

## Topics of the Times.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science is just closing its annual session, held this year in the fine old town of Hartford, Conn. The country is to be congratulated upon the vigorous life which the Association exhibits. We remember a time in its history, when after the original glow of enthusiasm had departed from the comparative few who were its founders, and many were allowed to join for compliment's sake, who added nothing to its strength and dignity, that its doom was foretold, and it began to be contemptuously regarded by the press as a mutual admiration society.

But it has put on better things. A vast amount of original experiment and research has been stimulated, keen and sparkling debate has elicited truths of the most important character, its deliberations have been watched with eager interest by the intelligent mass of society everywhere, and it is now advancing to the full measure of its duties, and at the same time the full meed of public appreciation.

The meeting at Portland was reported promptly to the country, and the extent, variety and value of the scientific investigation then presented contributed largely to the present esteem for the body. It has now been strengthened by the accession of a large number of the most eminent American chemists, in accordance with their late resolution adopted at Northumberland, Pa., on the occasion of the Priestly centennial.

We will take occasion to refer to the work of the past year, as presented at Hartford. An agricultural and industrial journal is necessarily in full sympathy with scientific advance, and especially with the section of chemistry and agricultural chemistry.

It is to be regretted that so few meetings of the Association has been held in any Southern city. Those at Charleston and Baltimore were held long since, the Baltimore meeting being in 1858. But a partial explanation is to be found in the apathy of the people. If we remember correctly, only three members from North Carolina attended even the Baltimore meeting, as near as it was. Cities send in their invitations, and so it goes from year to year, from East to West and back again. We hope it will soon be called to the South again, to give a general stimulus to the public interest in science, and more especially to strengthen our scientific schools, and our struggling colleges. A great change is taking place in the culture and tastes of the American people. Ten men buy scientific papers now to one a dozen years ago. And this healthful, pure and ennobling preference of truth over imagination will go on, we believe.

We wish a hearty God-speed to the Association in all their labors.

## Prison Life During the War.

We have commenced this week, for the edification of our readers, a series of articles portrayed in truthfully graphic terms. The author, a gentleman well known in Raleigh, describes his prison life in one of the numerous Bastilles of the United States, and gives other reminiscences of the late war. As the passions of men subside, the true data for the future historian slowly comes forth, and in due course of time, we hope to be enabled to furnish such information, based upon direct experience and eye witnesses, and original manuscripts, corroborated by traditionary facts, as will fully vindicate the Southern in the late civil contest. It may be suggestive, to remind the actors in the contest for constitutional freedom, that we of the South, jealous of our honor, should carefully note such events as come under our personal eye, and take occasion to prepare such records, as will conclusively refute the many sensational and untruthful statements, which have from time to time emanated from mendacious sources.

## State Fair Items.

—Five hundred entries of Live Stock, Machinery, Field Products, &c., have already been made for the approaching Exposition.

—Many Special Premiums have been offered by citizens in various sections of the State since the Premium List has been published. They will appear in our paper next week.

—Dr. Columbus Mills, Worthy Master of the State Grange, and one of the Most successful and popular planters in the State, in a letter to the editor, says: "I will get up something handsome in the way of stock, &c., to exhibit at your Fair from this section of North Carolina. Every Carolinian should feel and take a lively interest in our State Fair. The prosperity of the State largely depends upon the exhibit of agricultural, mineral and mechanical products at our annual fairs."—[Dr. Mills lives in Cabarrus county, one of the wealthiest sections of the South, and we can safely promise a splendid exhibition from that county.—Ed.]

—The Ladies of the Old North State are taking an active interest in the next Fair, they always do their duty.

—The Hillsboro Recorder, of yesterday, in speaking of the approaching Exposition which commences in this city October 10th, says: \* \* \* "The product of the past years toil in Old Orange will be there well represented. Of fine stock from Orange, Mr. J. Webb, Jr., thorough-bred horse Sumpter, with six of his colts entered for the sweep stake for stallions, will be the most attractive.

"James Webb, Jr., offers a special premium of \$10 for the best colt sired by his horse Sumpter to be exhibited at the Fair.

