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# THE WEEKLY NEWS.

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THE WEEKLY NEWS.
THURSDAY.....JANUARY 2, 1873.

## LOCAL MATTER.

E. C. WOODSON, Editor.

THE NEW YEAR.—Last night when the clock chimed out the hour of 12 the year 1873 was born unto the world. What joys and sorrows it brings in its train we know not—the future must develop them. But we are permitted to hope that it ushers in an era of prosperity and happiness to all our friends and the world generally. Nothing we can write will prove so interesting to the reader as the following description as to how New Year's Eve and the day are looked upon an observed in different climes, as well as the mention of some ancient customs, so we yield the space.

All civilized and semi-civilized races of mankind appear, as if by natural instinct, to have adopted either ceremonials, rejoicings, or an interchange of social amenities, at the inauguration of a new year.

As the period of the demise of the old and birth o' the new year is not arbitrary, but merely marks the completion of the earth's revolution around the sun from any one point to its orbit back to the same point, or nearly so, the times of such so-called New Years vary. Thus the Christian, the Jewish, the Mohammedan, and the Chinese anniversaries, occur at different times.

We have in the United States a sufficient number of the first two and of the last named celebrations brought prominently under our notice; and, speaking generally, these all make it a season of rejoicing and social reunion.

The Jewish New Year, however, is attended by more strictly religious ceremonies, of longer duration than those of other sects, and includes on some days a partial cessation of business. With the Israelites, visits of congratulation and compliment are secondary to the religious observances. It is unnecessary to comment upon the usual manner in which the new year is celebrated by the generality of the American people.

The Chinese, who are so numerous in the State of California, and whose noisy demonstrations involve so heavy an expenditure of gunpowder, are reputed to consider it an absolute necessity to pay all indebtedness on this occasion, and those who are positively unable to discharge their liabilities shall be set free from them. This is the theory, but it would appear that association with outside barbarians has greatly tended to modify it in practice when abroad.

In their own native land the rule is carried out more rigidly, but such is the disgrace attendant upon New Year insolvency that suicides among the impecunious at that time are said to be frequent, a species of high-mindedness that but ill accords with our generally received notions of Chinese ethics.

Among the English the festivities of New Year's eve and day are of a very ancient date. In the feudal times the head of the house presided at these merry-makings over a huge bowl of spiced ale are somewhat strangely named "lamb's wool." Having first drunk to the health of those assembled, he passed it around to the others. As each took the bowl to drink he pronounced the Saxon word "Wass hael," meaning your health, and from this sprung the name "wassail bowl." Numerous songs were sung, one of which, of Gloucestershire origin, contains the following verse:

"Wassail, wassail, over the town,
Our bread is white, our ale is brown;
Our bowl is made of the maple tree—
We be good fellows all, I drink to thee.
Come butler, and bring us a bowl of the best,
I hope your soul in heaven may rest;
But if you do bring us a bowl of the small,
Then down shall fall butler, bowl and all."

The poor people carried round on the last day of the year a bowl ornamented with ribbons, and begged for the wherewithal to get it filled, so that they, too, might enjoy the wassail.

At the monasteries, then so numerous in England, the abbot stood behind an enormous wassail-bowl, which was called, in their ecclesiastical language, "Poculum Caritatis," and, having drunk to all, the others drank in regular succession, the one to the other, until the wassail had gone the round of the tables.

A relic of this custom is still retained by the corporation of the city of London. A double-handled flagon of spiced wine is placed before the lady-mayoress if she be present, or, in her absence, before the presiding officer, and she or he, standing up and holding the flagon in both hands, drinks to the health of the company, as called out by the toast master. He then passes it to the person on his left hand, who, also standing, drinks to *his* left hand neighbor and so on in turn until all have partaken. The ceremony is known as that of the "Loving Cup."

The ringing out of the old year and ringing in of the new has, among some of the Methodists, giving place to *singing in* the New Year, and in Yorkshire, England, is known as the "Watch-Night Service." The congregation having assembled, and the usual services having been performed so as to terminate shortly before midnight, a psalm is sung, after which perfect silence is maintained, each person being, or supposed to be, engaged in silent prayer until the hour of tweve strikes. At the first stroke of the clock all join in the Wesleyan hymn—

"Come, let us anew
Our journey pursue,
Roll round with the year,"

etc., etc.

The introduction of religious services in connection with the advent of the new year would appear to be again gaining ground—"improving the occasion," as it is termed by some, by urging on all a resolution to amend their ways and to reflect on the past:

"He that good thinketh good may do,
And God will help him thereunto;
For never yet was good work wrought
Without beginning of good thought."

