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THE WEEKLY STAR.

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TEN MINUTES AMONG THE DICTIONARIES.

There are some funny things in the dictionaries. John Bullokar, in 1616 published a Latin and English dictionary. After describing the crocodile he says, it "will weepe over a man's head when he hath devoured the body, and then will eate up the head two." This will do. Do not say again that crocodiles cannot shed tears. *Hinc illæ lachrymæ.*

In 1623, Henry Cockeram published a dictionary entitled "Alphabeticall and English Expositor." It is instructive. Attend. He says, "Rude is vulgar and Agresticall the choice word they ought to use for it," or, if they preferred, they might say instead, "Immorigerous, Rusticall, Rurall." He says that "To Weede is vulgar;" the choice word is "To Sarculate, To Diruncinate, To Averuncate." This is quite enough. It shows how many ugly words came near being foisted into our language. Think of a farmer in the early morning speaking to Joe—"Hello there, go, and diruncinate the corn, and do it quickly." "Yas sar," is the response from the stable, "but you need'nt be so immorigerous."

Nathan Bailey, in 1721, published his "Universal Etymological English Dictionary." It was a long stride ahead of all that had preceded. But the lexicographers were still credulous and unphilosophical. He says, for instance:

"Sea-Unicorn, Unicorn-Whales—A fish eighteen feet long, having a head like a horse, and scales as big as a crown piece, six large fins like the end of a galley-oar, and a horn issuing out of the forehead nine feet long, so sharp as to pierce the hardest bodies." That is capital. Since then there *has* been progress and in the right direction.

John Wesley, the great and good divine, published a dictionary and claimed for it that it was "the best English dictionary in the world." But he was mistaken. We have only time to refer to two other interesting items to be gleaned from the scores of dictionaries. Sheridan, who wrote after Dr. Johnson, in his dictionary insists that Skee-i, and Skee-i-lark, and Ghee arden and Ghee-ide are the proper pronunciations. His standard of pronunciation has never been adopted in any part of the English-speaking world save in Virginia.

Noah Webster, in this country, started out as a reformer, innovator and inventor. Here are some words spelt as he proposed first: Bridegoom, Nightmar, Naivty. But the best scholars of the North—of his own New England—would have none of it, and now, after seventy years, the spelling of the great dictionary that bears his name but is not much of his work after all, conforms to the standard of Worcester with the exception of some one hundred and fifty words. Public taste and the criticism of scholars have compelled an abandonment of most of Webster's absurdities. There are editors and others who prefer to follow Webster in the one hundred and fifty variations—such as traveler, theater, &c.—although he has given up hundreds of other words he attempted to coin or revamp and change. We prefer to follow the English spelling as far as possible. Hence we use Worcester.

Possibly our readers do not know that the English scholars are preparing a great dictionary of our language. For a quarter of a century the work has been considered and during much of that time has been in course of preparation. In 1857 Dean Trench (afterwards Archbishop) set the ball in motion. The plan was agreed upon among scholars. All English words, in all centuries, are to be included. A quotation to support each meaning is to be given. The whole learning of Great Britain will be utilized. Herbert Coleridge was the first editor, but he died. Dr. Murray is the present editor and he is pronounced a master builder by the *Cornhill Magazine*. The Philological society has the management and the University of Oxford has accepted the plan. There are eight hundred scholars aiding in the gathering of the illustrative quotations. Forty others are at work in special departments. The work is considerably advanced. In 1882 it is thought by the editor that the first fruits will be offered to the public. It will be an immense work, when completed, and possibly will be larger than Webster and Worcester combined and in their enlarged editions.

SCHURZ AND REFORM.

The papers are again discussing the importance of civil service reform. No man of ordinary intelligence doubts its importance, but most people are disappointed and disgusted. The Hayes Fraudulent Administration was talking eternally about reform and was forever violating the simplest, plainest principles of reform. The country grew weary, and finally a thorough disgust set in, which lasts until the present. The same reasons that applied to Grant and Hayes will apply now, if not in equal force or extent. There is a very great abuse of the appointing power in the matter of selecting favorites. There are thousands of corrupt or incompetent officials who ought to be turned adrift.

