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THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

We do not hesitate to say that we do not place much faith in the value or usefulness of the Agricultural Department. We believe it to be a very costly luxury.

But we utterly repudiate the position taken by the advocates of this expensive luxury, that the Agricultural Department has had anything whatever to do in saving the people large sums by causing a reduction in the prices of fertilizers.

We do not deny, mark you, that there has been a reduction—a great reduction in some instances—in the prices of fertilizers. Of course that is so.

The point we make is that this important reduction has not been brought about by the Agricultural Department of the State. We do not believe it has really had any more to do in regulating prices than the sea gulls who fly along our Atlantic coast have in fixing the tides or in controlling the storms.

You may ask, why this confident assertion? The reply is, because we know that the reduction in the prices of fertilizers is just as great in South Carolina and Georgia as it is in North Carolina. It may be urged by the friends of the Agricultural Department of North Carolina that so potent is its influence for good that it not only regulates prices in this State, and thus protects and benefits the farmer, but it goes beyond, reaches over the border, and actually determines the prices in two other important States of the Union.

The truth is guanos are much cheaper. The stringency of the times—the financial paralysis has brought down prices generally, and fertilizers have tumbled also.

While we are writing about fertilizers we will add one other reflection. The cry among the farmers just now is for cheap fertilizers. Meetings are being held in many sections in which it is resolved that the prices heretofore paid will not be paid any longer. What will be the probable result? We think it will be found that poor fertilizers will be introduced in spite of all precautions to keep them out in order to meet the demand for low-priced articles.

No laws were ever yet framed that could catch all the rogues. No Agricultural Department can shut out impure or inferior guanos when the people cry out for a cheap article. We would not intentionally do injustice to the Agricultural Department. We have doubted long the expediency and wisdom of its organization. It has cost, or will cost the State for the first two years \$30,000, and we do not see what important benefits result from this large expenditure. The money is greatly needed to pay the interest on the public debt, in educating the poor children of the State, and in many important directions. We would be glad to know that \$15,000 annually had been saved to the tax-payers of North Carolina.

THE NEXT HOUSE.

It is said, but with what truth we cannot now determine, that a considerable number of the members of the 46th Congress, that will assemble in extra session on March 18th, will either act independently of all parties or with the Nationals in the organization of the House. If the list is correct then the Democrats cannot organize the House, or cannot do so without the aid of a number of the Independents or Nationals. The following is the list of Independents and Nationals: Gilbert De La Matry, Indiana; F. H. Muroh, Maine; Nicholas Ford, Missouri; General J. B. Weaver, Iowa; E. H. Gillette, Iowa; Albert P. Forsyth, Illinois; Bradley Barlow, Vermont; Wm. M. Lowe, Alabama; Seth W. Slocomb, Pennsylvania; Daniel L. Russell, North Carolina; George W. Jones, Texas; G. W. Ladd, Maine; James W. Singleton, Illinois; A. E. Stephenson, Illinois; Henry Speer, Georgia; and Henry Persons, Georgia. It is also said that Kelley and Wright, of Pennsylvania, and Felton, of Georgia, will act with the Nationals in certain contingencies.

The Democrats claim to have 149 members. To get this number, Wright, of Penn., Felton, Speer and Persons, of Ga., Jones, of Texas, and Lowe, of Ala., are included. We suppose these seven will vote with the Democrats in organizing. If so, the way is open. Without them there are but 142 Democrats. If the Greenbackers and Independents were to act with the Radicals in organizing, then the latter can get control. That is to say, the Radicals will have 147 votes and the Democrats but 142. We do not expect, however, much difficulty. We cannot see how men who ran and were elected as independent Democrats can affiliate or cooperate with the Radicals.

We may add that the Democrats in the late Congress did not appear to apprehend any difficulty in organizing satisfactorily. A special in the Richmond Dispatch, dated 4th, says: "Serious doubts have been expressed in some quarters as to the power of the Democrats to organize the next House without the aid of those members elected as greenbackers and independents. One of the oldest and most experienced of the Democratic members, who has been making a careful inspection of the roll of members elect, says there can be no doubt whatever that the straight-tongued Democrats have a clear working majority."

