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JESSE TURNER, Jr., EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1870.

COMMON SCHOOLS—AGAIN.

In our article on the subject of Common Schools, two days ago, we alluded to the fact that, inadequate as is the Common School fund to successfully keep in operation an efficient system of schools in the State, the Treasury was forced to borrow from this fund, money to meet the expenses of the Legislature and the Asylums.

We are informed, and requested to say, (not by Mr. Ashley however) that the Superintendent of Public Instruction is, and ever has been, strenuously opposed to the diversion of any of this money to any other than its legitimate purpose for which it was designed, and that no part of the sum arising from the current school tax or interest on the permanent fund has been allowed by him to be so diverted.

We had no intention, in the article in question, of intimating that Mr. Ashley was desirous, or even willing, to have any of the literary fund used, even as a loan, for the purpose of general State expense.—Indeed, we suppose he would naturally oppose any such diversion. But, his likes or dislikes, notwithstanding, the funds have been so used, which fact goes fully to sustain the position we took, namely, that almost at the very commencement of the financial year, after nearly all the Sheriffs had made settlement for their taxes, the resources of the State were so exhausted as to make it necessary to borrow from the literary fund to meet current expenses of the State Government; and, therefore, no assistance could be looked for from the enormous amounts of money raised by taxation, to eke out the pitiful and totally inadequate amount set apart for inaugurating and carrying on a system of Public Schools in the State. That is what we meant to make apparent by our allusion to the matter, and it is true, (unless it is not sanctioned by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

In our article, we were alluding to the impracticability of opening and carrying on the Common Schools, according to the provisions that have been, from time to time, held out to the people; because, in the first place, of a want of sufficient funds for the purpose, and secondly, that with all the funds that could be asked, the present Superintendent of Public Instruction is not the man fitted for the work in this State, because of his ignorance of localities and of the people; his want, as we conceive, of administrative capacity, and on these and other grounds, of the impossibility of his winning the cooperation of that class of the people capable of giving efficiency to well directed efforts, even if he were qualified to take them.

Now, let us look, for a moment, at the financial aspect of the question. We will take our county—Chatham—on which to base our calculations, and, we suppose, is the Superintendent of Public Instruction, has made a fair division of the funds to the counties, what is true of Chatham is true of all the counties.

In this county there are twelve townships or school districts, of eight miles square each, according to the "plan," to be divided into four parts with two school houses—one for whites and one for blacks in each. Twelve townships with four School circles of two Schools each, to the Township, will make, if we calculate rightly, ninety-six schools for Chatham, according to the "plan."

The appropriation to Chatham, from the School fund, we will put down at $3000, which we believe, is the amount, in round numbers, for that county. Divide this sum between the schools, and it will give about thirty-five dollars to each, not more than enough to run the schools one month, for any teacher who could be obtained for less money would be a curse, as a teacher, to any neighborhood.

But back of this, we must remember, there are no school houses ready to go into, (according to the "plan" the houses must be central, and ought to be comfortable, and we suppose it will require at least $300 in each case, to put the right sort of house in the right place. And further, each pupil, white and black, after the house is built, and the school opened, is required to have certain books from A. S. Barnes & Co., that are to be paid for either by the pupils or the State—whence is the money to come from?

Now as to Mr. Ashley himself. We have said he is not the proper person for the position he occupies, even if there were no obstacles in the way, such as we have here detailed, existed to. And in our remarks in regard to him, we have no animosity or private ill feeling towards him—we simply speak as a public journalist on a great and important public question—one of the most important that can claim the attention of the people of the State. With Mr. Ashley as he is and is likely to be, we have nothing to do, but with him, as Superintendent of Public Instruction in our native State, about which we have deeply at heart, and of her reputation with, and place for the public position he occupies, we have a right to speak, and we will speak.

We have said Mr. Ashley is not the man to carry the Common School system into operation in North Carolina. He is a stranger to our people, unacquainted with our manners and customs and modes of thought, and without resorting to the meanest and most contemptible by which he has been placed where he is, (which were such, however, as to place him in the light of a mere partisan) he has been particularly unfortunate in conciliating the good will of our people, and of securing their co-operation in the arduous work of conducting a great and important enterprise.

