

THE WEEKLY STAR

Table with 2 columns: Month, Price. Lists subscription rates for 1, 3, 6, and 12 months.

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EXECUTIVE URGENCY.

Gov. Jarvis, in his message, drew the attention of the Legislature to the power invested in the Chief Executive of the State to pardon criminals. He thought it was more authority than ought to be entrusted to any one man.

In a former editorial—written some two or three years since—we showed what the law was in several States, and how certain States provided for commutations and pardons.

The principle we attack is dangerous, and for that reason, if there was no other, we would insist upon a change in the organic law. But there is more involved than danger.

When a culprit is arraigned for an offence and fairly tried and sentenced, it has happened that new evidence has come to light, and that the culprit was really innocent of the crime.

The pardoning of a criminal is arbitrary. It interferes with the execution of the law. It is an annulment of the law in criminal cases. It is all this whether it be done by a Board or a Court of Pardons.

We stop not, to consider now the dangers to society at large by the law's delay, by making punishment of crime uncertain, by increasing the culprit's chances of escape, &c.

We will not undertake to suggest remedies, as we are not lawyers. The power to remit penalties should be deposited with some competent body—that is what we contend for—and not with one man, and he with abundant labors of another kind to occupy his time.

WALKER'S APPROPRIATION. The House, in the consideration of the School bill, struck out two very important features. It refused to allow the Superintendent of Public Instruction any compensation for travelling expenses and any clerk.

steps of pennywise and pound foolish. The office is worth but little to any one if the Superintendent remains in his office at Raleigh. He can only be efficient and useful by being in the field constantly.

The refusal of the Senate to appropriate \$5,000 for the Yorktown centennial, it strikes us, was judicious under the circumstances.

NO PARDON.

A gentleman living at Troy, N. C., writes us a vigorous protest against the removal of Holden's disabilities. He also objects to pardon being granted even though Holden should confess his sins and sue for forgiveness.

CANALS AND SHIP-RAILWAYS.

There are three proposed routes to connect the Atlantic side with the Pacific side. One is the Panama route. The French engineer, De Lesseps, has this in hand.

The cargo which leaves San Francisco for Europe takes the length of the whole isthmus, and is delayed six or seven days more than it would be if it crossed at Tehuantepec.

He says it will require six days to pass through the Nicaragua canal, as it will be twice the length of the Suez Canal, which requires two days, and will have sundry looks requiring extra time.

Capt. Eads discusses at length the advantages offered by the shorter route in time of war, but we will not enter upon this part of the subject.

The bill before Congress to aid in the construction of this ship railway failed in the Senate. The company asked of Congress to guarantee six per cent. dividends on \$50,000,000 for fifteen years.

Many of the first engineers of the world have expressed unreserved confidence in the practicability of the scheme, whilst none have given an adverse opinion publicly.

UNHEALTHFUL BRAIN STIMULANTS.

The circulating libraries of the North are not answering the purposes for which they were intended. To aid and encourage the acquisition of knowledge was the aim, but the multiplying of cheap and low-grade novels has had the effect to supplant books of sterling merit and usefulness.

read none the value of which had not been ascertained fairly. You would do well not to read at all rather than spend your time over a poor novel, especially if it is of Zola, Uida sort.

The evil of vicious novel reading is so great that a Boston man of letters writes a long article for the International Review upon it.

Charles Scribner's Sons send us a good sized volume entitled "Chinese Immigration, in its social and economical aspects," by George F. Seward.

Senator Carpenter was born in Vermont on December 23, 1824. He was at West Point for a while. He was a very superior lawyer and a man of eloquence.

The death of Matthew H. Carpenter removes from the United States Senate one of the very few intellectual giants of that distinguished legislative body.

He was a graceful and most impressive speaker, always appearing to believe thoroughly in his utterances, and convincing his auditors of his sincerity.

The following is of special interest just now, in view of the organization of the next Senate. It may be that the death of Senator Carpenter may give the Democrats the control.

A commission to adjust differences between railroads and the people would no doubt be useful and acceptable to all parties interested.

Our friend Evans, the senior, of the Milton Chronicle, who has served long enough in the editorial harness to know a liberal descendant of Solomon from a fellow who never saw that man of wisdom, has a very poor opinion of the Solon who drafted the nice little bill about legal advertising.

