

to learn concerning the South, and if more Colonel McClure would visit our people, not as propagandists or spies, but as wakeful, conscientious, truthful, painstaking observers, and would then write fairly and honestly what they saw, the ignorance concerning the Southern people would not be so dense. But as long as the maligners and falsifiers, like Tourgee, have the ear of the North we cannot expect that our people will be understood or estimated properly.

PAPER PULP FROM COTTON STALKS.

Some months ago we referred to some interesting experiments that were making in the reduction of cotton stalks to pulp, and we are glad to be able to say that the experiments promise good results. We have before us a sample of pulp thus made, and it is more of promise than a realization of what may be. The sample can be seen by those who are curious or interested in experiments that may prove beneficial to the South. We copy a letter from the gentleman in New Jersey who sends it, and who has made the experiments referred to:

CAMDEN, N. J., December 20, 1880.  
Editor Wilmington Star.—Enclosed you will find sample of paper pulp reduced by me from the stalks, bolls, etc., of the cotton plant. There is from 15 to 20 per cent. more fibre in it than ground wood, which is used very extensively by the paper manufacturers for both white and manilla paper. No doubt this will be interesting to your readers, as I judge most of them are growers of cotton. To get at the actual cost of producing the pulp, it will be necessary for one to know from the growers what expenses would be attached to baling it for shipment and cost of freight to Philadelphia, and I would like to hear from all the growers that feel interested in this new idea. All letters and questions will be promptly answered if addressed to Yours, truly,  
Geo. W. ARTHURS, Jr.,  
718 Linden street, Camden, N. J.

Col. McClure's last letter to his paper, the Philadelphia Times, of Tuesday's issue, is devoted to an account of his visit to ex-President Jefferson Davis. The letter is written from Mississippi City, and he describes the home of Mr. Davis, the Dorsey place. We copy one interesting extract:

"Soon after I had been bowed into the parlor Jefferson Davis entered alone, and his greeting was the cordial welcome of the proverbial hospitality of the South. I confess to disappointment in the general appearance of the man, who stands in history to-day as the soldier-statesman without a country. I expected to find the strongly-marked traces of a grievously disappointed life, and serene civility and studied reticence in discussing all things of the past; but those who believe Jefferson Davis to be misanthropic in temperament and embittered against the nation and the world greatly misjudge him. Nor is he the broken invalid that he is generally regarded. His yet abundant locks and full beard are deeply silvered, and his face and frame are spare, as they always have been, but his step is elastic and steady, and the hard lines of his brow, which are so conspicuous in his picture, are at once effaced when he enters into conversation. Instead of impressing the visitor as a habitual recluse, who has no interest in the land to whose citizenship he will live and die a stranger, he at once invited the freedom of the planter's home by chatting without reserve, and when his contemporaries are likely to be criticized, when he adroitly and pleasantly turns the discussion into inoffensive channels. He is yet the same positive man in all his convictions and purposes that made him the leader of a causeless rebellion. He well understands that he must die for empire or for failure that must make him alien to the country and the world, and that he lost, and he knows that he is to day the most powerless of all men in the land to retrieve the fortunes of those who followed him to bereavement and sacrifice."

Amos T. Ackerman, one of Grant's Attorney Generals, whose death was announced recently, was a native of New Hampshire. He went to Georgia when a young man, soon after completing a collegiate course, served in the Confederate army (bomb-proof department) and became a Radical as soon "as the cruel war was over." The Savannah News says of him:

"While Mr. Ackerman was one of the bitterest Republican partisans in the South, he was believed to have been sincere and honest in his convictions. His personal ability and integrity were above suspicion, for he was acknowledged as a lawyer of superior merit, and was always accorded the credit of meaning to do what he believed to be fair and right. His politics was, however, a fanaticism, though a stern, fearless, right-meaning fanaticism. He, in a word, was never able to free himself from the purification and prejudices of the New England ideas imbibed by him in early childhood."

The STAR sends heartiest wishes to its friends for a joyous, delightful CHRISTMAS.

NORTHERN CREDULITY—THE CRY OF INEQUALITY.

