

The Era.

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The Weekly Era. PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY. (SEE RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION ON THIS PAGE.) JOB WORK executed at short notice and in a style unsurpassed by any similar establishment in the State. RATES OF ADVERTISING. One square, one time, \$ 1 00; " " two times, " 1 50; " " three times, " 2 00. Contract advertisements taken at proportionately low rates.

Poetry. Waiting. Two are waiting—the one below Patiently longs for the set of sun Watching life's shadows that deeper grow The nearer the day is done. For the one, it is light at eventide— With the tender glow of a coming dawn— That more and more shall shine to guide To the perfect day beyond. Another waits on the further side Shadowed by wings of a restless peace, Stands by the gates that are open wide, Waiting the soul's release. Not long to tarry—not long to wait; A few more throbs of the pulsing breast, And the two shall pass through the open gate Into fullness of final rest.

Miscellaneous. Twenty-Seven Odd Superstitions about Marriage. Since marriage became an institution, says the Hartford Courant, there have been certain signs and superstitions that have clung to its observance through all ages and in all countries. Even to-day in the most civilized nations we have not entirely rid our minds of these superstitions, and I warrant that there is never a bride, but indulges herself in looking for some happy omen. Few people are dauntless enough to be married on Friday, and we all have the most unlimited confidence in that old shoe thrown after the newly wedded pair. Nearly every bride of to-day wears about her when she is married some trifle thing borrowed from a lady friend, and all know that "blest is the bride on whom the sun doth shine," and are equally certain that "To change the name and not the letter Is a change for the worse and not the better."

dressed before she goes to the church, so a glove or some other article is put on after a last look has been taken at the mirror. Gray horses at a wedding are lucky. It is supposed to be unlucky if a wife does not weep on her wedding day. In Scotland it is considered an unhappy omen if a couple are disappointed in getting married on the day fixed for the purpose. In the Isle of Man it is believed that it insures good luck to carry salt in the pocket when going to be married. At Hull it is considered unlucky to go in at one door and out at another when a person gets married. Whoever goes to sleep first on the wedding night will die first. If there is an odd number of guests at a wedding one is sure to die within the succeeding twelve months.

Israel Putnam's Spy. Between the kill, or creek, not far from the village of Peekskill, on the Hudson, is a high rocky ridge, on the southeastern slope of which, north of the borough, a notable little romance occurred in 1777. General Putnam, whose exploits on the upper Hudson have made that region famous in history and tradition, was in command there. A young man, a son of a good family in Westchester county, was arrested on suspicion of being a spy, and was brought before Putnam. On his person were found enlisting papers signed by Tyron, and other evidences of his guilt. Sir Henry Clinton sent a note to Putnam, with a flag, claiming the culprit as a British officer, and making insolent threats of wrathful retaliation in case the young man should be harmed. Putnam replied in writing: "Headquarters, 7th August, 1777."

Edmund Palmer, an officer in the enemy's service, was taken as a spy lurking within our lines. He has been tried as a spy, condemned as a spy, and shall be executed as a spy; and the flag is ordered to depart immediately. "ISRAEL PUTNAM." "P. S.—He has been accordingly hanged." No spy was ever found in Putnam's camp after that. To-Day.—If all who are convinced that they ought to obey Christ would do it, and do it now, millions would be converted in a day. The duty is confessed but not done. God says, "Now is the accepted time," men wait for a "more convenient season." They even object to prompt, decided submission on the plea of deliberation. But what is deliberation in such a case? When one is convinced that he ought to obey the Lord, how long is it necessary to wait in order to be deliberate? If satisfied that a thing is right, what objection can be urged to doing it at once? Is it ever wrong to do right? Can duty be done too quickly? The duty of loyalty to Christ is the highest, most sacred, solemn, and weighty that can rest upon the conscience of man, if it is a duty at all. Is it honorable? Is it reasonable? Is it safe? The only manly course for any person, is to act up to convictions sharply, promptly. The moment we know our duty we should do it. That is the wise and right thing. Any other course is evasive, unreasonable, wrong, and perilous. Those who believe they ought to serve God, should do it to-day.

