

Dr. H. W. Lea, of Johnson county, is dead, aged 27.

Miss Louise Clarke was admitted over to court at Moore for giving an entertainment without license.

Not to be outdone by the House, the Senate presented Lieutenant Governor Robinson with a silver set. Of course there were speeches.

Raleigh Visitor: We learn that the residence of Mr. Joseph P. Gowdin, near Holly Spring, was destroyed by fire a few nights ago.

Fayetteville Examiner: The new school bill which passed the House by a unanimous vote on the 31st inst., leaves a tax of 12 1/2 cents on the \$100 valuation of property and 37 1/2 cents on the poll. This is an increase of 50 per cent. over the present rate.

There was talk of pistols and coffee at Raleigh between Senator Spier and Representative W. H. Day, both of Halifax. Day, a large man, had assaulted Spier, a small man. The latter asked the former to meet him on equal terms. Day could not see it. No powder burnt. The correspondence appears in the Raleigh papers.

Raleigh News Observer: We congratulate the General Assembly and the State upon the passage of the Yurkion appropriation bill. The third annual convention of the National Guard Association of the United States is now in session in Philadelphia. North Carolina is represented by the following officers of the State Guard: Adjutant General Johnson Jones, Brigadier General M. P. Taylor, Colonel J. W. Gatten, Colonel E. B. Givens. We congratulate the Southern States.

Asheville Citizen: A sad and fatal accident occurred on Big Ivy road last week. A son of Mr. Newton Carson, aged about seventeen years, took down a rifle for the purpose of obtaining a hawk. Being in doubt as to whether the gun was loaded, he pulled back the hammer with his foot, and was in the act of blowing in the muzzle, when his foot slipped and the rifle went off. The bullet, knocking out his front teeth and lodging in his head. He lived until 10 o'clock the next day, when he paid the penalty of his thoughtlessness.

Carthage Gazette: A young colored woman, who came to many years from Shoe Beach, aged only about 23 or 24 years, died there last Saturday night under very distressing circumstances. She had only recently given birth to a child; and it was thought her mind was affected from this cause. She lay in a little alone, without help or friends, until she felt the poor, frail body—and she died without a pitying hand to give her aid from any of her color. She was 78 years old, died yesterday morning in this county. He was a venerable and respected citizen whose loss will be sorely felt.

Warsaw Brief Mention: We announced several weeks ago, upon information we thought entirely reliable, the death of Wm. Veron, a prominent citizen of this county. We are glad to learn that the information was incorrect. Two little negroes, whose mother lives on the lands of R. Blackmore, two or three miles north of this place, and who frequently work out by the day, wandered off on Saturday the 26th of February in search of their mother, it is supposed, who was absent on that day, at work in the woods. They did not return, and search has been made in vain. They, doubtless, have perished ere this. We learn that the dead body of a negro child was found in the Six Runs a few days ago, supposed at first to be one of the lost children.

Oxford Free Lance: We trust the News and Observer and the other Raleigh papers will publish as soon as possible, from day to day, the most important bills which have become laws during the present Legislature. The distribution of the various offices in the proposed new county of Vance is said to be giving the Henderson members no little trouble. A number of young Oxford gens left last week for the coming college term at Chapel Hill. It is not to be wondered at that the Kittrell people are vigorously opposing the new county. With Henderson a county seat, good bye to the growing prosperity of Kittrell. The Senator from Greenville (Radical) reached home last Monday. No pay, no work, according to his idea.

Charlotte Observer: A private telegram received in the city yesterday announces the death of Mr. Martin W. Pifer in New York, his departure being from the performance of an operation, removing a tumor from his side. Mr. Pifer was a citizen of Concord, and was almost as well known here as at home. Just listen at the Wilmington Star when it talks about the "Best" man who is to build the Western North Carolina Railroad to Paint Rock and Ducktown, and baffle the fellows of the iron horse in Pigeon river to an incredibly short time. The press of the State should never let this matter rest. The editors should unite, etc. Lord bless you when I read the editors of North Carolina ever united on any subject. They will be a press association—so-called—which has become little more than an annual frolic, and by this course it dwarfs the influence of the "fourth estate" in North Carolina below a first-class pigmy show.