Episcopal clergymen, of some of the districts where other denominations are gaining ground, have adopted a "Watch-Night Service," probably from motives of policy, but the movement is not general with that body in England—most of the clergy of the Established Church being opposed to it on the ground that the status of the Church demands that it should be the inaugurator of any additional observances, not the follower of such as may be introduced by other sects.

The celebration of New Year's eve and day is much more marked in Scotland than in England, and its greater prominence may be in some sort attributed to there being no Christmas festival permissible by the Calvinistic *regime*. In this connection it may be observed that, to the same cause, operating upon the Puritan settlers of New England, may be traced the more notable celebration of the day in America.

Till within a very few years the drinking from the wassail bowl, at the passing away of the old year, prevailed in Scotland. In that country, as in some others which shall be nameless, excesses are too much the order of the day; and, so general is the custom of indulging freely, on the plea that it comes but once a year, that, by mid-day, persons of standing and position even, may not unfrequently be seen in the streets of the larger cities, whose uncertain gait betrays the depth of their potations. Nor are these cases entirely confined to the stronger sex. The police have instructions, it is presumed, to be conveniently blind, so long as the peace is preserved, so that few arrests for intoxication are made.

The custom of "first-footing" is generally prevalent in the "Land o' Cakes." Parties, generally consisting of men only, with an abundant supply of whiskey, visit the homes of their friends, as soon after midnight as may be, to wish them the compliments of the season; and the person who first enters a house for that purpose is denominated "first-foot." The toast most in vogue is, "A gude New Year to ye, and mony may ye see." Forty years ago a rule obtained in some sort, that all ladies found out of doors after 12 o'clock were liable to pay the forfeit of a kiss. As many parties were given on New Year's eve, of course numerous of the fair sex were out after that hour, and none would venture to take their departure except in carriages, and even these were stopped frequently by parties of young men, and the inmates compelled to submit to the inevitable New-Year salute. As the melancholy prince says, "It is a custom more honored in the breach than in the observance;" but young men of that day were of a different opinion. The writer remembers being one of a party which stopped the carriage of Sir Alexander Keith, of Ravelstone. As there were four horses, and as the postilions drove very rapidly, the feat was not accomplished without considerable risk, two of the undergraduates being thrown beneath the horses' feet. The carriage was stopped, however, and the old gentleman acknowledged the capture, and counselled the three ladies within to make no fuss about it, but quietly resign themselves to their fate. In this case most of the young gentlemen were personally acquainted with the baronet's family. This habit admitted, however, of much abuse, and was the occasion of many serious broils, so that people began to set ther faces against the custom, and it has, consequently, of late years fallen into disuse.—*Gordon Greenlaw in Appleton's Journal.*

SMALL POX IN FRANKLIN COUNTY.—It will be remembered that a day or two ago, on the faith of a statement made by a correspondent, we denied the truth of the report of this dreadful disease being near Louisburg. We are sorry to state now that the denial should not have been made. We learn, from one who knows whereof he speaks, that near Clifton's mills, 8 miles of Louisburg, 11 in the family of Mr. Ruben Rogers are down with the disease, and that there are cases of it at Vincent Cook's, Andrew Jackson's, Wilson Bolton's and Dawson Janes', all in this neighborhood. It is said that the disease was carried there by a Mr. John Darrell of Fayette county, Tennessee, who came there to carry some families to that State. Mr. Darrell stopped at Mr. Roger's, and shortly afterwards broke out with the disease and soon died. Just before this unfortunate man was taken down, Mr. Rogers gave a corn-shucking, and all who are now victims attended it. We suppose they contracted the malady then by coming in contact with him.

TO BE HANGED.—Our readers will doubtless remember an account of the escape of the murderer Bayliss Henderson from the Macon county jail, and his recapture afterwards; also the order for a court of Oyer and Terminer by Gov. Caldwell for his trial.

In accordance therewith Judge Henry appointed Monday the 15th of Dec., for the commencement of the trial. Upon the application of counsel the case was removed to the county of Jackson, and the trial commenced in said county on Monday the 22d inst., Judge Henry presiding. After much difficulty a jury was obtained and the trial proceeded with. Upon a verdict of guilty the Judge sentenced the prisoner to be hanged on the 24th day of January at Webster, the county seat of Jackson. All the facts in the case, with the particulars of the murder, have been heretofore published in the NEWS.

ARRIVAL OF CONVICTS.—Wm. R. Asheworth, Esq., Sheriff of Randolph county, brought to the city yesterday three recruits for the penitentiary, convicted at the last term of Randolph county Superior Court for robbing the safe of the Clerk of the Court, B. B. Bulls, and sentenced as follows: Calvin Robbins and his wife for seven years, and Sallie Smith for five years. They were all white.