In his action in regard to the Teachers' Institute in Chatham, the Friends' Normal School near High Point, and in his celebrated, (and we say, infamous) speech before the Educational Convention, in Trenton, New Jersey, last Fall, he has appeared to be sedulous in his efforts to drive from him the more intelligent portion of the people of the State. His assumptions of prerogative and dictation in affairs in which neither as individual or public officer, he had any right to interfere, has made no very favorable impression, but decidedly the contrary, on the minds of all those cognisant of the facts. His caricature of the people of North Carolina in his Trenton speech, will not soon be forgotten. We may be poor and somewhat "old foggy," but we don't like for a Cape Cod yankee to be drawing our pictures in this respect, for the amusement of an audience of strangers in New Jersey. As a private individual he can think and say what he pleases, but as a public officer of the State, the facts alluded to will militate against his power for effecting good, even were he otherwise qualified, which we greatly doubt.

We have said what we have to show the fallacy of the promises made to the people in regard to schools. Thousands and millions of dollars have been squandered, for which the State has not, is not now, nor ever will be, receiving any benefit, while the children of the State are growing up in ignorance, and the hope for anything better is clouded by just the state of facts, in our humble opinion, we have here but imperfectly given.

The subject is not exhausted, and we shall recur to it again.

GENERAL LITTLEFIELD.

The editor, who is now in the western part of the State, writes that Governor Holden's friend, General Littlefield, left the Danville Road and took the North Carolina train, at Greensboro, the General was looking well, and coolly remarked to a passenger that he was going to Florida to sink the balance of the $6,000,000 of State bonds; that they were so low now that it made but little difference what became of them. This stake holder of the State was as much looked at as the elephant or educated hog in the circus. Men and boys went in the smoking car to look at him. State bonds are so low that no one attempted to arrest him though $30,000 in that once good currency is offered for him. It is all right as to Littlefield; all the shame is on Governor Holden, who supports and sustains such a man by making him a State printer, and President of a Railroad, when he handles, without security, millions of money belonging to the people of the State.

The Editor also met officer Blackwood on the train, who had been to take Bob Gunn, negro from Greensboro to Hillsboro jail. Bob Gunn was arrested as one of the murderers of Blalock, of which we have given an account, two others are suspected, one of whom was arrested on Monday in Henderson, as stated elsewhere.

AN IMPORTANT ACT.—We copy the following important act for the benefit of all whom it may concern:

An act to Declare it a Misdemeanor for any County Officer to speculate in County Claims.

Section 1. That if any Clerk, Sheriff, Register of Deeds, County Treasurer, or other County or State officer, shall engage in the purchasing of any County or State claim at a less price than its full and true value, or at any discount thereon, or be interested in any speculation in such claims, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and subject to indictment in the Superior Court of the county in which the offence is committed; and, on conviction thereof, he shall be liable to removal from office at the discretion of the Court.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from and after its ratification.

Ratified the 19th day of April, 1869.

Notwithstanding the above, we are informed that a County Trustee, not a thousand miles from the State Capital, has been offering 40 cents in the dollar on claims against his county, at the same time declaring he had no county funds in hand to pay them off.

Salnave has fallen. The revolutionists attacked his last remaining stronghold, Port au-Prince, on the night of the 15th instant, drove in his pickets, and captured the city without a drop of blood being shed. Salnave fled to a fort near the city, and was supposed to be in great peril if the foreign vessels should not interfere to secure his safety. This ends the Haytien revolution. Salnave became conspicuous for the first time in July, 1864, by an attempt to assassinate one of President Geffrard's ministers. He was condemned to death by court-martial, but escaped to St. Domingo, headed a rebellion against Geffrard, and formed a provisional government, May 9, 1865.—The insurrection was, after several severe struggles, suppressed in November of that year. Salnave renewed the attempt, and succeeded in obtaining supreme power in June, 1867, Geffrard having fled the country. A revolt against the new Dictator broke out in 1868, and has continued, with varying fortune, until the present time.—About two months ago General Chevalier, the ablest of Salnave's generals, deserted his cause, and since then he has been cooped up in Port au-Prince. His reign has covered two years and six months.—*N. Y. Herald.*

A gentleman who canvassed Indianapolis to secure accommodations for the lady teachers attending the State Association, was alarmed at the extent of the sickness prevailing. Of the thirty seven families called upon, thirty "would like to accommodate, and would do so, but for sickness in the family."