Weldon News: It is reported that the postmaster at Weldon and the Halifax post will shortly be removed from office for political reasons and that others, more acceptable to the party, will be appointed in their place. On Wednesday, the 2d inst., at Gaston, the gin house of Mr. John H. House took fire and burned, destroying a large amount of property, among which was an engine, gin and fourteen bags of cotton. We learn that a negro game wren near Dept. A. Garibaldi near Crowlees, last Sunday, Negro life, he built a large fire, before which he toasted himself until he began to feel good, when he fell into a sound sleep. The house caught fire and a large portion of the top had burned before it was discovered, when several men arrived and extinguished the flames. The door was forced open and he was fast asleep, unconscious of all that had happened.

Raleigh News-Observer: The bill that passed the Senate on the subject of prohibition is in substance as follows: The first section makes it a misdemeanor to manufacture, sell, or give away any spirituous liquors, except wines and cider, otherwise than allowed in the act. The second section prescribes that liquors may be sold for medicinal, chemical and mechanical purposes by druggists, apothecaries and physicians, who shall not keep on hand a greater quantity than thirty gallons, nor sell a greater quantity to any person at one time than one gallon. The county commissioners are to grant licenses to not more than five physicians, druggists, etc., in the county, who shall sell for the purposes indicated, etc., etc. The act is to go into effect on the first day of October, 1881, but if at an election to be held in August the people vote against prohibition, no one is to be punished for violating any of its provisions. The act contemplates total abstinence, except as to wines and cider, and an exception as to spirituous liquors are prescribed as a medicine, or perhaps as a tonic.

will happen as long as twelve men are required to agree. The old theory is that if one man disagrees with eleven he must be punished until he agrees. In indicting, exacting upon the recalcitrant one the innocent eleven were punished also. The American is so strong and sensible we must copy some other of its reflections. Says this able paper:

"The clinging to the unanimous system in the source of most of the vicissitudes that has been developed in trial by jury, while its good features fall to contribute to its bad ones. Granted that twelve men are likely to do right when they do agree, how often do they do wrong when they do not agree? That there should be entire unanimity on the part of a dozen men, of different traits and characters, different degrees of intelligence, and different stations of life, is a matter of greater surprise than that they should fail to agree. Yet by that failure, often the greatest injustice is done, and always some one is wronged. The principle ground for the continuance of a system requiring unanimous verdicts is the antiquity of that method. Yet the greater antiquity attaches to the majority system, for the present system is really answering all the purposes of design, while it is the offspring of the former. It is nearly all the more ancient system of trial by jury, the majority verdict was all that was required, provided the majority was in favor of the defendant. The evils of the unanimous system are that in the hands of one person rests the power to subvert justice or retard it. The weakest member of the jury can neutralize all the intelligence of the other members. Bribery of juries, unfortunately, is not a thing unknown, even at the present time. The purchase of one man is sufficient to effect the dishonest end in view, a disadvantage usually answering all the purposes of a favorable verdict. The jury of to-day is at the complete mercy of the fool or the knave—either can, and often does make justice a laughing stock."

How long this system shall continue depends upon the enlightenment of the people. As long as they are content with the remains of a compulsory system with its ineffectual accompaniments the legal profession will hardly move in the matter. Some weeks ago the Kinaston Journal, whose editor is a lawyer, had something to say in condemnation, we believe, of the present system. But, while we do not think unanimity of opinion should be required, we do not think, on the other hand, that a bare majority should govern. It is suggested that nine out of twelve would be a good proportion.

SWAMP LANDS. Mr. E. J. Hale mentions, in his letter to the Charlotte Democrat, that the immense swamps of Florida, known as the Everglades, are to be drained by a Philadelphia company with ample means. He asks:

"Why should not North Carolina endeavor to make a like contract as her extensive swamp lands, which have been a subject of legislation as long as I can remember, and which belong to the school fund?"