Legality of Slave Marriages. Under this head the Washington Critic, of Saturday last, has the following, which is interesting every where: "Yesterday an important case was argued before Justice Wylie in the Equity Court; that of Newbern vs. Washington. The complainant has asked for the assignment of dower in the estate of her husband, the defendant demurring because of unpaid trust, and on the overruling by Justice Olin had demanded strict proof of marriage. Upon proof it was shown that the complainant was the second wife, and was married in accordance with the slave laws of North Carolina, and that she removed to this district with her husband after the passage of the act of 1866, regulating the marriage of colored persons in the District of Columbia, Justice Wylie ruled that the marriage of the petitioner was legalized by the statute, and that she was consequently heir to the whole estate, the first marriage never having been legalized and the second marriage without issue."

Court Scene. "William, look up! tell us William, who made you; do you know?" William, who was considered a fool, screwed his face, and looking thoughtful, and somewhat bewildered, slowly answered: "Moses, I s'pose." "That will do." "Now," said Chancellor Gray, addressing the court, "the witness says he s'poses Moses made him. This is certainly an intelligent answer, more than I supposed him capable of giving, for it shows that he has some faint idea of scripture."

BAD EYESIGHT.—Many persons complain of fatigue in the eyes, or weakness of sight; they cannot read or write for any length of time without the page becoming indistinct, or the letters running into each other. These are symptoms that can be removed by attention to the general health—rest, tonics, and frequently (three or four times a day) bathing the forehead and eyes in cold water. But never neglect them. Cold bathing of the whole body every day, making a habit of it, in fact, is a grand conservator of sight. For this reason, if the person can bear it, the shower bath is the best. But in taking a plunge bath, always dash a little water in the face at first, then spring bodily in; don't take the water a toe at a time. When your eyes are at all weak never read or work in the twilight, and never go out in the bright sunshine, especially if the ground is covered with snow. Out in Greenland, after shooting five or six hours on the ice, the writer used to come on board as hungry as a hawk but as blind as a mole. He was all right on the snow, but the steward had to lead him to the table and assist him in eating. In about two hours he came round again. This snow blindness is caused in a great measure by extreme contraction of the pupil. Cold water to the eyes and a few whiffs of chloroform tend to dispel it.

SIZE OF COUNTRIES.—Greece is about the size of Vermont. Palestine is about one-fourth the size of New York. Hindoostan is more than a hundred times as large as Palestine. The Great Desert of Africa has nearly the dimensions of the United States.

The Red Sea would reach from Washington to Colorado, and is three times as wide as from New York to Rochester. The English Channel is nearly as large as Lake Superior. The Mediterranean, if placed across North America, would make sea navigation from San Diego to Baltimore.

The Caspian Sea would stretch from New York to St. Augustine, and is as wide as from New York to Rochester. Great Britain is about two-thirds the size of Hindoostan; one-twelfth of China, and one-twenty-fifth of the United States. The Gulf of Mexico is about ten times the size of Lake Superior, and about as large as the Sea of Kamshacka, Bay of Bengal, China Sea, Okhotsk or Japan Sea; Lake Ontario would go in each of them more than fifty times. The following bodies of water are about the same size: German Ocean, Black Sea, Yellow Sea. Hudson Bay is rather larger. The Baltic, Adriatic, Persian Gulf and Egean Sea, half as large, and somewhat larger than Lake Superior.

READING THE BIBLE.—Reading the Bible by any rule of routine is not the best way of studying it. Desultory reading or perusing by chance, will not afford clear and systematic views of its contents. Jesus said, "Search the Scriptures." To do this, we need to inquire what are its teachings on a given topic. If we would make it "the man of our counsel and the guide of our ways," we must seek for the teachings of its wisdom; and apply them to the exigencies of our daily lives. For example: Let a person find out and classify all the passages that relate to the "forgiveness of enemies," to the "use of time," to "prayer," and then bring home to his heart the question of his own conformity to its precepts. In this way the word of God will be "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness," and the man of God becomes thoroughly furnished into every good word and work. Mr. Moody's topical knowledge of the Bible is one of the secrets of his power.

A Democratic Thief. SAM'L SWARTWOUT, \$1,225,705.79. In 1839 Samuel Swartwout was Collector of the port of New York. He was a democrat. On January 19th of that year a select committee of the House of Representatives was appointed to investigate certain defalcations of public officers. This committee reported that the virtuous democrat, the subject of this sketch, had defaulted to the amount of \$1,225,705.79!! That this irregularity had extended over a space of seven years; that the cause of the defalcations "were owing among other things, to culpable disregard of law and neglect of official duty on the part of Collector himself; of the First Auditor of the Treasury; of the First Comptroller of the Treasury; and of the Treasurer himself, Levi Woodbury "to discharge his duty as the head of the Treasury Department." In those days a million and a quarter of dollars was an immense sum, yet history fails to show that this public robber was ever punished by the Democratic party, or that they ever attempted to punish him.