"Also pure-bred Southdown and Cotswold sheep by James Norwood, purchased from Sands & Son, Baltimore—of them his Buck No. 60, (now "Beecher"), which has just arrived from Pennsylvania, is a model—his Dam is by Imported 89, which was bred by James Webb, of Babraham, England, and imported at a cost of 250 guineas. His Sire "Millbank" Sired by son of imported "Archbishop," also bred by James Webb, England. No. 60 was bred by Samuel J. Sharp, Chester County, Pennsylvania. Mr. N. exhibits a number of fine sheep, 4 of them costing \$180—he thinks there is more profit to Middle and Western North Carolina in the culture of grass and sheep straw than in cotton and corn to the east. \* \* \* Let our farmers and mechanics and all give a good account of themselves, and let Orange, as of yore, take a foremost place in the exhibition."

## Reminiscences of Fort Delaware.

## No. 1.

FEB. 13, 1865.—This is New Castle and before me lies the proud Delaware flowing in majestic beauty to the distant ocean. I am a "prisoner of war" and as I stand, under guard, waiting for the "tug" which is to carry me to my "home for the war," my eye roams around, drinking in the scene before me. The Delaware river, rolling in unceasing, rapid current, washes the shore at my feet; in the distance, the dark walls of "Fort Delaware" rise, like some gloomy sentinel, casting their shadow upon the waters, which seem to be troubled, so sombre do they look. Beyond, the shores of New Jersey form a fresh and pretty back-ground, while below the roofs and spires "of Delaware City" show signs of life and activity. But as I stand and look around, the "tug" approaches. It is a queer little creature, but puffing and blowing and making the waters dance and ripple around it, the orders are given to make ready for a start. Lieut. Van A.—of the 91st New York Infantry—who is in charge of the prisoners—and who has acted the part of a "gentleman and a soldier" towards those, whom it is his duty to guard, gives the word of command, and we leave, with a heavy heart the friendly shores of Delaware and step upon the little boat which is to bear us to our prison home.

The ride is exhilarating, and as the spray dashes over me and my hands, dapple in the sparkling waters, I might almost forget that I and my fellows, are prisoners. Away we go—the little "tug" plunging through the river; the dreaded walls of our prison rising plainly before us, with its starry flag flying in the breeze, and its ugly guns staring us in the face.

The whistle blows; the bell rings, the shore is reached, and we disembark upon that island, which is doomed to be the abode of many, many weary hearts, "till this cruel war is over," and peace shall once more dwell in our land.

EDWARD.

## PERSONAL.

—T. N. Ramsay, the great Temperance lecturer is now in Western North Carolina.

—Col. W. H. Avera, late Senator from Johnston, will remove his residence to Hilliardston, Nash County.

—Col. J. D. Cameron of the Hillsboro Recorder is spoken of for Clerk of the House of Representatives in the next Legislature.

—There are at present only four ex-Governors of North Carolina living; Ex-Govs. W. A. Graham, David S. Reid, Zeb. B. Vance and Wm. W. Holden.

Capt. R. A. Shottwell, associate editor of the Southern Home, has been elected a delegate to the Grand Lodge I. O. G. T., which meets in Newbern in September.

—Capt. James L. Robinson of Macon county, the Speaker of the last House of Representatives, has been returned to the Legislature by the voice of every voter in his county save one.

—Hon. Geo. V. Strong, member elect, to the House of Representatives from Wake Co. will probably be elected speaker of that body which assembles in this City in November next. Mr. Strong—a leading lawyer is a gentleman of very superior ability, and is in every way qualified for the high position which his friends throughout the State would have him occupy.

## News and Facts in Science.

EXPLORATION OF WADAY.—In Central Africa, North of the equator, and between the Kingdom of Fur on the east and some small states to the west, lies a country known as Waday, which has never been safely penetrated by a white man until now.

Its capital, Wara, was known to be some hundred miles from the equator, showing that the country stretched much farther north into the Great Desert, than the adjoining regions. From Arabs, it was learned that Waday was a tropical table land, crossed by streams, among which dwelt a very fierce and intrepid people.

