

The Weekly Star

WM. H. BERNARD, Editor and Prop.

WILMINGTON, N. C.

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1887.

In writing to change from address, always give former address as well as full present address. We will not be held responsible for any loss of letters unless you do both changes.

Notices of Marriages, Births, Deaths, Tributes of Respect, Resolutions of Thanks, &c., are charged for as usual. Notices of Deaths, Tributes of Respect, &c., are charged for as usual.

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He next shows that in 1880 the potato crop was 169,458,539 bushels. At 15 cents a bushel the sum of the increase to the consumers was \$25,500,000. He says: "That was paid by the ignorant mob of consumers of potatoes to the home raisers and \$291,000 to the Treasury. There is a curious fact connected with our potato trade, and it is this, that it always makes a distinction between the rich and opulent mob of consumers and the poor mob of consumers."

The rich eat Bermuda potatoes, but the tax paid for them amounts to but \$5,180.70. There were 34,598 bushels imported, costing \$71,640. On the other hand, there were imported from the British Provinces 1,306,640 bushels of Irish potatoes, costing \$332,944. The lesson and comment is this: "The rich man pays for an extreme luxury less than 7 1/2 per cent. and the poverty-stricken people pay for a similar food, which, however, is a necessity, 58 1/2 per cent., or eight times more. But what would be the object of an organized army of protection if it were not to favor the rich and oppress the poor?"

With much regret that the many friends of Mr. Montford McGehee in this part of the State, will learn that gentleman was defeated in the recent election for Commissioner of Agriculture. Mr. McGehee is one of the most polished gentlemen of the State, and is one of the best men on agriculture in the country. The trouble seems to have been that he was considered too much of a gentleman to be interested in practical knowledge of the requirements of his department.

The above is clipped from a paper published in the village where Mr. McGehee resided for many years. His farm was in Person, and upon this he lived for two decades, or nearly so, cultivating "mother earth." We desire to confirm what is said above of the admirable qualities of this distinguished gentleman and most worthy son of North Carolina. In Caswell, Person Granville and Orange counties, where Mr. McGehee is best known, he is held in the highest possible esteem. North Carolina has high-bred gentlemen and men of accomplishments and ability but it has no son who deserves to rank above the distinguished son of Person county in refined and elegant manners, in fine literary taste, in a pure and noble manhood, in those qualities of mind and heart that ennoble and give a grace to life and character, and in genuine attachment to all that concerns his native Carolina. Mr. McGehee is a gentleman of excellent natural ability that has been disciplined by study and by his profession of the law. He has seen Europe, has had the advantage of intimate association for more than thirty years with the first men in the State—Graham, Kerr, R. B. Gilliam, Dillard, Ruffin, the great Badger, whose daughter he married—one of the most superior women we have ever known—a dozen others. When in the Legislature Mr. McGehee was the leader of the Democratic party in the House. A courtly, conscientious, noble, able Christian gentleman, he is worthy of the highest office North Carolina has to bestow. In his hands office will never be prostituted to mean, personal, selfish ends. We write this because we believe in our heart he is entitled to every word we have written. We have known him for thirty-five years, have partaken of his hospitality, have received letters from him, are familiar with his life, know of his excellence and accomplishments and have so written.

The people of the South have no admiration whatever for Gen. Sherman. They know he conducted war as a vandal and that he is utterly untrustworthy in his statements. The STAR has had occasion several times to show up his inhumanity and meanness and his misrepresentation of facts. He is, however, often as he has been exposed, one of the Northern models. His statements, after being tripped again and again by both Northern and Southern writers, are received in the North as every war-rousing and virtuous and credible. We refer to this town burner and slanderer now to let his opinions in an article in the late North American Review. He is replying to Lord Wolsley's tribute to Robert E. Lee. Sherman gives it as his opinion that Lee was a greater soldier than Lee. In view of facts such a statement is stupid. If the numbers of the two armies could have been reversed Lee would have destroyed Grant in the first battle. It is very doubtful, however, if there had been a battle or that Lee could have overtaken the flying blue coats. Grant greater than Lee! Old "Camp" is too old for such stuff. Then he has discovered that Gen. Thomas was Lee's equal. Thomas was doubtless Grant's equal, and Thomas was a Virginian. Sherman is very "cheeky." He actually has the hardihood to refer to Grant at Vicksburg and Shiloh as an evidence of great generalship. And yet North Carolina writers know and have stated how badly handled and whipped Grant was at Shiloh until Gen. Buell came to his salvation, while at Vicksburg Grant made two assaults that were as unwise, unnecessary, unnecessary...

