

THE ERA.

W. M. BROWN, Manager.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1875.

LOCAL AND STATE.

CHANGE.—We call attention to the schedule of the Piedmont Air-Line Railway in our advertising columns.

RETURNED.—His Excellency Governor Brogden returned to the city on Friday evening, 26th ult. The Governor spent Thanksgiving day with his friends in Wayne County.

SPECIAL TERM.—His Excellency Governor Brogden has ordered a special term of the Superior court for Halifax county to commence on the fourth Monday in December. Judge Moore will preside.

ARRIVED.—Our distinguished fellow-citizen, Hon. R. C. Badger, United States District Attorney, returned to the city on Monday morning. Mr. Badger has been on a visit to the Northern States and Canada.

RALEIGH COTTON MARKET.—Receipts of cotton for the week ending Nov. 27th, 1875, 1,894 bales; for same week last year, 1,590 bales; increase in receipts for week this year, 304 bales; whole receipts since 1st Sept. to date, 20,563 bales; corresponding time last year, 14,813 bales; increase in receipts up to date, 5,755.

THANKSGIVING DAY.—Thursday, 25th ult., was generally observed as a day of thanksgiving. At the churches in this city, the collections for the Orphans resulted as follows: Christ church, \$52.36; Good Shepherd, \$24.47; Salisbury Street Baptist church, \$60.03; Swain Street Baptist church, \$10; Presbyterian church, \$30.06.

PERSONAL.—We had the pleasure of seeing in the city on Monday, 29th ult., Col. Thomas B. Keogh, Chairman of the Republican State Executive Committee, and James E. Boyd, the good looking member of the Legislature and Convention delegate from Alamance county. Both gentlemen are in the enjoyment of excellent health.

UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT.—This tribunal commenced its session in the Senate chamber on Monday, 29th ult., Judge Brooks presiding. The grand jury was sworn in on Tuesday, the presiding Judge delivering in substance the usual charge.

Up to this writing, Hon. Hugh L. Bond, the Circuit Judge, has not arrived but is expected during the week. His presence is anxiously looked for by all having business in this court. Judge Bond, although a comparative stranger to our people, has, by his uniform courtesy, won the good opinion of all. As a lawyer he has but few superiors in the country, and his firmness of character, devoid as it is of petty prejudices, commands the respect of all with whom he comes in contact. We consider it an especial benefit that our portion of North Carolina is embraced within his circuit.

INSANE ASYLUM.—We are indebted to Dr. Eugene Grissom for a copy of the report of Superintendent and Board of Directors of this Institution for the official year ending October 31, 1875.

The number of admissions of males since the opening of the institution in 1866, were six hundred and fifty-five; discharges for the same period, five hundred and twenty-seven; remaining on the first day of November, 1875, one hundred and twenty-eight. The number of females admitted during the period above stated were four hundred and seventy-four; discharges, three hundred and fifty-three; remaining on the first day of November, 1875, one hundred and twenty-one. The total expenditures for the first ten months of the fiscal year, that is, from January 1, 1875, to Nov. 1, 1875, were \$59,186.98, leaving unexpended of the annual appropriation the sum of \$10,813.02.

The report is full, and embraces the clearest information in relation to the conduct of the institution.

A BEAUTIFUL TRIBUTE.—At the banquet given to the Board of Trade at the office of the Daily News, on Thanksgiving day, Nov. 25th, Dr. Eugene Grissom in response to the toast, "Woman," delivered a most beautiful tribute to the women of our land, from which the following is an extract. It is a production well worthy to be classified with the best standard literature of the day:

"Happy too is that young man who has grown up in the society of sisters, properly trained and educated, emulous of a mother's purity and grace. They refine his heart, his thoughts and his manners. Grossness of imagination recoils upon him as an insult to them. Female character is to him, for their sakes, almost a holy thing. The flowers which they nurtured and arranged in harmonious groups shed perfume around his house, and the melodies of their young joy, breathed from the sweetest instrument human ear

has ever heard (a female voice) fill its atmosphere with music, winning him from eternal temptations; or as they lean upon his arm and fondly look up to him for protection, he learns the blessedness of man's strength in supporting the weak and guarding the precious. God has enshrined peculiar goodness in the form of woman that her beauty might win, her gentle voice invite and the desire of her favor persuade men's stern souls to leave the paths of sinful strife for the ways of "pleasantness and peace." Were I asked to declare the preserving charm of our beloved country, I would point the enquirer not to the political capitals where legislators but express the popular opinion; nor to the public press whose magic power has been so eloquently portrayed to-night by Col. Donan; nor to the ballot box, the final arbiter; nor to the army and navy with their pomp and circumstance of war; nor to the star-spangled banner as it floats over the sea and over the land; but to the mothers with their youthful Gracchi who adorn the firesides and vocalize nurseries of the households throughout this broad land, from the humble cottages of the poor to the lordly mansions of the rich.

