

Quaker Bridge Road.
Our Richlands correspondent calls up the question of the Quaker Bridge Road again and inquires why it is not completed. We had concluded not to allude to this matter again until the meeting of the Legislature, and we only do it now to assure our correspondent that it is not the fault of the commissioners appointed on said road. They applied for the convicts, and we have called the attention of the Gov. and Penitentiary Board to the matter publicly several times through the columns of the JOURNAL, and we finally obtained a statement from the Governor giving his reason for not complying with the law, and an opinion of the Attorney General sustaining him.
We are satisfied that the Legislature intended for this road to be completed. The failure of an attempt to get a proviso in the last act granting the convicts to the effect that the number of convicts on the W. N. C. and Y. V. R. R. should not be interfered with, is an unmistakable proof that the Legislature intended the convicts to be placed on the Quaker Bridge road at once. But we must submit to the powers that be.
If the Legislature should be called in special session this spring, the friends of this enterprise should unite in an effort to have the law made so plain that a "wayfaring man though a fool, shall not err therein."

One of the Issues.
The Democratic party cannot make a stronger issue in the coming canvass or one of more interest to the people of North Carolina than that of popular education. Some one may wonder how an issue can be made on this since both parties have always declared in favor of it, but the issue can be made upon the practice of the parties; a question might be raised as to their fidelity in carrying out their promises to the people. We do not think it would be out of order to take a retrospective view of what the parties have done in North Carolina since the war for the public schools.

When the Republican party came into power they made a new Constitution in which they engrafted the following:
Each county of the State shall be divided into a convenient number of districts, in which one or more public schools shall be maintained at least four months in every year, and if the Commissioners of any county shall fail to comply with the aforesaid requirements of this section, they shall be liable to indictment.
This language would indicate that the Convention which adopted it was determined that the people should have a four months school at whatever cost, but they put in another clause, in the same Constitution, limiting taxation to two dollars on the poll and sixty-six and two-thirds cents on the hundred dollars of property. With taxation thus limited, many of the counties could hardly pay current expenses without an act of the Legislature to levy a special tax; and as the Republican Legislature which followed the Convention that made the Constitution made no provision for levying a special tax for the schools, their effort in favor of education was a dead failure. So while the Republican party had control of the state government of North Carolina education was at a low ebb; the University, once the pride of the State, the Alma Mater of many illustrious sons, went down, and down with her went the public schools of North Carolina. Nor is this all. The party has been charged time again with squandering a large amount of the school funds that were already on hand when they came into power. The record of the Republican party in N. C. on the subject of education, as to practical work, is, to say the least, a very poor one.

When the Democratic party came into power one of the first things they did was to revive the University; following this was the establishment of normal schools in different parts of the State for the education of teachers. In the Convention of 1875, which was controlled by Democrats, the Republican clause in the Constitution requiring a four months school in every district in the State, was left untouched, and is there yet; and, although the Democrats had done much in reviving the University and establishing the Normal schools, yet no provision was made for carrying this clause of the Constitution into effect until the Legislature of 1881. We believe this Legislature did more real work for the public schools than any since the

war. They have required the commissioners of each county to levy a special tax if necessary to carry on the schools for four months. This is a step in advance of anything done by any previous Legislature.
Now will the Democrats continue the good work already begun? They can show a much better record in this matter than their opponents, and in their progress they have provided the same facilities for educating the colored race that they provided for the white race—a fact that the colored people are slow to appreciate—and now if the Democratic commissioners in each county will only obey the law and give us the four months school required by the constitution, when the next census is taken the old North State will take her proper place among her sisters.