THE VETO AND THE CHINESE.

We are glad to see that so many of our leading Democratic exchanges have accorded the de facto President due credit for signing the much needed tobacco bill, and for vetoing the very objectionable Chinese restriction bill. Our own opinion has been expressed. The Chinese are not desirable additions to our population, but the way to get rid of them is not by acts of bad faith, and by abrogating at will solemn treaties. We do not doubt that the people of California have grievances that ought to be remedied, but it should be done with a proper regard for the character of our government. If the United States can of its own accord break a solemn treaty with China, why can it not also break a treaty with England or France? If it is known that the United States, as a great nation, has no regard for its pledged word, and will unhesitatingly break treaties on occasion as self-interest may prompt, how long would it be before the nations of the world would cease to make treaties with our country, and would regard us as without honor and without morality? Doubtless most of us, if residing in California, would regard the matter of restricting the Chinese in immigrating to this country as the people of that State regard it, but we ought not to expect the U. S. Government to violate its pledges and endanger its reputation for honor and trustfulness among the nations of the earth. The way to get rid of the evil is doubtless to hold a convention or meeting in which the accredited representatives of the United States and China shall discuss and arrange the matters in dispute, and by common consent either amend or repeal the existing treaty.

The Petersburg Indecent-appeal has some judicious remarks on the subject of the veto, a portion of which we copy: "The veto of the bill prohibiting the im-

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migration of the Chinese was one of those exercises of the President's constitutional power, for which he deserves praise at the hands of right thinking people of all sections and parties. The bill would never have become a law except for the supposed political exigencies of both parties with reference to the vote of California in the approaching Congressional election. Beyond doubt, many good men, alike in the Senate and the House, both Democrats and Republicans, supported the measure against the protest of their consciences, and because they remembered that the ultimate responsibility of its becoming a law devolved on the President. The same vicious course of argument, adduced the fraudulent "pension arrears bill," so called, on the country; and the members of Congress really had no right to elude the discharge of a plain and palpable duty resting on themselves, by transferring the burden to any other shoulders. It has happily happened, in this case, that the President has been faithful to the obligation of his duty and to the distinct desire of nine-tenths of the people."

JUDGE KERR'S CHARGE.

The Charlotte Observer reported recently an outline of Judge Kerr's charge to the Grand Jury of Mecklenburg, in which he took strong ground for preserving the purity and dignity of the Superior Courts. The good Judge appears to be perplexed by the act of the General Assembly in extending the jurisdiction of magistrates. He had read the act and he was unable to tell what offences were cognizable by the grand jury. He said, and we quote from the Observer: "They appear to have taken from the jurisdiction of the Superior Court every offense except murder and a few others known as the higher crimes. He hardly knew whether or not to tell them to bring in a bill for larceny. The act referred to gives the magistrates jurisdiction over all except 'serious offenses.' Who should say what this term meant? He considered it a serious offense for a man to spit in another's face and curse and abuse him, but how could such an offense be punished by a magistrate? On his last circuit a burly negro man was up before him for assault upon a lady of refinement and delicacy. The defendant, a lady in court, and the court commanded her to stop. She was greatly alarmed and ran, and the negro pursued her almost to the door of the house of a neighbor. He sent the negro to jail for two years. After a while she regretted she hadn't made it. What sort of punishment could have been administered in a magistrate's court for an offense of this sort? What sort of restraint is there on criminals, if they know that they can only be imprisoned for thirty days? The protection of the innocent depended in a great manner upon the punishment of the guilty. What protection did the present law afford to our citizens and mothers against the assaults of rascals? The dignity and purity of the Superior Courts should be preserved at any cost. Who ever saw anything valuable that was not costly? The very purity of our courts has been purchased with oceans of blood, and now it was proposed that the protection which they afforded should be in a measure destroyed because they cost something."

