

Northwestern news to be made by Clerk, Dear Post Office Order, or Registered Letter. Post Office orders will be cashed.

JUDGE MERRIMON'S BILL.

The STAR said long ago that there was no wisdom in extremes. The latest illustration of the truth of this remark are the comments of certain Washington correspondents and certain Radical papers on Judge Merrimon's bill introduced into the United States Senate relative to placing the few surviving veterans of the war of 1812 on the pension list again, who hail from the South. Their names had been thrown out because of their locality and supposed or real sympathy with that awful rebellion.

Now, no one but a bull-headed partisan, who would not be just or generous through the very heavens fell, could possibly object to Senator Merrimon's bill. It is wise, just and timely, because it proposes to pay to the real heroes of the war of 1812 the pension now paid to the veterans of that time who happened to live in the North, and were able, at a later day, to speak contemptuously of "Southern rebels."

The Southern veterans of 1812 are necessarily very old men, and were old men when the war of 1861 began. They were too old to shoulder anything but their crutches, and only then to fight their battles o'er again and not to meet the new invader at our border. To persecute them now by withholding the pay that has been accorded to the men of the North who fought the battles of the country, is malignant and mean, and every way unworthy of any nation but one of idiots and pirates.

The men who have been cut off because of Southern birth or residence belonged to the Southern army that won those battles that gave prestige and glory to the American name. To refuse to give them the dole that the Government bestows upon less meritorious soldiers, simply because their homes were in the South, is as contemptible as unjust. We hope the wrong done will be remedied by the passage of Judge Merrimon's bill. To refuse to do this would show a malicious and vindictive spirit on the part of Northern Senators that would go a good way towards rekindling the smoldering fires of sectional dislike and antagonism.

As a Northern journal pertinently remarks, the Northern man who is haunted by the fear of the payment of pensions to Confederate soldiers shows scarcely more sense than the Southern man, if such a lunatic is to be found, who looks forward to such an impossible thing. In fact no one in the South entertains such a preposterous idea, and no one in the North knows this better than the vindictive defamers in the Northern press who are warning their section against this fiction of their own imaginations.

The veterans of the Mexican war should also receive their pensions without reference to locality or nationality. A great government cannot afford to be vindictive, niggardly, partial or mean.

Here is the way the great Radical paper, the New York Times, refers to Senator Merrimon's bill: "Senator Merrimon, of North Carolina, thinks the present a good time to restore real soldiers to the pension list. It is a season of conciliation, good-will, and sentiment, and so Mr. Merrimon introduces a bill which reads as follows: 'That section 4715 of the revised statutes, forbidding the payment of the pensions therein named, and the same is hereby repealed.' That is the whole case, and it is intended to restore to the pension list the persons and their heirs who voluntarily engaged in the late rebellion against the authority of the United States. This is the entering wedge. It is the preparation for a bill to include in the list of pensioners those who fought in 'both armies,' as some of the sentimentalists put it. Mr. Merrimon does not believe with Andrew Johnson, that 'treason is a crime, and must be punished as such.'

Gen. Bedford Forrest is dead. His death occurred on Monday, at 7 1/2 p. m., at the residence of his brother, Col. Jesse Forrest, in Memphis. He was a man of splendid physique when in health, and was possibly the greatest cavalry officer the South developed by the war. The South will always honor the great cavalryman. He was of North Carolina stock, his parents having removed from this State to Tennessee. We are uncertain whether Gen. Forrest was born before or after the removal.

THE WESTERN DISTRICT.

Mr. Marcus Erwin addresses a second open letter to Gen. Robert V. Vance, through the Asheville Citizen, in which he satisfactorily disposes of the two objections that were urged against the abolition of the Western Judicial District, viz: that one Judge and one District Attorney cannot dispose of the work, and that his abolition would be very injurious to the first, he shows that a Circuit Judge of a State Court, transacts as much business as there is done in both of the United States Districts. As to the second, he says the Judge of the Eastern District can hold the Courts at the three points at which they are now held in the West.

