

—New Bern *Nut Shell*: Died, in this city, Friday morning, December 15, 1882, Jesse M. Rhodes, aged 64 years.

—Whiteville *Enterprise*: The sureties on the late Sheriff's bond have appointed Mr. A. F. Toon, to collect the taxes that remain unpaid. On last Thursday, the remainder of James Sheriff, Archibald McCollum, were interred. A large number of the people of Columbus by all of whom he was beloved in life and will be respected in his grave, assembled at his residence, where his funeral sermon was preached by his friend and fellow officer, J. W. Dickson.

—Weldon *News*: The famous ram "Albemarle" was built and equipped at Edward's Ferry, on Roanoke river in this county. Mr. P. E. Smith was Superintendent of the navy-yard at that place, at the time and under his supervision the "Fisher" was run the ways, but was burned to prevent its getting into the hands of the Yankees. A section of the Albemarle's smokestack is now in Judge Lynch's grove, on the edge of the town. It is full of holes, caused by grape shot and cannon balls.

—Alamogordo *Gleaner*: It has been the case heretofore, greatly to the detriment of North Carolina tobacco growers, that their tobacco has been credited to a sister State. It is time the great commercial world knew where the fine tobacco constantly handled is raised, and it is one of the chief aims of this fair to show this matter up. North Carolina wants credit for what she has raised, and she will not put things in the right of her neighbor to receive a hearty support. All tobacco growers ought to help in this movement.

—Raleigh *Visitor*: We paid a brief visit to the thriving town of Henderson, and were pleased to note its prosperity. We noticed four large brick stores in course of erection. The town is being put up by Mr. H. H. Burwell, Sr., and one by Messrs. S. & C. Watkins. A large and commodious Opera House covers the third floor of Mr. Burwell's three store, and will be ready for occupancy. The town is a fine one, and the streets are 120 feet deep and 36 feet wide. Messrs. S. & C. Watkins' store, which adjoins Mr. Burwell's, is 140 feet deep and 36 feet wide. These stores are three stories high, with iron fronts.

—Greensboro *Patriot*: Dr. John Clapp, of the county, has returned from Texas, where he has been for the last twenty years. He will make his home in this county. The office of the Hickory *Carolinian* was destroyed by fire Wednesday night. In addition to printing material the editor has a "valuable shooting affray in Laurinburg," a "bloody riot in Lincolnton" and "theft of a bag of chickens." There is evidently a fine field here for police literature.

—Fayetteville *Examiner*: Radcliff Perry, a colored man supposed to be about 102 years of age, died in this town on the 8th inst. He was one of the carpenters employed on the "Harris" steamboat, which was built here in 1819. Mr. Isaac Hollingsworth died at his home in this town last Tuesday morning the 12th inst., of bronchial disease, in the 57th year of his age. He had been for many years an active and useful member of the Baptist Church here. On Thursday afternoon last (7th) the dwelling house occupied and belonging to the Messrs. Jordan, of this place, was destroyed by fire. By the strenuous exertions of some of the citizens the kitchen and most of the furniture was saved. Loss \$1,000. No insurance.

—New Bern *Journal*: Fifteen hundred bushels of rice in market yesterday. The highest price paid was \$1.12 per bushel, including sack. This is equal to \$1.02 in net. The market is quiet. The Charleston market. The Matamoras apple continues to arrive in good quantities, and are sold for \$1 per bushel. Mr. J. L. Rhen has planted out 121,000 cabbage and 1,000,000 more to be planted out. A correspondent urges the selection of Gov. Thomas J. Jarvis for United States Senator. There are two reasons why this should not be. 1. The Governor don't want it. 2. The people don't want him to be it. This has been sufficiently indicated in the steady Democratic loss throughout the State under his leadership.