NEW BERNE ITEMS.
A marriage was finally consummated last Sunday in an adjoining county, after several knock-downs and drag-out. The groom was a near neighbor of a certain widow, who lived with four sons-in-law, and for the last three months the groom had made such frequent visits to the house of the widow that there was a small rifle in curiosity circles that something was existing more than personal friendship. This suspicion aroused the ire of the boys and they determined to force the widow to discontinue his visits. The more they threatened the more he came, until the boys being wearied with his continual coming resolved to use means more severe than words and turfs of grass. One night last week, when the widow went to the home of his love, the boys had knives, pistols and clubs, all in readiness, to do such execution as would sever the engagement. Soon as the widow entered the house the boys "went for him," pulling him down on the floor, rolling him over, punching him and inflicting such severe wounds that the widow could stand it no longer, and she, seizing them by the arms and legs, dragged them to the door and cast them out. This gave the widow an opportunity to extricate herself, and he, at once, seized the gun and a good stick, took a stand in one corner of the house and dared his antagonists. He remained in the corner until midnight when the boys became pacified, and the groom whispered a few words to the bride, and made all necessary arrangements to meet at a neighbor's house last Sunday, and there he made one flesh. The day came and the parties met and an Esq. pronounced them husband and wife, to the joy of friends and to the sorrow of the sons-in-law. The latest intelligence is, they seem to be exceedingly happy and full of mirth.
The appointment of Judge Seymour to the U. S. Judgeship caused by the death of Judge Brooks, leaves a vacancy on the Superior court bench. We have heard several prominent gentlemen express themselves as to who should be the man, and the mantle so far as public opinion is concerned, falls upon Hon. C. C. Clark. He has never sought an office and has been an untiring and uncompromising advocate of his party tenets. He is a man of a high religious type and possesses those rare qualities that fit men for such exalted positions. If Gov. Jarvis desires to reflect credit on his administration and also reflect the sentiments of the popular will, then commission Hon. C. C. Clark.
W. C. Butler, Sam and Steve Quinners were distinguished arrivals on the Neuse last week. These three farmers and mechanics brought their produce to this market and purchased goods from our merchants.
Pneumonia is quite prevalent in the city. Several of our best citizens have fallen victims within the last few weeks.
The Midland is running things strictly on the economical basis. Passes given the editorial fraternity have been called in, and no new ones issued. Of course papers along the line must defend the midland and render such aid as will increase the financial condition of the Road, and accept the thanks of the Boston Syndicate in return. This may appear business like, viewed from a Boston standpoint, but from a Southern sensible standpoint, it is "penny wise and pound foolish."
The market dock was overrun with fine Core Sound oysters last week, selling at 60 cts. per bushel. There is a perceptible difference between the Core Sound and Roanoke oyster; the former is far superior in many particulars and always finds a ready sale.
The mathematical problem submitted by our correspondent a few weeks ago, contained an error. It should have been as follows: The distance from New Berne to Kinston is 35 miles, to Washington over 40. Where should an academy or depot be located on equal distance from each point? It must be solved geometrically. We refer this to the efficient County Superintendent, and hope to see a solution in next JOURNAL. OCCASIONAL.

Jacksonville Items.
Mr. Editor:—We are having cold and windy weather to-day which I fear is quite detrimental to the work of the early gardner. Only a few days ago we had nice weather. The beautiful elms, along our streets and in the court yard, whose dark shade affords the quiet easy feeling so much comfort during the long warm days of summer, were rapidly putting forth their tender buds, and the birds had struck up their sweet spring notes, but alas, how soon the balmy Southern

Richlands Items.
The latest is the marriage of Mr. Wm. E. Grimley of Snow Hill to Miss Minnie Murrill of Gum Branch Onslow co, on the 22nd. An account of which you have no doubt received. We hope their Matrimonial barge, freighted with the good wishes of their friends and relatives, will sail as gently down the river of life, as did the Silken barge of Cleopatre down the Cydnus.
We will kindly remember with admiration those agents for chemicals, &c. from Trenton who were so fortunate on the 22nd inst.
Farmers are pushing their work rapidly during this fine weather. To show you what our section can do in the way of farming I would state that a colored man on the farm of Christopher Stephens Esq., with one horse and the assistance of his wife only, and fifteen dollars extra expenses, cultivated and housed one hundred and fifteen barrels of corn, ten bales of cotton and seven thousand pounds of fodder during the past year '81. He had also two other tenants who did very near as well.
Our section makes a vast amount of produce which can find no profitable market until it is hauled over bad roads from forty to sixty miles. I shall not indulge in bitter invectives against any one in regard to this, but surely some one is at fault or we are badly fooled. Was not the act that was passed in reference to the Quaker Bridge and Onslow Road done in good faith or was it a political hobby? If in good faith why is it not carried out as such? The work already done is useless unless pushed to a successful issue. We have a right to complain; we are the innocent sufferers; we do not demand Rail Roads and Canals but we simply ask that the State contribute that aid that by an act of the General Assembly they are pledged to open up an ordinary highway that will give us material advantage in the point of saving distance to our nearest and natural outlet which is New Berne as our mark. We hope those whose duty it is to look into this matter will arouse their energies to the necessities of the moment. We must have the road. F.

