

number of the timber thieves, but when he went out of office the plunder began again and has been carried on more or less ever since. Public sentiment, however, is being educated on that subject that the time is not so far distant when it will be considered as culpable and disreputable to steal a Government tree as it is to steal a Government coin.

STATE TOPICS. The Rockingham Rocker pronounces the "long looked-for write-up" of that town, which appeared in the Atlanta Journal, "a very feeble affair." What it cost is not stated, but unless it is different from the average "write-up" in the papers of other States the victims paid pretty liberally for it. The "write-up" business has been run so extensively done in this country that it is surprising that the people haven't caught on to it before now and sized it up. But it is a remarkable fact that these peripatetic pencil-shavers can go into almost any of our towns and snake money out of it for a couple of columns of chaff in a paper which the contributors know little or nothing about than one or all of the local papers could get for better work in the same line in twelve months. As a rule these "write-ups" done by strangers who don't know anything about the place they essay to write about are disappointing, as in the case of Rockingham, but in the meantime the man who "writes up" has raked in the shekels and departed for other regions which invite his genius and hanker for the artistic "write-up," and the only thing to do is to grin and bear it till the next artist with his pencil and a paper with a whopping circulation comes along to take them in.

MINOR MENTION. A case recently came up in the State of South Carolina to test the validity of granting pardons to criminals on condition that they leave the State. It was in the case of a man who had been pardoned after serving part of a term of imprisonment for larceny, on condition that he leave the State, and never return. He left, remained away six years and returned, when an order was issued for his arrest to serve out the remainder of his term. He employed counsel, who appealed to the Supreme Court on the ground that while the pardon was effective and valid the condition was null and void, because the laws of South Carolina provided no such penalty as banishment or transportation, and therefore the convict had violated no law of the State in returning. The State constitution, however, leaves much to the discretion of the Governor in granting pardons, authorizing him to issue pardons on such terms and under such restrictions as he shall deem proper. The Supreme Court so construed this as to sustain the right of the Governor to issue pardons on the conditions contained in the pardon in question, and held that it was neither "illegal nor immoral," as contended. The New York Sun, commenting on this decision, holds that while under the laws of South Carolina it may be legal, it is immoral, and we believe the Sun is right. While no State is expected to restrain its criminal characters from going upon other communities if they voluntarily do so, no State has the right, although there may be no statutory prohibition, to force it criminals on other communities. It sometimes happens, and has happened in our own State, that the sentence of a criminal is suspended on condition that he leave the county, and throw the burden of looking after him on the people across the line. State authorities, or county authorities have no more moral right to do this than they would have to take a man afflicted with a contagious disease to the border and send him across, or to pick up his paupers and send them across the line to become a burden on the people of other States or counties. There is just as much moral right in this banishment condition in pardons or in suspension of judgment, as there would be in a farmer's trapping a colony of able-bodied rats, putting them into a bag and turning them loose in his neighbor's barn.

Truists sometimes defeat themselves and in doing so injure the commerce of the country in which they exist. A case in point is the Chesire Salt Trust, in England, which has seriously crippled the salt shipping business of that country. It raised the price of salt so much that buyers were driven to other markets where they could deal on better terms. The Liverpool Journal of Commerce furnishes some figures to show how the English trade has fallen off and the German trade picked up in consequence of the operations of this trust, the Germans bidding fair to wrest the India trade from England. During the first three months of this year there were shipped from the Mersey for the East 67,063 tons of salt, as compared with 115,849 tons for the corresponding period of last year, while the shipments from Hamburg were 27,244 tons, as compared with 12,000 tons for the corresponding period of last year. British shipments have fallen off about 50 per cent, while German shipments have increased over 100 per cent. Out of 73,100 tons ordered from Europe, to be shipped to India this month, 50,000 tons were ordered from Germany. How long will it be at this rate before the Germans will have absolute control of the salt trade of which England has the monopoly, thus not only ruining the trust but destroying one of England's important industries. The trusts in this country have some advantages over the trusts in England, because however extortionate they may be they are protected from competition from abroad by our peculiar and monstrous tariff system which makes them possible and profitable.

If some other young man than Gen. Raum's son had helped himself to \$75 out of a Government safe, would he have been granted a leave of absence or locked up as a thief? Kentucky got rid of two first-class fends the other day when the life was shot out of the Wilcox brothers. It would have been a bad thing for that State to have that breed of devils propagated.

NOTICE. This is intended only for subscribers whose subscriptions have expired. It is not a dun, but a simple request that all who are in arrears for the STAR will favor us with a prompt remittance. We are sending out bills now (a few each week), and if you receive one please give it your attention.

EPISCOPAL CONVENTION. EIGHTH ANNUAL COUNCIL OF THE DIOCESE OF EAST CAROLINA. A Large Representation—Rev. R. M. Forrester, Moderator—Opening Session by Rev. Robt. Strange—Addresses, Etc. On motion of Rev. Mr. George, of Christ Church, New Bern, it was agreed that the Council give way for an address from Rev. Theo. I. Holcomb, Financial Secretary of the Clergymen's Retiring Fund Society, during the afternoon session. On motion of Dr. W. H. Green, of Wilmington, all visiting clergymen were invited to seats in the Council, and on amendment by Dr. A. J. DeRosset, Rev. F. N. Skinner was invited to take part with the Council, with the privilege of voting, as his connection with the Diocese was for a shorter time than that required by the canons.

THE LATE DISTURBANCE. A Colored Preacher-Editor Tries to Fix the Responsibility on the Whites and Uses Language of Very Doubtful Propriety. The last issue of the Afro-American Presbyterian, a weekly newspaper published here, and edited by Rev. A. J. Sanders, a colored preacher, of the Northern Branch of the Presbyterian Church, has an editorial article on the recent disturbance in this city, which might have "passed muster" for fairness and moderation but for the words we have italicized in the annexed article, the animus of which is too plain to be mistaken. There is no reference made in the article to the threats made by negroes to release Higgins from jail, and it is made to appear that the whites are solely responsible for the trouble.