

THE JOURNAL.

J. W. HARPER, : : : : Editor.

Kinston, N. C.

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CHRISTMAS.

Amidst the financial pressure of the present time, which has more or less affected every link in the chain of society. Christmas—merry Christmas offers a delightful relief. With this high festival are associated joy, peace and happiness. It is the dividing line between the old and new year—we finish up our years work on the day before Christmas, and for a week indulge in rest, and every species of pleasure; and then take up the burden of life for another year.

From time immemorial Christmas has been a most prominent church festival in all Christian countries, and has been hailed as a season of holy joy and gladness. It is held by some that as Christ was born in a manger, the day should be kept in fasting and humility; but an ancient writer observes "The contempt of the place took off by the glory of the attendance and ministrations of angels." Christmas is the time for social and family reunions. Those who have been separated during the rest of the year, can then meet at the old Homestead and kindle anew in their hearts the loves and sympathies of earlier days.

Truly it is said "work is worship," and in like measure and like manner enjoyment is thanksgiving.

Man's nature demands rest and relaxation at stated intervals, and we should therefore celebrate this annual festival not merely from custom, but from obedience to one of Nature's first laws—Rest.

The Christmas peal should never fail to arouse the best sympathies of our hearts, inducing those who are blessed with the good things of this life, to seek to render it also a season of rejoicing for the poor and needy.

"A loud and laughing welcome to the merry Christmas bells!
All hail! with happy gladness to the well-known chant that swells:
We list the pealing anthem chord, we hear the midnight strain,
And love the tidings that proclaim old Christmas once again.
But there must be a melody, of purer, deeper sound
A rich key-note whose echo runs through all the music round;
Let kindly voices ring beneath low roof or palace dome
For these alone are carol chimes that bless a Christmas home."

DEBT AND INSOLVENCY.

The insolvent debtor among the Romans was cut to pieces and distributed among his creditors. This principle is recognized by Shakespeare in "The Merchant of Venice" where the pound of flesh is claimed by Shylock under the forfeited mortgage.

Even in this State, up to the Canby Constitution in 1868, the insolvent was treated as a criminal and subjected to the personal punishment of imprisonment.

These laws were but an expression of the natural sense of mankind concerning the immorality of insolvent debt. A man who did not pay his debts was regarded as dishonest, and an encroacher on his neighbors rights and property, and was to be punished accordingly.

Our present laws have been completely changed and public sentiment has kept pace with the law. We are now no more inclined to be severe with debtors than with others who injure us. We trust for our protection more to the moral influences working in society and to our own care and foresight in business transactions, rather than to the vengeance of the law. We are indebted to two things for the change of public sentiment about insolvency—increased humanity and the general loss of property which has fallen on nearly every one. One can better sympathize with his poor neighbor if he himself has suffered financial loss or is on the eve of bankruptcy. When a people becomes familiarized, as we are with mercantile engagements in which all are debtors and creditors by turns, a failure to fulfill engagements appears as only the effect of miscalculation or mischance. The knowledge that what may be your turn to-day may be mine to-morrow, makes us wondrous kind.

But indiscriminate humanity may carry us too far in our changed views regarding debt and insolvency. We should always have great charity and compassion toward the unfor-

tunate debtor, who by some mischance is unable to meet his liabilities; but what shall we say of one in private life, who knowingly contracts debts which it is impossible for him to pay? We may not wish to revive the old laws and inflict tangible vengeance, but undoubtedly this person has been guilty of a great fault. He has committed an invasion upon his neighbor's rights, either from an undue love of his own gratifications, or from a recklessness about his affairs, which every reasonable person knows can not be indulged in without the greatest danger.

Society ought not to forgive it too easily. Such a person is not entitled to stand exactly on the same platform of social and moral standing with those who keep clear of debt.

Nothing can save debt from the stamp which destiny has put upon it—degradation. The reckless may therefore feel well assured that in the long run the burden of life will be easier to take up in the beginning and have its duties and responsibilities distributed all along our daily life, rather than indulge in pleasure at first at the expense of others and in the end have their lives marred by their loss of self-respect and the esteem of their neighbors.

Maj. Yeates's Competitor.

[Raleigh News's Washington Correspondent.]
Mr. Martin, the new member elect to the 46th Congress, whose seat I am informed will be contested by Mr. Yeates, was in the city last week.—He was happy. He settled the vexed question of how Mrs. Senator Bruce shall be received into Washington official society. He took a social glass with two of his colored constituents at the Metropolitan bar, and, with one of the stalwarts on either side of him, aired himself in a prom. on the av. While there he sought the distinguished honor of an introduction to the august chairman of the committee on Elections. He spoke of himself as "the fellow that beat Yeates."—"How much majority?" inquired Mr. Harris. "Fifty-one," was Martin's reply. "Why, that's nothing," remarked Mr. Harris. "It's a common thing, they say of my committee, to overcome one thousand majority."—Martin smiled—afterwards.

FROM WASHINGTON.