When Carl Schurz, now editing the New York *Evening Post*, becomes a great reformer in print, as is the case, then the country will receive what he says with the utmost incredulity, as he was a member of the Hayes Cabinet and did as little as the others in bringing about the reforms they were always prating about. In fact, Schurz violated the plain law laid down by Hayes in the beginning, and left his official duties to become a stump-speaker, and probably for pay.

The STAR would be glad to see genuine reform instituted in all of the departments of the Government. It would be glad to see the old rule again in force—"*Is he honest; is he capable.*" But what are the chances of such a return when Schurz leads the hosts of reformers. He was the loudest talker about reform and about the *loudest* violator of official decency. Let there be less talk and more action. The country has had theory enough; it requires practice. Mr. Schurz is a political adventurer of very considerable parts. He is a strong man decidedly, but he is not to be trusted. His political life is full of inconsistency, and the man who led the forces of Greeley and reconciliation in 1872—nine years ago—is in 1881 the maligner of the South, whose votes he then sought for the great enemy of our people in the past. He always advocates civil service reform when he is not in office. He is sure to violate his own theory and principles whenever he is in office. The Baltimore *Gazette* says pertinently of his official life:

"It will not answer for this great pretender to say that not a single removal was made during the last four years for political reasons of any kind within the Secretary's knowledge. We assert what was notoriously a fact, that 'the spoils system,' or 'the political influence system,' if that is a better term, was carried on in the Interior Department during Hayes's administration as openly as it was under Zach Chandler, and if this was done 'without the Secretary's knowledge' it is so much the worse for the Secretary's reputation as a reformer. Possibly Mr. Schurz was 'inquiring into one sort of methods' while his subordinates were practicing another sort, which he had the political sagacity neither to disturb nor investigate. The truth is that Mr. Schurz is only a type of his party. He writes most elegantly, flowingly and wisely upon political ethics, but practices them never."

It is an interesting question how will the next House stand? The probability is that the Republicans will control, but it is in doubt. The New York *World* thinks it will stand 146 Republicans, 143 Democrats and 14 Independents. But if Republicans are elected in place of Morton and Miller, and Hyatt Smith, Independent, votes with the Republicans, it will stand 148 for them and 145 for all others.

THE VOTE OF 1861 FOR AND AGAINST CONVENTION.

We have received from Col. W. L. Saunders, Secretary of State, an official copy of the vote by counties on Convention in the election held February 28th, 1861. It confirms what we said in our article in the STAR of the 23d inst. We regret we cannot make room for the vote. We avail ourselves of the kindness of Col. Saunders, however, to copy some of the votes of the counties. The are very curious. It is astonishing to note how variant were the views of sections or counties—how almost unanimous one way or the other the people of some counties were, whilst in others they were almost divided equally:

	For Convention.	Against Convention.
Alamance,	293	1101
Anson,	520	461
Beaufort,	590	632
Bladen,	480	460
Brunswick,	627	61
Chatham,	283	1795
Cleveland,	1270	117
Columbus,	620	183
Cumberland,	1088	959
Davidson,	366	1806
Duplin,	1252	71
Edgecombe,	1588	17
Forsyth,	286	1409
Granville,	1056	743
Guilford,	113	2771
Halifax,	1049	39
Iredell,	191	1818
Mecklenburg,	1448	252
New Hanover,	1781	210
Randolph,	45	2466
Wake,	1406	1246
Wayne,	1250	242
Yancey,	556	598

The majority against Convention was 194, as we before stated.

DR. CURRY AND HIGHER EDUCATION.

As we had an editorial upon a statement made by Rev. Dr. L. M. Curry, of Richmond, Va., before the American Institute of Instruction relative to the common schools of the South, we are gratified to find that he was only partially reported, and that he claimed a good deal for the South. Mr. Hale, in a recent letter in the Fayetteville *Examiner*, copies from another report of Dr. Curry, and to this effect:

"As to the South, much misapprehension exists in the public mind in reference to what has been done there educationally. The South, before the war, in proportion to the white population, taking man for man, sustained a larger number of colleges, with more professors, more students, and a greater annual cost than was done in any section of the Union. The same thing is true of academies and private schools. If the census of 1860, as taken by the United States authorities, be correct, the white population of the Northern States in that year was nearly nineteen millions, and of the Southern only a little over eight millions. At that time the North had 205 colleges, the South 262; the North 1,407 professors, the South 1,188; the North had 29,044 students, the South 27,055; the North paid for these colleges $1,514,293, the South $1,662,419."