The willingness of intelligent Northern people to believe anything they hear or read concerning the South would be remarkable if it were not so very common. The latest example we have seen of the kind is a report that the negroes are leaving some portions of the South in such great numbers that the owners of the plantations have had to go to work as field hands. The cotton crop alone of 1880 ought to satisfy every man that the exodus has not been large enough to seriously injure the cotton planters, much less to endanger the prosperity of the South. But suppose the exodus was as great as some Northern people would have it to be, would not the North suffer in the end almost as much as the South would suffer? Can the cotton fields grow up in weeds without the tens of thousands of looms in New England and Pennsylvania and elsewhere remaining silent?

The cry heard mostly in Radical organs is, that the negro cannot get justice in the South—that there is nothing to encourage him to remain—that he cannot get political equality. In point of fact the colored people, save in a few localities, have as many political rights as the whites have, with the one exception that they cannot secure a share in the paying offices. But whose fault is it? Is it not to be laid at the door of their political friends and associates? As to the colored people being badly treated and having nothing to encourage them it is all bosh—unmitigated untruth. They are treated kindly everywhere save where they provoke hostility by bad conduct. They have every inducement to remain in the South—hog and hominy, fruits, climate, birth-place, adaptation to the service required, and so on.

It is well enough to consider one point just here more carefully—the inequality of political rights and privileges. We would like for some truthful Northern Republican editor to furnish some statistics for the instruction of the country at large. For instance, we are curious to hear how many members of the Cabinet are colored; how many colored members of the U. S. Senate are from the North; how many Republican members of the House are colored; how many Governors, Lieutenant Governors and State officers in the North are negroes; how many mayors of cities, aldermen and sheriffs in the North are negroes; how many members of the Legislatures in the North are of the same race? The point is—has the "colored man and brother" really equal rights in any city, town or village, in all the North? We do not believe it, and the facts do not warrant any other conviction. On the 16th inst. we copied an utterance from the oldest Republican paper in the country—the North American of Philadelphia, (not American, as we were made to say before, for that paper is young, but vigorous and scholarly), to the effect that the negroes would have their share of work, "but nothing more." See STAR of that date, first page.

Whilst the Philadelphia American—the young Republican paper of that city—is worrying itself about the neglect and wrongs of the negro in the South, it would do well to consider the complaints of the colored men of its own great city. Many colored meetings have been held looking to a redress of grievances in Philadelphia and elsewhere, and the protest is strong and vehement against the wrongs visited upon the colored people, not by the slandered Southern white people, but by their Republican allies there and every where else. Progress, published in Philadelphia, says:

"There is not a colored man in the next Legislature of this State, not one in the city councils or school boards, not one in the city trusts, not one in any of the other departments of the city or State, save in menial and degrading services."

At a specimen of what is said by the colored Republicans of Philadelphia we copy the following resolution that was adopted last week in a colored ward meeting: "That, owing to our hitherto political humiliation and lack of representation upon any of the committees and organizations pertaining to the Republican party, we deem it of vital importance to give some expression of our feelings and lay our just claims before the people; therefore, be it resolved, That we claim a representation upon the Republican City Committee, and a just and equal share of all the offices that are within the gift of the party; and that we demand in all the departments—

National State and City—The appointment of colored Republicans.

This has the independent, self-respecting ring about it. Say these colored "workers" hereafter "we claim a just and equal share of all the offices that are within the gift of the party." This is the way "to talk it." But, says the venerable North American, not so, you can have no office, but you may "work." This attitude of the Radicals toward the negroes, leads Col. Forney—an old Republican who supported Grant—to say in his paper, Progress:

"The colored man has been a double slave: first, of the Southern farmer, and now of the Northern ring. The one forced him to work, the other forces him to vote for him. The colored man of the future has his own destiny in his own hands, and there are some compensations in store."

In the South the white Radicals have given the negro a crumb or two whilst they have taken the pone. They have permitted the "workers" to smelt the pot of good government "fixings and things," whilst they have soured their fingers and hands into it and have replenished their inner man from day to day.