The vast swamps of North Carolina ought to be drained. There are many hundreds of thousands of acres that could be reclaimed. In almost every Eastern county there are large bodies of swamp lands that are extremely rich and could be utilized for agriculture. Mr. Hale says the Philadelphians are to receive one-half of the land reclaimed. The Everglades, he says, cover about twelve million acres. We do not know the number of acres now covered by swamps in this State, but there must be several million acres. To show how very fertile these lands are we may mention that a gentleman in Halifax county reclaimed some twenty years ago some thirty acres or more in a peccan that was near his house, and he made more than one hundred bushels of corn to the acre on this reclaimed land. Rev. Mr. Sanderlin, as was mentioned in the Star recently, made over sixty bushels of prime rice to the acre on reclaimed land.

There is no doubt of the extreme fertility of the swamp lands, and no doubt, we suppose, of the possibility to drain and reclaim them. Why, then, can this not be done? Mr. Hale thinks a contract similar to that made with the Philadelphia company might be made for North Carolina. The Fayetteville Examiner, referring to these lands, says:

"Cannot our legislators do something in the way of reclaiming these swamp lands with convict labor? If not, then the Board of Education ought to be authorized to have them drained by outsiders on the best terms that can be obtained."

Senator David Davis did a handsome thing yesterday, as may be seen by referring to our Washington telegrams. He declined the position of Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, tendered him by the Democrats, and requested the substitution of Senator Garland who, as the ranking member of the Committee, is really entitled to the position. Senator Davis also announced his intention of voting with the Democrats in re-organizing the Committee as proposed.

There is now only one postoffice in this county.

PROHIBITION.

The Legislature no doubt acted wisely in submitting the question of Prohibition to a vote of the people. There is a strong popular demand for some law that will tend to abate the evil of intemperance; and there is no better way of disposing of this troublesome question than by submitting it to the people at the polls.

The Star would have cordially endorsed a very stringent license law, and we believe nine-tenths of the people of North Carolina would have given it their earnest support.

But we are opposed to the law to be submitted to the people in August next, because it favors of class legislation; because we have doubts as to its constitutionality; because it virtually transfers the liquor traffic from the bar-rooms to the drug stores; because it deprives the State of tens of thousands of dollars of revenue without any corresponding ultimate benefit; because it is sweeping and puritanical; and, above all else, because it is utterly impracticable.

We have no doubt that the law will be rejected by the people, and that we shall then secure, at the hands of the next Legislature, what we so much need, a law that will really do something to check the growing evil of intemperance.

DRIFTING.

It would appear that the grand military display in Washington on the inauguration of the new President has awakened very serious reflections among men of both parties and from various sections of the Union. The simplicity of an earlier time is gone. Civis displays no longer please. There must be splendid and imposing military demonstrations, with flaming banners and floating pennons and gaudy apparel. These things might be innocent enough if they did not mark a change in the temper and feelings of the Northern people. They indicate a tremendous change since the pure, truly republican days of Thomas Jefferson, when quietly and alone he rode from his residence to the capitol of the Union on horseback and then took the oath of office. The contrast between the display and splendor of Washington official life now and the simplicity of other times is as great as the contrast between the gaudy splendors of Imperialism under Louis Napoleon and the prevailing customs of the Presidential court of this country now.

But we are really interested in knowing that the changes are not occurring without comment and expressions of regret. If the tendency in the direction of show and pomp continues each succeeding inauguration must eclipse all others, until a large army will be gathered at the capitol of the Union, and then what? Mr. Randall, of the Augusta Chronicle, in a recent letter from Washington, says when he witnessed the brave array on the 4th of March he said instinctively, "It seems to me that the new Nation has come." He adds:

"The new Nation has come indeed. How long it will endure or into what imperial shape it will develop I do not know. My hope is that New England is already repulsive, and the triumphal entrance of Garfield into office, as though he were Emperor, has shocked even Edmunds and Hoar. They are glib at their own work and may retract their steps. The South must wait and see what is best for her to do. There will be some startling transformations and a breaking up of the ice in our political news. Later on it will be time enough for us to formulate a policy."