GRANVILLE COUNTY.

We make the following extracts from a letter from a friend in Granville, as showing the state of affairs in that county:

"We had, last Friday, a meeting of the leagues of Granville, in Oxford. They numbered quite small when compared with former demonstrations of the kind, on former occasions, there being only about eighty in procession. The time has been when they, on such a call, could have mustered 500 or upwards. The Radicals are badly scared, and have started these torn outs to try to call back those who have and are wandering from the fold. They have heard the mutterings of the thunderstorm ahead and are shaking in their boots. The leagues were addressed by Col. Sherrill Moore, who called upon them to stand up to the faith, to have frequent meetings, and keep up their organization; and to encourage them to do so, told them that he had been to Raleigh and urged upon the Legislature to pass a law allowing the jury to be drawn from the ballot box, instead of the tax book. He said this was all they needed now to make them 'masters of the situation,' and he had urged it as their friend. So you see the 40 acres and mule trick won't take here any longer, hence this new move. Lassiter and Cuffee also spoke, but made no allusion to their course in the Legislature.

The best speech of the day, and the most honest, was made by Allen Eaton, colored, a Magistrate of Henderson Township, and President of Henderson council. He arose for the purpose of beseeching the Oxford council to come to his assistance; he informed them that his council had backslidden; that he had tried, during the holiday, to call out his league and have a grand procession in Henderson, and had done his best, and could only muster fifteen, and half of them were boys. He said, "you must come down and help me, for I believe half of our men are Conservatives, now, and if something is not done I believe the balance will go." This speech tells the tale in Granville; the eyes of the colored people are being opened, they begin to see how they have been deceived, and you may bet it constantly from them that they have determined not to be gulled any longer."

THE GRAPHOTYPE.—It may not be generally known that the ingenious substitute for engraving on wood, which is coming extensively into use in England and elsewhere for purposes of illustration, is really an American invention, that of Mr. De Witt Clinton Hitchcock. The process by which the desired result is accomplished is as simple as it is ingenious. An artificial tablet of smooth chalk is obtained by reducing the finest French chalk to powder, and mixing it with water to the consistency of cream, separating the parts that precipitate, and repeating the operation several times, so as to obtain an impalpable powder, capable of forming by compression a smooth, uniform substance. Sometimes the chalk is simply passed through a sieve of one hundred meshes to the square inch. The chalk thus obtained is spread evenly in a pretty thick layer upon a smooth plate of zinc, over which a flat plate of highly polished steel is placed, so that the chalk rests between two plates, and the whole subjected to a hydraulic pressure of one hundred and fifty tons, which produces upon the chalk which remains attached to the zinc a hard, polished surface, like ivory. This is to be coated with a wash of strong size, and when dry, the drawing is made upon it, in lines, like those of a wood-cut. Sable hair brushes of different sizes, and an ink composed principally of glue and lamp black, with a little glycerine. An ink of borax, shellac and lamp-black, is also suggested. After the drawing is made the plate is subjected to the action of a rapidly rotating brush, which soon removes all the chalk between the ink lines, leaving these in relief. The surface is then coated with silicate of potash or soluble glass, which hardens it, and a mould taken in the ordinary manner, from which an electrotype or stereotype block is made, which is used to print from as from a wood cut. For some purposes of illustration this process answers admirably, and the result is obtained with very great readiness and at a trifling cost. Impressions of this cut have been taken within three hours after the completion of the drawing in chalk.—*Philadelphia Ledger.*

KISSING THE ROD.—"Mark," the wicked correspondent of the Cincinnati *Enquirer*, in one of his recent letters from Washington, writes:

"I confess to a feeling of malicious joy over the demonstration of opposition to the admission of Virginia Senators yesterday. It did me a vast amount of good to see the credentials of the two 'Senators elect' referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, which may appear strange, when it is remembered that they are 'Conservative' persons—elected in opposition to the Radicals. But I have not forgotten that when the Virginia election was over, and the Democratic party of the North had begun to rejoice over it, Mr. Walker and his associates rushed forward to assure them it was all a mistake, that the triumph was not one to challenge the sympathy of Northern Democrats at all; that it was an Administration triumph as opposed to the extremists. A nice distinction without a particle of difference. Nor have I forgotten that the first act of these 'Conservatives' was to send a delegation to Washington to knock gently at the White House door, approach the holy of holies on tiptoe, and hat in hand, ask the great high priest of Radicalism if he would deign to name the persons he would like to see elected to the Senate.

"Well, they have stooped—and have conquered; they have humbled and have fattened; they have kissed the rod of chastisement, and been kicked in return for their mess docility. They have supplemented a many struggle for what they believed to be right with a few frivolous complaints and whinings for what they know to be wrong. And as in the former they challenged the admiration of their enemies, so in the latter they have invoked the contempt of their friends."

THE MASQUERADE BALL LAST NIGHT.—Lowthrop Hall, last night, was crowded with spectators and participants in the masked ball, given under the auspices of the "Newborn Socialics". The masks and visitors began to come in early, and by ten o'clock, the floor was so filled, as almost to preclude dancing.

When the ball fairly opened the scene was inspiring and amusing. All nationalities appeared to be represented, and the animal tribe was not without its representations. Many of the maskers appeared not to have assumed any particular character, but left it to the spectators to determine what they were.—*Newborn Journal of Commerce, Jan. 1st.*

AN EXCELLENT APPOINTMENT.—We are pleased to learn that our young friend, R. O. Edwards, who has been for the past twelve months favorably known in connection with the "Silver Ware," has been installed as Agent of the Seaboard Hotel at this place. No better appointment could have been made, as Mr. Edwards can in every respect fill the position to the satisfaction of the Company. The Agency of the Boat Line will still be under his control.—*Roanoke News.*

HUMOROUS PARAPHRASE ON TREASURY REGULATIONS.

The frauds attempted, and in many cases consummated, by persons to deprive the government of the taxes on tobacco have given rise to the most stringent regulations from the officers of the Treasury Department. There is a prevalent opinion, however, that some of these regulations are unnecessarily severe in descending to small details, not of any special importance; but it is probable that the class of complainants referred to are guilty of the word said to look upon any tax upon the article as an infringement upon individual rights. The author of the subjoined quiz have taken the matter to heart with more than usual earnestness:

NOTICE TO TOBACCO CONSUMERS.

It is said that it is intended to petition Congress to pass the following law affecting tobacco consumers this winter:

Tobacco chewers are requested to get their tobacco from first hands, which is the first man you meet, who will give you a chew.

Where parties are in the habit of borrowing chews, the government will furnish each man with a mile mark, in which the time of day, the size of the quid, whether plug or fine cut, the quality and the time when the amount is to be refunded, must be strictly recorded.

Those parties who have been innocently using contraband tobacco will call on the nearest revenue officer and give in, as near as possible, the amount which they believe has been consumed. The officer will then furnish the necessary stamps, and if they are chewed up in his presence the government is then satisfied that no criminal wrong was meant.

Those persons who maliciously carry two boxes, one filled with base smoking tobacco, to give borrowers, the other containing superb fine cut for home consumption, are to be treated as deserving of death, and subject to the same.

No tobacco box must have more than two spigot holes in it, and the stamps must be pasted directly over these.

When a quid has been exhausted, the government strictly forbids it being thrown away until two oval chalk marks have been made across it, and a label attached bearing these words: "The fellow who chewed this has complied with all the requirements of the law, and persons are hereby warned not to chew this quid again."

Tobacco consumers must constantly bear in mind that the more stamps there are on a package of tobacco the cheaper does the weed become—in a row.