The high schools of the South prior to the war were better than those of the North. In all New England we do not believe you could have found schools to equal Horner's or Bingham's for boys; or Salem, Oxford, Greensboro, Murfreesboro and Raleigh for girls. We have reason for saying that the University of Virginia was then superior to either Yale or Harvard, whilst the colleges generally were quite equal to the best in the North. Thirty-odd years ago students at the University of North Carolina referred to Princeton as "Botany Bay," because it was the refuge for students who could not get along well at Chapel Hill. It is not claimed that the standard was high at our University, but merely that it was higher than at Princeton. The latter has made immense strides in the right direction since that time, and, we suppose, the standard of 1881 at the University of North Carolina is higher than it was from 1845 to 1850. If not, it surely ought to be.

The South, and especially Virginia and North Carolina, could have compared with any Northern State in the facilities and excellences of the high schools for boys and girls before the war. We are not sure that those States cannot do so at this hour. But a great deal remains to be done. There are some departments of human learning that are better, more thoroughly taught in the North than in the South, for they have larger advantages—a completer apparatus.

The Baltimore *American*, Republican organ, thus refers to a man of distinction:

"Dr. Hammond, of New York, who so sharply criticizes the President's physicians, was dismissed from the army as Surgeon General, but was restored by Congress and allowed to resign after the lapse of nearly twenty years."

PRESERVE STATE AUTHORITY.

Gov. Crittenden, of Missouri, has gone to work to break up railroad train robberies. He has offered $50,000 reward for the capture of the scoundrels who robbed the train, an account of which appeared in the STAR of a few days since. It will not be necessary to override State lines and State authority on the part of the General Government to root out lawlessness. The Philadelphia *American*, a strong high-tariff paper, says of recent outrages:

"The evil is localizing itself and the State governments are showing a fatal incapacity for its suppression. They are thwarted at every step by the escape of the rogues across the lines which define State jurisdiction, and by the necessity of appealing to the authorities of neighbor States who take only a languid interest where the crime is not one of extraordinary magnitude. The conscience of the world holds every civilized *nation* responsible for the life and safety of each of its citizens. The day must come when our *colonial traditions* will give way to this demand."

The *American* then favors giving up the theory of "State jurisdiction," and allowing the "nation" to deal with all violators of the law that "life and safety" may be protected. When a paper or a people depart one inch from the plain path of the Constitution it or they are on an incline plane, and are ready to rush into the deepest, darkest vortex of governmental centralization. The STAR has often affirmed that the Republicans have no proper sense of the genius of our government, and that those who had mastered the underlying principles had so far forgotten them or were so little appreciative of them that they were ready to substitute them for a government as unlike that of the fathers as the strong government of Hamiltonians is unlike that of the monarchy of George III.

It is not necessary to break down State barriers to overtake and punish scoundrels. Crimes flourish in every State and every portion of the world. Look at Russia. A congress of assassins meets right under the nose of the autocrat of all the Russias and he is powerless to prevent. His own life is not safe for a moment, and he is a prisoner of necessity. There are no real or imaginary lines in the way of the strongest of all governments, and still crimes of the most flagrant, terrible kind are rife. Let us all stand by the Constitution. Let us maintain the Federal and State authority in their proper sphere.

We wrote the above two days ago. We notice a good editorial in our esteemed contemporary, the Goldsboro *Messenger*, on the suggestive opinion of the *American*. Referring to the views of the strong government advocates, it well says:

"An obstacle to the sweet will of this holy and immaculate people is gotten rid of by the sophistry that 'the existence of the government' demands its removal. In amazement the simple-minded Southern rustic asks: Well, wasn't the constitution intended to preserve the country and its government? Not so, replies the Northern sophist. If society is not protected as we think it ought to be under this constitution, we will afford the necessary protection in our judgment without reference to 'the letter of the constitution.' Englishmen sha'n't write strictures about Southern shooting and Western train robbing and President-assassinations much longer, for we, of the white-slave, monopoly-loving North and East are going to make 'our colonial traditions give way' to the demand for lawabidingness."