A NOVEL FEATURE IN NORTH CAROLINA HISTORY.—The county of Randolph, though Radical, is gifted with a most efficient set of officers, and all elected upon a young man's platform. For instance, the Clerk of the Supreme Court, A. M. Diffee, is 26 years of age; The Sheriff W. R. Ashworth, 26; Geo. W. Reid, representative, 23; H. J. Page, register of deeds, 22, and Daniel Burrow, Coroner 22.

DEER HUNT IN RANDOLPH.—Judge Tourgee, Col. John A. Gilmer, of Greensboro', Sheriff Ashworth and Messrs. Diffee and Page, of Asboro', had a deer hunt in Randoph county Christmas. They succeeded in killing four or five bucks, which was pretty good hunting for that section.

### STRIKING DOWN THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.

Judge Durell, the Federal Jeffreys in Louisiana, not only sets aside elections, displaces Governors, turns out Legislatures and abolishes State Governments by the dash of his pen, but by the same potent agency he re-establishes a new Government of his own partisans, and procures an order from the President of the United States sustaining his action and commanding obedience and submission to the bogus authorities.

It is difficult to mention any vital principle of free Government which has not been violated by Durell and his conspirators in the Louisiana infamy. During this war upon the people's rights, the freedom of the press has not escaped. A base, unwarranted, cowardly assault has been made upon its liberties by the recent suppression of the *New Orleans Times*.

This paper had criticized with just severity and much ability the usurpatory conduct of Durell, Pinchback and company, and by its manly and patriotic course it brought down upon its head the condemnation and vengeance of the Rump Government. The fiat was issued—the order was obeyed—and the *Times* fell—a victim of Radical hate and Radical persecution!

We know the plea is set up by Durell and his friends, that the paper was thrown into bankruptcy on account of a debt of fifteen hundred dollars—but this is a mere pretence and its falsity becomes apparent when it is known that three times that amount was tendered to the person who commenced the proceeding. Even if the sum due by the *Times* had not been tendered, the public would have been slow to believe that a *bona fide* creditor of a newspaper would have crippled the means upon which he relied for repayment and struck down the only source of profit of his debtor, if he was influenced solely by the desire to recover his debt. Political, not pecuniary, motives impelled the action which resulted in the silencing of the voice of one of the leading newspaper of Louisiana, at this critical juncture in political affairs.

This indignity, this high-handed outrage, this unwarranted usurpation, this unexampled licentiousness of power, illustrate the political demoralization of the age and the alarming stride the country is making toward relentless and unmasked despotism!

In the sight of day, in the noon-tide light of the nineteenth century, before the eyes of the nation, in the face of the whole world, the freedom of the press is stricken down in one of the United States of America, by a Federal Judge, backed by the bayonets of Federal soldiery and sustained by the arm of the National Executive!

And yet this is called the land of free institutions—of freedom of thought, of speech and of the press! And yet this is America—the birth-place of Liberty and the cradle of Independence! And yet this is the great American Republic! the asylum for the oppressed of every clime and of every creed!

"Oh Liberty! how many crimes are committed in thy name!"

### THE ROLE OF LITTLEFIELD IN ALABAMA.

It is apparent, from the recent action of the Radicals in the Alabama Legislature, that schemes of plunder and peculation have been set on foot in that State, which, if successful, will prove a rich harvest for the corrupt plotters.

The Radical Legislature, which holds its separate sessions in the Court House, in Montgomery, in violation of the agreement suggested by Attorney General Williams, recently passed an act authorizing the issue of bonds to the amount of two millions of dollars, and an agent by the name of Mitchell, who was appointed to negotiate the same, is now in the market with this bogus paper, endeavoring to palm it off upon the commercial world as if it were issued by a legal, authorized body.

But the State press has warned the public that these bonds are not legally issued—that the Legislature issuing them was not the lawful Legislature of Alabama, and that the people of the State, in advance, protest that they will not be paid, and are utterly worthless.

North Carolina has been plundered by the conduct of such wretches as are now figuring in the Rump Legislature of Alabama, until there is nothing left to steal, according to the statement of a leading Radical who left the State on that account.

Bonds were issued from time to time by the Radical Legislature of North Carolina in 1869 and 1870 until they reached the amount of nearly twenty millions of dollars. Many of these were negotiated by the Littlefield-Swepson ring, who put the money in their own pockets without accounting to the State—thus breaking down the credit of North Carolina and fleecing the public to enrich themselves.