The bill of Congressman Waddell meets this objection fully. As to the advantages offered by the abolishing of the District, Mr. Erwin says: "That it would afford Congress all opportunity to endorse an important measure of administration, so often announced and so fondly cherished by President Hayes, viz: The abolition of all useless offices and the reduction of the Public Expenditure in every branch of the executive to the lowest possible point, consistent with the due execution of the laws and the interest of the country. It would also prevent a pleasing and unpartisan spectacle of an entire unity of sentiment and action in the national Legislature and the Executive, in the direction of prompt and early practical reform about which so much has been said and so little done."

By the mild experiment of abolishing their offices, justice would be tempered with mercy to those incapable persons who might, otherwise, suffer from the mortification of harsher measures, or from the doubtful result of too close a scrutiny into their official conduct; and, while some who deserve might escape the punishment they merit, the people would be relieved from further oppression and the public treasury from further plunder."

We have seen no sound objection yet offered in opposition, and we have no doubt that Western Congressmen, papers and people will approve of it warmly when the bill is understood. It is an effective and certain way of curing a great and crying evil. Those people who have been oppressed and persecuted in Judge Dick's district, and by Marshal Douglas's minions will indorse it, we will venture to say, if they can have an opportunity of doing so.

The Russians made a splendid fight on the 24th when they captured the position near Gwinje Dubruk. They made three assaults before they succeeded. The Turks played a foul game by twice displaying a white flag, and thus alluring them under a terrific fire. They paid for it, for their killed alone is said to have been four thousand. The Russians are fortifying the captured positions, as they are threatened with a combined attack by Osman and Chevet Pashas. From Asia Minor comes the news that negotiations at Kars have been broken off and the bombardment has begun afresh. Moukhtar and Ismail Pashas have retired to a strong position near Hassan Kaleb, whilst Generals Heyman and Tergaksoff have united and are near the Turks and not far from Koprioki. The successes of the Russians at Plevna create much alarm at Constantinople. Such is the present outlook.

The last Richmond papers represent the city all alive with the expected visit of the President. Extensive preparations have been made, and by this time he is the guest of that beautiful city. To show the spirit of the people we quote the following: At a meeting of the Methodist preachers, held yesterday at the Broad Street Methodist Church, a motion was resolved that the Methodist clergy of Richmond, Manchester, and all visiting clergy of the Church, call upon the President of the United States in a body, on Wednesday, at 9 1/2 p. m.

In the distribution of Chairmanships North Carolina receives three. Col. Waddell is chairman of the committee on Post Office and Post Roads, Gen. Seales of Indian Affairs, and Gen. Vance of Patents. We are glad to see Mr. Randall recognizing our public men, some of whom have had a considerable experience in Congressional legislation.

L. Cass Capert alias Carpenter has come to grief. He is in jail in New Jersey awaiting a trip to South Carolina upon a requisition of Governor Hampton. He is one of the thieves—one of those carpet-bag gentry who came down upon the South, like a wolf in the fold. The mills are still at work, grinding, grinding, grinding. Let 'em grind.

Gen. Forrest, the great cavalry officer of the war, was buried at Memphis with imposing ceremonies. There was a general suspension of business and the streets fairly thronged with people. Among the pall-bearers were ex-President Jefferson Davis, Gov. Porter, and Hon. Jacob Thompson. New Orleans has responded promptly to the call of the President's offer, and has sent \$1,000,000 on bond.

Rev. Mr. E. Hoyle reports 1300 converts recently on his circuit.

SUPERIOR COURT.

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Sam Evans went to Melvin's. Then Sam Evans returned with a horse. Smith said that he was willing to stay at 50 for Sheriff Sutton, and finally got on a horse and went after the Sheriff. Smith was working with Melvin at the time. The Sheriff arrived about 9 o'clock. A. M. Smith, who went for a doctor after notifying the Sheriff, arrived about daybreak. At this stage of the proceedings, about 9 o'clock in the evening, Court adjourned until 10 o'clock, this morning, when the examination of witnesses, of whom there are a large number, will be resumed.