—Charlotte *Observer*: The Air Line pay train arrived from Atlanta yesterday morning and disbursed \$100,000 among the employed men. A correspondent urges the sale of the Radcliff gold mine, which is just beyond the western limits of the city. Capt. Chas. F. Harrison cried the sale, and finally took it. The price was \$20,000. Mr. S. E. Linton was the next highest bidder, proffering \$19,000. The grand jury of the Federal Court took up a very interesting case on yesterday. It appears that the election of the superintendents at Wadesboro, while counting the votes, were peeped with bad eggs, and worse still, with quantities of sulphurated hydrogen, which the doctors say discounts anything on earth in the way of a strong smell. The peeping was done purely for mischief.

—Charlotte *Journal*: Several emigrants left on the Air Line train, night before last, for Texas. Another family left last night for the "Lone Star State." Some wagons from Stanley county, while on the road, were stopped by a large guard in rear of the postoffice last night, were brick-battled by some unknown person or persons, and two of them, Messrs. Ephraim Whitley and another, were struck on the head—the word "one" being quite a mistake. Late evening a handsome and attractive looking gentleman about 25 years of age, but apparently much younger, whose name and person are well known in many places in North Carolina, arrived at the Central Hotel in this city and was introduced to a *Journal* reporter by the proprietor (who seemed to be a remarkably good humor) as the Duke of New Castle, alias Mr. Edward L. Voorhees, of the firm of Davenport, Johnson & Co., of Atlanta, Ga. (A long account follows of the way this Georgia "sold" Greensboro, passing himself off as the "Young Duke," but not Disraeli's famous character.)

—Raleigh *News-Observer*: It is understood also that the directors of the Midland Company will ask the Legislature to give them the State stock, which cost \$1,800,000 and that upon condition of receiving this they will complete the road from Smithfield to Salisbury. David Taylor, Dec. 15.—A gentleman was created on the Board of Trade to-day by the failure of E. K. Norton, one of its most prominent members, who had put up margins on wheat deals amounting to some \$100,000. Norton was a resident of this city and had been exposed, and but little is known of his affairs. The amount of the loss to other dealers cannot be ascertained. It was subsequently learned that Norton yesterday made a bill of sale of all his personal effects, and that he had been in the city did not make his appearance at the Board, and the deals were closed out under the rule.

—Louisiana. A Movement at New Orleans to Secure the Location of the World's Cotton Exhibition at that City. By Telegraph to the Morning Star. New Orleans, Dec. 15.—The movement to secure the location of the World's Cotton and Universal Exhibition is being crystallized into practical shape by the city authorities and the commercial bodies of this city, who have appointed committees for a joint conference to meet on an early day. No doubt is felt in the minds of the business men here, in regard to raising the required funds. The enterprise is fairly inaugurated. Congress will be asked for a charter similar to that granted to the Centennial in 1876. President Morehead, of the National Cotton Planters' Association, leaves here to-night for New York, and will stop at Cincinnati. Baltimore, to see what share cities are doing in regard to the exhibition. Edward O. Rice, author of the comic opera *Evangelina*, has filed a petition at Boston, Mass., to go into insolvency. His liabilities are \$28,974.

forests be preserved, and I pray that your warnings may be heeded in time. I have noticed the last four years, that all this section of country adjacent to Richmond—that which was denuded of forests and even shrubbery during the war, is subject to prolonged and distressing drought every year. Last year, you remember, we were buying our drinking water. This fall we haven't had the dust laid since the middle of August until two days ago and then only a light rain—no dry that no tobacco, worth speaking of has been brought to this or the Petersburg market—and I believe it is due largely to the absence of trees all through this section."

TARIFF VIEWS IN THE SOUTH.

We publish a very instructive article to-day copied from the Baltimore *Sun*. We are not in the least surprised at its contents. We would have been surprised if the intelligent manufacturers and capitalists had been beguiled by the specious reasoning of protectionists. The South is overwhelmingly in favor of a low tariff—one for revenue strictly. Such a tariff would give all the protection that is needed. The tariff has not been discussed much since 1860 in the South, and a large majority of the voters of to-day have not given it much if any attention. During this year there has been some discussion of the merits of protection and fair trade and the people are beginning to understand what a burden the present unequal and absurd tariff has been. We believe three-fourths of the intelligent voters in North Carolina are decidedly in favor of the lowest possible tariff that can be laid commensurate with the expenses of the Government.