We copy these remarks of Judge Kerr because of his age, experience, ability and elevation of character. What so eminent a gentleman may say about the changes made by the Legislature in regard to the punishment of crime and the jurisdiction of magistrates is worthy of attentive consideration, and as such we have made the reference and given the above extract.

TILDEN AND 1880.

The Democratic leaders in New York are represented as regarding the report of the Potter Committee as being in the interest of Uncle Sammy Tilden. It is even said that the report will be circulated as a campaign document. The New York politicians may regard it as assured that the Democratic party will renominate Mr. Tilden as its candidate for the Presidency, but it is possibly more important to know what the Democrats in the remaining thirty-seven States have to say about it. We have seen no developments of opinion that lead us to think that Mr. Tilden is the favorite of any Southern State for the candidacy in 1880. We have no doubt that his chances have been much strengthened lately. Two or three months ago he did not have the ghost of a chance to obtain a single Southern State.

That he will have strong friends in all of the Southern States in the State conventions to be held is altogether probable, but it does not appear certain as yet that there will be any delegation from any one Southern State that will be pronounced for him. But it is far too soon to speculate about such matters. A vast deal will occur during the year to shape the destinies of men and to determine who shall be the standard bearers of the Democracy in the great struggle of 1880.

If it be possible, the right man should be chosen. The South should go for no man who has a record so vulnerable as to throw the Democrats on the defensive. If they are wise, it appears to us, they will vote in Convention for the man who can win the fight. To do this he must be as far as possible above reproach. Who that man is we do not under-

stand now to designate. That the Democrat can elect his candidate we have no sort of doubt, provided wisdom and harmony prevail.

SENATOR RANSOM.

A correspondent of the Nashville American some weeks ago, writing from Washington, paid Senator Ransom a high and deserved tribute. We noted at the time one remark. He said that he was "not great at a set oration but a fountain of eloquence when an occasion touches his heart and spurs his brain to action." We have never met with worse criticism than this. Gen. Ransom's forte lies in "set orations." His famous speech delivered three or four years ago in the Senate in defence of the South and in behalf of conciliation and peace between the sections, was a model of elaborate thought and fervid eloquence. It was the effort of his life. It attracted universal attention. It was complimented exceedingly and deservedly by men of all parties. The Republican Senator from Vermont, Mr. Morrill, declared it was one of the most eloquent efforts ever delivered in the Senate. The late Abram W. Venable pronounced it the most rhetorical speech that he had read in twenty years.

We have a recent book which contains no less than three extracts from that splendid effort. The speech is very long, very eloquent, very elevated in sentiment, very impressive and persuasive. Throughout there is a fine vein of lofty thought and expression. The sentiments are manly and noble. Of its kind the speech is simply and unquestionably a masterpiece, as far above his extemporized efforts as it is possible to conceive.

There was once in the British Parliament, in the days of Burke and Pitt, the younger, and Charles James Fox, a very gifted man who made one speech that made him immortal. It was praised by every one. He never again raised his voice in those famous halls of debate. He has passed into history as "Single-spoken Hamilton." If Gen. Ransom had never made another speech in the Senate he would have been long remembered because of the dignified, beautiful, rhetorical and brilliant effort to which we have referred. We do not deny him the gift of "touching the heart," or of readiness on the spur of the moment. The point we make is that he is great "at a set oration," and that he surpasses himself on such occasions. As Macaulay said of Warren Hastings "writing above himself," so Senator Ransom above himself."

THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT AGAIN.

The Goldsboro Mail does not appear to have any more confidence in the practical utility of the Agricultural Department than the STAR has. Last year the farmer had to pay a 450 pound bale of cotton for a ton of guano. This year he must pay 475 pounds, or get a very inferior grade. There is no reduction it seems. The Mail says:

"Comparatively little guano has been sold in this State in the last three years for money, but, on the contrary, 19-20ths has been exchanged for cotton, and if the price of cotton in 1876 made the net average in money realized \$7.16 more than in 1878, was it not rather the decline in cotton than anything the Agricultural Department did?"

