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WEEKLY ERA.

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Superintendent of Public Instruction.

His Excellency, the Governor, to-day conferred the position of Superintendent of Public Instruction upon Hon. Kemp P. Battle, of this city.

By law an election occurs to fill this position on the first Thursday of August, 1874.

Looking to the good of the *whole* people, and desiring to establish a permanent, practicable, efficient and successful system of common schools in North Carolina, Governor Caldwell has discarded all mere political thought or consideration in this matter, and it is to be hoped that no one, of any party, will view or discuss the appointment in a partizan light or from a political stand-point. There is nothing of political significance in the appointment, and it is in no sense a political position; but amply qualified in an educational, legal and financial point of view, qualities all combined, which, perhaps, no other available gentleman of the State possesses in a higher degree; and in view of the poverty of the salary, inadequate for the living of any gentleman of family and attainments, the *Era* believes the appointment the wisest that could have been made under all the circumstances, and that Mr. Battle will give perfect satisfaction to everybody; and successfully establishing a good system of popular schools, cause the appointment to redound, not only to the educational advantages of the people, but to the Republican party through such success under a Republican administration of the affairs of the State.

The following is a petition to the Governor, circulated by the leading colored men of Raleigh, and signed by leading and staunch white and colored Republicans of the city, who know Mr. Battle, and have been voting for him in all the municipal elections in which he has been a candidate:—

To His Excellency,
HONORABLE TOD R. CALDWELL,
Governor of North Carolina:

We, the undersigned, in view of the importance of filling the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction by an appointment that will secure the confidence of both political parties, and best subserve the interests and promote the cause of Education in our State, having canvassed the entire field, have concluded that we know of no one who can better fill the position, in our views, than the Hon. Kemp P. Battle.

We therefore respectfully recommend him to your earnest consideration for the appointment.

In tendering the appointment, the Governor transmitted this letter to Mr. Battle:—

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Raleigh, 14th January, 1873.

KEMP P. BATTLE, Esq.,

Dear Sir—The office of Superintendent of Public Instruction having become vacant by the death of Rev. Jas. Reid, it devolves upon me to fill the vacancy. This is an office of great importance to the people of both races, and the success or failure of our common schools is largely dependent upon the qualifications and fitness of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. After *maturely* considering the matter in all its aspects, I have determined to tender the office to you. From a long acquaintance, I believe that you possess, in an eminent degree, all the qualities and qualifications which are necessary and requisite to make our common schools a success, and that your appointment will give general, if not universal satisfaction. I am further persuaded that your freedom from *political* prejudice and intolerance, will prompt you to take as much interest, and manifest as much zeal, in behalf of the education, and moral culture of one race of our fellow citizens as of the other; and that you will *know*, or *favor*, or *ignore*, no one on account of his or her race or previous condition; but that you will administer this office, and discharge its duties, impartially, and without favor or fear. I trust, Sir, that you will accept the accompanying commission, and give me your valuable aid in an honest effort to build up, and maintain, a good system of common schools in our State.

I am, Sir, very truly,
Your obedient servant,
TOD R. CALDWELL,
Governor.

MR. BATTLE'S LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE.

RALEIGH, Jan. 14, 1873.

His Excellency,
TOD R. CALDWELL,
Governor of North Carolina:

Dear Sir:—After careful deliberation, I deem it my duty to accept the position of Superintendent of Public Instruction which you have so unexpectedly tendered me.

The cause of popular education should be raised above all partizan considerations. Reciprocating and honoring your motives in endeavoring to effect this great object, as shown in the appointment of one not your party, I shall labor with earnest desire, as the constitution provides, to diffuse the light of knowledge equally and impartially among all the youth of the State, without bias of politics or bias of race.

To aid in relieving the intellectual famine of the rising generation, in removing from the State the blight of ignorance, in re-kindling the extinguished fires of our venerable University, once so honored and so useful, in placing North Carolina abreast with the most cultured of English speaking people, is surely worthy the ambition of any man.

Deeply impressed, notwithstanding your favorable opinion, with a sense of my want of the requisite qualifications to accomplish the task, yet, intending to bring to the work, industry and zeal, I will enter on my duties, relying on your efficient aid, as well as on the co-operation of the Board of Education, the Trustees of the University, and most of all the Legislature of the State.

Thanking you for the kind terms of praise with which you accompanied my commission,

I am very respectfully yours,
KEMP P. BATTLE.

THEY hired out the paupers in Jones county, and Mrs. Lucy Locky, very respectable white lady, was bid off by a colored man.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Governor Caldwell tendered the position of Superintendent of Public Instruction to Rev. Charles Phillips, of Davidson College, confessedly the best man in the State for the position, and it must be deplored that the Legislature in the partisan madness it has displayed in reference to the salaries of Republican officials has cut down the salary of this important office so low that a gentleman of the learning and talents of Dr. Phillips must decline the position on account of inadequate pay.—*Era.*

We are sorry to see so unfair a statement as the above. The *Era* since the election has assumed a fairer tone and has not descended to the Pool pamphlet style of misrepresentation.