One other point: Hayes, in his message, makes a gross attack on the South and declares that the negro is not allowed to enjoy the rights of citizenship, such as freely to vote and have it counted honestly, &c. We have referred to this before and refer to it now to quote an item from Progress. It says:

"In this good Republican city of Philadelphia, year after year, outrages upon the ballot-box have been perpetrated as inexcusable as any that have been charged against the Southern people."

We leave the subject for the present. It serves a double purpose to point to these things: it informs our own readers and lets the Northern Republicans understand that there are two sides to the question. LIFE INSURANCE BENEVOLENCY. The decision of Judge Hughes, in the case of the Piedmont & Arlington Life Insurance Company, of Richmond, Va., will be approved heartily, we would suppose. A Life Insurance Company, if economically and honestly managed, cannot fail possibly unless it has had to meet extraordinary losses caused by the prevalence of a death-dealing epidemic, or a financial crash generally. The margin is so large that a well-managed company must grow rich very rapidly. Years ago we studied two leading insurance authorities with some care and interest, and it satisfied us that the best companies charged far too much for the insurance granted. We believe that if proper economy prevailed and a severe conservatism of risks was observed invariably, that the insurance could be given at from 25 to 40 per cent. less than the prevailing rates, and that, too, without endangering the safety of the companies. It is the "extravagance of companies, and in many instances the rascality of officers, that necessitate excessive premiums and thus make the people pay very much more for protection than ought to be the case. Think of a President of an Insurance Company receiving \$35,000 as a salary yearly. Go and look at the palatial buildings, the fine furniture, the cart loads of costly documents gotten up in the most extravagant style, the large salaries for dozens of employes at home, the sumptuous suppers, the \$10,000 spent annually for wine suppers, and you will see what becomes of the money of many of the companies.

Judge Hughes holds that the failure of a Life Insurance Company is prima facie evidence that there is fraud. This must be the case unless some one of the causes mentioned by him has intervened to produce a collapse. Wide-spread contagion or sudden financial convulsion might wreck a company. But in this vast country disease would be able hardly to do this, as the risks are too widely scattered to effect the companies to such an extent as to cause a failure. Injudicious risks are more harmful than any other cause where the management is honest. We have known unfaithful agents to when the subjects were either dying from disease or killing themselves with drink. The temptation to pay travelling expenses, board bills, etc., was too great for the honesty of the agents and they resorted to improper risks (by manipulating the applications) to secure the large commissions given by their companies. We

could mention several such risks. If companies would employ only gentlemen of the highest character, giving them remunerative salaries, they would make in the end very greatly. A rascally agent in a few minutes may fasten a \$10,000 loss upon a company—enough to keep three or four first-class agents in the field for an entire year.

It is a mistake to suppose that the movement against the Jews in Germany is universal, or meets with general approval. A majority of the states have united in protest against the movement. It is not believed that the result of the attack will cause any harm to the civil and social rights of the Jews, however much temporary annoyance it may give them. We correct an error into which we were led by a Northern exchange. The Empress is not a Catholic but a Lutheran. She is not a patron of the modern crusade. Her husband is thought to be the head of the movement.

It is said that every day that passes sees the United States growing richer by \$2,800,000. If correct, this is wonderful. The annual accumulation is set down at \$825,000,000; Germany is estimated at \$200,000,000; Great Britain at \$325,000,000; and France at \$375,000,000. The average annual income in Great Britain is \$165; United States the same; France, \$125; Germany, \$85. Valuation of capital: Great Britain, \$44,400,000,000; France, \$36,700,000,000; United States, \$32,000,000,000; Germany, \$22,000,000,000; Russia, \$15,000,000,000.

Mr. William L. Royall is an able lawyer and a strong writer. He was a decided success as a journalist. His forthcoming pamphlet (for such we believe it is to be) in reply to Tourgee, the carpet-bag slanderer, will be read eagerly in the South. The North will not be so glad to see it. The Norfolk Virginian says:

"Captain Royall has had the opportunity of securing bushels of facts relating to Tourgee's 'Knave's Errand' in North Carolina, and if he has failed to avail himself of the material he alone will be to blame. No rascal ever went so unwhipped of justice with as little ease as Tourgee did from North Carolina."

