

Table with 2 columns: Month, Deaths. Rows for 1880 and 1879.

There were sixty one thousand fewer deaths between the years 1879 and 1880, inclusive, than there were in the same cities between the years 1874 and 1875.

It has been ascertained from actual reports in the possession of the National Board of Health that in 1880 nine diseases were the chief causes of death. They are consumption, acute lung disease, diphtheria, enteric fever, malarial fever, scarlet fever, measles, whooping cough, and small-pox.

GOOD AND CHEAP BOOKS.

We notice at the regular book trade sales in New York this week some standard works sold for 47 and 57 cents that are retailed at \$1.25. This is an immense margin.

That books are much too high in price is a fact that is apparent to those who purchased a library before the war, and who buy books now.

So books are far too high. They are above the reach of most people, especially of Southern people.

HEALTH AND DISEASE.

The good that has been accomplished by a faithful observance of well known laws of health cannot be estimated. It is known from actual statistics that in many cities sanitation has had great influence upon the public health.

In Glasgow, Scotland, it is officially reported that during the past twelve years the death rate per thousand persons of that city has been reduced nearly eleven per cent, under the operation of the sanitary measures instituted there.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY DECLARED AGAINST PROHIBITION.

A special telegram from Raleigh informs us that the Republican State Executive Committee met in that city yesterday and resolved to issue an address to the people of the State against the prohibition bill.

We need not say to those who have read the STAR carefully of late that this action is no surprise to us. We have felt confident for some time that the question of prohibition would inevitably drift into politics, and that the Republicans, as a party, would take strong ground against it.

Whatever else may be said of the action of the highest Republican authority in the State except at a State convention, it insures the defeat of prohibition; and it remains for those Democrats who love their party better than the empty privilege of supporting a measure that is doomed to overwhelming defeat to look this question squarely in the face and determine quickly what course they ought to pursue.

SOME TELLING FIGURES.

The annexed article on the difference between prohibition and no prohibition in Michigan ought to be placed in the hands of every voter in North Carolina. It bristles with facts that show beyond any reasonable doubt that after a full and fair trial in the State of Michigan prohibition proved to be a disastrous failure.

In reading this article please note the following facts:

1. That in 1874, with a prohibitory law on the statute books, there were 6,444 places in the State of Michigan where liquor was sold, with receipts from sales estimated at \$38,000,000 annually, and with a loss of revenue to the State of nearly \$500,000.

2. That in 1875, the prohibition law having been repealed and a license law substituted, the number of liquor dealers assessed was 4,974, of whom 4,215 paid the tax amounting to \$423,482. That year the State received this enormous revenue, and at the same time the number of places where liquor was sold was largely reduced.

3. That in 1876 (under the license law) the number of dealers was reduced to 4,553, paying a tax amounting to \$384,387.

4. That in 1880, the total number of dealers paying license was 3,654, and the total amount of tax \$478,207.81.

5. That under the license law the arrests for drunkenness had largely decreased, four of the largest cities of the State showing 3,974 arrests in 1874 under prohibition against 2,228 in 1876 under the license law.

6. In the city of Detroit alone the arrests for drunkenness during five years of prohibition were 7,339, and during five years of license tax \$,822. Excess of arrests for drunkenness under prohibition 1,517.

7. That, in the same city, the arrests for drunkenness and for disturbing the peace, caused by drunkenness, under the last five years of prohibition were 11,378, and under the first five years of the license law 10,152. Decrease in arrests under license law, 1,226.

8. That in comparing these figures the large increase in the population of Detroit during the past five years is not considered at all. There are the figures. They come from two Governors of the State, and from the official records of the city of Detroit. But here is the article. Let the people read and think for themselves:

what has been accomplished under it. I address the President of each county, asking for full details of the operation of the present license law in their respective counties. The information received is so vast and complete as to be unexpected. In 1875 the number assessed as reported to me was 4,974. Of these 4,215 paid the tax, amounting to \$423,482. It is altogether probable that those who have not paid have retired from the business.