"In 1878 standard brands of guano were offered in exchange for cotton at the rate of 400 pounds lint cotton per ton, and if the Agricultural Department of the State has influenced the matter at all, we submit that before it can be claimed for it, the saving of \$215,000 per annum, it should be able to explain the cause of the increased rate of exchange demanded by the guano companies now operating in the State. We believe that to establish the Agricultural Department, the tax of \$500 on each brand of fertilizers was levied. We believe this tax has placed the whole traffic of guano into the hands of a few rich companies, and having driven small companies out of the market, they have been enabled to force more cotton by 60 to 100 pounds per ton out of the fields of planters than they could ever have done, but for that tax. We sincerely believe that the guano tax has drawn already hundreds of thousands of dollars from the pockets of planters."

The editor of the Mail is a practical man of business, and is an old farmer as well as legislator. We think his views sound and that they will bear the test of scrutiny. We have before intimated wherein we think the Agricultural Department has been beneficial. We do not think, we repeat, that it deserves any credit for reducing the prices of fertilizers.

Two men named Smith and Evans had a shooting affair at Petersburg on Friday, and nobody was hurt.

PEANUT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Peanut Growers' Association was held at the Purcell House yesterday at 11 o'clock. An election was held for officers, which resulted in the choice of the following: President—D. T. Durham. Secretary—R. K. Bryan, Jr. Committees were appointed in the different townships in the peanut section to ascertain the acreage, condition of the crop, &c., and to report the same to the next meeting.

From the report of committees heretofore appointed to ascertain the amount of the crop still on hand, it was shown that there was of the Rocky Point crop..... 10,500 bushels. Sound section..... 7,000 " Brunswick, (estimated)..... 4,000 " Onslow..... 2,000 " In hands of dealers, estimated..... 10,000 " Total on hand..... 33,500 "

The Secretary was instructed to correspond with planters in Virginia and Tennessee, and report the acreage and condition of the crops in those States to the next meeting.

The meeting then adjourned subject to the call of the Chairman.

SUPREME COURT DECISION.

The following decision will be of interest to people in this section. The opinion was rendered by Chief Justice Smith:

City of Wilmington vs. Nutt, from New Hanover. Affirmed.

Civil action heard on exception to referee's report, before McKoy, Judge, at December Term, 1878, New Hanover Superior Court. The defendant was surety on the official bond of J. C. Mann, former Superior Court Clerk of New Hanover, and subsequent to the execution of the bond the Legislature, by act of 1870, imposed upon the clerk the duty of issuing licenses to inspectors in Wilmington and collecting the tax thereon. The suit is for the taxes so collected and not paid over to plaintiff. The defendant resists the suit on the ground that the bond signed by him does not make him liable for the default of the Clerk in the new duties imposed. The case was before this Court at January Term, 1878, on demurrer, and was decided against the defendant. The defendant having been obtained against him, he again appeals and asks that the former decision be reviewed and reversed.

held, This Court sees no error in its former decision. It is well settled that the official bond of parties undoubtedly covers not merely duties imposed by existing law, but those belonging to and naturally connected with their office, or business imposed by subsequent law, provided the new duties have some relation to or connection with such office or business, and are not disconnected from or foreign to both. (15th Wall, 123; State vs. Bradshaw, 10 Hawks, 229; Cameron vs. Campbell, 10 Hawks 235; cited and approved.)

The duty imposed upon the said clerk by the act of 1870 is not so repugnant to the office and its functions as to lose the security of the official bond, nor is it without precedent in being annexed to an existing office and in the responsibility imposed upon the incumbent. The Superior Court clerks are by law required to collect the tax imposed on mortgages and deeds; the clerk of the Court receives and accounts for the tax on attorneys' license; and sheriffs are sometimes charged with the collection of taxes levied by municipal corporations.

Southern Railway and Steamship Association.

A meeting of the committee on rates of the Southern Railway and Steamship Association is now in progress in Charleston. Among the members in attendance we notice the name of Col. A. Pope, of the W. & W. and W. C. & A. Railroads. A number of changes have been adopted in the classifications promulgated at the beginning of the year, the general effect of which will be to lower classifications, involving a proportionate lowering of rates to the Southern interior from commercial centres.