It will be remembered that interest in African expeditions revived about 1850. In 1853, when the celebrated Barth was supposed to need help, Dr. Vogel was sent out to his relief, and met him in Kuan in Dec. 1854. During the following year he visited various states, and finally attempted to reach Wara, the Capital of Waday, leaving Jan. 1st 1856.

Two years passed away, and no news of him came. Beurmann, the African traveller then started in search of Vogel, travelling from Fezzan through an unknown land, across the desert at it, but finding it impossible, he turned to Bornu. There he learned that Vogel had found his way to Wara, but had been executed Feb. 18th 1856. Undismayed, Beurmann pursued his way in the hope of recovering Vogel's journal and papers. Another long silence, until 1863, when it was learned that Beurmann too had been killed, on the very frontier of this mysterious land. In 1866, Renfils found the danger too great, and Heuglin in an effort to reach Waday from the East, was compelled to turn back. But in 1866, Dr. Nachtigal was sent to Sultan Omar of Bornu from the King of Prussia, with presents. After visiting various unknown tracts of territory beyond previous journeys, it is now known that he safely reached the new capital of Waday, in 1873. Dr. Nachtigal spent last year in Waday, and was to have returned by way of Abyssinia in December, but the war between Dar-Fur and Egypt, keeps him still in Waday, if he is not striving to make his way through the Lybian Desert to Egypt.

He speaks in his letter of the new Sultan Ali of Waday, as the wisest ruler of Central Africa. He was found to be Moslem in faith. The people are very fierce, and show the greatest ill will to strangers. Ivory, ostrich feathers, camels and slaves are the subjects of trade. The people brutal. No Arab's life is safe in the afternoon. Cattle, sheep and goats are found everywhere, but the native horses are few and worthless.

Government is strictly personal and very severe. Theft of the smallest article is punished by death.

This being the first time a Christian has ever travelled through Waday, Dr. Nachtigal's arrival in Egypt is hoped for shortly, with a rich fund of information to add to the sciences, at least of ethnology and philology.

A FOSSIL FIBULA.—Among the recent contributions to the discussion of the antiquity of man is the description in detail of certain fossils discovered in Victoria Cave, in Yorkshire. The cave has been explored by a committee of the British Association. Under various deposits was found a bone-bed, containing the remains of the cave-bear, bison, hyena, rhinoceros, and the fossil elephant primogenius. Among them was a fibula, the small bone of the human leg. Experienced anatomists have pronounced it a human bone without doubt, while the particulars of the discovery are authentic.

EASTERN NEW GUINEA.—It seems from a recent report of Capt. Moresby, of the British navy, that the black Papuan race inhabiting the western yarts of New Guinea, are not to be found in the eastern portion, hitherto undescribed. Near the sea, he found everywhere a light copper-colored Malayan race, with intelligence and kindly deportment. The hill-slopes were tilled and cultivated in perfect order, and their plantations were fenced and cared for. Some good harbors were discovered in the east and duly named. The northern coasts were inhabited by similar people. It was impossible to penetrate into the interior, as the fearful currents of the rivers prevented the ascent of the boats. The people used very handsome stone hatchets in their labors.

—Marshal Bazaine has written a letter to the Minister of the Interior, at Paris, in which he exculpates the guard and his late fellow prisoners, on the Island of Sainte Marguerite, from any complicity in his escape. He declares he had no accomplices except his wife and nephew. His letter concludes: "Resenting the humiliating prison regulations, I felt justified in an attempt to recover my liberty. As I was not tried by my peers, my sentence was illegal." It seems that the military authorities on the Island are not blamed by the Government for the escape.

## FOREIGN NEWS.

—Austria and Germany have recognized the Republican government of Spain.

—The King of Denmark has just returned to his capital (Copenhagen) from a visit to Iceland.

—Spanish papers indignantly deny the rumored sale of the Island of Porto Rico to the German Empire.

—It is expected that France and England will very soon recognize the Republic of Spain. The only cause of delay is said to be the trouble of deciding upon the precise form in which the recognition is to be made.

—The British Government on the 20th inst., reminded the newspapers in an official note that the publication of articles signed by persons deprived of civil and political rights is prohibited by law. The note doubtless refers to John Mitchell, who has lately returned to Ireland and is making some noise in politics.