BAYARD TAYLOR'S SUCCESSOR.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Eugene Hale & Co. are pressing Senator Christiancy for Minister to Germany, so that bloody Zach Chandler, Eugene's daddy-in-law, may come to the Senate. The Pennsylvanians want Governor Hartranft, whose term expires January 1st, to be appointed.—The Haleites say that John Welsh is Minister to England, and the Keystone state is not entitled to two first class missions. On the other hand, Hartranft's friends say Bayard Taylor was credited to Pennsylvania, and that a mission to South America was refused a Western Pennsylvanian on that account.

THE RADICAL CAUCUS HAVE A. H. O. T.
A Republican member of Congress says the Republican Senators, in caucus last night, had "a high old time," and many of them did not hesitate to go for Blaine with gloves off—first because he introduced the resolution; and secondly, because he backed out from participation in the investigation after it was ordered.

BRIEF ITEMS.

Senator Lamar says the report that he declared for a Southern Speaker of the next House of Representatives, and expressed the opinion that the South ought to have the Chairmanship of the leading committees, is without foundation.

The Metropolitan Hotel is the Southern headquarters. Lamar, Ransom, Merrimon, Walker, Buckner, Harris of Virginia, Pridemore, Waddell, and a large number of other prominent Southern members are here.

—It would now seem that Mr. James G. Blaine has bitten off, this time, a little more than he can "chaw."—*Wash. Post, Dem.*

—Now that the Senate is about to pass from Radical control, the organs of that party are discovering that there are too many officials on the Senate pay rolls.—*Wash. Post.*

Retirement of Archbishop Purcell.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 23.—The venerable Archbishop Purcell, who has had charge of the Catholic interests of this city for many years, announced to the Cathedral congregation yesterday that he had written to the Pope asking to be relieved on account of infirmities of old age. In his remarks he alluded to financial matters and evidently convinced his hearers that no fears need be felt as to the investments made through him, as they were secure and would be returned in due time.

Death of Hon. Beverly Douglas.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Congressman Beverly B. Douglas, representing the first District of Virginia, died at the National Hotel early this morning, after a brief illness, from inflammation of the bowels. Mr. Douglas suffered acutely during his illness.—He was attended in his last moments by several of his colleagues in the House of Representatives, his daughter, who arrived last night, and other friends. He lost consciousness during the night, and died easily. The remains will be taken to Richmond to night by a committee consisting of Senator Jones, of Florida, and Representatives Hunton and Goode, of Virginia, Luttrell of California, Carlisle, of Kentucky, Dunnell, of Minnesota, Hartsell, of Illinois, and Clark of Iowa. There will be no funeral services here, the intention being to have the obsequies performed at the home of the deceased in Aylets, New Kent county, Virginia.

HARD ON-BLAINE.—The *National Republican*, the leading Radical organ of this city, thus goes for the out rage bull-dozer from Maine:

"Senator Blaine has disappointed the country in declining to serve on the Committee appointed under his resolution of investigation. If he knew of wrongs and outrages against the rights of citizenship in the South that would justify investigation, it occurs to the mind of the average American citizen that he should have headed his committee and made the work efficient and thorough to the last extremity. If there are no wrongs to be investigated then the whole thing is a farce, and will prove a miserable failure; but, nevertheless, Senator Blaine, after initiating the fight, should be in the fore front of the battle, instead of at the rear, among the baggage train."

—When Senator Ransom said, in his recent speech, "what the country wants is a revival of trade, and not a revival of hate," he uttered a truth that sounded all the better on account of the source from which it came.—Quickly, and almost unobservedly, the real South has come back to her ancient holding and influence in Congress. One by one the speechless nincompoops have "slid out" from the places which they have usurped, and have been supplanted by the real leaders of Southern sentiment and opinion. Blaine's badgering they treat with dignified contempt. They decline to quarrel about their own past wrongs, but steadfastly look to the future and the good of the whole country. There was never a grander opportunity for any party of men than is now presented to the representatives of the South.—*Washington Post, Dem.*

According to the *New York World* the exact figures of the next House of Representatives are as follows: Democrats 149, Radicals 129, Nationalists or Greenbacks 10. California not included. That State elects next year.

The *New York Times* says that "the indifference shown by Republican Senators to Mr. Blaine's investigation is due to personal jealousy," whilst the *New York Evening Post* ascribes it to a growing conviction that the movement is untimely and will be unproductive.

—The *Chronicle* has again and again urged the importance of advertising sheriff's and other sales in the public prints published in their respective counties. We will unite with our brethren of the press in shelling all along the line, and making it hot for members of the Legislature who are afraid to perform a just and necessary action.—*Milton Chronicle.*

Personal Intelligence.

Hayes is a Grant man.

General Robert Toombs is in Washington.

Thomas Carlisle is eighty-three and in good health.

Why is it that when a Sheriff swears he says, "Oh, hang it?"

George Eliot will edit the works of her late husband, George Henry Lewes.

Indorsements nowadays are a good deal like the notches on Robinson Crusoe's post.

The Oil City *Derrick* believes that Dr. Mary Walker's favorite song is, "I would I were a boy again."