Threatening Life.

A colored man by the name of William Nutt, who lives in Brunswick, was brought here yesterday, under a commitment from Justice Prieoleau, of that county, charged with threatening the life of one Moses Chisholm, the latter also stating in his affidavit that he was shot at on a certain occasion, and he has reason to believe that it was by the said William Nutt. The prisoner was sent to Smithville to be confined in the county jail at that place until the next term of the Superior Court.

Up at Last.

The steamer North East poked her nose out of the water yesterday and looked like she was ashamed of herself for lying abed so long. It was suggested that she could very properly be recorded as among the arrivals from below. Captain Dick Paddon was present when she made her appearance. The work of raising her will be completed to-day, we understand.

The Newbern Nut Shell has the following in reference to the wreck of the schooner Embden, already mentioned in the STAR: "On Monday last the schooner Embden, from Hyde county, laden with corn, went ashore on Harbor Island bar, near Hunting Quarters, and was totally wrecked. The Embden was owned by Sheriff J. D. and Mr. H. J. Davis, of Beaufort. The cargo was got out of the wreck some weeks before she went down, but about one-half of it was badly damaged. The Embden was bound for this port, where she was an old acquaintance."

A New Hampshire Republican recently boasted that the Federal government did not let the Republican cause suffer in that State. Of money from that source, he said they had plenty, and "it was used to buy voters," said he. "We buy them the like sheep, just as you need to buy slaves in the South. That is the way we do in New Hampshire." Yes, and in Maine and Vermont and Massachusetts and Rhode Island and Connecticut. And yet the sleek Edmunds is heard sobbing over the "corruption" in the Southern States.—Louisville Courier-Journal, Dem.

INTERESTING NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

Vacancies in the Extra Session.—Organization of the New House.—The Secretary and the Silver Dollars.—Alex Stephens "Ashamed of the Forty-Fifthers"—Other Matters. [Special to Richmond State.]

WASHINGTON, March 6.—At the extra session there will be six vacancies—California four, New York one, Texas one—and the important question will arise, what number shall constitute a quorum? Shall it be a majority of those on the roll or a majority of the number of members to which the House is entitled? The answer will make a difference of four votes to the Democrats.

There will be a Democratic caucus on the 15th instant to provide for the organization of the Senate. There are about a hundred and twenty attaches of the Senate, and numerous applicants for every place. The Republican clerks will lose about eight months' salary by the calling of Congress to meet so soon.

During the last session 1,036 bills and joint resolutions were introduced in the Senate, and 6,828 in the House. Comparatively few important bills passed both Houses.

Secretary Sherman has about made up his mind to reduce the pile of silver dollars accumulating in the Treasury at the average rate of a million and a half per month, by paying a percentage of salaries and current expenses of the Government in silver dollars. The production of standard dollars goes on at two millions per month, while the average demand is about \$450,000.

Probably a third of the members of Congress will not leave Washington. They are only entitled to mileage for two sessions of one Congress, and will not be entitled to any allowance for stationary, unless they vote it for themselves, as they did at the last extra session.

Alexander H. Stephens says he is ashamed of the Forty-fifth Congress. "When we met it was heralded abroad that we would find relief for the people, but instead of that we have been a burden, and the Forty-fifth Congress adjourned in deeper disgrace than any Congress in the history of the government." He hopes for better things from the next Congress.

The Clerk of the House has received more than two-thirds of the certificates of election of members of the Forty-sixth Congress.

The appropriations at the last session of Congress were in the aggregate about five times greater than for any year before the war when the Government was not oppressed with a great debt, and business was prosperous. Secretary Sherman laughingly remarked to-day that Congress must have had an exalted idea of his financial ability to suppose that he could pay these sums without means. He thought no Congress had ever given a Secretary of the Treasury so much power as the last gave him. For instance, the Sundry Civil bill gives him power to lease all the public property in the United States. As to arrears of pensions, he may pay them as fast as there is money in the Treasury, but he is not supposed to draw upon the reserve fund set apart to secure resumption. Ten or twelve millions a year will probably be paid on account of back pensions, at which rate the burden may be borne without much trouble.