Here the minds that rule the land are fashioned. Here under God the destinies of the nation are determined.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Work of the Convention.

(Continued.) To the Editor of the Era: There is no portion of the American system of government dearer to the people, or that comes home to them more fully and beneficially, than the system of local self-government now existing in North Carolina. It is the foundation upon which other States have arisen into consequence and increased in all the elements of greatness, beyond even the dreams of theorists, within comparative recent years.

There is the feature of the Constitution against which the special champions of the rights of the people have directed their choicest and most dangerous weapons of political warfare—not, however, with the manly bearing of the skilled and magnanimous, but will all the low cunning and stratagem of the ambush and foe. Having every reason to believe that a large majority of the people were opposed to the Convention, and knowing full well that they were especially opposed to the breaking up of the Township system and the restoration of the county courts and the system of county governments as they existed in other days, they did not have the manliness to propose an amendment for the purpose of carrying out in detail their real views with objects, but graciously propose to confer upon the Legislature the powers necessary to control the entire subject, and make such changes and regulations as they in their wisdom may think proper. Why remove the provisions of the present Constitution in relation to county and municipal governments, and give the entire control to the Legislature? Is not the matter of self-government to be regulated by the organic law? In 1872 the question of local self-government was said to be the great question in the politics of this country, before which all others dwindled into insignificance. The great and overshadowing issues of the currency, the tariff, free trade, and civil rights, which had heretofore been the rallying cry of the people in Democracy, were abandoned, and in their stead loomed up in grandest and most majestic proportions that other single, solitary issue called local self-government, which it was said and fondly hoped would bring on a tidal wave, which would sweep the last vestige of aristocracy and centralization from this land, and freedom and popular rights.

What has occurred within the last three years to overturn this great principle, to render it less important, or more prudent to commit its control to indiscreet and changing legislators, rather than the organic law of the State? It is much to be feared that the dominant party in the Convention have some ulterior designs beyond what appear upon the surface, in attempting to leave local self-government to the mercy of constitutional provisions so important a part of the rights of the people—rights that have become endeared to them by their own personal experience and the practical administration of their every day transactions and affairs. It may be that they have fears that a majority of the people would not sanction a direct attack upon their dearest rights, and in combination with their boasted reforms in the matter of limiting the sessions of the Legislature and the pay of its members. It may be that they have high hopes and confident expectations that their work in disguise, as a whole, will pass the ordeal of the people, and that at no very distant day in the future a pliant and subservient Legislature will complete the grand scheme already begun to the entire satisfaction and complete overthrow of popular rights in North Carolina. It seems exceedingly strange that it should be considered so important that the Legislature should be limited and controlled in regard to matters of apparently the least importance, the most purely personal to themselves, and which have heretofore been left within their absolute and complete control, and that at the same time they should be clothed with the most important powers of government—powers that will enable them, at any time, to overturn the very foundations of society and reorganize and reconstruct the social and political fabric that shelters us from the storms of despotism and faction, at the will of a changing majority, whether the result of a popular will, or of an odious and fraudulent "gerrymander," in contempt of the real wishes of the people. Does such a course of procedure as this look like the result of that disinterested patriotism which longs only to free the people of the State from the domination of the carpet-bagger, a theist and negroes? Does it not, rather, seem to be a covert attempt to accomplish, by indirect means, objects which it is believed the people would not sanction if

Tweed's Faithful Wife.

They were married when the man was a chairmaker, and they might have had a happy career had the former remained honest. They lived in a plain manner, mingled with mechanics' society, and were the parents of two boys and two girls, good-looking and healthy children. The era of the metricious splendor has come and gone like a dream. The girls are married. Each had a diamond wedding and each has sunk into obscurity and poverty. The two sons once held fine appointments in the service of the ring, but they are now only lounging around the City Hall. The mother is in widow's desolation. The ill-gotten wealth is almost all gone. A million and a half has passed into the hands of her lawyers, and her husband is still a prisoner. A seely and corpulent old man, inhabiting a pair of rooms in the corner of a street, is all that is left of one who has been an alderman, Congressman, chair-maker and law commissioner of parks, public buildings and docks, State Senator, and for seven years the autocrat of this city. The only redeeming feature is the faithful wife, who is reducing herself to poverty in hope of obtaining her husband's release.—From a New York Letter.

Eating a Necessity.