If there is any one thing that a large majority of the white voters of North Carolina are agreed upon it is that the necessities of life should be taxed as little as possible, and that the luxuries should bear the heaviest imposts. It is true that thousands demand the repeal of the internal tax, but they do this under the mistaken idea, as we believe, that the only way to get rid of the horde of Revenue smelters and informers is to abolish the tax on tobacco and whiskey.

If the question of tax on these luxuries—for such they are pure and simple—could be separated from the odious system of collection that now prevails, we believe that thousands who now clamor for abolition would favor a retention of the tax.

The old Democratic doctrine is tax the luxuries and lessen the burden on necessities. This is the doctrine of common sense and justice. This is the principle upon which England has grown to be the richest country on the globe. There is no reason that we have ever seen advanced for not taxing tobacco and whiskey, that has much in it. No man need use either whiskey or tobacco. They are known to be injurious to most people. They are certainly expensive luxuries. But if a man will use them, why shall he not pay for the needless indulgence?

We believe that of articles that are commercial, these two can bear a tax better than all others. They can be dispensed with by all men and they will be the better for it. The article from the *Sun* shows very conclusively the drift of sentiment in three Southern States on the tariff question. It is almost certain that with the exception of North Carolina and Virginia, the Southern States are opposed to the abolition of the internal tax, although they favor a reduction.

WORTH BEARING IN MIND.

Dr. Van Holst, in his life of John C. Calhoun, shows how this great statesman changed his views in regard to States Rights. In the beginning of his political career he was strong for a national sentiment, but afterwards became the leader of the extreme element in the South, favoring nullification. No one can doubt Mr. Calhoun's honesty who knows anything of the man. But such changes are not unusual. Mr. Webster changed three times at least in his theory of the Constitution as we have shown before. Even John Quincy Adams was not consistent with himself. He has left of record some very strong States Rights views. He delivered an address once before the New York Historical Society in which he took decided ground in favor of the reserved Constitutional rights of the States. He even did not hesitate to stand by the doctrine in all of its legitimate consequences, even into the very vortex of secession.

We mention this fact because it is instructive. It is well known that New England was the first to lead off with threats of secession and that in the first decade or so of this century the leading men of that section were in correspondence looking to a withdrawal from the Union.

The truth is the doctrine of States Rights is a necessity. It is the balance wheel in our complex and remarkable machinery. Let the doctrine be abandoned that the States under the Constitution have no reserved rights and there is nothing remaining to prevent a rapid consolidation of all power in the Federal Government. The breaks will be up then and the descent will be fearfully rapid down that incline plane that leads directly to consolidation. It is well enough not to lose sight of the dangers that threaten our form of government under Radicalism that favors a strong centralized power, and of the necessity of clinging to the great fundamental doctrine that under the Constitution, and according to the decision of the Supreme Court, the States of the Union have certain rights reserved to them.

The condition of things, as described in the press dispatches at Opelika, Alabama, is a gross reflection upon the people of that section. When the lives of travellers are endangered seriously by the flying balls of a mob and they are forced to make a circuitous route to avoid being killed, it is high time that the authorities had gone to work with a vigorous hand to suppress such outrages. We do not like to read of such things occurring in a Southern State.

The death of Judge Robert Ould of Richmond, Va., will be regretted throughout the South. He became so well known during the war by reason of his connection with the exchange of prisoners that nearly every soldier knew his name. His unflinching devotion to the South as well as his fine abilities made him popular with the people at large.

The steamboat epidemic continues. Eight destroyed within a month. The epidemic of fires has also broken out. London lost \$45,000,000, then Kingston suffered to a like amount, and other places have suffered also.

Superior Court.

The Court was called to order at the usual hour yesterday morning, when His Honor, Judge MacRae, delivered his charge to the jury in the case of Charles H. West and wife vs. Martin Rathjen and wife. The jury then retired and a few motions were heard. About 4 P. M. the jury came in and asked certain instructions from the Court, after which they again retired and soon after returned with a verdict giving all the issues in favor of the defendants.