THE GREAT SOUTHERN EXPOSITION.

We have received Circular No. 1 of the International Cotton Exposition to be held October 5th at Atlanta, Georgia, and to close with the year. This Circular is confined to minerals and woods. It has a list of minerals that "may be secured from each State." North Carolina is honored with the largest list, as it deserved to be. We hope our State will be well represented. It is to be regretted that the Legislature did not spend an hour in preparing for this very important exhibition of Southern products if it was known to it. Let private liberality prove equal to the occasion. North Carolina should send its best samples of all kinds of woods, minerals, cotton, tobacco, rice, &c. Here is what the Circular says of our State as to minerals alone, and it is valuable enough to preserve:

"NORTH CAROLINA—Antimony in Burke county. Asbestos in Ashe, Jackson, Mitchell, Polk and Vance counties. Barite in Cabarrus, Orange, Union, Gaston, Madison and Wilkes counties. Coal, anthracite and bituminous, from Deep and Dan rivers. Corundum or Emery from Guilford, Macon, Madison, Clay, Gaston and other counties. Copper from Ashe, Cabarrus, Guilford, Mecklenburg and Person counties. Galena from Alexander, Alleghany, Burke, Cabarrus, Chatham, Cherokee, Gaston, Moore, Madison, Montgomery, Macon, Lincoln, Randolph, Swain, Surry, Watauga and Wilkes counties. Gold from Alamance, Moore, Guilford, Randolph, Montgomery, Stanly, Union, Cabarrus, Rowan, Mecklenburg, Gaston, Catawba, Burke, McDowell, Rutherford Cleveland, and counties surrounding these in the western and southwestern portions of the State. Graphite from Alexander, Alleghany, Catawba, Cleveland, Johnson, Lincoln, Stokes, Surry, Person, Wilkes and Yancey counties. Iron ores—magnetite, hematite and limonite, brown hematite, titaniferous—from Buncombe, Burke, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Catawba, Chatham, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Guilford, Haywood, Henderson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Orange, Watauga, Wilkes, Yancey and other counties. Lead from Burke county. Mica from Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Mitchell, Yancey and other counties. Platinum from Burke, Rutherford and Yancey counties. Samarskite from Burke, McDowell and Mitchell counties. Silver from Burke, Cabarrus and Gaston counties. Talc from Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Surry, Wake and Wilkes counties."

North Carolina can make a finer exhibit of native woods that any other State we have no doubt. She ought to send some specimens of apples, grapes, wines, &c. We hope there will be a most creditable exhibit. It is much more important that this should be done than that a fine display shall be made at Raleigh. Let our people with capital see to it that North Carolina is fully represented by samples of her best productions. The Circular says of woods:

"It is not deemed necessary to point out specifically the various woods which may be exhibited. Every kind for use, for ornament, or possessing peculiar properties, should find a place in the exhibition—rough, dressed, varnished, in sections of logs, in plank, staves, shingles, lathes, spokes, hubs, felloes, shooks, masts, knees, railway ties, bent work; timbers prepared by saturation or otherwise to resist decay, or any other form which may suit the fancy or the convenience of the exhibitor.

"Railroad companies, owners of saw mills, contractors, carpenters, cabinetmakers, wagon and carriage manufacturers, will find it to their interest to make this exhibit an attractive one. The present inquiry for timber, and the growing demand for all useful woods, make this a most favorable opportunity for such exhibits. The Southern States especially hold large reserves of timbered lands which will be a source of immense wealth in the near future, if competition is aroused through a grand display at the Exposition."

There are only two months to prepare for the Exposition. No time should be lost. Cannot the Governor take the initiative—set the ball in motion?

INFERNAL MACHINES.

Whilst in England McGrath and McKivett have a true bill found against them for attempting to blow up the town hall, the manufacturers of the infernal machines shipped recently to England are found to be at Peoria, Illinois. So all of the devilry is not to be found in the South, after all. Now what will the United States Government do about it? To manufacture accursed instruments of destruction with purpose to assassinate ought to be regarded as most diabolical business and those concerned ought to be punished if there be any law against it. At any rate the authorities should be very vigilant to prevent any other similar shipments if that be possible.