Yes, say you; for a hungry stomach is, indeed, most inexorable and clamorous for food, and is not to be put off, or defrauded of its just claims. Some persons are said to live to eat, while others eat to live; and most of us are content with three meals a day. It is not eating, however, that makes us to live, but breathing, for we have to feed the cells of our lungs with vital air, every moment; and to cease to breathe, is to cease to live. Yet "three courses and a dessert," as well as the other stated refreshments of the festive board, are not to be ignored.—So Owen Meredith sings:

We may live without hope— We may live without hope— What is hope, but deceiving? We may live without love— What is passion, but pining? We may live without dining? That can live without dining? We may live without poetry, music, and art. We may live without conscience and live without heart; We may live without friends, we may live without friends, but civilized man cannot live without cooks.

Gubernatorial.

To the Editor of the Era: As our Democratic journals are beginning to announce the names of several distinguished gentlemen of their party for the honors of Governor when they come to nominate themselves for the people in seeking that position, we have not as yet seen a single name suggested that will satisfy the working-men of this State. As a workingman I say for one we want a WORKINGMAN, one who has labored with us from the bottom to the top round of the ladder, one whose every interest is identified with the masses; one who can sympathize with us in our misfortune, and cheer us in our success, one who has the interest of the old North State at heart and who desires to see her railroads built up and completed, her farming and mineral resources developed and opened; and such a man is to be found in the person of WILLIAM A. SMITH, of Johnston county. If our friends when they come to make a nomination should select the Major he will sweep this State by an overwhelming majority. We say to our Republican friends, give us W. A. Smith to support for Governor in 1876.

The Pardoning Power.

The Raleigh Sentinel of last week contains a communication censuring Gov. Brogden for what is considered the too free use of the pardoning power. In this District of the case of Ellwood was particularly cited. We know that the Governor has pardoned several persons who did not deserve a pardon, but we think he has been deceived by petitions. When at Raleigh recently we examined the papers in the Ellwood case, and were surprised at the powerful and strong petitions for his pardon. The Jurymen who tried the case, eight of the members of the Charlotte lawyers signed the petition for pardon, together with hundreds of other good men in this and adjoining counties. With such a petition as that is it any wonder the Governor pardoned Ellwood, although Judge Schenck and Solicitor Montgomery disapproved of it? The same may be said in regard to other pardons by the Governor in Mecklenburg, Gaston and Cleveland. Very often good men sign petitions without realizing the sign what they are endorsing, but it deceives the Governor and others. Hereafter we hope our people will be a little more careful how they petition for the release of criminals who should be hanged or sent to the Penitentiary.

We call the attention of the Governor to a matter concerning pardoning which is important to taxpayers—that is, persons who are pardoned should be made to pay or secure the cost of imprisonment, trial, &c., to each county in which he is tried or in which he committed the offence, before being released.—Charlotte Democrat.

True Love.

Of all the myths of the fair age, of its many legends and enchantments, true love seems to be the one great charm which has come down to us unchanged by time, untouched by steam-engines, and unexplained by science. Revenge may still exist with its daggers and flashes, and melodramatic boots and teeth; but we feel little sympathy for it, and are glad to see it looking more and more clumsy and out of place, except indeed in a Surrey theater. Mystery is also somewhat out of fashion, and its poor veils are sadly torn about and damaged, and its wondrous sorrows exploded. High-fown romances seem out of tune with our modern ideas; but true love is true love by whatever signs and language it is spoken—ever long as hearts beat, as long as life exists, in whatever age, iron or golden, we may seek it.—Miss Thackeray.

New wedding dresses, says a fashion journal, are of soft lusterless fabric, trimmed with a garrison of white tulle wrought with pearls, and also with picot crepe lisse that is scalloped and finished with a narrow "purl edging" or braid. These dresses have square court trains, elaborate tabliers, and curiously basques. The flowers are white crushed roses and glistening. Fichu and sashes are in other wedding dresses and on the tulle dresses of bridesmaids.

Success.

Purposes, however wise without plans, cannot be relied on for good results. Random or spasmodic efforts, like aimless shots, are usually no better than wasted time and strength. The purposes of shrewd men in the business of this life are always followed by carefully formed plans. Whether the object is learning, honor or wealth, the ways and means are all laid out according to the best rules and methods. The mariner has his chart, the architect his plan, and the sculptor his models and all as a means and condition of success. Invention, genius, or even what is sometimes called inspiration, can do little in any department of theoretic or practical science, except as it works by a well formed plan. The every step is an advance toward the accomplishment of the object. Every tactical of the ship made according to nautical law keeps her steadily nearing the port. Each stroke of the chisel brings the marble into a closer likeness of the model. No effort of time is lost, for nothing is done rashly or at random.