The collectors of (United States) Internal Revenue report the number of persons assessed in 1876 by the General Government as follows: In 1875, 4,974; in 1876, 4,553. It is evident, therefore, that the license law has reduced the number of places where liquor is sold very largely.

In addition to this the Governor reported that arrests for drunkenness had largely decreased, four of the largest cities of the State showing 3,974 arrests in 1874 against 2,228 in 1876. Notwithstanding this the streets of Detroit had been declared clean under the license system.

Table with 2 columns: Year, Total. Rows for 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, Total.

Several counties have already appointed their Registrars and Judges for the election to be held on the first Thursday in August. It will be well for the press of the State to call the attention of the County Commissioners to the fact that the registration books must be opened thirty days before the day of election; hence it will not do for Commissioners to delay the appointment of Judges and Registrars until their regular meeting in July. It will be necessary to have called meetings, we think for this purpose, except in those counties in which appointments have already been made.

It seems almost incredible that there should be such a decrease in the number of arrests under the license system, but the report seems to be reliable, and if so, this fact is worth serious consideration. It is possible that the natural desire of men to do that which they imagine they are wrongfully forbidden to do induces them to go to unusual lengths to obtain liquor under prohibition. At any rate the figures submitted can hardly be explained in any other way.

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progress must come from within and not from without. In other words, the Southern planters must learn from daily experience, from contact with each other, from observation and interchange of views, and not from theorists who never grow a cotton stalk, who stand off with hands in pockets and eye-brows uplifted and eye-glasses fixed on nose, and viewing the operations of farming through the shoulders and say, "See here, how I could teach those fellows how to farm if they would only head me."

The South can improve and must improve. The prevailing farming methods must be modified soon or late, but not under the directions of writers and theorists who have no practical knowledge of growing cotton and other Southern products.

Some very absurd paragraphs are going the rounds of the State press in regard to the position of the editorial staff of the Star on the question of Prohibition. To prevent any misapprehension of the facts we make this statement: The editor of the Star disavows the policy of the paper on Prohibition, as he does on all other questions. The associate editor being in favor of Prohibition, a friendly understanding was reached by which he does not participate in any way in the discussion. The statement, made in several of our exchanges, that he is taking part in the campaign through the columns of other papers is entirely erroneous.

The Greensboro Patriot says: "We don't speak by authority, but we are reliably informed that the Hon. J. Madison Leach, Attorney General Kenan, State Treasurer Worth, and Capt. Octavius Coke, Chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee, oppose the Prohibition bill to be voted upon in August next. We don't mean to do these gentlemen any injustice in making this statement."

This is a sad announcement: John G. Saxe, the poet, lost his only surviving daughter Saturday. His wife died last July, and he has buried his three daughters within seven years. He himself is a confirmed invalid, and is living in humble circumstances in Brooklyn. Thousands of Americans will sympathize with the stricken poet. It will be remembered that he lectured in Wilmington a few years ago.

Northern manufacturers are rapidly taking up the space in the great cotton exposition to be held next fall at Atlanta, and the Southern States will be left behind if they do not hurry up. Southern manufactures, agriculture, woods and minerals will make a grand display if our people show a proper spirit of energy.

The spring chicken of 1881 is a disgrace to his species. He is three or four weeks late, comes into town almost destitute of clothing, and rates himself as high as a member of the New York Legislature. It's a matter of no concern to us, however, as long as cat-fish chowder and onion-tops are obtainable.

The News & Observer seems to think the action of the Republican State Executive Committee on the prohibition question a good joke. We have heard many thoughtful Democrats here express their opinions, and without exception they consider it a very serious business.

The Roxboro Herald, a prohibition paper, admits that "the best citizens of Person county differ widely as to the propriety of a prohibitory law." There are some prohibition advocates, however, who do not seem to think any but bad citizens are against prohibition.