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U. S. District Court. The Spring Term of the U. S. District Court convened in the U. S. Court room in this city yesterday morning, with Judge Seymour presiding. District Attorney F. H. Busbee, Assistant Attorney R. B. Peables, Marshal Richardson and the other officers and jurors were present. The following were drawn for the grand jury: A. H. Morris, foreman; W. H. Bradley, W. H. Winters, John S. Hamilton, M. R. Katz, R. W. Collins, Mitchell Dore, D. R. Walker, James W. King, Leonard Middleton, John Moore, Monroe Byrd, A. R. Middleton, A. C. Meares, A. A. Cromatic, John J. Hewlett, John Monroe, L. J. Johnson. David Cox, a colored seaman charged with cutting on the schooner J. S. Baymore, was convicted and sentenced to six months imprisonment in the county jail in this city. The schooner above mentioned was on a voyage from Charleston, S. C. to New York, the latter part of last summer, and put in at this port in distress. Thomas Hutchinson, colored, also one of the crew of the Baymore, charged with refusing to obey the lawful commands of the officers of the vessel, submitted, and judgment was suspended in his case. In the case of W. F. Lessman, continued from a former term, judgment was suspended on payment of costs. Joel W. Blackman, violation of internal revenue laws. Judgment suspended on payment of costs. H. G. McJackson, violation of internal revenue laws. Defendant called and failed. Judgment not set and no issue issued against defendant's surety. The Court adjourned at 5 p. m., until 10 o'clock this morning, and the petit jurors were dismissed for the term.

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Her Population and Progress—Encouraging Facts and Figures.

There is no doubt about one fact concerning this city, and that is its population is rapidly increasing. On all hands we see evidence of prosperity which the city has not exhibited in so marked a measure since the war as it has within the last twelve months. Whether it be due to the fact that over one-half of a million of dollars was left here by the insurance companies from the fire of February, 1856, or to the fact that our cotton receipts have increased nearly fifty per cent., or to the fact that the establishment of a Building and Loan Association has enabled our mechanics and others to save money, or to the fact that our banks are driving in the thousands of capital which has been hoarded by depositors at four per cent. no matter what the cause may be, it is certainly true that our population is increasing rapidly, and that the general appearance of the city and there is a hopeful sign and buoyant expression on the faces of our people. Our readers would scarcely believe without investigation that from 1870 to 1880 Wilmington's population increased more rapidly than that of any of the Southern towns mentioned below. The census of 1870 and that of 1880 show the following statistics of the population of the cities named:

Table with 2 columns: Year, Population. Rows include Norfolk, Va. (1870: 19,250; 1880: 21,960), Savannah, Ga. (1870: 32,279; 1880: 37,709), Charleston, S.C. (1870: 45,958; 1880: 49,924), Mobile, Ala. (1870: 59,074; 1880: 75,123), Richmond, Va. (1870: 68,411; 1880: 77,068), Victoria, Miss. (1870: 12,443; 1880: 11,814), Portsmouth, Va. (1870: 10,630; 1880: 800), Columbia, S.C. (1870: 9,267; 1880: 10,067), Raleigh, N.C. (1870: 8,290; 1880: 9,285), Wilmington, N.C. (1870: 13,446; 1880: 17,350).

Wilmington's increase is 30 per cent.; Norfolk's about 14 per cent.; Savannah's about 17 per cent.; Charleston's about 9 per cent. During the decade from 1870 to 1880 occurred the panic, which affected the values of land and checked the growth of all our Southern towns and had as great an effect upon our city as upon any of her sister cities, and our improvement since 1880 has been as marked as was the effect of the panic before. Computing our increase at the rate of 30 per cent. for the six and a half years that have elapsed since 1880, we would have an increase of 154 per cent., or about 21,000 population in all. But it is safe to say that our increase is greater than that given, and makes our actual population at 23,000 and upwards.

Preparations for the Encampment. The necessary preparations for the encampment of the State Guard are actively in progress at the Canaday place, on Market street. Carpenters are at work putting up frame buildings for the mess room, store room and kitchen. Seventy A. C. tents and eight wall-tents were received from the State authorities at Raleigh yesterday, and to-day a portion of the city street hands will be set to work cleaning up the grounds and putting everything in thorough order for the camp.

There will be many attractions during the encampment, besides the military display, the parades, the target shooting and the grand military ball. On the first day—the 19th—there will be a yacht race on the river for a prize, between the yachts Idler and Vizen, two of the boats of the Carolina Yacht Club. On the morning of the 20th the First Department will turn out with engines and hook and ladder truck and give exhibitions of their skill and training in friendly contests between the companies.

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