The Long Creek Improvement.

We learn from Mr. Bruce Williams, who was in the city yesterday, in attendance upon the Superior Court, that Capt. W. H. James, who has the contract for improving Long Creek in Pender county, arrived on the ground on Wednesday, with the necessary paraphernalia, and would commence the work at once of deepening the channel, cutting out trees and other obstructions and tapping off the points. It is proposed by our Pender friends, after the creek has been dredged and put in good navigable condition, to put on a steamboat between Long Creek Bridge, or some other convenient point and Wilmington. Long Creek empties into the Cape Fear about fourteen or fifteen miles above this city.

The Midland Railroad Case.

The matter of the application of Capt. Oaksmith, of Carter county, for the appointment of a Receiver for the Midland Railroad, was expected to have come up before His Honor, Judge MacRae, in Chambers at the Court House yesterday morning, but it was finally decided by the Judge to hear the argument at his room at the Parcell House. Judge C. R. Thomas and Maj. John Hughes, of New Bern, appeared for the defendants, and W. W. Clark, Esq., of New Bern, for the plaintiff, and at the conclusion of the argument Judge MacRae decided to continue the junction, but declined to appoint a receiver.

Foreign Arrivals.

The sch. *Nilla Bosters*, Capt. Spear, was cleared from this port for Mayaguez, P. R., yesterday, by Messrs. Edward Kidder & Son, with 202,599 feet of lumber, valued at \$3,476.79, the Norwegian barque *Vlad*, Capt. Nilssen, for Liverpool, with 1,293 bales of cotton, valued at \$58,500. Total value of foreign exports for the day, \$62,976.98. Capt. Hurdon, of the British sch. *Mary L. Dunn*, which arrived at this port yesterday, reports that on Dec. 8th the British barque *Paris*, of Farnmouth, wrecked on the coast of St. George's Harbor, Bermuda, in a very heavy gale, and it is supposed to have been wrecked on the rocks. The Norwegian barque *Saga*, Capt. Svedlund, was cleared from this port for Liverpool, yesterday, by Messrs. De R. Murchison & Co., with 1,674 bales cotton, valued at \$80,904.

The Wrong Man—Supposed to have a Murderer.

Mr. W. B. Coleman, of Little Rock, South Carolina, arrived here yesterday morning with a colored prisoner in his charge, whom he had arrested on suspicion of being a man who murdered his brother at Wilson, in this State, some time during the year 1880. Upon arriving in this city Mr. Coleman telegraphed to the Sheriff of Wilson county to know what further steps should be taken, and the Sheriff replied by referring him to two men from that county employed at the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad, who were well acquainted with the circumstances of the murder and would know the murderer. They were called upon and accompanied Mr. Coleman to the jail, when they pronounced the prisoner the wrong man. In fact, there could be no doubt of it as the prisoner was a colored man, while the two men who had come to identify him declared that the murderer and the brother whom he killed were white men. This being the case Mr. Coleman could do nothing more than release the prisoner, and we learn that the two left for home on the train last evening. Mr. C. paying the way of his companion. It is understood that the man who was arrested, and who gives his name as Frank Allen alias Edwin Fenner, had acted in a manner to excite the suspicions of Mr. Coleman, hence the arrest.

Nassau Guano Company.

The annual meeting of the Stockholders of the Nassau Guano Company of Wilmington was held at their office in this city yesterday morning. Mr. Robt. E. Calder was appointed Chairman, and Mr. D. MacRae Secretary. A large majority of the stock was represented. The former officers were all unanimously re-elected for the ensuing year, as follows: Hon. R. R. Bridges, President. Donald MacRae, Secretary and Treasurer. Col. C. L. Graffin, Superintendent. Col. W. L. DeRoset, Superintendent of Agencies.

Directors—R. R. Bridges, John C. Graffin, Edward Kidder, Walter E. Lawton, Smithe A. Gregg, Winfield S. Dunan and Donald MacRae. A dividend of 10 per cent. was declared out of the profits of the fertilizer business, and 2 per cent. out of those of their rice business for the past year, payable on or before 1st January, 1883, to stockholders of record of the 17th instant. We are glad to see the Company in so prosperous a condition.