The author of the bill has evidently gotten into the wrong "house." His constituents unquestionably meant to have sent him to the Lunatic Asylum. For the credit of the typographical craft we hope he did not profess to know anything about the "art of printing."

our Star and improvements. In conversation yesterday morning with Capt. W. J. Potter, a Cape Fear Pilot of long experience and, by the way, a very intelligent gentleman, he gave it as his opinion that it would be displaying a very unwise policy on the part of the government to withhold at this time the needful appropriations in behalf of the Cape Fear River and Bar, after bringing the work to its present condition of forwardness.

Oliver Hargett, the colored man who was convicted of burglary, with an attempt to commit rape, at a late term of Duplin Superior Court, where his trial had been removed from Pender, and who was sentenced to suffer the death penalty by hanging yesterday, had his sentence commuted by the Governor to imprisonment for life, and was lodged in the penitentiary on Wednesday last.

Gen. Manning, who has just returned from Raleigh, gives it as his opinion that the Legislature will take no action in regard to the Criminal Courts, in consequence of the conflicting influences that have been developed since the matter was brought to the attention of the two houses.

As to the question of prohibition, the General is confident, from what he saw and heard while in Raleigh, that the great pressure brought to bear upon the General Assembly will result in the passage of a prohibitory law in some shape, though it may not be altogether as stringent as its provisions as some of the friends of the measure may desire.

James Kyle, a well-known and highly respected citizen of Fayetteville, died at that town on Wednesday afternoon last at the advanced age of 78 years.

Foreign Shipments.

The foreign shipments from this port yesterday were as follows: The Ger. barque Bala, for Antwerp, by Messrs. Paterson, Downing & Co., with 3,800 barrels of rosin.

Bank of New Hanover—Election of Officers.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bank of New Hanover, held at the banking house in this city, yesterday, the following officers were re-elected: President—Chas. M. Stedman.

MILITARY. Feb. 18, 1881.

Editors Dispatch: Please insert this article in your paper for the benefit of society. Please ask the other papers to copy.

PEACAN TREES.

Mr. O. Williams, of Raleigh, N. C., has these. It is said one tree yields five bushels of pecans. If twenty trees yield each five bushels, the crop would be equal to 100 bushels.

MULBERRY ORCHARDS.

In North Carolina, are excellent for pigs, ducks, chickens and turkeys. The Thomas grapes and the Flowers grape come after the other grapes are gone—that is, in October and November.

are dying out for the want of food. A few lynn trees from the mountains planted would feed a great many. Some say an acre of buckwheat will feed ten stands. There are machines to take the honey out of the comb.

Raleigh Visitor: The revival at the First Baptist church continues with unabated interest. The order of the Royal Arcanum in this city, which succeeded here, James Wilson, colored, of Harnett county, was committed to jail this morning for robbing a man by the name of John Flowers, in this county, on the 9th inst.

Kinston Journal: Pneumonia has been making sad havoc among the colored people in this community. Three hearty men have died within the last week. One day last week Miss Carrie Morton, a young girl in Woodington township, was in a field where the grass was being burned, and her dress took fire, burning her badly.

Henderson Tobaccoist: Six teams are now engaged in hauling staves for the O. & N. R. R. at this end. We suppose these are engaged along the line of the road, and soon the iron horse will be coming from and returning to Oxford. A pretty scene—twenty-five white-top tobacco wagons, coming into town Monday evening at one time.

Charlotte Observer: Rev. A. C. Sidelin, formerly pastor of the Freebaptist congregation in Charlotte, but who is now in charge of a pastorate at the O. & N. R. R. in the city yesterday on a visit to the family of his father-in-law, Mr. A. B. Davidson, but has returned home. The police records for this year are, the city marshal says, the largest in the history of Charlotte, and yet he says he'll sell the receipts from fines at \$1,000 and less.

Warsaw Brief Mention: We regret to learn that J. P. Beaman, Esq., lost his barn on Coharie, with five or six hundred bushels of corn. The second month of the present term of the Warsaw High School closes next Friday with about fifty pupils in attendance, twenty-seven of whom are boarders. We have just heard that our friend C. H. Brown, Esq., of Lisbon, N. C., lost his dwelling, kitchen and smoke house, by fire, on the night of Thursday the 10th, with their entire contents.