Mr. Richard H. Dana, Jr., will spend two years in Paris and will write a treatise on international law.

Dr. John Henry Newman will issue a new volume of his "Apologia," containing his correspondence with Archbishop Whately.

A Cincinnati porkpacker who has become very wealthy has put a motto on his carriage. It is, "In hog signo vinces."

The first certain traces of the observance of the Xmas festival are about the time of the Emperor Commodus (180-192 A. D.)

Mr. Charles Francis Adams has bought lots at Kansas City, Mo., worth \$40,000, and will build on them a cotton mill and cottages for workmen.

The attending physicians pronounce Governor Hampton out of danger, but state that his recovery will be slow and tedious.

There is a bill before the South Carolina Legislature providing that the cost of food for a prisoner shall no longer be thirty cents a day, but it shall be twenty cents.

There was a brief Cabinet session last Tuesday. Evarts, Sherman and Devans were absent. Nothing was said about the German mission.

Theodore Thomas, the musical chancellor of Cincinnati, was looking at a dog that was chasing a pig the other day, and he remarked that in a few minutes the dog would have a good ear for music.

Offenbach will discard opera bouffe. He has an idea that tragic opera is his forte. That is where he makes a mistake.

Joaquin Miller has written a play entitled "Mexico." Should it prove true to its name it will cause a "revolution" in the drama.—*Norristown Herald.*

George Alfred Townsend informs the country, through the *Brooklyn Eagle*, that Blaine as a Presidential candidate would be easily beaten by Bayard or Thurman.

An investigation of the conduct of George F. Seward, late Minister to China, a nephew of Wm. H. Seward, indicates great corruption in the diplomatic service under him.

Justin E. Colburn, the Journalist, died in the City of Mexico, for which he was United States Consul-General, on the 2nd inst. He was born in Vermont, and was thirty-three years old.

Ex-Governor Seymour is in favor of the lash as a punishment for certain classes of incorrigible criminals, and even in Massachusetts there is a strong sentiment in the same direction.

The *London Truth* says the Duke of Connaught will be appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland as soon after the marriage as an opportunity occurs to provide for the Duke of Marlborough.

Dr. Norman Kerr, F. L. S., of London, says that in Great Britain two hundred thousand persons annually lose their lives one way or the other by drinking, limited and unlimited; moderate or immoderate.

"Grant takes a little whiskey now and then," says Simon Cameron, "and so do I, but that don't make him a drunkard." Then what in the name of Bacchus is it that does make him a drunkard.—*Courier Journal.*

Representatives Thornberg and Riddle, of Tennessee, and Walker, of Virginia, have all been very ill.—Messrs. Thornberg and Walker are better, and Riddle is convalescent.—*W. Star.*

New Year is not a particularly sickly season—though it is the calendar.—*N. Y. Graphic.*

—Since the Forty-Fifth Congress assembled, no less than five members have died, namely: Wilsch, Quinn, Leonard, Williams and Douglas.

"What I'd like to know," said a schoolboy, "is how the mouth of rivers can be so much larger than their heads."

The State government of New York has cost \$13650,000 during the past year. A Republican Legislature made the appropriation.

"Pants for \$5," said a seedy looking man, reading the sign in the window of a clothing store he was passing—"so do I. I never panted so for \$5 in all my life.—*Saturday Night.*

The latest statistics of the Registrar-General in England prove that there are in that country nearly a million more females than males. Up to the age of ten years the difference in the number of the two sexes is not marked.

—Since the draft in war times, there has been no such dread of service as was displayed by the Republican senators when urged to serve on the election investigating committee.—*Wash. Post.*

—"Personal unpopularity" sent the Italian ministry out of office.—Some of our Cabinet ministers would go out, about a thousand leagues at a bounce, if that were a propelling power here.

—The chairmanship of the election investigating committee went down faster than mining stock in a panic. It slid from Blaine to Hoar, dropped from Hoar to Dawes, and finally plunged from Dawes to Teller. At that distance it was dimly perceptible to the naked eye.

Bayard Taylor's body has been deposited in a vault in Berlin, but it will be brought to this country and interred in Pennsylvania, his native State. He is said to have understood well seventeen different languages, and yet was only graduated in a printing office.

Blaine's Committee at a Standstill.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Blaine's committee is without funds to prosecute work. It was the opinion of Blaine and others that the twenty thousand dollars appropriated last session for the use of the Senate Committee appointed to investigate the charges against Senator Mathews and the late Presidential election generally, would be available for the present committee, but Judge Porter, First Comptroller of the Treasury, to-day decided that the appropriation is applicable only to defray the expenses of the committee directed by the Senate to inquire into alleged frauds in the Presidential election, and not to defraying the expenses of the committee under Blaine's resolution.

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NOTICE!

APPLICATION will be made to the next General Assembly of North Carolina to amend the Charter of the Town of La Grange so as to require applicants for license to retail spirituous liquors in said town, to exhibit to the County Commissioners a recommendation from the commissioners of said town. Dec. 20, 1878.

1868. 1878.

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