We have no more confidence in the Court House Legislature now sitting in Alabama than we have in the Littlefield-Swepson ring of North Carolina. The people of Alabama see what has been done by the Radicals in every Southern State in which they have had control, and hence are wide awake and on their guard.

There is a graceful Dutch proverb that a house full of daughters is like a cellar full of sour beer.

### GEN. JAMES H. LANE.

The Richmond papers contradict the rumor which has been published by some of our State exchanges that Gen. James H. Lane, of Lane's famous North Carolina Brigade, had been engaged to preside over the Hillsboro Military Academy, now owned by Col. Paul Cameron and which has been recently repaired and fitted up by him for a military and classical school.

Gen. Lane is now Professor of Natural Philosophy, Chemistry and Military Tactics in the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College, at Blacksburg.

Although a Virginian by birth, Gen. Lane is closely identified with North Carolina which until recently was the home of his adoption. He was associated with Gen. Hill in conducting the Charlotte Military Institute, at the time of breaking out of hostilities between the North and the South, and was made Major of the 1st, or Bethel Regiment of volunteers. Gen. Hill being made Colonel and C. C. Lee Lieutenant Colonel. The latter was killed while at the head of another Regiment.

Gen. Lane was afterwards Colonel of the 33rd Regiment of State Troops, of Branch's Brigade, and after the death of Gen. Branch was appointed to succeed that distinguished officer. Gen. Lane performed gallant service during the war—was wounded several times, and was highly esteemed for his bravery, skill, modesty and moral character.

After the close of the war he returned to the home of his choice, North Carolina, and established a school in Cabarrus County.

A more lucrative situation being offered him in Virginia, he accepted the position, and we have not heard of him since until we saw his name in connection with the superintendence of the Hillsboro Academy.

We regret that Gen. Lane has declined the position tendered him at Hillsboro, as such an accomplished and patriotic gentleman would be a valuable accession to any State.

### THE DUTY OF THE PRESS.

The public press is a great power in the land. It is potent for good or evil. Properly directed, it is capable of accomplishing incalculable good for mankind. Under evil influences, it is calculated to work a vast amount of mischief.

It is the duty of the press to avoid licentiousness of speech—to elevate and instruct and refine.

The Northern pictorials of a certain class are exercising a highly pernicious influence on the morals of that community that may be cursed with their circulation. Such journals should be banished from society and shunned with the same aversion as a pestilence.

Step by step the political journalism of the land is descending from its high estate and bringing reproach and disgrace upon a noble profession. Instead of that high tone, dignity, courtesy and chivalrous honor which should characterize gentlemen in every walk and circle of life, we find that many newspapers that are considered respectable, delight in feeding upon the private reputations of their personal and political opponents and invading the sanctity of the domestic hearthstone to open to the gaze of the public, the wounds that should be kept veiled forever in secrecy.

It is certainly a sad commentary upon the degeneracy of the times when the public taste has become so depraved that it finds refreshment and gratification in reading columns of vituperation and personal invective—usually the emanation of a wicked and corrupt heart.

No character is too pure, no object too high, no conduct too noble, to escape calumny and slander. And when the press lends its voice and influence to such unholy impious work, it becomes recreant in its high mission and is prostituted in an unrightous cause.

### THE HERALD'S INCONSISTENCY.

We alluded a few days since to the position of the New York *Herald*, that the Credit Mobilier was a private affair with which Congress had nothing to do, and the effort to investigate the charges of bribery and corruption alleged against certain Congressmen in connection therewith was impertinent and unjust. According to the *Herald*, Congress had no authority to pry into the individual transactions of its members, and therefore the appointment of a Committee of investigation to enquire into the truthfulness of the charges alleged by McComb against those who held stock in the Credit Mobilier was absurd and officious.

But as developments of a most damaging character have been brought out by the Committee, and as it has been well established that leading Radical Congressmen, who were the most active supporters of the Pacific Railroad schemes, have received large dividends from the Credit Mobilier stock, the *Herald* pronounces the affair the most stupendous swindle on record, and now advocates the most searching investigation of the conduct of the implicated Congressmen.

A man in Keokuk recently started an office furnished with a pair of blacksmith's bellows for the inflating of rubber bustles—ladies go there to be blown up.

### A CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF EMANCIPATION.

The following invitation, which has been laid upon our table, has brought to mind an article which we recently read, taken from Mr. Welles' History of Emancipation:

"TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROCLAMATION OF EMANCIPATION.

"You are cordially solicited to be present at Metropolitan Hall, Wednesday, January 1st, 1873, on the occasion of the Grand Emancipation Proclamation Celebration, exercises to commence at 10 o'clock, A. M.