Time develops some remarkable changes. The shaking of the political kaleidoscope reveals some strange shiftings of color and form. A year ago it was believed that the South must look to the great Northwest for its support and cooperation. Now you may hear it said often that the time is coming—perhaps rapidly—when New England will be our true ally. But in the meantime the Middle States and the Northwest are growing with great rapidity.

The Enterprise Cotton Manufacturing Company, of Augusta, Ga., held its annual meeting on Wednesday last. The President, in his report, states that during the year there was an increase of 220,000 yards of goods and 35,000 pounds of yarn. It is proposed to increase the size to 600 looms and 33,600 spindles. Here is what was done during 1880:

The net earnings of the company during the year, over all expenses, interest on bonds, etc., was \$11,688 17."

DIVORCE IN NEW ENGLAND—THE UPAS TREE.

The law of divorce as laid down by the Lord Jesus Christ is clear, explicit and irreversible. It has been recognized in the South by legislators better than anywhere else on this continent. It is true, however, that it has been ignored even in North Carolina. There is but one cause for divorce according to the Divine Law. Human law allows more than one cause. In this it transgresses and contravenes the Divine. It is to be regretted that the Southern people have not insisted in standing squarely, in spirit and letter, by the law of divorce as taught authoritatively by Him who spoke as never man spake.

In the North, as is known to every one, the law of divorce has been excessively widened and abused. It has been so changed and enlarged in some States as to destroy the sacredness and purity of the marital relations, making marriage a mere temporary arrangement to be broken almost at will. That this is true is only too certain. The statistics of divorce in New England are positively alarming. The Richmond Christian Advocate, referring to the rapidity with which the New England divorce machine operates, says:

"In Connecticut every seventh married person has been divorced. Such a state of society is almost inconceivable by the people of South Carolina, where, in all the history of that Commonwealth up to the year 1870, but one divorce had occurred. In a certain town who has been discharged from the bonds of matrimony is as rare as an eclipse. France, goddess France, even in the riot and madness of the revolution, did not equal in the ratio of divorces the New England States of to-day. These are not guesses at facts, but citations from official reports. Pagan Rome, decayed through all the vices of social life, indulged in the kind reported in the comparison of conjugal harmony and unbroken marital bonds."

You may raise two questions just here: that the divorces are not among the old families, and that Connecticut is the only State given over to such folly and wickedness. But in this you would be mistaken. Most of the divorces occur among the native families, and all New England is suffering from the curse. Hear what Rev. Samuel Dike, a Vermont, said a few weeks ago to a Boston audience in Tremont Temple:

"The courts are crowded with unhappy couples, and often the cases are complicated with another kind of unhappiness. A pastor once spoke to the judge, in the hall of business, one day—'a member, I think, of my church, and chief-justice of the State. Another man approached. 'Excuse me a moment,' said the judge. In less than three minutes he returned to the minister and said: 'Do you know what I have done? I have divorced a couple quicker than you ever married one!' There is a daughter of a prosperous farmer in a remote town, who has been divorced from three husbands, each of whom is living and married to another wife, while she has lately been married to a fourth husband. Nor is this the only case of the kind. In Vermont, two Vermonters deliberately swapped wives, by side of the courts. Young people coolly reckon on divorce in contracting marriage. A Vermont couple married 'on trial' for six months, and then the wife, who had been divorced from her first husband, said to the minister and said: 'I have divorced a couple quicker than you ever married one!' There is a daughter of a prosperous farmer in a remote town, who has been divorced from three husbands, each of whom is living and married to another wife, while she has lately been married to a fourth husband. Nor is this the only case of the kind. In Vermont, two Vermonters deliberately swapped wives, by side of the courts. Young people coolly reckon on divorce in contracting marriage. A Vermont couple married 'on trial' for six months, and then the wife, who had been divorced from her first husband, said to the minister and said: 'I have divorced a couple quicker than you ever married one!' 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