For the prosecution: Solicitor Norment, ex-Judge Daniel L. Russell, Messrs. R. H. Smith, C. C. Lyon, and Mr. Bryan. For the defense: Messrs. Thos. H. Sutton and N. A. Stedman, Jr. The prisoner is a young man, apparently about 25 years old, and has a rather pleasant face. He seems to be very cheerful and self-possessed. His father, Mr. T. M. Smith, and his father-in-law, ex-Sheriff R. P. Melvin, are in constant attendance, and are, of course, deeply interested in the trial. The attorneys on both sides are very vigilant and every point is carefully watched and obstinately contested.

The case will probably not be concluded before Friday. We have not learned how many speeches will be made for the prosecution, or in what order they will be delivered. Mr. Sutton and Mr. Stedman, we hear, will both speak for the defense.

The Disputations. The South Carolina papers, or some of them, continue to call attention to the use of sulphur as a remedy for that terrible and seemingly unmanageable disease, diphtheria. Here is what Dr. Berley, a physician of that State, says of one particular case: "That subject was an infant, and the case an unusually marked one. The previous treatment by the parents suggested the use of sulphur, and I determined to give it a trial. I prescribed nothing but small quantities of 'four of sulphur,' intimately mixed with sugar, and given three times a day. In twenty-four hours the patient had been so far relieved as apparently to experience not the least inconvenience, and was playing about as usual. I comment this to the favorable notice of the profession, both because of its results in this case, and the ease with which the remedy (if found such) can be applied. I think an occasional dose will be found efficacious as a preventive of this dangerous disease."

Almost a Hero. We regret to learn that a difficulty occurred at Marion, S. C., on Saturday night last, between Mr. W. L. Gregg, formerly of this city, but now in the employ of Messrs. Williams & Marchison, of this place, to attend to their business at Marion, and a man by the name of E. P. Ellis, dunderhead of the latter day, who had recently discharged, while the other had apparently been loaded for several days, the caps being corroded. Witness saw the load drawn, and it was composed of mixed shot, something similar to those in the body. He saw one hundred counted, and there were about fifty more. The wadding in both barrels consisted of brown paper, and the wadding found near the body was of common brown paper, similar to that in the gun. The newly loaded barrel presented a different appearance from the old one. The accused, Robert Smith, was not present when he arrived at the body. He came afterwards with J. A. Sutton. It had rained the day before the homicide was committed. Smith's house is a small one, with two doors, the enclosure consisting of an acre or so, with palings in front and rails in the rear. It was nearer from the front door to the body than from the back door. The tracks were easily discovered, owing to the sandy character of the soil.

Cross examined.—The old barrel had probably been loaded for several weeks. There were about one hundred and fifty shot in the old barrel and only about one hundred in the one newly loaded. From all appearances deceased was between Smith's house and the man who shot him. J. M. GILLESPIE was next called. Witness is a surveyor, and exhibited a diagram of Smith's house and grounds adjacent thereto, showing the direction of the road, location of the body, &c. Columbus Evans and Sam Evans testified that they were present when the survey of the grounds was made.

COLUMBUS T. EVANS was called and sworn. Witness saw the body on the night of the 28th of June, 1877, at about 11 or 12 o'clock, within about one hundred and thirty-five yards of Smith's house. He remained with the body. After Sheriff Sutton came he looked for tracks. His saw no tracks there before the Sheriff's arrival, but found a No. 9 or 10 track, made by a shoe run down at the side. There were other tracks on the same road upon which deceased was found, one made by a No. 6 shoe, Murphy wore a No. 6 and Smith's No. 9 shoe. There was also a barefooted track. It rained enough afterwards to obliterate the tracks. In a conversation with Smith he (S) told witness that the barefooted track was that of Lucy Melvin, a colored servant girl in his employ. He said that he and Lucy Melvin went to where the body was after the gun fired. He (S) ran down by the body, then turned back and found it. He shook the body and called Murphy by name, but received no answer. He then called for a light, which was brought by Lucy Melvin. He was very much excited and could not remember all that occurred. He (Smith) said that Murphy went to his house between sunset and dark, and he invited him in. Murphy refused, as he had to go to Sam Evans'. He (S) insisted upon his coming in, as he wanted Murphy to go with him fishing. Afterwards he and Murphy went to the lake and Murphy sat down while he (S) on his lightwood. The lake was too rough to go fishing and he went back home, when he found Murphy and he (Smith) while sitting on the ground, steps and the colored girl in the yard. Murphy engaged a 'devilings' Lucy, the colored girl, to stay all night and M. refused, saying he must go, when he told him he had better wait until the moon was up. Murphy joked him (S) about the gate, being down. The negro girl shut the front door after Murphy and he (Smith) sat down to pull off his boots. He had 'got one' of them off, when the gun fired and someone hallooed. Witness saw the wadding and saw John Sutton, about one hundred and twenty shot holes. Some of the shot were small and some large. Smith went to alarm the neighbors, going first to deceased's relatives. He arrested him (witness) and told him that he was a murderer, that somebody had killed his near kin (Smith's house) and witness stated by the body, while