A member of the Cabinet said to-day that if the Democrats persist in the attempt to repeal the election laws, Congress will be in session for twelve months. This means that the Republicans are firm in their purpose to resist, and that the President is in accord with the party leaders, on this subject at least.

The Special Session Elephant.

[Washington Dispatch to the N. Y. Herald.] There is a growing suspicion among the Democratic Representatives and Senators who remain here that they have drawn an elephant in the extra session which they allowed some of their extreme men to force. When Congress assembles they will frame and pass laws repealing the objectionable sections of the revised statutes. If they repeal each of these statutes by a separate act it is very possible that the President will sign those repealing the test oaths and the clause allowing troops to be kept at the polls, but it is thought he will veto a bill repealing the Supervisor and Marshal laws. This is the more likely because it is known that not all the whites in the Southern States desire the repeal of the laws. Conservatives in Louisiana and South Carolina and Independents in other States are not averse to having them kept on the statute books.

If the Press could be believed, Senator Butler, of South Carolina, escaped conviction and execution for murder because a rifle club or two that would have "come trooping over from Georgia," made President Grant, Secretary Cameron, the Federal army, Governor Chamberlain, the South Carolina militia, the local constabulary and a Republican Judge, District Attorney and jury flee from the temple of justice and allow a red-handed murderer to sit in the Senate instead of swinging from the gallows. Unfortunately, however, nobody believes the Press, and it would be adding the imputation of utter imbecility to falsehood to assume that the Press believes itself. But organs must be organs.—Phil. Times, Ind.

Spirits Turpentine.

—Judge Battle's condition is very critical.

—Revenue receipts in the Fifth District for the week ending on 23d February, were \$17,940 24.

—Mr. George D. Pool, a very prominent citizen of Pasquotank county, is dead, in his sixty-third year.

—The residence of Mr. Elias, at Franklin, Macon county, was burnt; loss \$4,000. Supposed to be incendiary work.

—There was a great stir at Washington on the first day of Lent when the bell rang early in the morning. People thought it was a fire.

The Danbury Reporter says of Col. A. M. Wadwell: "He was not only an earnest worker in Congress, but devoted to the interests and necessities of the people."

Elder C. B. Hassel is writing a history of the Kehukee Association. Up to this time 1,450 copies have been subscribed for. It is expected that 3,000 copies will be taken.

Shelby Aurora: One Henry Jenkins, colored, was arrested and jailed in this place, last Friday night, charged with threatening to burn Shelby and otherwise injure the people of this section.

Elizabeth City Carolinian: The first instalment of arms for the Vance Rifles has arrived. The hands have left for the South for the purpose of fitting out steamers were in our port the past week.

Wadesboro Herald: The negroes in one of the jail rooms almost effected their escape one night last week. They succeeded in unbolting the iron door of the room, but fortunately the wooden door was secure.

Raleigh News: There is some prospect of Kate Cixson coming here, after all. The revival in progress at the Salisbury Street Baptist church continues nightly, and interest in it is on the increase. As many as a dozen persons have been converted, and the good work is not yet done.

Newbern Nut Shell: Mr. Thomas Taylor commences his walk of 48 hours this evening at 7 o'clock. A very large number of citizens attended the funeral yesterday of our late estimable young townsman, in progress at the Salisbury Street Baptist church, and a white military, officers of the Fire Department and the Newbern Silver Cornet Band escorted the remains to the cemetery.

Mr. C. W. McLean leaves Newbern this morning for Raleigh for the purpose of asking the Legislature to appropriate a sufficient sum for the publication, in the Dutch language, of a descriptive book of Carolina, to be distributed in Holland from his office at Amsterdam.