It is being discussed in New York if O'Donovan Rossa had anything to do with the sending of the infernal machines.

He denies that they have been sent. But, as the boys say, that "is a little too thin." In his paper, *United Irishmen*, he has had a good deal to say about England, and he will be called upon to explain some of his editorials. For instance, as we see it quoted in a Philadelphia paper, on May 14th he said this:

"Each Land League Club could take one English ship under its protection, and we would hail with delight the sinking or blowing up of every ship carrying that pirate flag. Do your work, but do it discreetly. Don't involve the land you love by blowing about what you are going to do, or how you are going to do it; but when the deed is done let it be untraceable, and let it be said, wise was he that did it."

On June 11th he again said:

"Let every Land League Club now organize itself into the blowing up of an English ship or an English castle, or an English railroad bridge."

It will certainly be in order for Mr. Rossa to tell the authorities what he meant if he should be arrested for plotting to kill innocent people. In New York the talk is that his plan of operating is calculated to destroy American passengers as well as English people and English ships. He is a refugee here, and if he is abusing in a most dastardly and flagrant way American hospitality he may learn something soon "to his advantage."

There is much bad feeling reported in Spain against the French Government. It is now known that five hundred Spaniards were killed by the natives of Tunis, they being unarmed wholly, the French having prevented them from carrying arms. France is not making friends. England, Spain, Italy and some of the North African countries are not pleased at its course. The Republic is not acting under good advice.

Mr. J. W. Hamilton, of New Berne, has fallen heir to over $50,000 left him by an uncle who died recently in Virginia.

Tourgee lives at Mayville, N. Y. He is a big man up in those parts. He held a "reception" recently. Everybody holds receptions in those regions. He calls his new home, just built, "Thornheim"—translation, "Fool's Home." Tourgee is no fool though, if his "errand" looked that way when he helped to suck the depleted South. "Fool's Home" was built with the money his "Bricks Without Straw" brought him. He got money from Swepson for his North Carolina home. See "Fraud Commission" report. His new way of getting a home is an improvement on his old way. Tourgee progresses. *Vive la bagatelle.*

We see it mentioned that Gov. Smith, of Wisconsin, has called out the militia to suppress lawlessness. This moves the Louisville *Courier-Journal* to propose that the South should aid them at this hour. It says:

"The South has a patriotic duty to perform in this emergency; she should send missionaries and school teachers to the benighted men of Wisconsin. If something of this kind is not done Wisconsin and other States will sink into utter barbarism."

By all means send the missionaries and school teachers.

There was excitement at Albany over a supposed attempt upon Gov. Cornell's life. A drunken fellow named Patrick McLane was arrested with a gun endeavoring to enter the old capitol. It turned out it was not loaded.

Seedless Melons.

A gentleman informed us yesterday that he was in Florida on one occasion, during the melon season, when he was asked to become one of a party who were about to commence an onslaught upon some very fine watermelons. These melons, he said, were perfectly seedless, and upon inquiry how they could be raised in that way, he received this explanation from one of the party, who was enabled by practical experience to give the necessary information: "When the vine has commenced running," said he, "and the branches have attained to some considerable length, throw a quantity of dirt upon one or more of the joints of the branches, when they will shortly take root, then sever such branches from the parent stem and the melons grown on these branches will be devoid of seed."

—The steamer *Seminole* which arrived at Savannah, Ga., July 25th, reports having passed a wreck about 75 miles N. of Hatteras. The masts and all attached were hanging to the wreck. She is supposed to be a lumber laden vessel, and is lying right in the track of navigation, very dangerous to vessels passing, at night especially. Capt. Hallett went as close as possible to her and endeavored to ascertain her name and destination, but was unable to make out anything. The vessel was probably wrecked within the past few days.