A gentleman visited an unhappy man in jail awaiting his trial. "Sir," said the prisoner, tears running down his cheeks, "I had a good home education; it was my street education that ruined me. I used to slip out of the house and go off with the boys in the street. In the street I learned to lounge; in the street I learned to swear; in the street I learned to smoke; in the street I learned to gamble; in the street I learned to pilfer. Oh, sir, it is in the street the devil lurks to work the ruin of the young?"

During the session of the Naval Investigation Committee several pieces of plaster fell from the ceiling on the head of the chairman, Mr. Withorne. A reporter had secured a room above the committee and bored a hole in the ceiling and inserted a tube in the midst of the committee. The reporter was captured and sworn to secrecy and had his short-hand notes taken from him.

Correspondence.

Education. An Address delivered by E. E. SMITH, to the Mount Olive School, April 15th, 1876. To the Editor of the Constitution: Respected Friends—I appear before you this afternoon to appeal to you in behalf of the cause of Education. And I desire to speak to you, if possible, heart to heart and soul to soul. Not to denounce, but to persuade, not to demand but to plead. I want to speak to you this afternoon for liberty—that liberty which makes us free, that liberty which elevates body and soul above the thralldom of ignorance, degradation and superstition, which has been as it were the destiny of so many of the human family for such a great period. And friends it is a source of great pleasure to me to greet so many here on this occasion, because I am at once led from your presence to infer that the cause of Education has your approval. We know not what we are much less what we shall be. Hence it is our indispensable duty as well as our prerogative to endeavor to live soberly and honestly, and labor earnestly and diligently to make every possible improvement, imaginable. And most especially is it absolutely necessary that every parent and guardian should use every effort in their power to instill in the mind of the child while young, good and great principles. Have your children attend school all you possibly can and interest yourself in having your neighbors or friends also attend. Each one of you should endeavor to act the part of an interested school officer, in pressing the youth to attend school. I trust the day in our history is not distant when our people may realize more clearly the great necessity of having the youth undergo a more rigid cultivation, not only intellectually, but morally and religiously. Friends, we know not but there may be among us to-day some who may rise by means of a persevering diligence to that degree of intellectual greatness and power that shall enable them to hold listening multitudes in rapture and sway the councils of the nation by their eloquence. Therefore, let us determine to labor and hope, feeling fully assured that the greater our attainments of learning, and virtue in youth, the better, we shall be prepared to act honorable and useful parts on the great stage of active and responsible life.

Shall we endeavor to live only for ourselves or for the benefit of the human race? Let us exert every possible effort to be instrumental in adding to the cup of human happiness, in diminishing the amount of human wretchedness and in diffusing the beneficial influences of a sound and pure morality; and in contributing to the stock of valuable knowledge. But friends how sad to see, how very painful to think that childhood, the most important part of terrestrial existence has and does receive so little attention. If your children are not attending school keep them engaged at doing something, do not allow them to stroll the streets, and wander about here and there making and doing mischief. The experience of ages that are past, the hopes of ages yet to come unite their voices in an appeal to us—they implore us to think more of the character of our people than of its numbers. Can not we, can not each of us do something to advance the cause of Education? Let us resolve to wage war with ignorance, degradation and superstition wherever we find them and endeavor to banish them from our midst. And in our effort to banish these evils and diffuse instead thereof knowledge, we would appeal to every individual of our flourishing and happy land, who feels an interest in its continued prosperity who would promote its substantial greatness, who would preserve its noble institutions, and transmit its blessings unimpaired to future generations. May the day soon come when the strongest and best feelings of all may be enlisted in an undertaking which promises to multiply the blessings of the social and domestic circle, widen the sphere of charity, cement the strong foundations of government, strengthen the bonds of our beloved Union, and promote the present and future happiness of mankind.

Republican Meeting in St. Matthews Township.