Funeral of Rev. Elias Dodson.

The funeral services in connection with the death of the Rev. Elias Dodson took place at the First Baptist Church yesterday afternoon, at 3 o'clock. Rev. Dr. Taylor, the pastor, Rev. Dr. Wilson, of the First Presbyterian Church, and Rev. F. W. E. Peeschau, of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, were in the pulpit. The solemn services were opened by the reading of the Scriptures by Rev. Mr. Peeschau, when Rev. Dr. Wilson followed with prayer. Rev. Dr. Taylor then preached the sermon, during which he paid a glowing tribute to the deceased, and alluded in touching terms to the self-sacrificing devotion to duty which had ever characterized him in the service of the Master whom he so delighted to serve.

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NORTH CAROLINA.

Shocking Tragedy in Anson County—An Old Woman and Her Son Murdered.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star. Raleigh, Dec. 14.—A shocking double murder was committed near Lileville, in this State, this morning. An old woman and her son were found dead at their home. They had been slain and the body of the son had been thrown into the fire and partially consumed. They were people of excellent character. The cause of the murder is unknown. Great excitement over the affair prevails throughout the neighborhood and the mystery surrounding the tragedy is being investigated. Arrangements looking to the amicable adjustment of the differences between the A. & N. C. R. R. Co. and its lessee, the Midland N. C. R. R. Co., having failed, the directors of the A. & N. C. Co. to-day made a formal demand for possession of the road. Docketry laid in wait for them with an axe, brained both, and left their bodies lying in the road. Docketry fled and his wife attempted to join him, but was arrested.

ALL ABOUT A WOMAN.

Two Men Brained with an Axe in Lileville, N. C.—A False Wife Instigates the Murder—Escape of the Murderer. By Telegraph to the Morning Star. New York, Dec. 14.—A special from Charlotte, N. C., says: In Lileville, Tuesday night, Alexander Docketry murdered two men, who were in the habit of leaving their work about 5 o'clock, walking up the road together. Docketry laid in wait for them with an axe, brained both, and left their bodies lying in the road. Docketry fled and his wife attempted to join him, but was arrested. [All of the above parties are colored.]

LOUISIANA.

Seamstresses Dissatisfied—The Kate Kinney Sunk with Valuable Cargoes—No Lives Lost.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star. New York, Dec. 15.—The steamboat Kate Kinney took fire in the bayou at the ferry landing at 2:30 P. M. today. The boat was a large one, and had on board a cargo valued at \$20,000, and was insured for \$15,000. She belonged to the Red River and Coast Line. Her cargo consisted of two thousand bales of cotton, oil cake and other freight, which is probably insured. No lives were lost so far as is known. The fire from the burning steamer spread to a building adjacent, being driven by high winds. The loss is about \$150,000. Several buildings near the ferry landing were destroyed. The books were not saved, but Clerk Quecksall succeeded in getting some of the money out of the safe. The fire originated in the deck room, but its cause is unknown. It spread so rapidly that the passengers and crew had no time to get away. M. W. Applegate, local inspector of steamboats, lost his valise containing all the papers of this trip of inspection. The steamboat St. Francis Belle, belonging to the Opelika River Construction Line, was sunk in Bayou De la Riviere, today, with a full cargo of cotton. No lives were lost.

THE CORN CROP.