C. N. HUNTER,
President of the Day,
H. LOCKHART,
Chairman Com. of Arrangements,
H. H. LANE,
Chief Marshal.

H. RUFUS DAVIS, JR.,
Secretary."

It may be interesting to our readers to refer to the views of the members of Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet, when the question of the emancipation proclamation was first discussed. According to Mr. Gideon Welles, who was then Mr. Lincoln's Secretary of the Navy, the subject was first mentioned in August 1862.

It was President Lincoln's own suggestion, and early in that month he called a special meeting of the Cabinet to take the matter into consideration.

At this meeting Mr. Blair and Mr. Chase were absent, the other members of the Cabinet being present and taking part in the debate.

President Lincoln then submitted a rough draft of the proclamation of emancipation, the substance of which was that after a certain day, all the slaves in the States in rebellion should be offered their freedom. He invited a free discussion of the contemplated step, remarking, at the same time, that the question was fully settled in his own mind; "that he had decreed emancipation in a certain contingency, and the responsibility of the measure was his, but he desired to hear the views of his associates and receive any suggestions, for or against, which they might make."

The President added that he had dwelt long on the subject, and formed his own conclusions, and had already mentioned the matter in confidence to one or two of the members.

Mr. Bates, from Missouri, is represented as having very decidedly approved of the proposition but wished to couple deportation with emancipation. He said that although a Southern man, and born in a slave State, he was always opposed to slavery. He wished the slaves to be free, but thought the colored race should leave the country. He thought it was impossible for the two races to assimilate but by amalgamation, and "they could not amalgamate without degradation and demoralization to the white race."

"The whites," added Mr. Bates, "might be brought down but the negroes could not be lifted to a much higher plane than they now occupied. He had been a close observer of the influence of slavery on the enterprise and welfare of the country through a long life, had deplored its effects, and himself had given freedom to his own slaves, and wished them and their fellows in Africa or elsewhere than in the United States. He was fully convinced the two races could not live and thrive in social proximity. The result of any attempt to place them on terms of equality would be strife, contention and a vicious population as in Mexico. The whites might be debased, but the blacks could not be elevated, even by the disgusting process of mixed breeds, which was repugnant to nature and to our moral and better instincts. He therefore wished a system of deportation to accompany any scheme of emancipation. THESE WERE ALSO THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS."

The above is the language of Mr. Welles, and we presume it will not be questioned.

Mr. Seward is represented as favoring a postponement of the proposition, saying it would be considered "a despairing cry—a shriek from and for the the Administration—rather than for freedom." The President concurred with Mr. Seward, and suspended his proclamation until after the battle of Antietam, on the 17th of September following.

### THE NEW YEAR.

1872 is dead! Its joys and its sorrows, its disappointments and its realizations, its visions of bliss and its agonies of despair, its sunshine and its storms, its virtues and its crimes, belong to the irrevocable past.

1872 is dead! At the grave of the old year, the new has been ushered into existence—the new, with its brow radiant with hope—with its heart bouyant with joyous anticipations!

1872 is dead! Let its sorrows be buried with it. Let its errors be forgotten. Let the mantle of charity cover its short comings and its follies. Let us indulge in no vain regrets over duties unfulfilled, promises unredeemed and pledges violated. The past cannot be recalled. We may learn from it, lessons of wisdom and experience. We may profit by its admonitions. But we cannot alter one jot or tittle its stern realities.

1872 is dead! 1873 is upon us. It comes with its responsibilities and its duties as well as its hopes. A new leaf—unsoiled, spotless, in the register of Time, has been turned over—ready to receive impressions and to record the diary of the ensuing year. Each life has a record of its own to keep—and each is answerable to its conscience and its God for the manner of keeping.

1872 is dead! In the spirit of *de mortuis nil nisi bonum*, we will not speak irreverently or harshly of the old year. We might dwell with painful sadness on the rapid decay of public virtue, the demoralizing tendency of the times, the corruption in high places, the onward march of despotism, the trampling down the rights and liberties of sovereign States, and the triumph of arbitrary, unlicensed power over truth, and justice and law. But we prefer, today, to draw the curtain over this forbidding picture, and to look forward to the future for a brighter—more cheerful view. Let us indulge the hope that the political crisis has been reached—that the enemies of free institutions have done their worst—that, with a returning sense of justice, a spirit of genuine liberty, patriotism and fraternity may be infused in the hearts of the masses and rulers, to turn back the tide of despotism, and to preserve the blessings of civil Constitutional Government transmitted to our keeping, not only for ourselves and our generation, but for our posterity forever!

### THE NORFOLK VIRGINIAN.

This valued and ably conducted newspaper reached our sanctum yesterday in a fresh and highly becoming typographical outfit—ready to greet the new year in a bran new suit.