Goldsboro Messenger: Mr. Ruffalo, a well-known citizen of the Newton Grove section, Sampson county and brother of the late Dr. Monk, died in the 21st inst. The Governor has issued commissions to the Beaufort Light Infantry, a fine company recently organized at Beaufort, which has been placed in the hands of the late Dr. Monk, and given to Mr. Samuel Hudson, at Pollockville, Jones county, were destroyed by fire on Wednesday of last week. Loss about \$1,200. No insurance. A graphic dispatch from Senator Ransom, received by the editor of this paper Tuesday, soon after the adjournment of Congress, brings us the gratifying intelligence that the appropriation for the purchase of the increased to \$45,000, and there is also an appropriation of \$7,000 for the Trent.

The Raleigh News says that Watt Sewell, who was killed in Moore county, by a man named N. B. Taylor, was in charge of some wagons, loaded with Taylor's stills, when he was killed. It gives this account of the killing: "After supper there seemed to be some one in the woods near the wagon, and one of the men with the wagon came up and told Sewell that he thought Taylor was near, and Sewell, going down to the road where the wagon was, was fired upon by Taylor without the shot taking effect. Then Sewell called out, 'shoot again,' which Taylor did, the ball taking effect in his bowels, causing his death next day. Taylor's father has been Taylor sent word to Sewell's father that he had shot his son and left him in an old house on Mr. Harrington's lot. Tken Taylor recaptured his stills and ordered the drivers to take the wagons, which they did, and on Sunday last there were one hundred men hunting Taylor and in their route captured his stills, running on Sunday. Taylor is still at large, and we understand the Commissioners of the State have offered a reward of two hundred dollars for his arrest."

Tarboro Southerner: While Mr. Edward Zoeller, the efficient Deputy Collector of the Second District, was returning from Sparta on Thursday evening last, whether he had been shot, but his horse bit with his office, a more cowardly and dastardly attempt was made upon his life. His business detained him in Sparta until after nightfall. When on his way home, and while passing near the residence of a woods near the farm of Col. E. Cromwell, about six miles from this place, he was fired upon by some would-be assassin, who was secreted in the darkness near the roadside. Mr. Zoeller halted the party, or rather the direction of the party, was the report of the pistol, and was answered by another shot, this time coming so near that he heard the whizz of the ball, whereupon he drew his revolver and fired four successive shots in return, but his horse became unmanageable and he was unable to make any investigation.—Your correspondent attended Nash court one day only, the day set apart for the trial of E. F. Pitt. A good many were very much surprised when the Judge bound him in a bond of only \$500 for his appearance at August court.

Charlotte Observer: Yesterday morning, Messrs. James and Walter Pharr, with a neighbor, Mr. McKee, were covering a bar on the premises of the former, about three miles from the city, when the scaffold on which they were standing gave way and Mr. James Pharr and Mr. McKee fell to ground. They had a drop of fifteen feet and both were painfully injured. A crowd of people came from Columbia, S. C., from Danville, Va., and from Lincolnton to see Wilhem's fiddle last night. The Air-Line Railroad advertises for sale twenty-two miles—unclaimed freight. The chief of a freight train on the Charlotte, Columbia & Augusta Railroad, coming north, stopped a few days ago at the water tank on the outskirts of this city, nine pedestrian tourists disembarked from one of the cars. Bushyhead, the chief of the Cherokee Indians, was in the city yesterday. He is on the way to Raleigh and thence to Washington to look after some claims due his tribe from the government. The chief is now quite an old man, probably sixty or seventy, and walks with a halt in his gait, caused by a wound which he received in the late war at the head of his regiment, which did some first-rate service. He dresses plainly, but wears a silk hat of the style which prevailed seven or eight years ago. The old man is really Rev. Bushyhead, being a Baptist preacher. He talks tolerably English, and is extremely dignified and sedate in manner. The Statesville has improved wonderfully within the past year. Many new buildings have gone up, many are now going up, and the cry is still for more, as nearly all are filled.—There are more generalities in Ireland now than ever before in its history. This is especially true of the northern part of the county, where a large number of persons have taken out license within the past few months for the manufacture of whiskey.