemed to drop from some projecting log upon which it had probably rested, when she careened over and went down. So sudden and unexpected was the accident, and so rapidly did lighter and cargo sink beneath the waters, that it was with considerable difficulty that the men on her at the time, six in number, were enabled to escape from being carried down with her, some of them being seized and pulled upon the wharf after the water had reached to their waists. Immediately upon sinking the lighter went to pieces, and will therefore prove a total wreck; while, of course, not a sack of the salt could be saved. Several colored men were engaged in dragging for it soon after the accident occurred, but succeeded only in recovering a number of empty sacks.

The salt belonged to Messrs. Kerchner & Calder Bros., and was valued at about $1 per sack or $500 for the entire lead. The lighter, which, as before stated, belonged to Mr. J. M. Robinson, was a new one, just completed, and was valued at about $350.

The affair created considerable excitement on North Water street and a large number of the curiously disposed flocked to the scene of the disaster, some of whom could not refrain from perpetrating the joke, although on such a serious subject, that "fish that may be caught in the river for some days to come will be already corned."

Industrial Fair Association.

Premiums sent in on Monday to be competed for at the Industrial Fair in December:

By Messrs. S. Habstein & Co.,

One dollar in gold to the cooper of naval stores who produces the best-cut sample of rosin, his own skill.

Two dollars and a half in gold for the best specimen of cabinet workmanship.

One dollar and a half in silver to the woman that produces the best specimen of needle work, her own make.

By Alex. Sampson: Five dollars and a half in gold and silver to the woman who makes the best bread or rolls from flour purchased at Wm. H. Moore's store, Market, between 2d and 3rd streets.

By Phillip Newman: Two dollars in silver to the woman who makes and presents at the Fair the best loaf of wheat bread.

By Geo. F. Tilley: Two dollars and a half in gold for the best pair of bull dogs raised in North Carolina and presented at the Fair.

By Caleb Hardy: Best quilt made in North Carolina and presented at the Fair, $2 50 in gold.

By Lewis Nixon: Two dollars and a half in gold to the female who makes the best pair of knit gloves.

The remainder of the premiums to be offered by the Board of Directors for the Association has not been decided upon. List still open.

Mr. John Kirkpatrick, one of the lessees of the excursion train that will leave Shelby during the Fair, was on a visit to this city on Saturday, to consult with Jos. C. Hill, Chairman of the Fair Association, and make arrangements for the accommodation and board of six hundred visitors, who, he says, will be down the Carolina Central on a visit during the Fair.

The Fair Grounds on the corner of 8th and Princess are streets, beginning to look like business. Sheds, coops, stalls and the grand stand are nearly completed.

Jos. C. HILL, Supt. I. F. A.

A. M. E. Conference.

The Eighth Annual Session of the North Carolina Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church convened in St. Stephen's Church, in this city, yesterday: Bishop Jabez P. Campbell, D. D., LL. D., presiding.

The Bishop opened the Conference by singing the hymn on page 890—"Let us go forth, 'tis God's command." After reading the 24th chapter of Luke, the Bishop offered prayer.

The Bishop then addressed the Conference at some length, making some very feeling and wholesome remarks.

The roll of the Conference was called and a majority of the members answered to their names, to wit:

Revs. Wm. H. Bishop, B. W. Morris, Joseph Nicholas, Cornelius Sampson, Moses J. Gaston, Jacob Horne, Charles Manly, Henry Epps, Bryant Rudd, Henry Tucker, Emanuel Williams, Josh Turner, Arthur Staten, John Epps, Gaston H. Weaver, Geo. G. McGee, Edward Robinson, John Waddell, Geo. Hunter, Lewis Williams, W. L. Hunter, L. R. Nichols, Monroe Lewis, Lewis Edwards, E. D. Roberts, Alexander Turner, J. G. Fry, L. T. Roberts, James Murcherson, R. H. Leak, Decato McChanny, C. M. Blunt, W. A. Davis, Henry Prior, Joseph Wingate, Robert Marvell, Elisha Boon, Scipio Sauls.

Rev. J. G. Fry was chosen Secretary, Rev. J. W. Telfair Recording Secretary, and Revs. John Epps, H. Turner and Bro. Jos. Wingate Marshals.

Rev. Joseph Nicholas was appointed Post-office Messenger.

On motion, 10 o'clock A. M. was made the hour to convene the sessions of Conference and 2 o'clock P. M. to adjourn.

Rev. Geo. D. Jimerson was introduced and announced by the Bishop as transferred to this Conference from the Virginia Conference.

The following Committees were appointed:

On Finance—Revs. Jos. Nicholas, Jos. G. Fry, Wm. H. Bishop and Cornelius Sampson.

On Public Worship—Revs Jos. Nicholas, G. D. Jimerson and Lewis Edwards.

On Distribution of the Dollar Money—The Bishop, Revs. B. W. Morris, Joseph Nicholas, Wm. H. Bishop and Cornelius Sampson.

On Sabbath Schools—Revs Scipio Sauls, G. D. Jimerson, Emanuel Williams, E. D. Roberts and George Hunter.

On Temperance—Revs Cornelius Sampson, Elisha Boon, Henry Tucker, G. G. McGee and W. L. Hunter.

On Education—Revs. B. W. Morris, M. J. Gaston, B. Rudd, L. R. Nichols, and G. H. Weaver.

On Circuits, Stations and Missions—Revs. Henry Epps, J. Horn, E. Williams, C. Sampson and E. Boon.