Some North Carolinian should take him in hand and publish to the country the exact and full facts concerning his career in North Carolina. There are several important chapters in his performances in this State. The last Oxford Free Lance gave some particulars concerning the law firm of Tourgee & Horsfall in Granville county—a firm much more rascally than Quirk, Gammon & Snap, if not so well known to fame.

Radical organs will note. The Election Commissioners of Warren county, Mississippi, who were indicted before the U. S. Circuit Court for throwing out negro votes, were promptly discharged by the Federal Judge, he saying that they had obeyed the law in every particular. "That now." Another Radical lie spiked and by a Radical Judge.

Business Improvement. Some of our prominent merchants and dealers tell us that business has been better in Wilmington during the past month than at any time in several years, and the indications have certainly been such as to bear them out in the assertion. This state of affairs is owing in a great measure to the good crops made in the country and to the good prices obtained for the produce of this section, including cotton and naval stores. Thus what starts out as a benefit to the few becomes in the end a benefit to the many, and trade and commerce is made to flourish upon the foundation constructed for it by and through labor and mutual dependence.

Highway Robber Captured. The negro who clubbed and robbed Mr. Armline Hufham, at Jones' Section House, on the Carolina Central road, referred to by us yesterday, was captured the same night by Henry Porter, colored, and turned over to Justice L. Murrell. The most of the goods taken from Mr. Hufham were found in his possession. So we learn from a "postal" from Mr. W. P. Andrews, of "Swinson's Cut."

Good Time. Engineer John Riddick, with six cars including one sleeper, started from Florence, on the W. C. & A. R. R., yesterday morning, one hour and three-quarters behind time, and arrived at Wilmington just twenty minutes behind the schedule time, making the run in about 40 miles per hour, making due allowances for stoppages.

Death of an Old Citizen. Mr. John A. Sanders, a venerable and respected citizen of this county, died at the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. George Harris, in this city, yesterday, in the 72d year of his age.

A Colored Man in Brunswick Arrested and Committed to Jail, on the Charge of Causing the Death of his Own Child.

There is a colored man, named Sam Hurst, now in Smithville jail, on the serious charge of causing the death of his own child, about six weeks old. It seems that about five or six weeks ago Hurst and his wife, who are employed on the Kendall property, in Brunswick county, about eighteen miles from this city, left the child in the shanty where they lived from early in the morning until nearly night, on a certain day, and in the meantime the door chatter, which was only held in its place by a prop, fell upon the child, and it remained in that position, under the heavy shanty, until Hurst and his wife returned in the evening, when it was taken out badly bruised and crippled. Then, again, on Sunday last, the wife, having been absent in this city for a week or two, Hurst got up in the morning, built a big oak fire in the fire-place, placed the child on a moss mattress in very close proximity to the same and then fastened the door and went off, and about 8 o'clock in the afternoon the shanty was discovered to be on fire. Parties in the neighborhood arrived at the spot too late to save the shanty, but they might have rescued the child had they known it was in the building. Hurst himself came up in the meantime, but turned off without making any effort to save his property or rescue his child. The charred remains of the little one, which consisted of little more than a portion of the skull and backbone, were found among the debris in one corner of the spot where the shanty had stood, showing that the child in its agony had crawled as far away from the fire as possible when it was in its incipency.

On Wednesday last Special Coroner Arnold held an inquest over the remains, when the above facts, in substance, were elicited, which were strengthened by other corroborative circumstances, and a verdict was rendered accordingly, Hurst being committed to jail to await his trial at the next term of the Superior Court for Brunswick county.