WASHINGTON.

Nominations and Confirmations.—A Large Number of Bills Introduced—Their Classification—Announcement of Committee in the House, &c. SENATE.—The Senate met and after a short executive session adjourned. HOUSE.—The call of the States for bills for reference occupied the House for five hours, and the consequence was the introduction of the largest number of bills that were ever presented in one day in the history of Congress. They reached 241. They might be classed into some half dozen prominent subjects; the repeal of the resumption act, the remonetization of silver, the repeal of the bankruptcy law, the abolition of the sale of the Mississippi river, the extension of the pension laws to the South, the repeal of the test oath, and appropriations for works of internal improvement. Among the latter were bills appropriating \$1,000,000 for the Mississippi river and \$1,000,000 for the Missouri river.

The committees were announced as follows (the more important in full and the chairman and Southern members on others): Elections—Farrar, Condyler, Williams, Ellis, Thorburn. Ways and Means—Wood, Tucker, Saylor, Robbins, Harris of Georgia, Gibson, Phelps, Kelley, Garfield, Burdick, Banks. Appropriations—Atkins, Blount, Singleton, Clymer, Hewitt, Sparks, Durham, Hale, Foster, Smith, Baker. Banking and Currency—Buckner, Leach, Co. Yates, Bell. Pacific Railroad—Latter, Throckmorton, Morrison, House, Lister, Landers, Chalmers, Elam, O'Neill, Blair, Coswell, Cole, Rice.

Commerce—Bright, Davis, Henry—all the North, exciting some surprise. Public Lands—Morrison, (formerly of Ways and Means), Geary, Clark, Hewitt of Ala., Smith of Ga. Postoffice—Post Roads—Waddell of N. C., Slemmons, Caldwell, Garck. District of Columbia—Williams of Mich., Hinton, Blackburn, Hinkle. Judiciary—Knott, Harris of Virginia, Ripley, Culberson. War—Edson of Illinois, Cabell, Schell, Caldwell. Public Expenditures—Hatcher of Missouri, Pridermore, Davidson, Manning. Private Land Claims—Gunter of Arkansas, Caldwell, Giddings, Turner, Cain. Manufactures—Wright, Dibrell, Wilson, Ligon, Davidson. Agriculture—Cutter of New Jersey, Pridermore, Allen. Rivers and Canals of North Carolina, Hooker, Throckmorton, Gunter. Military Affairs—Banning, Dibrell, Eams, Mills, Milo, Ross. Naval Affairs—Whitehorse, Mills, Goodie, Forney, A. F. Rivers, Schlichter, Forney, Wilson, Storey, Franklin. Revolutionary Pensions—Mockey. Invalid Pensions—Rice. Railroads and Canals—Schleicher, Cabell, Crittenden, Schellie, McKenzie. Lines and Telegraphs—McKenzie. Education and Labor—Gode. Revision of Laws—Walsh. Coinage, Weights and Measures—Stephens. Patents—Vance. Public Buildings and Grounds—Cook, of Ga. Accounts—Roberts, Chalmers. Expenditures of the War Department—Blackburn. Expenditures of the Postoffice Department—Williams, of Ala. Mississippi Levees—Robertson of La., Harper, Hony, Knapp, Landers, Martin, Evers, Everitt, Robinson, Beebe. The Speaker, Stephens, Saylor, Banks, Garfield. Printing—Singleton. Adjourned to Wednesday.