The *Virginian*, edited by that accomplished gentleman and fine *belle-lettres* scholar, Capt. James Barron Hope, occupies a high position among the journals of the Old Dominion, and we are pleased to note this new evidence of its prosperity and appreciation.

Capt. Hope is well known to the literary public of this State on account of his admirable poems—not the least deserving of which was the one delivered in Warren county, on the occasion of the funeral ceremonies at the grave of Annie Cora Lee, daughter of General Robert E. Lee, who is buried near Jones' Springs, in this State.

The *Virginian* has our heartfelt good wishes for a long career of usefulness and success.

The necrology of the past year is very full, but death has not leveled his arrows at many who were pre-eminently shining marks. No one name stands above the rest—a loss that nations mourn. Many men of eminence, however, have died, and some that played important parts in American history. Seward and Greeley, Edwin Forrest, Gerrett Davis, Major General Meade, Professors Morse, and Lieber, James Gordon Bennett, T. Buchanan Read, George Catlin and Fanny Fern have passed away. Only one reigning King has died—Charles the Fifteenth, of Sweden, and two Presidents—Juarez, President of Mexico, and Balta, President of Peru. In England, Sir Henry L. Bulwer; in Holland, Johann Eudolph Thorbecke; in Bavaria, Count Hegnenberg Dux; in Canada, John Stansfield Macdonald. The English navy has lost Sir Thomas John Cochrane, G. C. B., Admiral of the Fleet, Admiral Sir James Scott, K. C. B., and Sir George Pollock; the French army, Marshal Valliant. The Christ-ministry misses Rev. Frederick Denison Maurice, Rev. Norman MacLeod, and Right Rev. T. V. Sharp. Literature losses Charles Lever, Albany Fonblanque, Ludwig Feuerbach, Frederick Gerstacker, Theophile Gautier, and Merle D'Aubigne.

The Government of England finds employment for many of its literary men, and thus enables them to make of letters the good "walking stick" rather than the "bad crutch." It gives them, in other words, a sense of independence of their writings, and enables them to pass freer, happier and more comfortable lives. There is also the pension list—miserably inadequate, it is true, yet often a help in time of distress, as in the case of the one hundred pounds that rendered less painful the death-bed of Tom Hood. In England there have always been quiet places, little nooks, where the work of the study rather than of the counting room is needed. Arthur Helps, Henry Taylor, the author of "Phillip Van Artevelde," Dr. Dasent, Brank Buckland, Francis T. Palgrave, Matthew Arnold and others hold Government offices. In this free land of ours the custom house, where the experience of Hawthorne comes in very unfavorably, and where Richard Grant White and others hold appointments, appears to be rather a refuge than a reward of literary men.

Very early on the morning of the 23d an elegantly dressed female was found leaning against the doorway of a store on Washington street, near Avon, in Boston. She was insensible, for the chill of the intense cold was on her. The humane policeman who froze his hands while attempting to resuscitate her spoke harshly when he discovered that he had rubbed the paint off the cheeks of the wax beauty, who, before she was burned out, was wont to smile from the window of the hair store opposite.

Mrs. Mary D'Arcy arrived in New York on Friday, from Dayton, Ohio, to take her niece, Kate Cummings, who had been employed at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, back home with her, and learned for the first time that the unfortunate girl had been smothered and burned in the recent fire. It appears that Miss Cummings was well educated, and had left a comfortable home owing to a misfortune.

A wholesale slaughter of buffaloes is going on at the West. A Kansas paper says there are south of the Arkansas and west of the Wichita, from one to two thousand men, shooting buffaloes for their hides alone.

### Discussion Among the Methodist Ministers---Pigeon Match---More About the Ice--The Greeley Will Case.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—The Methodist preachers, at their meeting yesterday, had a warm discussion on the annihilation of the wicked. Many deprecated the introduction of topics for discussion not in accordance with the doctrines of the Methodist Church. A committee was appointed to settle the subject for discussion.

A pigeon match, between Paine and Barker, resulted 87 each. It was agreed to shoot off at five pair each, when Paine won by three birds.

Two inches of snow fell last night.

A heavy fog interfered with the ferries.

The ice at Hell Gate is very severe, and steamers have great difficulty in working through.

The ice on the North river, above the city, has entirely stopped navigation.

The wrecked brig, C. Y. Clone, has gone to pieces.

Another phase of the Greeley will case came up before the Surrogate yesterday, by which the contestante served notice upon Miss Greeley to show cause why the Greeley will of 1871 should not be admitted to probate. Evidence will be offered in support of that will on the 13th, 14th and 15th of January. The Surrogate has appointed J. E. Williams and W. M. Skinner appraisers of the personal estate in the case in which J. P. Cleveland was previously appointed administrator, pending litigation, and Mr. Skinner also is appointed special guardian of Miss Gabrielle Greeley under the will of 1871.