Fender Superior Court. This Court was expected to adjourn Wednesday evening. The only criminal cases of importance disposed of were those of Kate Bryant and Aaron Tate, both colored, charged with burglary. It was shown to the satisfaction of the Court that the charge in neither case would hold good, and the defendants were therefore allowed to submit to a verdict of larceny, Bryant being sentenced to five, and Tate to seven years in the Penitentiary. In the case of Bryant it was shown that he got possession of the key to the house of a man in whose employ he had been for some time previously, entered the same and took a suit of his clothing; that he then took the man's horse out of the stable, saddled him and rode him to some kind of a public gathering, dressed in his borrowed plumage, but afterwards returned the clothing and the horse to their proper places. In sentencing him, His Honor, Judge Gunder, intimated to the prisoner that he was lucky to escape with his life, as the crime under the statutes, so far as related to the taking of the horse, could have been made a capital offense.

Aaron Tate's crime consisted in breaking into a house in the day time and carrying off a number of articles, the property of the owner of the building. The remainder of the time of the Court was taken up in the hearing of civil cases.

On His Travels. The Private Henry Hammond alluded to in our telegraphic columns this morning, in a dispatch from Washington, is said to have victimized the First National Bank of this city to the tune of about \$206. He was in this city on Saturday, and considerably intoxicated. It seems that Hammond was acting in the capacity of clerk in the Quartermaster's office at Fort Johnston, under Lieutenant Niles, and during the latter's absence he stole the Government checks and transportation requests referred to, on the latter of which he can keep on travelling ad infinitum, or until he is fairly enticed to Grant's soubriquet of "Great American Traveller," unless stopped in his wild career by the strong arm of the law. At last accounts from the enterprising disciple of Uncle Sam he was trying to negotiate a check at Raleigh.

The Embarrassment Case. Mr. M. A. McNair, who was arrested in this city on Wednesday last, on a warrant from a Justice of the Peace of Columbus county, charged with embezzlement, went to Whiteville yesterday to answer to the accusation, but upon his arraignment the prosecutor failed to appear and the accused was discharged. Mr. McNair returned to this city last night. He says that the affair grew out of a business transaction between himself and Mr. John T. Harris, of Columbus county. He claims to have been badly treated in the matter, and is naturally very indignant thereat.

New Coach. We noticed at the W. C. & A. Railroad depot yesterday morning a new passenger car recently turned out of the company's shops at Florence, S. C., for the North Eastern Railroad. The car is fifty-six feet from corner post to corner post, and built in the latest style, without end windows. It is finished inside with maple and Hungarian ash, and presents a very light and cheerful appearance. It has the Janey couplet attachment. The car was built under the supervision of Mr. W. H. Dyer, formerly of this city, and is a credit to the workmen of the Company.

The fair recently held in Philadelphia for the benefit of the First Regiment army fund netted \$51,850.

Since we published the 1412 hog we cannot afford to notice anything further under 700. The 400-pubers are too unamiable to mention.

Mr. John H. Wheeler, well known to North Carolinians as a lecturer of very copious and valuable historical materials, is hopelessly sick and his death may be looked for at an early date.

Married. At Grates' Episcopal Church, in Weldon, on the 1st inst., at 11 o'clock A. M., by Rev. A. S. Smith, D. D., Wm. W. Hall, of the Roanoke News, to Miss Maria W. Long, of Weldon.

New Bernians: As an evidence that careful and proper planning was in the process, we note a record of about twenty-odd bales sent to market this season by Col. John N. Whitman, and purchased by Messrs. Dill Bros. at 14 cents per pound, and sold at the highest price paid for cotton on the coast.

The Tarboro Southerner has completed fifty-eight years of a well spent life. It was established in 1823, and it has been a useful and faithful friend of the people all along its pilgrimage. We hope it will celebrate its centennial under the management of the genial editor who now shapes its course and as yet kind things for his friends.

Jackson items in Weldon News: There was a rumor in town last week that a Mr. Squire had killed a man named Bradley in the upper part of the county. We did not learn the particulars. — Dr. Panson had a hearing at the recent term of the court, and was sentenced to jail for 15 months. His wife was so ill, and he was so tired that he was kind to her when sober, but a perfect fiend when drunk.

Durham Plant: Mr. W. D. Cole, the lawyer at Cole's Mills, on Eno river, while attempting to lower the water gate, fell upon the saw which nearly severed his left arm and leg. Drs. Battle and Blackwell were called in, and his arm and leg were so terribly lacerated it required the amputation of both. They did all in their power to save the unfortunate man, but his injuries were so great that he died early Friday morning.