The following nominations were made today for Public Printer; E. Platts Stanton, Inspector of Steamboats for the Second District; Hugh I. Campbell, of Louisiana, Attorney for Dakota. Postmaster: Wickham for Mobile, Thompson for Memphis, Jones for Nashville, Thompson for Louisville. Confirmations—Upton, Second Comptroller; Gillilan, U. S. Treasurer; Bates, of N. Y., Examiner in Chief of the Patent Office; Postmasters—Wolford, for Florida, Miss. Mr. Jackson, Miss. Waddell, for Oklahoma, Miss. The committee on Privileges and Elections of the Senate met, but adjourned, the matter not having been printed. The President's message of the 29th of November as a day of National Thanksgiving. The Cabinet session to-day was devoted to clearing up several matters of minor importance. The President leaves at 10 o'clock tomorrow for Meigs, Evans, Schurz, Devens and Sherman swell the President's train.

ONE MORE. Arrest of a Member of the South Carolina Thieves. ELIZABETH N. J., Oct. 30. The Chief of Police of this city last night arrested, at Morristown, L. Cass Capert, alias Carpenter, editor and proprietor of the Columbia (S. C.) Union, on an indictment for forgery in raising two notes from \$200 to \$1000 in default of \$3,000 in his settlement with the United States Government, which sum he drew on salary and advertising accounts, but did not pay the bills. He ran away from Columbia to Columbia, N. C., and after being traced, he was arrested there last week in this city. Col. Johnson, of the South Carolina Legislature, came with the requisition from Gov. Hampton for Capert's arrest. He is now in jail and will be taken away at once.

A Noble Tribute from his Companions in Arms.—The brave and true and the Courage of Mr. —His Fame Belongs to the American People, &c. WASHINGTON, Oct. 31. The adjourned meeting of Confederates and other companions, subordinates and friends of General Forrest was largely attended, and the following was adopted: WHEREAS, We have learned with deep regret that Gen. N. B. Forrest, of Tenn., after a painful and protracted illness, has departed this life; therefore, be it Resolved, That we, his companions in arms, deem it meet and proper to give expression to our admiration and esteem for our departed friend and fellow soldier. Born of humble parents, poor and untutored, he was successful in civil life, and the noblest specimen of a citizen-soldier. With unconscious power he began his military career a private in the ranks; with increasing consciousness of strength he passed through all the gradations of command, and he stood at the head of a cavalry corps, the terror of one army and the admiration of the other. With the intrepid dash of a hero and the dauntless courage of a saint, he possessed a native nobility of soul and a noble heart. In battle his name alone was a tower of strength, his presence ever inspiring courage in the ranks and confidence in the strong, and he will live in history as the nation's military glory. Resolved, That Gen. Forrest won his name in the Confederate service, but that his fame belongs to the American people, and will be cherished by all who venerate true courage, and who feel that the liberties of a republic can only be preserved while its citizens prefer death to dishonor. Resolved, That we tender to his bereaved family our sympathy for the great loss which they share in common with us, and the State.

Signed, Jas. R. Chalmers, Mississippi; G. O. Dibrell, Tennessee; Phil. Cook, Geo. W. Forney, Alabama; H. C. Young, Tennessee; and Van R. Manning, Mississippi. The aggregate of the value of real and personal property of the State for 1877, has not yet been completed.

SPARKER RANDALL. A Pen Sketched by the Artist. [From the Independent.] Mr. Randall's presence in the chair is extremely winning. Cast in Roman mould, tall and powerful, he sits high and looks the man he is. He is just fifty years old, but does not look forty-five. Those traces of wear and tear so palpable on the faces of many public men, telling sometimes of too little sleep, sometimes of too much drink, of eating ambition, or of nameless dissipation, are in no wise visible here. The face tells somehow another sweeter and rarer story—of a happy home and of household loves. I doubt if any man could carry that expression who has a home and is not happy in it. Mr. Randall has a fine head, covered with closely-curled black hair, clearly cut, strong features, with a square, solid, but not heavy jaw; a mouth that could hardly fail to have its own way, if it set about it. The very strong will of the man is perfectly apparent in his countenance; but, combined with the head and brow, gives the impression of large power, rather than that of mere willingness.

