

1 Year	\$1.50
6 Months	.80
3 Months	.45
1 Month	.15

For Post Office Money Orders...  
For Registered Letters...  
For the money and seal the letter in the presence of a notary public...

**Subscription Price.**  
The subscription price of the WEEKLY STAR is as follows:  
Single Copy 1 year, postage paid, \$1.50  
" " 6 months, " " 1.00  
" " 3 months, " " .45  
" " 1 month, " " .15

**WHAT THE LEGISLATURE DID.**  
After a session of some ninety days it is to be supposed that some good and necessary measures were passed by the Legislature. It would have been a most extraordinary body if they had not enacted some laws of practical and wise utility. It had a great deal of work to do, and a part of it was performed very well. No one can deny that. It has left undone some very important things that ought to have been done. But, let us be thankful for what we got. It might have done worse, and might have brought dishonor upon the State. We agree with a recent opinion of the Raleigh News, that "malice itself would not have the effrontery to impute dishonesty or jobbery of any kind to that body. The legislators have gone home clean-handed, and with the proud consciousness that the confidence bestowed upon them by the people has not been abused or betrayed."

We readily accord them the praise of meaning well and acting honorably. Their chief fault, it appears to us, was a lack of broad views, and an overweening timidity. They were often afraid to do what they approved of—were afraid of the people. The sheep husbandry bill, for instance, would have become a law but for the fact that the members who opposed it believed it would make them unpopular at home. As one of the best of the members said recently, "You will never get a dog law until you send men to Raleigh to legislate who do not wish to be re-elected."

We find in the editorial columns of our respected contemporary, the *Robesonian*, a well considered article in advocacy of the merits of the Legislature, a part of which we copy. We clearly think the Legislature entitled to what is set forth in the following paragraphs:

"Many measures of doubtful utility that were up for consideration have been defeated. They were charged with a delicate and important duty in adjusting our statutes and judiciary system, and in conforming to the amended Constitution proposed by our late State Convention and ratified by the people of the State at the election in November last. They have met that duty responsibly and discharged that duty wisely by making only such changes as were really necessary. They gave the appointment of Justices of the Peace to the Legislature, as it had always been in North Carolina before the adoption of the Canby Constitution, and with which the people of the State had ever been satisfied, and which the people never desired to see changed. They increased their jurisdiction in civil actions to cases other than matters of contract (commonly called torts) where the amount involved does not exceed fifty dollars in value, thereby riding our Superior Court docket of a large amount of trivial and unimportant business, and enabling our citizens to settle their disputes and difficulties more expeditiously and at little cost. They have established a system of county government that seems to meet the approval of all. Upon this action of the Legislature there seems to be but one sentiment, that of universal approval; the system is just, simple and economical."

"They have passed an act establishing Inferior Courts for the trial of criminal cases, to be adopted or not as the Magistrates of each county may decide; doubtless its adoption in many counties in the State will be of great benefit; by having a trial of prisoners every three months, and thereby avoiding the heavy expense of feeding prisoners in jail so long as it is now necessary to do, and reducing the cost of the trial of criminal cases to a minimum."

"They have passed an act establishing Inferior Courts for the trial of criminal cases, to be adopted or not as the Magistrates of each county may decide; doubtless its adoption in many counties in the State will be of great benefit; by having a trial of prisoners every three months, and thereby avoiding the heavy expense of feeding prisoners in jail so long as it is now necessary to do, and reducing the cost of the trial of criminal cases to a minimum."

"They have passed an act establishing Inferior Courts for the trial of criminal cases, to be adopted or not as the Magistrates of each county may decide; doubtless its adoption in many counties in the State will be of great benefit; by having a trial of prisoners every three months, and thereby avoiding the heavy expense of feeding prisoners in jail so long as it is now necessary to do, and reducing the cost of the trial of criminal cases to a minimum."

"They have passed an act establishing Inferior Courts for the trial of criminal cases, to be adopted or not as the Magistrates of each county may decide; doubtless its adoption in many counties in the State will be of great benefit; by having a trial of prisoners every three months, and thereby avoiding the heavy expense of feeding prisoners in jail so long as it is now necessary to do, and reducing the cost of the trial of criminal cases to a minimum."

"They have passed an act establishing Inferior Courts for the trial of criminal cases, to be adopted or not as the Magistrates of each county may decide; doubtless its adoption in many counties in the State will be of great benefit; by having a trial of prisoners every three months, and thereby avoiding the heavy expense of feeding prisoners in jail so long as it is now necessary to do, and reducing the cost of the trial of criminal cases to a minimum."