Reports from the Department of Agriculture for the Month of December.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star. Washington, Dec. 16.—The December corn returns of the Department of Agriculture make direct comparison with the product of last year. In November the yield per acre was reported, and in October last the report of the condition of the growing crop. The range of variation in result of these three separate tests is but three per cent. It is significant to note that the tendency of more accurate information is towards a reduction. The present and final returns aggregate, in round numbers, 1,825,000,000 bushels. Permanent estimates for the present year are being 33 more than last year, and 27 more than in 1879. The five Gulf Coast States, 171 million, being 70 more than last year, and 62 more than in the census year. West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee, on the general basis, are 17 million less than the previous crops, and 31 more than in 1879. In the seven corn surplus States, from Ohio to Nebraska and Kansas, which produced a record of 1,301 million bushels in the census year, the present year shows a reduction of about 225 million bushels, more than one hundred of which is in Illinois and 100 in Iowa. Each State shows an increase over last year—very heavy in Missouri and Kansas, the total increase being about 240,000,000 bushels. In Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, on the Lake belt, the product is 80,000,000 bushels, nearly the same as in 1879, and an increase of 9,000,000 bushels over last year. There is a large increase in Dakota and an aggregate increase for the mountain and Pacific coast regions. There is much reduction in the quality and of the intrinsic value in the Northwest, from immaturity and injury by frost—especially in Iowa. Returns of the wheat production, made with more enlightened judgment, after gathering has been entirely completed, and do not vary any more than 2 per cent. from any of the monthly returns of the season, yet they are lower in December, and render it nearly certain that the permanent estimates cannot surpass 500,000,000 bushels, and may fall to reach that figure.

WASHINGTON.

Matrimonial Associations on the Post-Office Block.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star. Washington, Dec. 16.—The Comptroller of the Currency has authorized the People's National Bank, of America, Ga., to commence business with a capital of \$50,000. About two hundred and forty of the Southern Matrimonial and Natal Associations have been placed upon the black list of the Postmaster General, and postmasters at places where these associations are have been instructed to refuse to tender the money ordered addressed to the associations.

THE COTTON CROP.

Returns to the Department of Agriculture for December—An Indicated Crop of 6,700,000 Bales.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star. Washington, Dec. 16.—Cotton returns made to the Department of Agriculture, December 15, relate to the product in comparison with the production of last year. There will be one more return at the close of the season. Estimating the actual number of bales and acres of the present crop, last month's return of yield, per acre, indicated 6,636,600 bales of 460 net pounds each. The December report makes an aggregate of approximately 6,700,000 bales. It is presented as the statistician's estimated report of the crop, but as the result of a careful revision and consolidation of county estimates. The influence of December upon the views of correspondents may somewhat increase or may decrease this figure. The estimated increase in Florida is 8 per cent., on its round numbers 58,000; Mississippi 8, or 961,000; North Carolina 10, or 81,000; Alabama 10, or 785,000; Georgia 11, or 885,000; Louisiana 20, or 371,000; Tennessee 23 or 329,000; South Carolina 24, or 625,000; Texas 23 or 321,000; Arkansas 6, or 665,000. In South Carolina, Texas and Arkansas the total yield product was greatly reduced, which accounts for the large per centage of increase. Virginia, Missouri, Indian Territory and other districts may make 68,000. Killing frost has been reported in Iowa, Michigan and other States. In the Northern States there is a general report of a heavy frost later than in average years. The weather generally was favorable for picking and at many points exceptionally good. The reverse has been true in portions of Louisiana and Northern Texas, and in some counties of Arkansas and parts of the Southwest from wet weather. Losses from the boll worm continue mainly west of the Mississippi. It is reported that this insect probably caused as much damage as the caterpillar.

THE GALLOWS.

Negro Murderers Pay the Penalty of their Crimes in Alabama and Louisiana.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star. MASSILLON, LA., Dec. 15.—Peter Thomas, colored, was hanged here to-day, in the presence of two thousand people, for the murder of Dick Bright, also colored. On the gallows the man acknowledged his guilt. Laura Bright, sentenced at the same time as Thomas for participation in the murder of her husband, was respited by the Governor until further notice. It appeared on the trial that Thomas and Bright had been criminally intimate and had agreed to put Dick Bright out of the way in order that they might live together undisturbed. Thomas killed the husband with a rail and the woman threw her body into the bayou, where it was soon after found. COLVARS, GA., Dec. 15.—Jno. Redd, negro, was hanged at Seale, Ala., to-day for the murder of Lucy Lee, a young negro woman, in September. The execution was private. Redd confessed the crime, which was most brutal one. He was convicted by three different juries, the case having been twice carried to the Supreme Court. There was a large crowd of people, but there was no demonstration of any character.