The Republicans of St. Matthews township, had a grand rally on Thursday evening, the 20th inst. James H. Jones, J. W. Butler and Charles I. Proctor were, by invitation, present. On motion, T. Crenshaw was called to the Chair and Hunter Rogers requested to act as Secretary. The Chairman stated that the object of the meeting was a grand rally of the Republicans preparatory to the coming campaign. Mr. Chas. I. Proctor, of Raleigh, was called on and made a short speech in regard to the Constitutional amendments passed by the last State Convention. The address was a fine effort of Mr. Proctor and will tell when the voting takes place in November next. Mr. J. W. Butler, of Raleigh, made some good and timely remarks on education. He showed the necessity of every child receiving an education, which was received with applause. Mr. J. H. Jones, of Raleigh, the old war-horse, brought up the rear, in one of his finest speeches, rallying the Republicans on all subjects and telling them to stand firm and victory was certain for us this fall. The meeting was harmonious and the best of feeling prevailed. On motion, the meeting adjourned. T. CRENSHAW, Ch'n. HUNTER ROGERS, Sec'y.

A GOOD MOVE.—The following resolution has been unanimously adopted by the National Labor Convention, now in session at Pittsburg, Penn: "That we are emphatically opposed to the contract system of convict and pauper labor, as practised by State and national governments, and ask its abolition; that we owe a debt of gratitude to Governor Tilden, of the State of New York, for his acts in regard to the Pauper bill; that our national and State Legislatures be required to pass laws binding all corporate bodies engaged as common carriers to furnish means of transportation at regular fixed rates, and that no discrimination shall be made in favor of any citizen or class of citizens; that this society sympathizes with its fellow workmen in California in their efforts for the repeal of the infamous Burlingame Treaty and consider it one of the very worst treaties ever made by the government of a free country; that we urge upon N. P. Banks, member of Congress, to introduce the Homestead bill now in his hands there."

This is a good move, and we think if the working men here do not meet in counsel to take action with regard to such matters, they should, as individuals, support no party that favors this "farming out" of convict labor. No law is just which feeds and clothes murderers and thieves for their labor, while honest men are suffering for the necessities of life, and cannot find work. Every laboring man should remember these things and inquire into them before he votes. North Carolina News. The price of corn has advanced in New-Berne. A mad dog was killed in Oxford Sunday morning. The people of Cleveland county are still picking out cotton. Louisburg will vote "license or no license" on the 1st of May. The Franklin county prophet predicts a very dry summer. Johnston county is about to develop valuable iron mines. Polkton, in Anson county, had a newspaper for two years, but has no cemetery. The political disabilities of John Johnson, of Granville, were removed by Congress on the 18th. Robert Moore, of David on county, dropped dead in his field, the other day. The Odd Fellows of Charlotte will have an excursion and picnic on the 26th. A truck gardner in Wilmington has salad peas three inches long on exhibition. Dr. John L. Williams, of Granville, was seriously injured by being thrown from his buggy on Sunday last. The wheat crop is said to be recovering from the effects of cold spell, and the prospect is good for a large crop. Chas. W. Parks, a worthy farmer in Randolph county, died last week of injuries received from a vicious horse. The cash contributions to the Oxford Orphan Asylum for the week ending April 18th, was \$135.05. An unusually good week. The Wilmington Post offers to bet \$100,000 dollars that the State of North Carolina will be carried by the Republicans next November. A Mr. Jones, section master on the Carolina Central Railroad, near Lumberton, dropped dead while engaged at work, on the 18th. The Republicans of Cherokee county endorse Judge Reade for Governor and Bristow for President. E. W. Carter, a colored lawyer from Mississippi, addressed the citizens of Greensboro, on Tuesday evening. Five men, relatives of the deceased, have been arrested for the murder of the late Mr. Wood, of Wilkes county. Col. G. S. Jones, of Greensboro, is now in Western Carolina making up a cabinet of revolutionary relics for the Centennial. The delegates appointed to determine upon the final location of the Lutheran College, have, by a vote of 7 to 1, located it at Hickory. Mr. Robert Wilson, of Guilford county, has taken out a patent on a new water wheel which is pronounced superior to any wheel now in use. A large number of strangers from different sections of the country visited Winston Sunday, the 16th, to witness the Easter ceremonies of the Moravian church in Salem. The Methodists of Fayetteville are having a revival, conducted by Rev. Mr. Thompson, Smith, Nelson and the Presiding Elder, Mr. Cunningham. A little son of John Thornburg, of Randolph county, aged about 4 years, got hold of some whiskey on the 3rd of this month, and drank enough of it to kill him. The health of the orphans at the Oxford Asylum is said to be remarkably good, considering the frequent changes in the weather. Only one serious case of sickness this year. The colored members of the Board of County Commissioners of Granville, are out in a card, shifting the responsibility of the late alleged frauds upon the shoulders of the two white members, Cole and Jones. At a funeral procession in Wilmington the carriage containing the family of the deceased broke down, and then, just as the remains were being taken into the church, the horse took fright and ran away with the hearse breaking it into atoms. There was a grand Grange picnic given on the 12th inst., at Jacob's Fork, in Catawba county. By special invitation the Odd Fellows of this place were there, whose presence contributed greatly to the occasion.—Lincolnton Progress.