"They have passed an act establishing Inferior Courts for the trial of criminal cases, to be adopted or not as the Magistrates of each county may decide; doubtless its adoption in many counties in the State will be of great benefit; by having a trial of prisoners every three months, and thereby avoiding the heavy expense of feeding prisoners in jail so long as it is now necessary to do, and reducing the cost of the trial of criminal cases to a minimum."

"They have passed an act establishing Inferior Courts for the trial of criminal cases, to be adopted or not as the Magistrates of each county may decide; doubtless its adoption in many counties in the State will be of great benefit; by having a trial of prisoners every three months, and thereby avoiding the heavy expense of feeding prisoners in jail so long as it is now necessary to do, and reducing the cost of the trial of criminal cases to a minimum."

"They have passed an act establishing Inferior Courts for the trial of criminal cases, to be adopted or not as the Magistrates of each county may decide; doubtless its adoption in many counties in the State will be of great benefit; by having a trial of prisoners every three months, and thereby avoiding the heavy expense of feeding prisoners in jail so long as it is now necessary to do, and reducing the cost of the trial of criminal cases to a minimum."

of these inferior Courts may neither be necessary or economical, hence it is very properly left with the Justices of the Peace of each county to adopt said courts or not. They have made provisions by which it is now confidently hoped that the W. N. C. Railroad will be completed to the Tennessee line at no distant day, by which will be developed the rich resources of our western mountain counties, giving a market to the agricultural and mineral wealth of that region, heretofore choked up by its mountain barriers. This has been a favorite project of North Carolinians for years. The Democratic party in the last campaign pledged to this measure, and nobly did it redeem its pledges."

**RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE.**  
Since 1835 there has been no legal ban to religious sects in North Carolina. We believe that New Hampshire is the only State that retains any religious test for political office-holding. At the recent election held in that State there was an amendment to the Constitution to be voted for, which would remove the stigma of political proscription from the organic law of the State. But the New Hampshire people have not yet been struck by the great tidal wave of political and religious tolerance that was put in motion two hundred years ago by Roger Williams in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and by Lord Baltimore in Maryland. The former was a Baptist, the latter a Roman Catholic.

The proposed amendment was rejected by a majority of the people, and that relic of a persecuting and semi-barbarous age will remain upon the statute books of New Hampshire, a monument of a people's narrow prejudices and unwillingness to accord to others the privilege they exercise themselves—of worshipping God according to conscience and reason.

We think it unfortunate that in our age and time there should exist in any section of our land the old spirit of intolerance that once lit up the faggots, put in motion the grinding thumb-screws, erected the gibbet and the scaffold, closed the dungeon-keeps, sharpened the axes, created inquisitorial hells, and filled the earth with tears and groans and agonizing death-scenes. There seems to be a latent principle of intolerance in nearly all men. You are a very clever fellow if you agree with me in politics or religion, but not so clever if you think and act for yourself, and oppose my view. There is many a man who would rather see his son or daughter numbered with the eternally lost than to unite with some religious body specially repugnant to his convictions or prejudices.

Our people must never favor or foster that spirit of oppression and intolerance that would put the mind in leading strings, and deny to the soul that liberty which the Father of all spirits gave it. This is "the land of the free"—at least theoretically, and it should be made so practically. Said that great English poet, Milton, "Give me the liberty to know, to believe, and to utter freely, according to conscience, above all other liberties." Said William Penn, the wise Quaker, "It were better to be of no church, than to be bitter to any."

It is doubtless in this persecuting, niggardly, intolerant element in men that Butler refers in *Hudibras* when he says of some that they

"Prove their doctrine orthodox  
By apostolic blows and knocks"  
There is nothing more precious under heaven than soul-liberty. It is a good thing for the Southern people that they have no laws that attempt to fetter the mind or place the conscience in an eternal boot-jack. Let it be ever so.

**SHOULDER TO SHOULDER.**  
The true "Southern policy" is for the Democrats to stand firm, shoulder to shoulder, face to the front. Support all good measures, obey the laws, resist allurements, and be ready for the next campaign, when the principles of their party will be maintained and enforced by themselves and not by the opposition. If the President chooses to appoint good, true Democrats to a few comparatively unimportant offices scattered here and there through the Southern States, let him do it without opposition, but do not break ranks on account of it and all turn army sutlers. Remain true to your colors, be watchful, keep up the discipline, and in 1880 there will be a grand victory to reward you.