The Rev. F. R. Howell, of the Second Baptist Church, was introduced and invited within the bounds of the Conference.

The hour of 2 o'clock having arrived, Conference took a recess until to-day at 10 o'clock A. M.

Bishop McTyeire, D. D.

Bishop Holland Nimmon McTyeire, who presides at the present session of the North Carolina Conference, was, as we learn from the Raleigh *Christian Advocate*, born in the year 1824. He joined the Church in 1837, was educated at Randolph Macon College, where he was licensed to preach in 1844. In 1845, he joined the Virginia Conference, and in 1846 was transferred to Mobile, Alabama, and took charge of the church of which Dr. T. O. Summers had been pastor, the latter having been elected editor of the Nashville *Advocate*. In 1848 he was transferred to the Louisiana Conference and was in charge of a church in New Orleans until 1854, when he was made editor of the New Orleans *Advocate*. He afterwards returned to the Alabama Conference and was stationed in Montgomery, when he was elected Bishop, which was at the General Conference held in New Orleans in 1866. He resides in Nashville, Tennessee, is distinguished for his thorough knowledge of the history, laws and usages of the Church, and is an able and effective preacher. He is the author of the work entitled "The Manual of the Discipline of the M. E. Church, South, (a book, by the way, which should be in the hands of every Methodist—especially every Methodist minister). It is said that it was through Bishop McTyeire's influence that Mr. Vanderbilt was induced to make his munificent donation to the Central (now called the Vanderbilt) University, a donation which has given life and prosperity to that institution.

Industrial Fair Association—Additional Premiums.

Col. Roger Moore, Chief of the Fire Department, offers $5 in gold to the colored fire company of this city which unreels 500 feet of hose, connects the same and has pipe on ready for action in the shortest space of time at fair grounds.

James Lane, $2 50 in gold to the woman who makes the best specimen of shirt.

S. VanAmringe, $2 50 in gold for the best specimen of graining on panel work by a colored man in the State; $2 50 in gold to the painter who makes and presents the best specimen of marbleing, in paint; $2 50 in gold to the boy or girl under 16 years of age who composes the best essay on the necessity of education.

P. M. O'Hara, the "champion walkist," writing from Augusta, Ga., offers to walk 400 yards against any horse trotting 880 yards (half mile), or pacing, for a purse of $50 to the winner.

From the Sea to the Mountains.

Under this head the Asheville *Pioneer* has some very sound and practical reasons why North Carolinians, and especially the people of the West, should endeavor to make Wilmington the great commercial metropolis and entrepot of the State. This is to be done by extending the connections of the Carolina Central Railway. We quote:

In the first place, it is necessary for the future weal of our mountain country that we should reach the seaboard at the nearest practical point on the coast of our own State which offers any reasonable inducements as a commercial point. To us Wilmington is undoubtedly that point. If we desire to become prosperous in a commercial point of view, it is absolutely necessary that we have a commercial centre within the borders of our State which can have direct communication with the markets of both the old and new world, and that we be brought in direct communication with that point. Certainly Wilmington offers inducements in that respect that no other place in North Carolina holds out to the people of the West.

If our farmers and stock-raisers desire to become prosperous, it is necessary that they should have the best possible means afforded them for bringing the results of their industries to a ready market. To them, we say, Wilmington presents greater advantages than any other place in our State. It is almost the only place in the State that rises to the proportions of a respectable city, and certainly the only one on the coast. Situated as it is, in a section of the country where the necessary productions for the sustenance of life do not flourish in luxuriant profusion as they do in the upper portions of the State, it necessarily opens up a market for our products, and places our producing classes in a condition to have all the advantages of the European and other foreign markets.

It is claimed by some that it will ruin our State roads and do other parts of the State great damage if we turn our eyes in the direction of Wilmington. We think this does not necessarily follow. If such was the case, we know that every community looks more or less to its own local advantages. No place east of Wilmington offers any extra inducements to the people of the West. The result of a through line from Ducktown to Beaufort or any other point East would take us to Norfolk or points further north rather than to a convenient and safe port on our coast.

Recent demonstrations show us that the people of Wilmington are alive to this great project, and we believe their interest will continue to increase as they see more of the great advantages that they are to gain by its consummation. Then let our people without a dissenting voice urge this project. Between us and the people of Wilmington will soon exist stronger ties, and each will feel that we have a mutual interest at stake. Let the cry be, "From the Seaboard to the Mountains," and "Haste to the Work!" between Wilmington and Asheville. We hope the day will soon come when [illegible] iron will unite them together, never to be broken; and that between the people of the mountains and the Cape Fear section the strongest social and business relations will exist.

It might have been stated further that we have a port which is unequalled by any other in the State for its ready accessibility from the sea for vessels of deep draught, and from the land by railroads extending into all portions of the interior. We have a number of ports along the coast which will always offer great advantages for the lighter class of vessels—those which ply in the coasting trade—and which will continue to give employment to the railroads leading to them in the interests of that trade, but their harbors are too intricately laid to look for of too limited capacity to permit them even to successfully contest with us our claim to the first importance in the State as the port of direct foreign shipment and importation.

Fire at Marion.

It was reported on the streets Sunday evening that a large fire was raging in Marion, S. C., but we were unable to trace the report to its source. Yesterday, however, a dispatch was received at the Purcell House confirming the report and saying that the fire had been confined to a general dry goods and grocery store and dwelling belonging to a citizen of that place, and that a son of the owner came near being burned with one of the buildings. We could not learn either names or further particulars.