The gentleman referred to so kindly by the Raleigh News is not a member of the Press Association. Thanks, none the less, for the personal courtesy.

Spirits Turpentine.

Gov. Vance at the Weldon Fair. A correspondent of the Index Appraises writes of the Governor's address: He said he knew but little about agriculture, all his observations having been made from the outside of the fence, and that if he failed to acquire himself in a creditable way to the committee and not himself were to blame. The Governor paid a visit to the growing tribute, and in this connection told of a New Orleans man who died and left the seventh article in his will as follows: "Whereas, it seems that my son John seems inclined to play poker, which is a dangerous game to tinker with unless you know what you are doing; therefore I leave my son John ten thousand dollars that he may go to Halifax, N. C., and learn how to play the game." He said it was the same county in which a circus man wagged a large sum that the Numidian lion in his possession was the king of beasts, but a Halifax man, taking up the bet, introduced a Roanoke turtle into the cage, and in a short time the turtle seized the lion by the nose and carried him to give up the ghost.

Gov. Vance reviewed in a most graphic style the desolation and waste left in the wake of the late war, stating most truthfully that the soil was about all that was left; we had no courts, no government, and only bayonet rule, which, like the lordship of the leviathan, wended at the boundlessness of his realm. He then described the happy influences of peace. He told what had been through and the suffering endured, and said that he was tempted to exclaim, like the old darkey who went to the circus soon after he was free, "Bless the Lord, I am so glad I am alive I am almost dead." He said the Bible told of sailors who went down to the sea in ships, and that was said by this fraternity that those who went down in schooners and sloops saw h—ll, and said, he felt like we had been down in sloops and schooners—after the war—but now all industries are encouraged and protected, and we have an honest government, and we are left to do as we please, undisturbed by despotism. We have learned that cotton is not king, but meat and bread; and that as a self-relying and self-sustaining people, we must manufacture and not depend upon the North, where we have purchased all we consumed, even the sunshine, if it was not gratuitously furnished. In reviewing the past political history of the State the Governor showed how the liberties of the people had been trampled under foot under the plea of necessity, and said that he was glad to know that these sort of things had been looked after. He advised the preservation of private integrity—that it was the stepping-stone to public integrity. He alluded to the corrupt times through which the people had passed, and said that at one time it seemed that every man in the State was a thief, and that a shot-gun could not be fired in the woods without killing a man that had been robbing the government, and he was really sorry the gun was not fired; for, said he, there were some of these rogues so expert that it had been said of them that they could steal the patrimony of the child whose grandfather was yet unborn.

What North Carolina is Worth. [Raleigh News.] Mr. A. J. Partin, the excellent and pious clerk in the Auditor's office, has just finished up his recapitulation of tax returns for the fiscal year ending September 30th, 1876, from which we get the following values of real and personal property in the State for that year: Value of land.....\$ 74,331,308.00 Town property..... 17,458,520.00 Horses, mules, cattle, sheep, &c..... 16,130,859.00 Value of farming utensils, money on hand, or on deposit, credits, &c..... 40,753,781.00 Total.....\$148,664,557.00 We give below the totals of taxable property in the State for the years 1872, '73, '74 and '75, by which may be seen the fluctuations in those years, which, no doubt, are owing more to vagaries of assessors than to changes in value: In 1872—\$124,321,456.00 In 1873—143,728,913.00 In 1874—139,963,381.00 In 1875—132,546,923.00 TAXABLE POLLS. 1875, White 99,417. Colored 60,755. 1876, " 109,307. " 69,590.