—Major P. C. Haines, United States Army, engineer Sixth Lighthouse district, reports to the Coast and Geodetic Survey office, at Washington, D. C., that a new shoal has been found near the outer end of Frying Pan Shoals. The shoal, having but 13 feet of water on it, lies nearly east and west, about one mile in length by a quarter in breadth, with Cape Fear bearing N. by W. ¼ W., distant about 13½ miles; the Cape Fear lighthouse bearing N. N. W., distant about 17 miles, and Frying Pan Shoal light vessel bearing S. E. by S., distant about 2 miles from its centre.

Violating a City Ordinance.

Thos. Edens, charged with violating the market ordinance in obstructing the crossing at the southeast corner of Second and Market streets, with his market cart, was heard by Mayor Smith yesterday morning, Messrs. Russell & Ricaud appearing for the defendant and Mr. F. H. Darby, City Attorney, for the city. Mr. Edens was ordered to pay a fine of $5, from which decision he appealed to the Criminal Court, and was required to enter into bond in the sum of $100 for his appearance. The bond was furnished and defendant was discharged.

Corn and Cotton on the Upper Cape Fear.

Mr. R. K. Bryan, of the Fayetteville *Examiner*, informs us that the corn in the upper Cape Fear section, including the counties of Cumberland, Moore, Harnett, &c., has been damaged quite seriously by drought, and it is not likely that more than two-thirds of the usual yield will be realized. He reports the cotton crop in the same section, however, as in very fair condition.

Foreign Exports.

The Norwegian brig *Brazilian* was cleared from this port for Antwerp yesterday by Messrs. Patterson, Downing & Co., with 900 casks spirits turpentine and 1,631 barrels of rosin; and the German brig *Express* for Hamburg, by Messrs. DeRosset & Co., with 2,726 barrels of rosin.

—The cotton and naval stores markets were looking up in Wilmington yesterday. Cotton advanced one-fourth of a cent per pound on each grade, tar advanced from $2 50 to $2 75 per barrel, and crude turpentine from $2 65 to $3 10 per barrel.

—Some negroes rocked a house in which Bishop Hood, colored, was talking temperance, near Pineville, Mecklenburg county.

Spirits Turpentine.

—Rutherfordton *Banner*: The people of Rutherford county are thoroughly aroused as to the importance of having a railroad. Spartanburg, S. C., is the point to which they intend to build their railroad, and they propose to go to work at once to accomplish their object. Committees have been appointed to raise funds for the survey of the Rutherford & Spartanburg Railroad, and to take immediate steps for the organization of the company, under the charter recently granted by the Legislatures of both States.

—Greensboro *Battle-Ground*: On Wednesday last, Mrs. Dr. Millard Fox, of Randolph, died at the residence of Mr. David Hunter, of Fentress township. —Miss Laura, a lovely girl just budding into womanhood, daughter of Captain A. M. Smith, died suddenly yesterday morning, of a congestive chill. —Prof. Neave, of musical fame at Salisbury, has been commissioned by Adjutant General Jones to get up a band of twenty-five or more good musicians to accompany the North Carolina Brigade to the Yorktown Centennial.

—Charlotte *Observer*: From a letter received here we learn that Mr. Muffly, an eminent practical miner, has discovered on the Ward-Bonanza mining property, in Davidson county, formerly known as the Ward Mine, a large quantity of what is known on the Pacific slope as "shale," which denotes the presence, in close proximity, of a substratum of what is also called water-worn pebbles, easily reached by sinking a shaft, which is now being done. This water-worn pebbles out West, it is said, sometimes yield thousands of dollars per ton, and the yield under all circumstances is enormous.

—Raleigh *News-Observer*: Durham claims a sale of farmers' tobacco footing up the round sum of $34,000, and it is stated that in one day at one sale, including tobacco received from other points, $50,000 was realized. —A few weeks since there came near being a destructive fire in the Heck-Williams building at Wake Forest College. —Prof. Simmons, of Wake Forest College, was in the city yesterday. He said, in conversation, that the prospects of the college for the coming session, which begins September 1, are very gratifying. It is thought that 150 pupils will be present the first week, and 200 during the term. The libraries have been added to since spring, some 300 books having been purchased.