The following comprises a list of the freighting companies of the State: The Swedish firm of Carlsson, for London, by Messrs. Alex. Sprunt & Son, with 1,488 casks spirits turpentine; the German barque, Ende, for Stettin, Germany, by Messrs. Paterson, Downing & Co., with 3,998 barrels of rosin, and the British barque, Northern Queen, for Liverpool, by Messrs. A. Sprunt & Son, with 3,780 barrels rosin. The Carin and Northern Queen said to have been reported in our last issue.

We take pleasure in forwarding our readers in Onslow through the efforts of our Postmaster, Geo. Bell, the mail from this city to Jacksonville will be delivered by Wilmington on Tuesday and Friday, instead of Monday and Thursday, as heretofore, thus enabling them to receive the WEEKLY STAR on the day after publication.

The Career of a Noted Criminal—How He Dodged the Officers, but Finally Came to Grief.

We stated in our last that Alfred Thompson, a fugitive from Whiteville, Columbus county, had been arrested here the night previous. It appears that in the month of February last Sheriff McCullum, of Columbus, ascertained that Thompson, who was wanted for breaking into and robbing a house near Whiteville, and other crimes, had been seen in this city, whereupon papers were issued for his arrest, and placed in the hands of one of our most reputable citizens of this county. It was found out that Thompson was working at the Gas House at this time, but it seems he was doing so under an assumed name, and, as a consequence when the officers enquired for Thompson they were told there was no such man there. The superintendent had his suspicions aroused against the stranger, however, and he afterwards approached him and asked him what the sheriff wanted with him. Thompson affected to be much astonished at the question, but finally stated that he had been employed in a cutting scrape, and he supposed the sheriff wanted to see him about that. He therefore proposed to go and take his trunk and find out all about it. He then took his departure, and the superintendent saw no more of him. He left Wilmington and was gone probably about two weeks, when it was ascertained that he had again returned. Sergeant Davis, of the police force, received information to this effect, and so informed Chief Brock, who instructed him to write to the sheriff of Columbus for the necessary papers for his arrest. This was on the 14th of April. On the 16th he received a copy from Mr. W. W. Baldwin, Clerk of the Superior Court. In the meantime Thompson had left the city. He returned two days afterwards, however, but immediately left again.

The next time the Sergeant heard from the fugitive was through a letter received from a Mr. Williamson, of Florence, S. C., describing a man who had robbed his house of \$350 in gold and silver, while the family were at church on a Sunday. It seems the man had hired himself to Mr. W. as a laborer in a saw mill, and the latter's suspicions had been aroused to some extent on account of his employer's receiving letters addressed to a different name, and had questioned Thompson relative to the matter, who gave a very plausible explanation. He was seen to enter Mr. Williamson's house by a window, and when Mr. W. returned he found that a bureau drawer had been opened, and a purse containing the sum alluded to abstracted, which purse is now in the hands of the authorities here for identification. As soon as the description was read to Sergeant Davis by the Chief, the former immediately declared that the thief and Thompson were one and the same person. The latter was seen no more at Mr. Williamson's place, having left his best suit of clothing there, and about a week afterwards he again made his appearance in Wilmington, staying, however, only part of one day and night, when he again took his departure. The next heard from him he was in Columbia, S. C., whence he proceeded to New York, where he was ascertained to be about eight or ten days ago. Sergeant Davis requested a friend of his, who was well acquainted with Thompson, to keep a sharp lookout for him, as he would probably come here by the way of Charleston or Savannah, and on last Tuesday this friend reported to the Sergeant that Thompson was here, as he had seen him. A search was immediately made for him, but it was ascertained that he had taken to the woods. The search was then given up, and Thompson was led to suppose that the vigilance of the officers had been relaxed. On Friday evening Sergeant Davis got information that the fugitive was with his wife in the office of the late Cape Fear Fire Company. He summoned to his assistance Officers G. W. Green, James W. Kendrick, W. T. Williams and H. Woelke and proceeded to the house in question between 9 and 10 o'clock. The building was immediately surrounded and a demand made upon Thompson, who was seen inside, to surrender, which he finally did, and was taken to the guard house. Yesterday morning he was turned over to the Sheriff and committed to the county jail, where he will remain until called for by the authorities of Columbus.