The government strictly forbids the use of these tobacco boxes having a concealed needle inside a nob on the cover, by which one forgets his desire for a chew after having the instrument run into his thumb about a foot.

The government has witnessed, with supreme sorrow, many young men, and old men also, when they have observed an acquaintance smoking a cigar, come out boldly and ask, "Have you got the mate to that?" Hereafter, in all such cases, the person asked will exhibit the following label, which the government will furnish on demand: "Ask me for ten cents."

THE SUEZ CANAL—AN INTERESTING FACT—THE LEVEL OF THE TWO SEAS.

It appears from the report of a careful survey by a nautical man, published in the London *Shipping Gazette*, that the Suez Canal is in every respect is a grand success and is working handsomely; but the most interesting fact reported is that throughout the canal a steady current moves from the Red Sea into the Mediterranean, varying in its velocity from three knots an hour, near Suez, to a knot and a half at the Mediterranean outlet. This current proves that the level of the Red Sea is higher than the level of the Mediterranean, and the question naturally occurs, if so, why?

It is simply because of the tremendous evaporation of the Mediterranean. This great inland sea is fed from the east by the powerful current of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles from the Black Sea, and from the Atlantic Ocean in the west through the Straits of Gibraltar, and by numerous rivers on both sides, and yet the hot and thirsty winds which sweep across it from the great desert of Africa keep it down by evaporation below the general ocean level. The evaporation from the Red Sea per square mile, with a roasting desert on each side, and nearer the equator, is immensely greater than that from the Mediterranean; but as the Red Sea is only a narrow gulf running up from the Indian Ocean, its aggregate loss is comparatively small, and easily supplied. At its northern extremity, as Suez, therefore, it is kept nearer the general level of the ocean than is the Mediterranean along the African coast.

But granting all this, what does it signify in a practical view of the Suez Canal? It signifies that the canal has become a river or an arm of the Indian Ocean flowing into the Mediterranean, and that unless this continual current be checked the flow of this inlet will in time wash down the sandy banks of the canal into its channel and fill it up. That is what is signified in a business point of view. If the report in question is correct (and we have no reason to doubt it), a pair of locks will be necessary at the Suez inlet to regulate the flow from the Red Sea. Otherwise a heavy wind up this sea of several days' duration may create such a current in the canal as to choke it up, with the washings from its banks in a single night.—*N. Y. Herald.*

ALMOST ANOTHER MINING HORROR.—The workings of the Nottingham mine at Plymouth, Pa.—the scene of the Avondale calamity—caught fire on Thursday, while fifty-five miners were below. No information was given them of their danger until the fire, by great exertions, was extinguished. When the miners came up and heard of the danger they had incurred an indignation meeting was held and they compelled the owner of the mines to take greater precautions and arrange greater facilities for escape before they would descend again. The owner did so grudgingly. Following so closely on the Avondale casualty and occurring in the immediate scene of that horror, this threatened disaster ought to offer an effective warning to the mine owners, and on their heads ought to fall the direct responsibility of their neglect or refusal to provide against such fatal accidents. But until the law reaches them they will go on as before, even in the fact of a dozen such disasters.—*N. Y. Herald.*

A SPANISH MURDER.—The Charleston *News* is informed that a young man named Lamar, a connection of the Georgia family of that name, was arrested by the Spaniards at Matanzas on the 23d of December and executed on the following day. The charge against him was that he had secreted some arms and a Cuban flag in his quarters, and was one of a band of conspirators who were to burn and destroy about thirty plantations on Christmas night. It is believed that there was not a word of truth in this tremendous tale. Lamar was called a negro by the Spaniards, but was a white man, born in Cuba of American parents. He walked to the place of execution coolly smoking a cigar, and died like a hero.

THE "LOST TRIBES"—ONE OF THEM FOUND IN ABYSSINIA.