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Lincolnton Progress: Mr. John H. Wood, who lives about ten miles west of town, caught a white squirrel in a dead-fall near his residence last week. A large white cat was killed before last about ten miles from town, on Indian creek, by Philo Jones and William Ledford while out hunting possums. The cat was about the size of a medium-sized dog, but considerably longer. It was shot on Thursday for infanticide, pleaded guilty of manslaughter and was sentenced to ten years at hard labor in the penitentiary. This case is removed to the Western District at the last term of the court. The incarnate fiend took the life of his infant child by beating its head into a pomice with a loaded stick; and they would have been found plying help, without a foot-hold, had it not been for the last evidence to establish the real fact in the case.

Raleigh News: Mr. Everett D. Whitley, who resided in Wilder's township, Johnston county, died on Friday, the 26th of October, at his residence on Saturday evening last. The institution of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind among regular organization for the term. There are in the white department, 115 pupils—60 deaf and 55 blind; in the colored department, which is in a separate building, but under the same management, there are 69 pupils—47 deaf and 22 blind. A member of the building commission, Mr. James Wilson, residing in Street Baptist Church, informs us that Messrs. Hunter & Beckwith and Mr. J. W. Rogers, of Apex, have contributed a car load of lumber, worth about \$50, towards the building of a school for the deaf and dumb from the existing school at the recent fair, run by the lady members of that church, worth \$125.25, and about forty dollars worth of furniture. Col. Polk, Commissioner of Agriculture, showed us, on Friday, an open box of cotton, sent to his department by Mr. J. L. Dunn, residing near Dawson's Road, Halifax county, N. C., which is a long way ahead of anything in the cotton line we ever saw before. The box has been twenty-three and forty cents of cotton fully open, and in its expanded state is about five inches in diameter. The cotton, after making a fair deduction for the hull, is estimated to weigh 135 ounces, or ten pounds to make a pound.

Spirits Turpentine.

Gov. Vance at the Weldon Fair. A correspondent of the Index Appraises writes of the Governor's address: He said he knew but little about agriculture, all his observations having been made from the outside of the fence, and that if he failed to acquire himself in a creditable way to the committee and not himself were to blame. The Governor paid a visit to the growing tribute, and in this connection told of a New Orleans man who died and left the seventh article in his will as follows: "Whereas, it seems that my son John seems inclined to play poker, which is a dangerous game to tinker with unless you know what you are doing; therefore I leave my son John ten thousand dollars that he may go to Halifax, N. C., and learn how to play the game." He said it was the same county in which a circus man wagged a large sum that the Numidian lion in his possession was the king of beasts, but a Halifax man, taking up the bet, introduced a Roanoke turtle into the cage, and in a short time the turtle seized the lion by the nose and carried him to give up the ghost.

Gov. Vance reviewed in a most graphic style the desolation and waste left in the wake of the late war, stating most truthfully that the soil was about all that was left; we had no courts, no government, and only bayonet rule, which, like the lordship of the leviathan, wended at the boundlessness of his realm. He then described the happy influences of peace. He told what had been through and the suffering endured, and said that he was tempted to exclaim, like the old darkey who went to the circus soon after he was free, "Bless the Lord, I am so glad I am alive I am almost dead." He said the Bible told of sailors who went down to the sea in ships, and that was said by this fraternity that those who went down in schooners and sloops saw h—ll, and said, he felt like we had been down in sloops and schooners—after the war—but now all industries are encouraged and protected, and we have an honest government, and we are left to do as we please, undisturbed by despotism. We have learned that cotton is not king, but meat and bread; and that as a self-relying and self-sustaining people, we must manufacture and not depend upon the North, where we have purchased all we consumed, even the sunshine, if it was not gratuitously furnished. In reviewing the past political history of the State the Governor showed how the liberties of the people had been trampled under foot under the plea of necessity, and said that he was glad to know that these sort of things had been looked after. He advised the preservation of private integrity—that it was the stepping-stone to public integrity. He alluded to the corrupt times through which the people had passed, and said that at one time it seemed that every man in the State was a thief, and that a shot-gun could not be fired in the woods without killing a man that had been robbing the government, and he was really sorry the gun was not fired; for, said he, there were some of these rogues so expert that it had been said of them that they could steal the patrimony of the child whose grandfather was yet unborn.