### The Sultan of Zanzibar on the Slavery Question—Opposition of the Citizens to King Amadeus—Fatal Wreck at Sea, Etc.

ZANZIBAR, Dec. 18.—The United States steamer Yantic arrived on the 10th. Captain Wilson, with United States consul John T. Webb and officers of the ship, visited Sultan on 11th.—They were received by troops and met by Sultan in front of the palace. Capt. Wilson represented to Sultan the sentiment of the American people in regard to slavery and requested the abrogation of the clause of the treaty with England, which permits slavery to Zanzibar and to British Dominion Territory, contained in the treaty made with England in 1840. The sultan's reply was received on 17th. He says, "thirty-three years ago I was forbidden by my father to export slaves to Muscato." The slaves now carried there are stolen by Arabs and tribes from Persian Gulf. I will make strong efforts in the future to prevent the kid-napping these slaves. I will make every effort.

MADRID, Dec. 31.—A rising of the Apollonists is expected. The government is prepared to suppress it. The citizens of Madrid are opposed to Amadeus, who is greatly excited.

HALIFAX, Dec. 31.—The schooner Lord of the Isles, from St. Martin, was wrecked on Iron bound Islands. The Captain, Mate and four of the crew perished.

### Murder of a Family by Indians—Gens. Schofield and Alexander on a Secret Mission, &c.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 31.—The Lee family of circus performers, eight persons, were murdered by the Apaches while travelling through Arizona.

The California sailed for Honalula today. Gens. Schofield and Alexander were aboard. There mission is unknown, but is supposed to have some connection with the critical situation in the Sandwich Islands.

### From St. Louis—Snow Disappearing—A Bridge Threatened, &c.

ST. LOUIS, Dec 31.—Drizzling rain. The snow is disappearing. The gorge above the bridge is broken by the rain which continues. The bridge will not be used for fear of a momentary break which may demolish the bridge.

### Large Fire in Alexandria.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., Dec. 31.—A block of five brick warehouses on Union street has been burned. Loss $100,000.

### General Intelligence.

FRANKFORT, KY., Dec. 31.—All prisoners confined in the Frankfort jail escaped last night by cutting through the roof.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 31.—All the shore ice below Wolf river disappeared during last night. A large quantity of ice is running in the river and it is believed that the gorge at Randolph is broken, but the ice has softened so much that no further damage is apprehended. Boats at the levees are loading and preparing to leave.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Dec. 31.—Early this morning the ice broke the steamers Mountain Boy, Messenger and Grey Eagle loose from the foot of Walnut street wharf and carried them down on the mail line wharf boat at the foot of Vine street, sinking the Mountain Boy and damaging the other two boats.

The Mountain Boy is sunk to her boiler deck and is being held up by ice. She is valued at nine thousand dollars, and is now being wrecked.

The Messenger is crowded between the Mountain Boy and Grey Eagle and has both sides and her after guards broken in and her cylender cracked—She is in a bad condition and it is very doubtful if she can be saved.

Four hundred and fifty tons of cargo are on board of the Messenger.

The Grey Eagle has her guards smashed and is crowded on the wharf boat.

The Leona, owned by the Louisville Mail Line Company was landed a mile or so below the city and is fast in the ice. No coal of any amount was lost here, though several empty barges were carried away. The ice stopped moving before 7 o'clock and has not gorged since, as it is still running. It is feared the ice will move again at any moment when greater damage is expected. All the boats have steam up.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 31.—Jno. A. Brown, the oldest Banker and Broker in this city, died to-day, aged 85. In 1871 he donated $300,000 to the Presbyterian hospital in this city.

JEFFERSON, Mo., Dec. 31.—The legislature meets to morrow. It elects a U. S. Senator to succeed Blair. It is probable that the pure Democracy will rule.

CINCINNATI, OHIO, Dec. 31.—Saint James Episcopal Church has been burned. It was valued at $40,000.

THE WEEKLY NEWS

RATES OF ADVERTISING.

| | |
|---|---|
| One square, one insertion | $1 00 |
| One square, two insertions | 1 50 |
| One square, three insertions | 2 00 |
| One square, four insertions | 2 [illegible] |
| One square, three months | 6 [illegible] |
| One square, six months | 10 [illegible] |
| One square, twelve months | 18 [illegible] |

For larger advertisements liberal contracts will be made. Ten lines solid nonpareil constitute one square.