ALABAMA.

The Opelika Troubles—Hostilities Resolved and One Man Killed—Railroad Collision.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star. NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—A special from Atlanta says: One sad sequel of the Opelika (Alabama) riots was the arrival yesterday of the body of Bob Malony, shot last Friday. Hostilities were discontinued on Opelika Wednesday night, and from 10 to 11 o'clock the rattle of musketry kept increasing, until it seemed the town was given over to demolition. On all sides could be heard report of the pounds of the fray in his ears, Malony died. Malony's murderer was arrested. Threats had been made by his Opelika friends. They will arrive in Atlanta Saturday for the purpose, it is said, of assaulting the reporters here for writing up the lawless deeds in Opelika. The Alabama Legislature has revoked the charter of Opelika and put the town under five commissioners until matters are adjusted. Militant outbreaks are expected at any moment. Travellers go by a circuitous route to reach points which by way of Opelika would be nearer, as passengers have had to prostrate themselves in the bottom of the coaches while passing through the town to avoid being fired at.

MOBILE, Dec. 15.—By a collision, at 8:20 Thursday, at Kushla, on the Mobile & Ohio Railroad, between north and south-bound freight trains. Conductor Hunter Myers, of the north-bound train, was killed. His train was running out of Mobile time.

MICHIGAN.

Feature of a Prominent Member of the Board of Trade at Detroit.

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Table with 2 columns: Name, Amount. Includes entries for 'The Weekly Star' and other publications.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE.

The subscription price of the Weekly Star is as follows: Single Copy 1 year, postage paid, \$1.50. 6 months, 1.00. 3 months, .50.

CIVIL SERVICE.

There are several bills before the Congress looking to a reform in the civil service of the Government. There has been so much palaver among Radical politicians and newspaper editors concerning much needed reforms that the public have been disposed to regard all agitation of the matter as purely political, if not demagogical. But the question is about to assume a practical shape, in the Senate, and we begin to hope that some benefit to the country will be derived from its discussion.

Our dispatches of the 12th stated that amendments reported from the committee on Civil Service were adopted by the Senate, and that no less than eight Senators offered other amendments. We suppose that the amendments reported and adopted and those offered were to the bill reported last week by the Civil Service Committee. That bill was defective, we think in some particulars, and from the way it is amended the Senate is clearly of the same opinion.

Our dispatches say nothing of what the amendments were. The committee's bill does not provide for competitive examinations. It also limits the term of service, we believe, to six years. This is certainly very objectionable and would be sure to increase rather than cure the disorders of the service. We believe office-seeking would be fostered by such a provision, and that without rigid competitive examinations the character of officials would be lowered rather than elevated. Senator Pendleton's bill provided against both of these evils.

Since the above was written another day's proceedings have been received. Senator Hawley made an instructive and forceful speech in favor of the Pendleton bill. Sundry amendments were offered, one of which was to have competitive examinations in private and they are to relate to matters that will test the qualifications of the applicants for the places they seek. Another amendment was to equalize appointments, which is a very important matter, as some States are badly cheated as at present organized. Another amendment still requires all employes to stand an examination within a year, as if applying for original employment. These are all good and useful amendments, and should be adopted.

TREE PLANTING.

The Star has again and again insisted that tree planting was a duty. It pays in several important ways. It improves the land. It improves the looks of the landscape. It brings money into the pocket whether the lumber be sold for burning purposes or for manufacturing. It is a cause of health and prevents drought to a great extent. There is no doubt, whatever, we suppose, that where forests abound droughts are of infrequent occurrence, and vice versa where there are long stretches of unwooded lands there are long dry seasons. In many countries this has been observed by travellers and men of science.

A personal friend resident in Richmond, Va., writes us on the 12th inst. concerning this important matter of tree planting, and because of some confirmatory information we publish it, although not so intended. He writes: "For a long time past I have read with much interest your frequent editorials on the subject of destruction of forests and tree culture in North Carolina. It is a matter of vital importance to the future prosperity of our dear old State that the