—The town of Leo de Urgel, in Spain, has been captured by the Carlists. The surrender is said to have been made by the treachery of persons in the city, who were under the influence of the chaplain of Don Carlos. The commandant of the republican forces in the citadel was shot by order of Gen. Tristany the Carlist commander.

## Patrons of Husbandry.

## Officers of the State Grange:

Master—COLUMBUS MILLS, Concord, N. C.  
Overseer—RICHARD WILLIAMS, Greenville, Pitt Co., N. C.  
Lecturer—J. S. LONG, Newbern, N. C.  
Secretary—Vacant.  
Asst. Secretary—A. J. GALLOWAY, Goldsboro, N. C.  
Chaplain—REV. COLIN SHAW, Black River Chapel, Sampson County, N. C.  
Treasurer—T. L. VAIL, Charlotte, N. C.  
Gate Keeper—G. W. LAWRENCE, Fayetteville, N. C.  
Ceres—Vacant.  
Pomona—MRS. S. A. MILLS, Concord, N. C.  
Flora—MRS. E. C. DAVIDSON, Huntersville, N. C.  
Lady Asst. Steward—MRS. A. T. VAIL, Charlotte, N. C.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

AZARIAH GRAVES, Locust Hill, Caswell County, N. C.  
A. T. MIAL, Raleigh, N. C.  
GEO. Z. FRENCH, Wilmington, N. C.

## BUSINESS AGENTS FOR NORTH CAROLINA.

Messrs. Farley & Co., No. 61 Park Place, New York City.  
Mr. T. G. Garrett, No. 100 So. Commercial St., St. Louis, Mo.  
Mr. J. W. Lewellin, Richmond, Va.  
Mr. W. B. Westbrook, Petersburg, Va.  
Mr. F. F. Faison, Raleigh, N. C.

## Extract from the Address of the National Grange.

"We emphatically and sincerely assert the oft-repeated truth taught in our organic law that the Grange, National, State, or subordinate—is not a political or party organization. No Grange, if true to its obligation, shall engage in political questions, nor call political conventions, nor nominate candidates, nor even discuss their merits in their meetings."

—Patrons, beware of politics and politicians!

N. C. STATE GRANGE, P. of H.,  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE, Fayetteville, Aug. 2nd, 1874.  
CIRCULAR No. 15.  
Officers and members of Subordinate Granges are earnestly requested to affix an impression of the Seal of their Grange on ALL their communications addressed to ANY officer or Business Agent of the State or National Grange. Attention will not be given to any sent otherwise (except from Granges recently organized). Our Worthy Master, Dr. Mills is receiving a great many letters without a seal; these, he says, will not be noticed except where the writers are personally known to him; the same course will be adopted by the Secretary.  
G. W. LAWRENCE,  
SECRETARY.

N. C. STATE GRANGE, P. of H.,  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE, Fayetteville, Aug. 10, 1874.  
CIRCULAR No. 16.  
Notice is hereby given that Mrs. Bella A. Johnston, No. 21, West 12th Street, New York City, has been duly appointed Purchasing Agent for the Ladies of our Order in North Carolina. Mrs. J. is entitled to the utmost confidence, and any business entrusted to her will receive prompt attention.  
G. W. LAWRENCE, Secretary.

—Never let the interest in Grange meetings die out. Timely subjects for discussion will do much to keep up the interest. Let every Patron learn to talk upon any subject that may come up.

—Politicians don't want the Grangers to handle politics, but they cordially invite them to break their backs in the harvest field.

—Farmers are busy with their hands in securing food for a year's subsistence for the world out of the ground. The balance of the world are devising ways and means to make a living or wealth by manipulating the products of the farmers' toil. And yet that "balance" will not agree that the farmer shall have anything to say what prices shall be paid for their labors and products.

—Members of the Order should visit neighboring Granges as often as possible. Nothing can have a more beneficial effect. And visiting members should always be called upon to speak for the good of the Order. When called upon a response should always be made.

—The following named brothers have been appointed Special Deputies to organize Granges in North Carolina: James M. Greenlee, Marion, McDowell county; E. A. Powe, Lenoir, Caldwell county; W. B. Clement, Jerusalem, Davie county.