We trust that the President will not return Dan Sikes to Spain as the Minister from the United States. If he means true reform in the least degree he can not attain it in that way. Dan is a fraud.

**HANGOVER.**  
The President hangs fire. His Cabinet are not a unit as to his "Southern policy." They are for delay, and have determined to send "a commission" to nose around and procrastinate matters. In the meantime the country suffers, and the people of two States are kept in the most unpleasant condition of uncertainty. We cannot understand why there should be doubt or hesitancy if the President really means to uphold the Constitution and execute the laws. Delay irritates, annoys, perplexes the people. The Philadelphia Times, a really independent, paper of great ability and sagacity, says:

"No man of ordinary intelligence and candor knows that Packard and Chamberlain were not truly elected. Prominent Republicans in both States have freely admitted this. The people of Louisiana know that since 1872 they have been juggled and cheated—that the Wells Board of 1876 was the illegitimate successor of the Hawkins Board of 1872, and of the Wells Board of 1874. They know how Federal intermeddling has not only deprived them of their rights for many years, but how it has changed the entire political outlook of the country. They know, therefore, what continued Federal interference in their domestic matters means—that it means a continuance of crime and villainy, of commercial paralysis and social gangrene—that it means wide-spread demoralization and ruin. Thus understanding the entire situation, no wonder they are indignant and outraged at the prospect of a continuance of their sad experience. They feel that they have been deceived, and their animosity is fast passing away."

The Charleston Journal of Commerce, referring to the idea of a compromise with Packard, says:

"But this hocus-pocus is worn out. The people of Southern States are tired of being footstools for carpet-baggers—consisted by military, Boards and Radical committees, and bullied by Federal troops. President Hayes must comprehend the situation without further information. He should attempt no negotiations looking to other swindles, misallied compromises. He has no constitutional right to interfere with the government and people of Louisiana. His delay in removing the troops only accumulates difficulties and dangers for himself. He invites all the pressures which carry bag lying and activity can heap upon him. Where is his pacification programme and the local self-government he professed it his policy to permit?"

We have not abandoned all hope that the President may yet do his duty and carry into practice his repeated promises. We still have some hope—not so strong as a few days ago—that he will act with vigor and manliness, and withdraw his troops. If he does this the Packard fraud will be wiped out, the followers of the bogus concern will be speedily disappated, and Louisiana, once again clothed with all of the powers of a State, the equal of any, and in the exercise of the right of self-government, will begin a new career of peace and prosperity.

The President is placed in a position of extreme responsibility—one requiring the exercise of great virtue, manliness and wisdom. If he is true to the Constitution and the country, all will yet be well.

The guano license tax of \$500, imposed upon foreign fertilizing companies by our Legislature, is being paid by those interested. The Petersburg Index-appeal says:

"We know of one firm in Baltimore that receives from the State of North Carolina \$250,000 per annum for fertilizers. Our merchants are taxed on their sales; why not these foreign corporations? The \$500 tax is small enough, and the last one of them should be made to pay it."

The trouble seems to be that the tax is to come out of the farmers. The Baltimore companies, we have seen it stated, have already raised their prices \$1 on the ton. If they sell 500 tons they get the tax back.

**OUR COTTON FACTORIES.**  
We were wishing the other day that we had a list of the cotton manufactory in North Carolina. We were in earnest in endeavoring to excite an interest on the subject of cotton spinning in our State. We desired to see precisely how much had been accomplished. The last *Orphan's Friend*, a useful and interesting paper published at the Oxford Orphans' Home, and edited by our friend, Superintendent John H. Mills, a writer of uncommon cleverness, gave in part what we needed. We copy the article entire. Bro. Mills says:

"We happened to visit Jamestown a few days ago, and Mr. Cooke very politely showed us the wonderful working of the machinery in a well managed cotton factory. The 'Oakdale' yarn enjoys a high reputation; but when you see the countless wheels, cards and spindles, and the cotton going through so many shapes and holes you imagine that even dead lint would become tired of turning and twisting. It is impossible to examine the workings of such an establishment without having a higher appreciation of human skill and ingenuity."