Weldon News: We learn that \$3,600 have been raised by the people of Halifax for the proposed railroad, and it is thought the balance, about \$2,500, will be raised with little or no trouble. — Mr. William Parrish, the head carpenter of the Seaboard road, was drowned last Wednesday in Meherrin river, while crossing across the bridge and it is supposed that he lost his balance on a fall, striking his head against something in his fall. His body was recovered on Saturday.

Goldboro Messenger: The store of Mr. George Quinn, near Davis' mill, in Duplin county, was burned by a building Tuesday night and robbed of about \$250 worth of goods. — The mystery enveloping the disappearance of Miss Mary Francis Bausus and her reported death by poisoning, particulars of which were given by us last week, has been solved. The affair turns out to be, as we suggested, a huge fraud instead of a mystery, and seems to be a "cut up" job on the part of the said Mary Francis Bausus.

Raleigh News-Observers: The Raleigh Academy of Medicine, last evening, held the regular election of officers. Dr. J. W. McGee was chosen President; Dr. J. A. Sexton, secretary; and Dr. P. E. Hines, Treasurer. The Academy now has fourteen members. Two died during the past year. — The dwelling house of John King, in Little River Township, was burned a few nights since. The fire was caused by a spark falling in a lot of seed cotton, which King had stored in a room. — The barn and stables of Willis Holden, near Wake Forest College, were burned two or three nights since, together with a lot of corn, fodder, &c.

Tarboro Southerner: Mr. W. R. Moore, brought us a piece of pork on yesterday, killed by a man full of parasites—small, round and white. The hog was filled with them and was killed along with the rest. — Died, at Norfolk, Virginia, Saturday, December 18th, Miss Louisa F. Biggs, aged 63 years. She was a sister of the late Judge Ass. Biggs, and had gone to Norfolk for medical treatment. — A tournament comes off at Sparta to-day with a coronation ball the evening after, to be enjoyed at Rocky Mount, on Friday, one at Bethel on Tuesday, one at Wilson last week and a tilt by colored Knights at Toisnot. — Gov. Jarvis' portrait in last week's Harper's Weekly is not a very flattering one.

Warsaw Brief Mention: We have to record another horrible death occasioned by drunkenness. Wm. Blackwell and Jackson Grant were drinking quite freely on last Thursday evening, it is said, and left the village just before the northern bound fast train, which passes here at 10 o'clock P. M. When the train was about one mile beyond the village, within 200 yards of the water station, running at full speed, the engineers saw a man on the track, just as he was struck. Whether he was lying on the iron or was knocked down and drawn under the wheels we have been unable to learn, the engineer not having been before the inquest nor communicated with, as far as we know, by any of our people. His head was severed from his body, which was lying by the side of the track with one leg and a bruise upon the side and one arm, while the head, which was split open, was found about 800 yards further on.

CURRENT COMMENT. — In connection with the revival of a discussion of the eight-hour system it is worthy of note that men employed in the workshops of England toil for a smaller number of hours daily than men engaged in corresponding pursuits in the United States. Here the ten-hour system is in force in nearly all our industrial establishments, while in England a half-holiday on Saturday is granted, which reduces the number of regular working hours to fifty-four, or at the rate of nine hours per day. — Forney's Progress.

"Believing that irregular practices at elections are pernicious to the individual and degrading to the Commonwealth, The News and Courier will consistently oppose fraud and strenuously support whatever measures promise to ensure a free ballot and a fair count. Believing, likewise, that in popular education is the surest safeguard against the dangers of universal suffrage, The News and Courier will seek security for the continuance of honest government in the diffusion of knowledge through the public schools, rather than in legislative strategy or political manoeuvres. — Charleston News and Courier.

The Mississippi Levee Commission was to obtain from the National Treasury \$1,500,000 to deepen the channel and raise the levees of the Mississippi. The original sum asked for was \$5,000,000, but even this is only a starter. A board of Government engineers has estimated the cost of the proposed work at \$50,000,000. Another board placed it at \$70,000,000.