Wadesboro Times: At the annual election of officers of the Anson Guards, held in Wadesboro, the following gentlemen were elected: Captain, T. J. Gandle; 1st Lieut., J. H. Benton; 2nd Lieut., J. W. Gale; Jr. 2nd Lieut., M. L. Horn. The company is in an active and flourishing condition in the consequence of the strain upon the columns of the Times, occasioned by its greatly increased advertising patronage, and a desire to do full justice to its readers, we have decided to enlarge the paper to thirty-two columns.

Raleigh correspondent of the Durham Recorder: Whatever Mr. Blesso (not Moses, the son, J. Zaton) is in politics, as an orator he has few equals in the House, and always commands attention. His rival in graceful, brilliant and impassioned oratory is Mr. Day, of Halifax, with more of culture in his style, and with more of grace in his manner. Many other good speakers in the House rarely induce themselves, but when they do speak they speak as if for their self-denial. Messrs. Manning, Rose, Glenn of Rockingham, Granger, Sparrow and Boykin are all strong thinkers and strong talkers.

Raleigh News-Observer: In the Leaksville Gazette we find a very strong letter urging an appropriation to the University. It is certainly a very able and polished writer. We have also received a good many communications from gentlemen in different parts of the State, on the same line, but we have been obliged to withhold them because of the crowded condition of our columns. We believe nearly all of the papers in the State favor the appropriation, and we are glad to know that the almost universal sentiment in that regard finds a response in the Assembly. The bill reported by the committee passed the House on yesterday unanimously.

Monroe Express: A great deal of cotton remains in the patch this county. Immense quantities of guano are being hauled out by the farmers. One house here has already sold 800 tons this season. Died, in Anson county, on the 17th inst., Scott, a colored man, aged 88 years. The deceased was the father of Rev. T. W. Kendall, of this place, and was a highly respected citizen. The cotton receipts for Monroe for this season to date are 17,519 bales. It is estimated that we will not receive, for the entire season, less than 20,000 bales—probably more. The total receipts last season were 14,022 bales.

Raleigh Visitor: Now, if the North Carolina Legislature would pass an act to prohibit the sale and destruction of dogs and bad roads—allowing so much for the escape of a dog, and levying a tax to keep up the roads—she would not be very far behind Colorado. The Durham county bill failed in the Senate by a vote of 23 yeas to 16 nays. A highly respected farmer by the name of John T. Howell, living 8 miles from Oxford, in Granville county, deliberately jumped into a well forty feet deep, and remained almost instantly. William Wyche, a farmer living near Franklin, in Franklin county, had the misfortune to lose his oldest daughter on Saturday night, and his second daughter on Friday night, both from pneumonia, and his third daughter is now lying at the point of death with the same disease.

Fayetteville Examiner: Mr. William B. Surles, of Cumberland county, is the proprietor of a newly invented corn planter for which a caveat has been filed at Washington, and a patent applied for. We learn from a correspondent in Sampson county, that the kitchen, cooking stove and several articles of value, belonging to John R. Fisher, of Little Coharie township, were consumed by fire on the night of the 12th inst. No insurance. Loss considerable. Mr. Fisher sustained a similar loss about two years ago. North Carolina has something over a half million head of sheep altogether. We can see no reason why she should not have five times that number, and of better breed than those now kept, except the want of protection by proper legislation. The legislature which will give a good dog law to North Carolina, will have erected a monument to itself more lasting than brass.

Raleigh News-Observer: The report of the Insane Asylum shows 273 inmates—the building being filled to its utmost capacity—with 194 applications on file awaiting their turn. Raleigh's height above tide level is 808 feet. On the Raleigh & Gaston road, the average of various places is as follows: Crabtree Creek, 228 feet; Summit River, 238 feet; Warrenton 451 feet; Summit 807; Gaston 159 feet; Weldon 75 feet. About a mile this side of Henderson is the highest point—509 feet. On the Raleigh & Augusta Air-Line there is a tremendous grade from Raleigh to Cary. Raleigh is 308 feet above level, but a point only four miles away is 496 feet, being a rise of 188 feet. Cary is 496 feet, and Apex 558 feet, while Shallowford, the highest point, is 510 feet. This is between Kessler and Manly. At Deep River the height is only 190 feet, and at Haw River crossing only 190 feet.