We append a list of some of the most noted factories in our State: Factory of Battle & Son, Rocky Mount; factory of William Edgerton, Pine Level; Wilmington Cotton Mills, Wilmington; Beaver Creek Mills, near Fayetteville; Rock Fish Manufacturing Company, near Fayetteville; Little River Manufacturing Company, (factory burned and not yet rebuilt) near Manchester; Blynn Manufacturing Company, near Pittsburg; Falls of New Manufacturing Company, near Neuse, making various kinds of paper; Orange Factory, in Orange; Holt's Granite Mills, at Haw River; J. H. & W. E. Holt's Carolina Factory; Saxapahaw factory, (Holt, White & Williams); E. M. Holt's Stone, Clover Orchard factory, near Graham; Major Morehead's factory, at Leaksville; J. & H. Fries (cotton and wool) factory at Salem; Battleman's factory, at Union; Cedar Falls factory, at Cedar Falls; Deep River factory, at Cedar Falls; Franklinsville factory, at Cedar Falls; Handolph factory, at Cedar Falls; Columbia Mills, at Cedar Falls; Turner's Cotton Mills, near Turnersburg; Eagle Mills, at Eagle Mills; Gwynne, Harper & Co.'s Mills, at Lenoir; Eakin factory, at Ekin; Schenck, Ramsour & Co.'s Mills on Roanoke; Steady Creek Mills, near Marion; Rocky River Mills, near Concord; Odell's Cotton Mills, Concord; Claywell & Powell's Granite Shoal Mills, on Catawba; J. S. Lineberger's factory, near Charlotte; A. P. Rhyne's factory, near Charlotte; Tule's Mountain Island Mills, near Charlotte; Wilson, Moore & Co.'s factory, near Gastonia; Philfer & Allison's Joy Shoal factory, near Lincolnton; Great Falls factory, near Rockingham; Fox Des factory, near Rockingham; Malloy & Morgan's factory, near Laurel Hill; Jones' factory, at Laurel.

Three others are nearly ready for the machinery. Now, is not North Carolina, already manufacturing State? What a commotion would be excited if all these factories were put down in little Rhode Island!

Now if our friend will supplement this with a statement of the number of spindles in each factory, and how many thousand pounds of cotton each factory consumes annually, he will have furnished us with the precise statistics we need. One good turn deserves another, he will remember. Having done so much for our readers, let him increase his favors still further.

**OLD FOLKS.**  
Mrs. Pauline Spitz died at Elinowitz, Austria, recently, at the age of 108 years. She has never been known to take medicine, and always enjoyed good health. Philadelphia Press.

We do not see why the Press should go so many thousand miles from home in search of an old lady past her centennial year, when persons of equal or greater age are to be found in every nook and corner of our own land. The late Mrs. Spitz would have been no more than a daughter in age compared to some of our North Carolina mothers and fathers, if her destiny had been cast on this side of the great pond. We can tell the Press that there is scarcely a week that as old a person as Mrs. Spitz does not die in North Carolina—that is, according to the newspapers. It is not infrequent for very poor people—especially the inmates of our county pauper homes—to attain to the ripe old age of 120 to 130 years. One of the most interesting facts connected with the exceeding longevity in this State is that it is so very common, and is so much a matter of course that no one ever questions any statements that may be made, however unsupported by probability, mortuary statistics, or family or baptismal registers. The naked statement of a maundering old man who fought under Washington at Braddock's defeat, or was with Christopher Columbus on his voyage of discovery, is regarded as satisfactory and conclusive. It requires no exercise of an uncommon credulity to accept the statements of such witnesses, but their word is as strong and sure as words of Holy Writ.

Last year 27 persons died in North Carolina who were over one hundred years old, and by the necrology for 1877, if the ratio of increase in death continues, over fifty centenarians—so-called—will have departed this life. If the Press should be in the least sceptical of what we have said, it will please read the following highly interesting announcements. The Raleigh Observer of March 23 says:

"Mr. Benjamin Johnson died at Egypt, Ohio, county, on Saturday last, at the advanced age of 120 years. He had always been a healthy man, and was hale, hearty and active up to two weeks before his death, which was caused by a stroke of paralysis. He leaves a large number of children, grand children and great-grand children. He was an excellent citizen. Peace to his ashes."

The Raleigh News, in announcing the death of Mr. Johnson, states:

"He was perhaps, at the time of his death, the oldest person in the world. His residence was ten miles south of Pittsburg, and until very recently he had enjoyed perfect health—his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated. He lived to see his great-grand-children married."

We only add, that as public journalists it has been our privilege to record the deaths of much older people.