We learn that several warrants are out for him for robberies he is alleged to have committed in Columbus, one of which consisted of breaking open a trunk of a gentleman living near Whiteville and stealing the sum of \$68 in money. The prisoner's wife, who is a resident of Wilmington, called to see him yesterday and seemed to be much affected, declaring that she knew nothing of the troubles into which he had fallen. Thompson is apparently a young man, not more than 30 or 35 years of age, at the most.

Masonic Address. Rev. T. Page Ricard, of this city, has accepted an invitation to deliver the Masonic address at LaGrange, Lenoir county, on Friday the 24th of June, St. John the Baptist's Day. All Masons in good standing are invited to be present, and, if their reception should approach that of a former occasion of the same nature, they can rely upon being sumptuously entertained.

Arrested. Alfred Thompson, (white) a fugitive from justice from Whiteville, Columbus county, was arrested in this city last night by Officers Davis, Green, Kendrick, Williams and Woelke, of the police force. Thompson is said to be a notorious criminal, against whom several charges of grand larceny are pending in Columbus.

Spirits Turpentine

Oxford Torchlight: Mr. Wm. H. P. Jenkins, of Brassfield's township, was elected superintendent of public instruction.

Warrenton Gazette: The Warren county (Ore.) school will pay 25 cents for every hour of school delivered. Mr. Arthur Davis died at his home in Judkins township, on Sunday last, in his 93d year. He was, we think, the oldest man in the county.

Tolson's Home: Mr. Alexander Graham, principal of the Fayetteville Graded School, has been employed by Mr. Scarborough to visit the recently established graded school at Wilson, Elizabeth City, Newbern and Patrick, and deliver lectures.

Greensboro Patriot: We learned recently from a gentleman who is just from Wentworth, that the condition of Gov. Reid is very much improved, and that he is now recovering from the effects of his recent attack of paralysis. This news will be very gratifying to many friends.

Statesville Landmark: The Steam Fire Engine recently purchased by the town, arrived here last Monday. The engine and two coaches weigh 4,100 pounds. The engine is a very handsome piece of workmanship, and is guaranteed by the seller for ten years. Its name is "Statesville No. 1."

Hickory Carolinian: The County Commissioners last Monday refused to grant a license to the applicants for liquor in this county. Our fellow-citizens in the southwestern part of the county are enjoying the survey and expected location of the Midland Railroad through that section, and are in some haste to get on in price.

Shelby Aurora: We are informed that the Madison and Orange Counties of Rutherford county at their meeting last Monday, ordered an election to be held in that county on the 6th day of July, when the question of a \$50,000 subscription to the new railroad for that section will be submitted to the qualified voters of the county.

A negro named Peter Parker was killed by Bozies Trumble, also colored, at Winston, N. C., Wednesday night. The negroes were fighting, and Parker's skull was crushed in with a club.

James P. Wildbee, a prominent young lawyer of Elizabeth City, N. C., one of the orators on the occasion of the opening of the new railroad, died very suddenly June 15th.

Statesville Landmark: Some two or three weeks ago Mrs. S. L. Wilson, of Sharpsburg township, was bitten twice on the foot by a spider which had gotten into her shoe. The foot soon began to swell and intense pain began. This continued for four days, during which Mrs. Wilson varied fiercely, so much so that she had to be held in bed. Her agony was excruciating and continuous, and her family had almost despaired of her life when she took a turn for the better.