—Asheville *Citizen*: The W. N. C. R. R. is making regular schedule connections daily at this depot, *i. e.* Alexander's. It is now the terminus of the road. In a few day's Marshall will be reached, and so the work goes bravely on. —On Roan mountain, Mitchell county, there are very many visitors. Large numbers flock there every week. It is a point no mountain tourist should fail to see. —Some months ago an effort was made by some relations and friends of Prof. Mitchell, after whom Mount Mitchell is called, to procure means with which to have erected a neat slab over his grave, on the summit of the mountain. It was successful, a very neat slab being purchased and shipped to Henry's Station, where, we are mortified to learn, it has remained.

—Charlotte *Democrat*: The city of Charlotte is thoroughly "dry." There has not been rain enough on the city since the 27th of April to enable a person to set out and keep alive even a cabbage plant. —We ask the Code Commission to reinstate in the laws of North Carolina the death penalty for burglary. If the law does not hang burglars, the people whose houses and family and lives are endangered will do it as a last resort for protection. —It is about time to hang another housebreaker and thief. The hanging of Henry Horne here last year stopped the depredations of thieves for some time, but they have broken out again, and several robberies have occurred here recently, besides several attempts to enter dwellings. —The "boom" in railroad stock is going downward. There never was any good reason for the great and sudden advance in some stocks which recently took place.

—Weldon *News*: The prospects for good crops are still excellent everywhere in this section. With the exception of a want of rain in some places, there is little or no complaint. Corn and cotton both are looking well. —Mrs. Wesley Peebles, of Scotland Neck, died at the residence of Mr. T. W. Harris last Wednesday. —At Seaboard, on Saturday, a white man and a negro became involved in a difficulty about rent, which resulted in a fight, the white man getting the worst of it, being considerably bruised about the head. —On Saturday two negro men, Junius Harris and Jim Manly living near here came to town and imbibed a little too freely, when they got as far as the fair grounds on their way home, they began to wrestle with each other in a playful way and accidentally broke a bottle of whiskey. This misfortune brought on a fight and it is reported that another negro whose name we did not learn, held Manly and Harris cut him in the thigh, inflicting a wound about six inches long and two inches deep.

—Raleigh *Farmer and Mechanic*: The Wilson Normal School cost the State $720. Superintendent Sylvester Hassell acted very generously. He gave the use of his college building, together with his personal services, and seven set lectures, free of charge. State Geologist Kerr, who has $2,000 a year from the State, delivered four lectures and charged $50 and his expenses. —There is living in Granville an aged and respected lady who has 350 descendants—children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren—all born during her 90 years of life. One hundred years hence her direct lineal progeny will number 1,000 souls. —Dr. Chapin, who one month ago said Chatham would give 250 prohibition majority, now says the outcome will show as large a hole on the other side of the hill. —A friend writes of the crops in Orange: "We are in the midst of a dry, cold spell, and vegetation of all kinds is drying up. The drought seems to increase as we go east to the Granville line. After we come to the sand on Flat river numbers of the bushes of shallow growth wilt in the middle of the day and seem to be dying. The crop of small grain cannot be said to be more than a half crop, while corn and tobacco of course make a poor showing. —The Agricultural Department has decided to withdraw its European agency for immigration and allow things to drift for a while. We hear the question of funds is very pushing. The Department is now in its fifth year, and has had the use of $100,000. —The Popular Science Monthly for August has a review of Prof. W. C. Kerr's paper in the American Journal of Science, describing the frost-formed earth-beds, or glaciers of rock disintegrated by the action of intense frost, and converted into earth, interspersed with minerals. One of these beds is at Yancey county micaimpe. —Our Northern readers who imagine North Carolina to be a "low, marshy region," given up to Messrs. Tar, Pitch and Turpentine," should visit Durham (which is low in comparison with the average of Central North Carolina), and see Blackwell & Carr's artesian well—sugar going down through 1,100 feet of dry sand and returning without either water, oil, chills and fever, or "Muschetoes." —Pleased to have a visit from that wide awake Edgecombe planter, Capt. James R. Thigpen, who has about 700 acres under cultivation, and employs nearly one hundred hands on his premises. He is a strong advocate of home supplies, home fertilizers, and small store accounts as against all cotton and all the profits to the merchants. He has reduced farming to a system; charging every penny to the farm and crediting it with all its products.