That Challenge.
New Berne, N. C.
Mr. Editor:—I am a little afraid you lean too hard to the Tar Heels (as you call them) against the Virginians or you would state facts in your paper, or at least try to get them right before publishing things to the people that are not correct.
In the first place three Richmond Virginians gentlemen did not challenge your sportsmen for a hunt. It is true three Virginia gentlemen got off the train at your place for a hunt, but one of them was only on a visit and was not

shot, and did not expect to shoot against any one. The other two Virginians did send a challenge to your N. C. sportsmen to shoot against them and at the same time we were not very much disappointed at finding one of your crack shots out of place by his hurting his toe against the bed post during the night as we were a little afraid beforehand, that something would happen to keep him away, as we had given him about two weeks notice, more or less, that we desired to shoot against your two best shots. (Then my Tar Heel friends of New Berne came to meet me on my return and I told them the hunt was off on account of the bed post getting in your crack shot's way. They all exclaimed "too thin," as every one knows all beds have posts; if he had hurt himself over a chair, it would have been all right. I of course made no comments and make none now.) In your saying if your friend had not been hurt, he would have given the Virginians a good beating. I will only add that we don't think so, as one of the Virginians had been in the field with your hurt friend before and at dinner time your friend had shot 27 times and killed 10 or 13 birds and the Virginian had shot the same number of times and showed 21 birds. It was true he was hunting against his partner on that time, but was trying to be the lead man when we met. Now if your sportsman can shoot as well as you, Mr. Editor think he can all you have to do is to trot him out, shot for shot and all shots just as he and you choose, and your Virginia friend will take great pleasure in shooting against him for pleasure alone and will give him until next fall to improve in as it is getting too late now to kill any more partridges. All your Virginia friend asks is that we are to follow the *coney's* up, and get from two to three fivers of them before going to hunt a new *coney*.
We Virginians don't call any one a bird shot, unless he can kill them in the woods and I must confess I am afraid your Tar Heel will come under that head. I should not care to correct you but for being hit at twice in your paper and being a stranger in your State. I only want things to be stated as they should be. In regard to being a tie in the last hunt, as soon as the one failed to come to time the hunt was off. As you want all the facts in the case so as to get it as it should be, I take pleasure in referring you to my friend Mr. Dempsey Wood Jr. I think Mr. Wood will tell you that he is not so certain as you are that the Tar Heels would carry off the laurels. I suppose you don't know that one of the Virginians that came to shoot against your young men, is over 60 years old, and if it had been a beat for them, you might have had a little allowance for old age, as it will tell on the eye, if nothing more.
Please excuse so long a letter as I have tried to explain things, as they should be right before they go to the people.
Of course all this I have said is done in fun, as it gives me pleasure to shoot against any one who thinks he can shoot. Yours Respectfully,
VIRGINIAN.

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in order to test the progress made by the children in this branch. I often take some of the advanced classes in a school and send one to the board to write from dictation. The following little verse of poetry from the 4th Reader I have given several times:
"Dear Mrs. Stork," said Mr. Fox,
"I pray you'll come and dine."
"You're very kind," said Mrs. Stork,
"I really can't decline."
Now it would seem to be no trouble to write that off correctly, and yet there is a good deal of pains to be taken to avoid any mistake. There are ten capital letters to be used; four different quotation marks four commas; three periods; nothing abbreviation two periods for the close of a sentence and three apostrophes to note the omission of letters.
The number of mistakes on this verse generally run from six to a dozen. The best school on this verse was the one taught by Miss Lou, Churchill near Mr. Worth's. Her class made only three mistakes, and with a little time given them I think they would have corrected these.