Raleigh Farmer and Mechanic: Up to Friday last the highest price of cotton in Raleigh reached 72.85 cents, so that at this writing we have an increase of 25,000 over last year. Mr. N. B. Broughton prints a card stating that the speaker at the Light House Convention, who claimed to be the "Rev. S. C. Brown," was in fact, and made a speech creditable to the "cloth," is not a "minister of the Missionary Baptist Church," as his credentials were taken away from him a year ago when he took the position of U. S. Marshal at a Government distillery. Mr. R. B. Englehard has become a partner with J. C. Brewer in the hardware business.

Charlotte Observer: A stock company for the erection and operation of a furniture factory has recently been organized in Greensboro, N. C. Information has been received here that the cotton manufacturing known as the Enterprise Factory, owned by Messrs. Cole, Lambert & Moffitt, situated on Deep River, in Randolph county, was closed on the 15th of last Tuesday night. The June term of the United States Circuit Court will begin in this city next Monday, Chief Justice Morrison R. Waite and Circuit Judge Hugh L. White presiding. There are some 18 cases on the criminal docket. Among the more important, we note that of the United States vs. Hon. R. T. Bennett, Gen. A. J. Dargan, S. J. Pemberton and others, indicted for treason. There is also a case for a party who had property seized for a violation of the revenue laws.

Raleigh State Journal: Superintendent Jones says he will have trains running between Guilford and Greensboro on the Cape Fear & Yadkin Valley Railroad by the end of the year. Since the formation of Van Hook & Hall, the third largest county in the State. Until then Granville had the advantage by thirty-four inhabitants. Revenue collections for the district for the amount of \$92,014.46. Twenty-four marriages were issued in this county during the month of May—thirteen white and eleven colored. Three murder cases are on the docket for the next term of the Superior Court in this county. This is retained for Wake. We do not remember a time when more new houses were in course of erection in this city than at present.

There's a good time coming! Goldsboro Messenger: Mr. C. B. Aycock was elected county superintendent of public instruction for Wake. The ladies of the Goldsboro Episcopal church will give an excursion to Morehead City on the 21st, to aid in putting a new roof on their church. The Tarboroans are making big preparations for a fair at their town the coming fall; they now have about 55,000 subscribed. The trustees of the Goldsboro Graded School are casting about for a competent principal and an efficient corps of assistants for the coming year. Winston Winn, colored, has been appointed postmaster at Mount Olive, in this county. A severe hail storm passed over a portion of Put and Green counties on Friday last week, destroying the crops in many places.

Fayetteville Examiner: Miss Sarah Hays died in this town on Tuesday last at the age of 79 years. The Clarendon Hotel heretofore kept by Mr. William G. Mathews, has been purchased by Mr. M. Faulk of this town for \$4,000. This is a valuable property, and we understand could now be sold at an advance on the price lately paid. Property in Fayetteville is looking up. It is said that property has increased in value over thirty per cent. in our town within the past three months. This is cheering news, and the first sign of our coming prosperity. Mr. Chas. W. Broadfoot was unanimously elected County Superintendent of Public Instruction, and it is the general verdict that a better selection could not have been made for this important office.

Warsaw Brief Mention: The Justices of Duplin county met at Kennesville on Monday last and established inferior courts for the county. The Court is to meet semi-annually, the first meeting to be in September. J. L. M. Mathews, Bowden and J. W. Watts, were elected Justices of the Special Court, O. E. Allen, Esq., Solicitor, and T. M. Moore, Esq., Clerk. B. F. Grady, Esq., was elected Superintendent of Common Schools. Benjamin Oliver, of Bear Marsh, died last Sunday morning, aged about eighty years. The closing exercises of Warsaw High School, Rev. J. N. Stallings, principal, took place June 22d. Rev. N. B. Cobb, of Chapel Hill, delivered the annual address, and the annual sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. T. E. Skinner, of Raleigh. During the last scholastic year eighty-one pupils, representing six different counties, have received instruction—the average being about sixty.