Fred Douglass is "a bigger man than old Grant now." Fred has \$12,000 a year and a Marshal's baton, whilst Ulysses is smoking and drinking at his own expense as he goes a bobbing-around.

triumph of Hampton and Nicholls, because the tax-payers of the two States will support no other government. They know that their Governors have been legally, fairly, honestly elected, and thus knowing they will never willingly sustain the two fraudulent creatures who may be set up as rulers by the arms of the President of the same.

Every man of ordinary intelligence and candor knows that Packard and Chamberlain were not truly elected. Prominent Republicans in both States have freely admitted this. The people of Louisiana know that since 1872 they have been juggled and cheated—that the Wells Board of 1876 was the illegitimate successor of the Hawkins Board of 1872, and of the Wells Board of 1874. They know how Federal intermeddling has not only deprived them of their rights for many years, but how it has changed the entire political outlook of the country. They know, therefore, what continued Federal interference in their domestic matters means—that it means a continuance of crime and villainy, of commercial paralysis and social gangrene—that it means wide-spread demoralization and ruin. Thus understanding the entire situation, no wonder they are indignant and outraged at the prospect of a continuance of their sad experience. They feel that they have been deceived, and their animosity is fast passing away."

The Charleston Journal of Commerce, referring to the idea of a compromise with Packard, says:

"But this hocus-pocus is worn out. The people of Southern States are tired of being footstools for carpet-baggers—consisted by military, Boards and Radical committees, and bullied by Federal troops. President Hayes must comprehend the situation without further information. He should attempt no negotiations looking to other swindles, misallied compromises. He has no constitutional right to interfere with the government and people of Louisiana. His delay in removing the troops only accumulates difficulties and dangers for himself. He invites all the pressures which carry bag lying and activity can heap upon him. Where is his pacification programme and the local self-government he professed it his policy to permit?"

We have not abandoned all hope that the President may yet do his duty and carry into practice his repeated promises. We still have some hope—not so strong as a few days ago—that he will act with vigor and manliness, and withdraw his troops. If he does this the Packard fraud will be wiped out, the followers of the bogus concern will be speedily disappated, and Louisiana, once again clothed with all of the powers of a State, the equal of any, and in the exercise of the right of self-government, will begin a new career of peace and prosperity.

The President is placed in a position of extreme responsibility—one requiring the exercise of great virtue, manliness and wisdom. If he is true to the Constitution and the country, all will yet be well.

The guano license tax of \$500, imposed upon foreign fertilizing companies by our Legislature, is being paid by those interested. The Petersburg Index-appeal says:

"We know of one firm in Baltimore that receives from the State of North Carolina \$250,000 per annum for fertilizers. Our merchants are taxed on their sales; why not these foreign corporations? The \$500 tax is small enough, and the last one of them should be made to pay it."

The trouble seems to be that the tax is to come out of the farmers. The Baltimore companies, we have seen it stated, have already raised their prices \$1 on the ton. If they sell 500 tons they get the tax back.

**OUR COTTON FACTORIES.**  
We were wishing the other day that we had a list of the cotton manufactory in North Carolina. We were in earnest in endeavoring to excite an interest on the subject of cotton spinning in our State. We desired to see precisely how much had been accomplished. The last *Orphan's Friend*, a useful and interesting paper published at the Oxford Orphans' Home, and edited by our friend, Superintendent John H. Mills, a writer of uncommon cleverness, gave in part what we needed. We copy the article entire. Bro. Mills says:

"We happened to visit Jamestown a few days ago, and Mr. Cooke very politely showed us the wonderful working of the machinery in a well managed cotton factory. The 'Oakdale' yarn enjoys a high reputation; but when you see the countless wheels, cards and spindles, and the cotton going through so many shapes and holes you imagine that even dead lint would become tired of turning and twisting. It is impossible to examine the workings of such an establishment without having a higher appreciation of human skill and ingenuity."