General News. Negotiations between Rome and Vienna are suspended. The prime Minister of Japan is preparing to visit this country. The Independents have carried the city election of Chicago. Brodie & Harper of Glasgow, in the grain trade, have failed for \$500,000. It is reported in Paris that the United States intend to annex Hayti. Dom Pedro and suite attended church in New York and were prayed for. Rio Janiero lost five hundred and fifteen persons from yellow fever in fifteen days. President Grant has vetoed the bill reducing the salary of the President to \$25,000. An incendiary fire at Milford, Indiana, on the 18th, destroyed property to the value of \$80,000. The ship Great Republic arrived at San Francisco on the 17th bringing over one thousand Coolies. The south wing of the Insane Asylum at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, was burned on the 18th. Loss \$50,000. An unknown and terrible disease is depopulating some parts of China. It kills almost immediately. An incendiary fire caused in Danville, Ky., on the 18th causing a loss of \$75,000, including the Caldwell Institute. Nineteen book publishing firms of New York protest against the postage on books in the pending postal bills in Congress. Moody and Sankey's meetings in New York closed on the 19th. One hundred and sixty thousand dollars have been collected. Professor Watson, of Ann Arbor, Mich., reports the discovery on the night of 18th inst., in constellation Virgo, a planet hitherto unknown. Two hundred and sixty acres in Fairmount Park have been assigned to the military organizations visiting the Centennial. They will be encamped by States. A riot between striking coal miners and imported negroes occurred at Leavenworth, Kansas, on the 18th. Pistols, knives, rocks, etc., were used, but no one was killed. The proprietors of the Missouri State Lottery have brought suit against the Board of Police Commissioners of St. Louis, asking \$100,000 damages for breaking up their business by the late raids upon their offices and seizure of their property. New York city has an indebtedness of \$119,908.29. They have a "Women's Centennial Union" in New York. Congressman Lamar is constantly threatened with paralysis. The 13th is fast day in Massachusetts and the 14th in Connecticut. The Republicans of Petersburg will start a daily paper next week. The naval and postoffice appropriations have been reduced to \$9,000,000. Rabbits have so increased in Kentucky that hunting them down has become an absolute necessity. A Cleveland man has whittled forty feet of wooden chain links out of white pine for the Centennial. Blaine is preparing a statement about his Arkansas bonds. He says he will explain things satisfactorily. The man who set the shattered leg of J. Wilkes Booth is now a Republican member of the Maryland Senate, Dr. Mudd. The carpenters of Toronto, Canada, have insisted on getting twenty cents an hour for labor, with a half a holiday on Saturday. A postoffice clerk, Jackson A. Frothingham, of the Boston Post-office, has been convicted of stealing \$2,500. William Cooper shot his sweet-heart—a fellow servant—in St. Louis, on the 21st, and then shot himself, because she wouldn't marry him. John R. Dolan, the murderer of Jas. H. Noe, was executed in New York, the 21st, in the Tombs prison yard at 9:37 o'clock. He died without a struggle, and walked to his doom with self-possession. Eight country men have been arrested and carried to Louisville, Ky., for making the "crooked" for their own use. They resisted the officers of the law all they could, and several have escaped. Additional advices in regard to the threatened affray between the white and colored laborers on the government locks at Brownstown, W. Va., are that after consultation between the parties the colored men agreed to leave by noon to-day if un molested, which agreement was ratified by the whites. Contractor Dull, who brought the negroes on from Richmond, considers it necessary to leave the place,