I guess this communication will close my series of letters, "Among the Schools," as the school year is nearly out and my visits hereafter will be confined to the few scattering schools which are fortunate enough to last four or five months. In the last three months I have visited 66 schools. My stay at the different schools has been short, averaging not over one hour and a half but I trust that these visits have not proved unprofitable to both teachers and pupils. For my own part the task has been one of pleasure as well as of duty, for I feel assured that the new system under which we are working is the dawning of a brighter era for Popular Education in North Carolina.
J. W. HARPER.

STATE NEWS.
Twin Calves.
A cow belonging to Mr. John D. Moore, of this county, recently gave birth to twin calves, whose bodies were joined together somewhat like the late celebrated Siamese twins. They ought to be sent to Barnum and exhibited with Jim Gilbert, the great Chatham giant.—[Chatham Record.]

The Scarcity of Corn.
Corn is selling for \$4.00 per barrel and is not plentiful at that. In some parts of the county there is no corn at all, and knowing this, those who have it will probably hold it for higher prices. We advise those who have it to buy, to buy it from Cincinnati or some other grain centre now.—[Roanoke News.]

Wonderful Change.
In anti-bell days, before the war, and for several years after, Raleigh society was rather exclusive, and the Episcopal church was the "Established Faith" of the "First-Circles." Loss of wealth, and gain of wealth, energy, and indolence, talent and stupidity, together with the "spirit of the age," so-called, have brought about a wonderful change. The degree of toleration and moderation may be inferred from the fact that at a recent fashionable hop there were lovely representatives of the Methodist, the Baptist, the Presbyterian, the Catholic, and the Episcopal, churches, present and participating in the "right fantastic toe" movement while among the pantaloned sex were all churches, politics, and pedigrees.—[Farmer & Mechanic.]

Wheat Crop Prospects.
The good old Dutch farmers in the Piedmont portion of this State believe that the weather on Ash Wednesday indicates what the crop will be during the coming season. If that day is bright about, but if inclement the crop will not be good. As yesterday (Ash Wednesday) was such a delightful day we hope the old Dutch prediction will be verified this year, and there is every indication that it will be, for every section we hear the most encouraging reports as to the condition of the growing crop. Certainly there never was a year when an abundant crop was more needed.—[Chatham Record.]

Foul Play Suspected.
On Tuesday of last week a white man named Thomas Perdue was found on the railroad track near Kirtrells terribly mangled by a passing train, and dead. It was supposed at first that being intoxicated, he had fallen asleep on the track, and had been run over by the engine and killed. An investigation has led to the belief that he was first murdered and then placed on the track to cover up the deed.
Suspicion has pointed to a white man who had been heard to threaten to kill Perdue, and this belief is strengthened by the fact that the suspected party has fled. We have been unable to obtain full particulars.—[Free Lance.]

A Fatal Mistake—Death from Taking Morphine for Quinine.
A gentleman from Columbus county informs us that a Mr. Pearce, of that county, sent to Whiteville a few days since for some quinine, being troubled with a light fever. He received what he supposed to be the medicine sent for and took a dose of it the same night, after which he went to a neighbor's house, where he soon complained of feeling sleepy, and was shown to bed. About 12 o'clock the family were aroused by bursts of laughter apparently issuing from the visitor's room, and, upon entering to ascertain the cause of the unseemly and unaccountable mirth, Mr. Pearce was found in the agonies of death, and was soon afterwards a corpse. Upon investigation it was found that he had taken morphine instead of quinine—the result of a terrible mistake somewhere and by some one.—[Wil. Star.]

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Premium Phosphate.

Read what a Farmer says about Hymans & Dancy's PREMIUM PHOSPHATE, a High Grade Fertilizer, sold by Mewborne & Harper.

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.
I have treated of nearly all those who used the Premium Phosphate, and can state it has given general satisfaction. The most of them say it is better than other Fertilizers used in the fields. Being a farmer myself, I can recommend the Premium as a first class Fertilizer for cotton and corn.
T. H. GRIFFIN.



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