STATE.

A funeral party of ten persons were returning in a boat to Newbern a few days ago when the boat capsized a mile and a half from shore. It was with difficulty that the party, among whom were four children, were saved by clinging to the bottom of the boat until it could be turned over and bailed.—It is said that there is a Baptist church in a Wilkes county.—The exhibition at the Fayetteville Fair last week was good, and the attendance large.—J. W. McElrath, an old and respectable citizen of Burke, died at Morganton last week.—A vicious horse in Newbern bit a hostler's ear clean off even with his head on Sunday before last.—Bishop Cumming, the distinguished Reformed Episcopal Church divine, arrived in Wilmington on Friday evening 19th ult. and became the guest of T. C. Servoss.—A little two-year-old son of Mr. Monroe Murphy, of Richmond county, died last week from drinking concentrated ley, which had been carelessly left sitting within reach of him.—Lawyer Bryan, the colored man who was hanged in Beaufort last week, for the murder of Michael T. Langley, of Jones county, in 1874, made a full confession of his guilt before his hanging. He was 22 years of age when he committed the deed.—The Rockingham Courier says that Mr. A. W. Dawkins and Mr. McGowan while crossing the trestle on the railroad near Leak's old mill, in Richmond county, accidentally fell through to the ground injuring both of them very seriously.—Ashes of the late Hon. Wm. H. Ruffin, of Mitchell county, were obtained from his mine near Spruce Pine, a few days ago, a block of mica weighing 72 pounds. Capt. Arthur paid him \$150 for the block. This is perhaps the largest block ever obtained in the country.—The Rockingham Courier says that the gin house of Mr. James Skinner who lives near Pekin in Montgomery county was burned last week and also some ten or twelve bales of cotton and about 50 bushels of wheat. It was the work of an incendiary, and it is supposed that his object was to rob Mr. Skinner's house while he would be at the burning gin house.—An incendiary fire destroyed the kitchen of Mr. E. M. Holdbrooks, near Concord, a few nights ago.—Mr. Daniel French, brother of Hon. R. S. French, of Wintington, and father of Col. J. French, of Lumberton, died on Monday evening at the latter place.—One day last week, the wife of Mr. E. C. Parish, of Orange county, while riding in a buggy with Mrs. Hassel, was thrown or fell out of the vehicle, dislocating one of her shoulders.

Prof. Henry E. Shepherd, who delivered the splendid oration at the dedication of the Poe monument in Baltimore, is a son of the late Hon. J. G. Shepherd of Fayetteville.—The ladies of the Newbern Episcopal church have just had some pleasant festivals.—The uninsured gin-house and contents belonging to ex-Sheriff William Fields, of Lenoir county, were consumed several nights ago.—The Weldon News says a very interesting revival has been going on in Halifax for several days.—The Rev. M. H. Vaughan, of Louisville, has accepted the call from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church at Oxford, and will probably enter upon his duties in this latter connection about the first of December.—The Oxford Telegraph says that Farmville, Va., is moving for a Railroad to Keysville and thence by Clarksville through Granville county to Raleigh, or some eligible point on the N. C. Railroad.—Counterfeit nickles are in circulation in Charlotte. Ten thousand silver pieces have been sold in Mecklenburg and adjoining counties this season.—The farmers of Mecklenburg are discussing the fencing question. It is evident that many are opposed to it.—Mr. R. C. Kerr, of the National Cotton Exchange, says the North Carolina cotton crop has fallen off 20 per cent.—The Concord Sun says that more corn has been made in Cabarrus county this year than for years past.—Capt. I. B. Grainger is representing the Carolina Central Railway in the St. Louis Railroad Convention now being held.—The Charlotte Southern Home is pleased to learn of the growing popularity of Prof. Martin's school of young ladies in that place.—Mr. James J. Stewart retires from the position of Associate Editor of Salisbury Watchman, which place he has filled for the last three years.—The editor of the Charlotte Democrat wants as many copies as he can get of that paper published in March, April, May and June, 1877, containing reference to the 20th May celebration of that year.—The Greensboro Patriot says that an experienced miner, who has been all through California, says that the mines in Stanley county in this State are equal to any on the Pacific and could be worked to greater profit.—The Rocky Mount Dramatic Association place has been fixed for the last year.—The editor of the Charlotte Democrat wants as many copies as he can get of that paper published in March, April, May and June, 1877, containing reference to the 20th May celebration of that year.—The Greensboro Patriot says that an experienced miner, who has been all through California, says that the mines in Stanley county in this State are equal to any on the Pacific and could 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