We append a list of some of the most noted factories in our State: Factory of Battle & Son, Rocky Mount; factory of William Edgerton, Pine Level; Wilmington Cotton Mills, Wilmington; Beaver Creek Mills, near Fayetteville; Rock Fish Manufacturing Company, near Fayetteville; Little River Manufacturing Company, (factory burned and not yet rebuilt) near Manchester; Blynn Manufacturing Company, near Pittsburg; Falls of New Manufacturing Company, near Neuse, making various kinds of paper; Orange Factory, in Orange; Holt's Granite Mills, at Haw River; J. H. & W. E. Holt's Carolina Factory; Saxapahaw factory, (Holt, White & Williams); E. M. Holt's Stone, Clover Orchard factory, near Graham; Major Morehead's factory, at Leaksville; J. & H. Fries (cotton and wool) factory at Salem; Battleman's factory, at Union; Cedar Falls factory, at Cedar Falls; Deep River factory, at Cedar Falls; Franklinsville factory, at Cedar Falls; Handolph factory, at Cedar Falls; Columbia Mills, at Cedar Falls; Turner's Cotton Mills, near Turnersburg; Eagle Mills, at Eagle Mills; Gwynne, Harper & Co.'s Mills, at Lenoir; Eakin factory, at Ekin; Schenck, Ramsour & Co.'s Mills on Roanoke; Steady Creek Mills, near Marion; Rocky River Mills, near Concord; Odell's Cotton Mills, Concord; Claywell & Powell's Granite Shoal Mills, on Catawba; J. S. Lineberger's factory, near Charlotte; A. P. Rhyne's factory, near Charlotte; Tule's Mountain Island Mills, near Charlotte; Wilson, Moore & Co.'s factory, near Gastonia; Philfer & Allison's Joy Shoal factory, near Lincolnton; Great Falls factory, near Rockingham; Fox Des factory, near Rockingham; Malloy & Morgan's factory, near Laurel Hill; Jones' factory, at Laurel.

Three others are nearly ready for the machinery. Now, is not North Carolina, already manufacturing State? What a commotion would be excited if all these factories were put down in little Rhode Island!

Now if our friend will supplement this with a statement of the number of spindles in each factory, and how many thousand pounds of cotton each factory consumes annually, he will have furnished us with the precise statistics we need. One good turn deserves another, he will remember. Having done so much for our readers, let him increase his favors still further.

**OLD FOLKS.**  
Mrs. Pauline Spitz died at Elinowitz, Austria, recently, at the age of 108 years. She has never been known to take medicine, and always enjoyed good health. Philadelphia Press.

We do not see why the Press should go so many thousand miles from home in search of an old lady past her centennial year, when persons of equal or greater age are to be found in every nook and corner of our own land. The late Mrs. Spitz would have been no more than a daughter in age compared to some of our North Carolina mothers and fathers, if her destiny had been cast on this side of the great pond. We can tell the Press that there is scarcely a week that as old a person as Mrs. Spitz does not die in North Carolina—that is, according to the newspapers. It is not infrequent for very poor people—especially the inmates of our county pauper homes—to attain to the ripe old age of 120 to 130 years. One of the most interesting facts connected with the exceeding longevity in this State is that it is so very common, and is so much a matter of course that no one ever questions any statements that may be made, however unsupported by probability, mortuary statistics, or family or baptismal registers. The naked statement of a maundering old man who fought under Washington at Braddock's defeat, or was with Christopher Columbus on his voyage of discovery, is regarded as satisfactory and conclusive. It requires no exercise of an uncommon credulity to accept the statements of such witnesses, but their word is as strong and sure as words of Holy Writ.

Last year 27 persons died in North Carolina who were over one hundred years old, and by the necrology for 1877, if the ratio of increase in death continues, over fifty centenarians—so-called—will have departed this life. If the Press should be in the least sceptical of what we have said, it will please read the following highly interesting announcements. The Raleigh Observer of March 23 says:

"Mr. Benjamin Johnson died at Egypt, Ohio, county, on Saturday last, at the advanced age of 120 years. He had always been a healthy man, and was hale, hearty and active up to two weeks before his death, which was caused by a stroke of paralysis. He leaves a large number of children, grand children and great-grand children. He was an excellent citizen. Peace to his ashes."

The Raleigh News, in announcing the death of Mr. Johnson, states:

"He was perhaps, at the time of his death, the oldest person in the world. His residence was ten miles south of Pittsburg, and until very recently he had enjoyed perfect health—his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated. He lived to see his great-grand-children married."

We only add, that as public journalists it has been our privilege to record the deaths of much older people.

Fred Douglass is "a bigger man than old Grant now." Fred has \$12,000 a year and a Marshal's baton, whilst Ulysses is smoking and drinking at his own expense as he goes a bobbing-around.