What North Carolina is Worth. [Raleigh News.] Mr. A. J. Partin, the excellent and pious clerk in the Auditor's office, has just finished up his recapitulation of tax returns for the fiscal year ending September 30th, 1876, from which we get the following values of real and personal property in the State for that year: Value of land.....\$ 74,331,308.00 Town property..... 17,458,520.00 Horses, mules, cattle, sheep, &c..... 16,130,859.00 Value of farming utensils, money on hand, or on deposit, credits, &c..... 40,753,781.00 Total.....\$148,664,557.00 We give below the totals of taxable property in the State for the years 1872, '73, '74 and '75, by which may be seen the fluctuations in those years, which, no doubt, are owing more to vagaries of assessors than to changes in value: In 1872—\$124,321,456.00 In 1873—143,728,913.00 In 1874—139,963,381.00 In 1875—132,546,923.00 TAXABLE POLLS. 1875, White 99,417. Colored 60,755. 1876, " 109,307. " 69,590.

The aggregate of the value of real and personal property of the State for 1877, has not yet been completed.

SPARKER RANDALL. A Pen Sketched by the Artist. [From the Independent.] Mr. Randall's presence in the chair is extremely winning. Cast in Roman mould, tall and powerful, he sits high and looks the man he is. He is just fifty years old, but does not look forty-five. Those traces of wear and tear so palpable on the faces of many public men, telling sometimes of too little sleep, sometimes of too much drink, of eating ambition, or of nameless dissipation, are in no wise visible here. The face tells somehow another sweeter and rarer story—of a happy home and of household loves. I doubt if any man could carry that expression who has a home and is not happy in it. Mr. Randall has a fine head, covered with closely-curled black hair, clearly cut, strong features, with a square, solid, but not heavy jaw; a mouth that could hardly fail to have its own way, if it set about it. The very strong will of the man is perfectly apparent in his countenance; but, combined with the head and brow, gives the impression of large power, rather than that of mere willingness.

The gentleman referred to so kindly by the Raleigh News is not a member of the Press Association. Thanks, none the less, for the personal courtesy.

Lincolnton Progress: Mr. John H. Wood, who lives about ten miles west of town, caught a white squirrel in a dead-fall near his residence last week. A large white cat was killed before last about ten miles from town, on Indian creek, by Philo Jones and William Ledford while out hunting possums. The cat was about the size of a medium-sized dog, but considerably longer. It was shot on Thursday for infanticide, pleaded guilty of manslaughter and was sentenced to ten years at hard labor in the penitentiary. This case is removed to the Western District at the last term of the court. The incarnate fiend took the life of his infant child by beating its head into a pomice with a loaded stick; and they would have been found plying help, without a foot-hold, had it not been for the last evidence to establish the real fact in the case.

Raleigh News: Mr. Everett D. Whitley, who resided in Wilder's township, Johnston county, died on Friday, the 26th of October, at his residence on Saturday evening last. The institution of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind among regular organization for the term. There are in the white department, 115 pupils—60 deaf and 55 blind; in the colored department, which is in a separate building, but under the same management, there are 69 pupils—47 deaf and 22 blind. A member of the building commission, Mr. James Wilson, residing in Street Baptist Church, informs us that Messrs. Hunter & Beckwith and Mr. J. W. Rogers, of Apex, have contributed a car load of lumber, worth about \$50, towards the building of a school for the deaf and dumb from the existing school at the recent fair, run by the lady members of that church, worth \$125.25, and about forty dollars worth of furniture. Col. Polk, Commissioner of Agriculture, showed us, on Friday, an open box of cotton, sent to his department by Mr. J. L. Dunn, residing near Dawson's Road, Halifax county, N. C., which is a long way ahead of anything in the cotton line we ever saw before. The box has been twenty-three and forty cents of cotton fully open, and in its expanded state is about five inches in diameter. The cotton, after making a fair deduction for the hull, is estimated to weigh 135 ounces, or ten pounds to make a pound.

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