One of the "Lost Tribes," said to have been found in Abyssinia, is described by M. Halevy in a paper read before a learned society in France. The people are known as the Falashas, and they number two hundred and sixty thousand souls. M. Halevy says they speak an Agua dialect called Falashina, or Kaffina, and into this language they have translated a Ghees version of the Old Testament. They do not practice polygamy. They circumcise their male children on the seventh day. Their proper names are derived from Hebrew Ancestors, and Ghees. The institution of purification is practiced. The children are taught the Bible, the Psalms, prayers, and sacred history. In the synagogues the sexes sit apart. Incense is burned during the services. Their religious hopes are turned to Jerusalem, but their ideas of Messiah are very indistinct. They are wholly unacquainted with Hebrew, and know nothing of the Sanhedrin instituted after the time of Ezra. They have a religious literature; keep the Sabbath rigidly; fast on Mondays and Thursday; keep the 9th of Ab to commemorate the destruction of Jerusalem; wash before and say grace after eating; have a traditional mode of slaughtering animals for food; and practice commemorative sacrifices on the holy days, and also for the repose of the souls of the dead.—Their women enjoy equality with men.—They hold slaves, but liberate them after a servitude of six years.

A SINGULAR MATRIMONY.—Our 'burg was the scene of a most singular marriage during the holidays just ended, and one which we dare say, has been seldom equaled in any section. The circumstances of this marriage are as follows: Thirty-seven years ago two loving hearts were united in matrimony. Twenty-two years ago the same couple, from some cause, agreeing to a mutual dissolution, separated. Three years thereafter a divorce was obtained at the instigation of the lady. The parties have not seen each other, or had any correspondence, for sixteen years. On a certain day during the late holidays, however, the couple, still remembering the days of long ago, met here by the merest accident, having arrived upon different trains at the same time. They met, the dead fire of the past was rekindled in the breasts of those two beings, upon whose heads the finger of time had already placed its mark—a few minutes conversation decided them to again unite their fortunes, and let the world move on its hickerings while they settled at its folly. They stopped at the Weldon Hotel, a messenger was dispatched to Halifax for licens, and at 8 o'clock that evening the twain were for the second time made one. And thus within a few short hours an error of the past was corrected, and as pretty a story weaved as has ever come under our personal observation.—*Roanoke News.*

A SEVERE ACCIDENT AT HALIFAX.—A Young Man Loses His Left Hand.—On Christmas morning a youth at Halifax, a clerk in the store of Mr. Wm. Arrington, met with an accident by which he sustained the loss of his left hand. The youth, named Geo. Simmons, was engaged in firing a Christmas gun, when the barrel of the gun exploded tearing his left hand in such a manner as to necessitate amputation just above the wrist, which was done by Dr. M. A. Wilcox, who is one of the most skilful surgeons in this section, assisted by Drs. Hilliard and Hart. While last we heard from Simmons he was doing as well as could be expected. He is, we believe, just Sussex county, Va.—*Roanoke News.*

Dr. Lewis A. Sayre, of New York, describes three cases of lead palsy which have recently come under his notice, as having been caused by the use of cosmetics to give rosy cheeks and softness to the complexion. In these three cases the disease was clearly attributable to the lead which is an essential ingredient in nearly all the nostrums sold under the names of "Bloom of Youth," "Beautifying Lotion," and the like. By the use of proper remedies the parties recovered, but for a long time they were as completely palsied as painters are who work much with white lead paint. The poison is absorbed by the skin and penetrates to the nerves.

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Dec 21, 1869, eod3mos.

NOTICE.

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PHIL THIAM,
City Treasurer.

dec 30-4t

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DR. E. B. HAYWOOD, Physician, Raleigh, N. C.
WM. H. JONES, Attorney at Law, Raleigh, N. C.
THOMAS TENNENT, Attorney at Law, Raleigh, N. C.
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dec. 31-3m

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jan. 1-2w.

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UNLESS SOONER DISPOSED OF AT PRIvate sale will be offered at public auction on Tuesday the 1st day of February, 1870, at the Auction House of W. H. Jones & Co., Raleigh, the following valuable property, viz:

A Valuable Tract of Land,

situated in Wake county, on the Yanceyville road, adjoining City Cemetery and others, containing 110 acres.

Terms—One-third cash, balance in equal installments at one and two years.

H. GRADY.

jan 1-4t