### STATE NEWS.

WILMINGTON is troubled with chicken thieves.

ALL the horses in Jefferson have the distemper.

WIFE beating some times happens in Wilmington.

SNOW was 12 inches deep in Fayetteville on Friday last.

THE horse malady has entirely disappeared from Statesville.

IT is reported that the small pox is at Laurel Springs, Jefferson county.

ONLY three patients were sent to the Wilmington hospital last week.

NEWBERN papers complain of the scarcity of meat and fish in their market.

OUR State exchanges from all sections speak of the severity of the weather.

WILMINGTON gormandized last week to the extent of 34 beeves, 36 hogs and 6 sheep.

ON Friday Wilmington witnessed a fall of snow when the sun was shining brightly.

THE Sunday School Board of the Baptist State Convention met in Charlotte recently.

THREE rogues were caught plundering at the recent fire in Wilmington and sent to the work house.

NEWBERN has a lodge of Knights of Pythias by the name of "Athenia." It has 28 charter members.

THE small pox is in the family of Mr. Joseph Flowers, five miles of Rockingham, near the Pee Dee river.

THE 1st National Bank of Wilmington has declared a dividend of 6 per cent, payable to-day (Wednesday.)

WILMINGTON authorities would not allow guns and pistols to be fired within the city limits during the holidays.

PROF. EDWARD DAVIS, formerly of Newbern but latterly of Baltimore lectured in Wilmington on Monday night.

FRED TUNES, a colored lad, accidentally shot himself through the hand the other day in Wilmington while trifling with a pistol.

GEORGE W. PRICE, JR., colored, is to deliver a lecture before the pupils of the A. M. E. Sunday Schools of Wilmington on Monday next.

THE mail train on the N. C. R. R., on Saturday reached Charlotte nearly four hours behind time. The delay was caused by running off the track.

THE dwelling house of Mr. George Hunts, near White Store, Anson county, was destroyed by fire last week. The cause is supposed to have been accidental.

MR. ALEX SHOLAR, of Wilmington, while shooting snipe on the the west side of the Cape Fear on Saturday, shot himself in the foot inflicting a severe wound.

AN investigation has proved that the delay in the action of the Wilmington Fire Department during the recent fire, was caused by the insufficient amount of hose on hand.

DRS. FREEMAN and Baldwin lost from $2,00 to $2,500 by the fire Thursday night in Wilmington. They lost all their instruments and a quantity of gold foil.

THE house of Mrs. M. L. Brown, two miles of Salisbury, was destroyed by fire Christmas night. Nothing was saved. It is believed to have been the work of an incendiary.

ON Thursday morning last the engine attached to the passenger train on the Western N. C. R. R., was thrown down an enbankment some ten feet high. None of the cars followed, and no one was hurt.

A PACKAGE containing $1,000, sent by Wooten's Express from Wilmington to Wadesboro' to Mr. J. B. Burns, was appropriated by parties for whom it was not intended. The agent, Mr. J. Alford and Mr. Hockity, the driver of the wagon, have both been arrested.

ON account of the severity of the weather and the indisposition of the orator, Hon. A. M. Waddell, the public ceremonies of the celebration of St. John's Day, (Friday) by the masonic fraternity of Wilmington, were postponed. The banquet came off and was a brilliant affair.

THE Charlotte *Observer* of the 29th inst., says that Coroner Little arrested Mr. John S. Means on Saturday, in the hall of the Mansion House, on the charge of killing one Frank Kerr, col., and goes on to say that Mr. Means would have a hearing on the following Monday. It says nothing in regard to the particulars of the killing nor at what time the affair occurred.

### The Indian War.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec 31.—The military sent to fight Indians have not yet succeeded in drawing the warriors from their stronghold at Reo Wright's cave. Every strategy to dislodge them, thus far has failed. Howitzers and bomb shells, which have arrived from Fort Vancouver, will be used against them. Additional troops have been stationed at Fort Klamath. Captain Jakes band has been increased, and now numbers over 100 warriors, who are so well armed and have the reputation of being good fighting men.

Col. Bud Doble arrived last night, with "Rosalind Elms" and "Dan Voorhees," which were taken to the agricultural park to-day, to go into training to race with Accident.

A Western paper wants a real printer's monument to Horace Greeley, to be cast from worn out type, to which newspaper offices from all over the country can contribute, and be mounted on a granite base.

An Italian sailor undertook to run a muck at Prawle Point, Eng., lately, and after stabbing about half a dozen persons, was laid low by one blow of a sabre in the hands of a coast guard officer.

An item of news from Nice is to the effect that the olive harvest is valued at twelve millions of francs—the largest that has ever been known in the department.