**Counterfeit Half Dollars.**  
The bogus half dollar pieces in circulation, of which the public should be particularly cautious, are composed of antimony lead and tin. A genuine half dollar weighs 192.9 grains, the antimony and lead and tin humbugs weigh only 143 grains. Type metal is also used by the counterfeiters. It is electro-plated first with copper and then with silver. It weighs 192.9 grains, like the real half dollar, but the color is not good; the false pieces are thicker than the genuine, and the devices are feeble and faulty.

Mr. Du Bois, Assayer of the Mint at Philadelphia, says officially that there is something about genuine coin which puts it beyond suspicion, especially when the new white surface has given place to the inflexible and permanent "nine-tenths tint," and generally it speaks well for itself as to color and sonority. There is a liquid test of silver which can be put up by any druggist. It consists of 24 grains of nitrate of silver, 15 grains of nitric acid, and 1 ounce of water. This, if the coin be bad, blackens it at once. Mr. Du Bois also gives directions for testing coin by weight. Place a thin strip of wood eight or ten inches long, place a good piece at one end and the suspected piece at the other; have a weight of three grains at hand; if the difference is more than that, "decline to receive it," says Mr. Du Bois.

**Another Man Beheaded.**  
From a letter received from a correspondent in South Carolina, by yesterday evening's train, we learn that the body of an unknown man was discovered on the side of the road from Bishopville, in Sumter county, to old Lynchburg, yesterday morning, about 7 o'clock, with his head entirely severed from his body. Deceased was apparently about 80 or 85 years of age, commonly dressed in jeans pants, old cassimere coat, gray colored vest, checked shirt, brown hat with the inside turned out, common boots, pretty well worn, with country knit socks (wool), and with a double-barrelled shot gun lying at his side, bearing the inscription, on a silver plate, "I. McEivane." The supposition now is that he was walking on the railroad track, when he concluded to sit down and rest, taking off his boots and coat; that he fell asleep on the track and the 12 o'clock train came along, running over him and killing him instantly. Our informant states that the body presented a most horrible appearance.

**An Unknown Colored Man Found Dead.**  
Mr. L. Vollers, of Point Caswell, reports that while on his way to this city, yesterday morning, he discovered the corpse of an unknown colored man lying near the side of the road, between Wilmington and Point Caswell and about seventeen miles from this city. He had every appearance of having been murdered, and Mr. Vollers is under the impression that he had been stabbed with a knife.

**Spirits Turpentine.**  
Col. Donan writes a characteristic letter to the last *Tarboro Southerner*. It is full of adjectives and scintillations of wit and poetry.

House robbing is alarmingly frequent at Charlotte. Two attempts were made on Wednesday night. "Verily this is the time of epidemics—measles, diphtheria, burning to death and robberies."

Reidsville Times: It is surprising how many children are at school in Reidsville. There are seventy-five girls attending the two female schools and over forty boys at the two male schools.

At Nash Court a committee was appointed to report resolutions commending the virtues of that excellent and accomplished gentleman, the late Capt. Samuel T. Williams, who died so much lamented last August.

Blount, of the *Wilson Advance*, is about to have his "pictorial look." He says the "artists" assure him "that they can do most make us look angelical, and we sooner believe it, for 'some how or other' we have always had a kind of a cherubic feeling."

Rev. J. D. Huffman, one of the editors of the *Biblical Recorder*, and the master of the best style of any journalist in the State, has just returned from an extended tour through Eastern North Carolina in behalf of the endowment fund of Wake Forest College.

The Reidsville Times tells of a law suit for \$200 that has been going on for seven years. The costs have reached \$1,700, and an upward tendency. Evans comments thus: "Bless the law! it does as much for the prosperity of the country as the Kansas grasshoppers."

Blount thus puts the case of holding a stiff upper lip and going it with a gun. "Let us then hold up our heads and look the present full in the face. The past belongs to eternity, but the future is ours, and we can either gild it with sunshine or clad it with gloom." By St. Dennis that's not so bad.

Rev. Matthew T. Yates, D. D., a native of Wake county, and a graduate of Wake Forest College, has been a Baptist missionary to China for twenty-nine years. He is a man of fair ability, and speaks the Chinese language as well as a native. He is now a correspondent of the *Raleigh Biblical Recorder*.

*Tarboro Southerner*: On Saturday night Billiard Hagan and Easter Station, two colored persons living in the country, left Tarboro, chock full of watered china—lightning, double-horse-power benzine. They got lost. When found; the woman had froze to death and the man was insensible. He is recovering. A temperance lecture.

*Rocky Mount Mail*: Some severe criticisms are being made, regarding the appointment of Gov. Vance. No living man can please everybody, and friends, before we say hard things, let us remember, that the hardest thing to do is to please ourselves. Then how can the chief officer of the State please us all? He just can't do it, that's all.

*Tarboro Southerner*: We have been presented with a complete invention in the way of a patent lamp-burner. It has an attachment in addition to the regular wick, which enables the lamp to burn all night with one light, without the usual accompaniment of gas and consequent unpleasant odor. This is an invention of Dr. J. B. Godwin, of Washington, N. C.

**The Rush for Office.**  
[Raleigh Observer.]  
It was an oversight, in fact we saw the error at the time, and the article should not have been written. It was true, and as local items were scarce, we were almost compelled to use it. We refer to the revenue article in yesterday's *Observer*, in which it was stated that the Commissioner of Internal Revenue had ordered Col. Young to employ six additional deputies for this Congressional District. When the clerks reached the office at 8 o'clock there were twenty-three applicants for office sitting on the door-steps and curb-stone, not to mention a number leaning on the fence across the street. At 9 o'clock they were three deep and occupied the entire front of the office. One of the clerks approached the multitude and informed them that Col. Young was confined to his room by sickness and would not be down before 2 o'clock, if then. The crowd then quickly dispersed. Throughout the day the office was thronged with applicants. In the absence of Colonel Young the principal clerk was interviewed, and being a kind hearted man generously promised the position to every one that applied. He is of the opinion that he will have about two hundred deputies ready for duty this morning.

**A PROBLEM FOR SCIENTISTS.**  
Strange Freak of Lightning in North Carolina.  
A correspondent writes to *The World* from Broad River, Cleveland county, N. C., an account of a strange phenomenon which occurred there on the evening of the 8th inst. The lightning struck the ground about one hundred yards from the residence of N. N. Thomason, making a hole ten feet deep and three or four inches in diameter at top. At the bottom it was about twelve inches in diameter. A neighbor, a quarter of a mile distant, saw the bolt enter the ground, and says there arose a dense smoke like that from the smoke-stack of a locomotive. The ground was wet at that point, and a stream of water was soon flowing through the channel formed by the lightning, following the westerly turn taken by the fluid, and disappearing no one knows whither. The hard red clay, too, was seemingly cut out, no trace of it remaining. The correspondent desires to have some light thrown on the subject, as it has always been held that moisture nullified the electric force.

**The Daughter of One of the Blindness Twins.**  
[Raleigh News.]  
Zachariah W. Haynes, a deaf mute, was married in August, 1874, to Laura, a daughter of Chang Bunker, one of the noted twins. Chang had nine children, seven of whom are living. Three of them are deaf mutes. Mr. Haynes is a teacher in the institution for the Deaf, Dumb, and the Blind, in this city, and lives in Person street. He has two children, both of whom can hear.

[From the New York World.]  
**The Peanut Trade.**  
In the by-gone days good ward political intrigue was often required to qualify a vendor to hold valuable sidewalk or corner sites. Within a few years, since the trade has become so divided, the thrifty, status-quo Italian has swept the solid and hackneyed organ-handle for that of the warm and noiseless portable roaster, and he now rules the retail traffic. For a long time retail profits have been large; the sale of a bushel per day at 20 cents per quart would make good wages for the seller. Some places yet work off six to nine bushels per day and night, but they are rare. Latterly the supplies from the South have been heavy, the crop having become a settled one, and with easy wholesale prices the retail market has gone down. Some of the common sorts costing 80 cents to \$1 per bushel wholesale, are selling at 5 cents to 6 cents per quart, roasted. Choice hand-picked Virginia, quoted first cost \$1.20 a \$1.25, bring 10 cents per quart, roasted. Taking the various sorts right through, the retailer can make more than double the money. We should mention from thirty-two to forty linquarts. Peanuts have other more general "steadiness" than any other item in the nut line. In summer especially nearly every other sort is neglected.

The peanut is a native of South America. It was taken from there to Africa, and then brought from that country here. Wilmington, N. C., once had the best reputation for its quality, but since the war the peanut is largely molded as a field crop in Virginia, and lots from that State bring the highest price. It grows in light, sandy, fairly fertile soil, with a good clay sub-soil. When cultivated as a crop it is sown in the pod, but for small or experimental purposes, the husk should be removed before planting. Peanuts can be grown with as little labor as is required from Indian corn.