But the *Era* knows full well that the best Superintendent of Public Instruction the State ever had was C. H. Wiley on a salary of $1,500 per annum. The Radicals came into power, doubled the salary and gave the office to a carpet-bagger and gave him as an Assistant, a negro on a salary of $1,700. If these two worthies did any thing besides draw salaries and pick up things, the State is ignorant of what it was. The Conservatives abolished the negro's office and reduced the salary of the Principal, but not so low as to make Nereus Mendenhall and Rev. Mr. Reid, both men of mark, unwilling to run for the office.—The salary is still as large as that which Dr. Phillips gets at Davidson College. There must be some other reason for his not accepting it. Probably, he is not "in full accord with the government."—*Charlotte Southern Home.*

One is naturally pained to witness the unfairness with which the *Home* makes its statements; and it is difficult to understand how one of the age, knowledge and experience of General D. H. Hill could have fallen into such error.

First, in reference to C. H. Wiley, and his salary before the war; General Hill surely does not mean to compare a dollar before the war with a dollar now—a $1,500 salary then with a $1,500 salary now; nor does he forget that in the changed condition of the colored race, and from the fortunes of war, the number of children to be educated in common schools are double what they were in 1860; and hence the duties of a Superintendent of Public Instruction now, are, at least double those of the Chairman of Common Schools in 1860.

As to Mr. Reid, he had no family, and could have lived in the city on the salary; besides he was a man of substantial means of his own whereas Dr. Phillips is a poor man, with a large family to provide for and educate, and could not have rented a house for what Mr. Reid could have lived on.

As to Mr. Mendenhall, he knew, that, if elected, his party would raise the salary, which the *Home* most unquestionably knows they would have done.

Rev. Charles Phillips receives in addition to $1500 at Davidson, a house free of rent, and he feeds his family in a section where marketing is scarcely half as high as in Raleigh. The salary was the difficulty, General Hill, and your party is responsible.

The President's Salary.

Mr. Banks, of Massachusetts, has introduced a bill in the Lower House of the Congress, raising the salary of the President from twenty-five to fifty thousand dollars.—We hope this bill will become a law before the expiration of the present Congress on the 4th of March next. Should the bill pass as drawn by Mr. Banks, it would be lean justice at the sum of fifty thousand dollars. Nearly a century ago, when there were but thirteen States and three millions of people, the President received the same salary that he does now. By the census of 1870, General Grant is President of thirty-eight millions of people! There are thirty-seven States and nearly a dozen Territories! The duties and responsibilities of the position have increased an hundred fold; prices are four times as great as when Washington was President; and a gold dollar in those days would buy six times as much as the "Almighty dollar" will buy in this, the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three. Therefore, if the Congress should see fit to increase the salary to one hundred thousand dollars, it would not do more than meet the requirements of justice.

The salary of the British Minister to France is eighty thousand dollars per annum, besides his outfit and other sums which make up an hundred thousand dollars. The picayune notions which have deterred the Congress from increasing the salary of many government officials should have played out ere this.

It is extravagant economy to fix salaries at amounts which by no means compare with the services rendered and required. Salaries should be liberal—that is—at figures sufficiently large, though not extravagant, to insure the very best talent the State or Nation affords. There are county offices in this State which pay more than the salary of the President. The dignity of the position and the grandeur of the Republic demand the immediate passage of Mr. Banks' bill.

The Appointment of Mr. Battle.

The appointment of Hon. Kemp P. Battle to the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction is meeting with the general approval of the public of all political parties, and the subject is very wisely and appropriately viewed and treated of from an educational and not from a partisan stand-point.

The Daily *News* says:—"The office being non-partizan in its character, Governor Caldwell has acted wisely and well in selecting a gentleman so well fitted by education, talents, energy, practical judgment and patriotic zeal."

A Raleigh mechanic, and one of the leading Republicans among the working-men of the city, makes the following communication on the subject:—

To the Editor of the Era:

I am so well pleased at the appointment of the Hon. Kemp P. Battle as Superintendent of Public Instruction that I must give my reasons to the public, as a mechanic, and one that hopes to see the School system of North Carolina so managed that my children may be better prepared to make mechanics than I have been. It is well known that thousands of our people have left the State, hoping to find a School system that would prepare their children for useful citizens in all departments of business. In my opinion there is nothing that will have as good effect upon the mechanical and agricultural interests of the State as a well sustained system of public schools in the hands of a gentleman so well qualified and so identified with all the public interests of North Carolina as Mr. K. P. Battle. I say to the men who stood by North Carolina in its darkest days to brighten up. A new era is about to dawn upon us, I believe, if the Legislature will follow the example set by our worthy Governor. Divest itself of politics, and make a good school law, and sustain Mr. Battle liberally, it will not only stop emigration from the State, but induce many to return. There is nothing that so blights the mechanical interests of the State as the want of good practical education. I believe Mr. Battle feels the necessity of intelligent labor so much that he will devote his whole energy to the education of the children of North Carolina regardless of race or condition. Let every man that wishes to see North Carolina built up and her waste places blossom as the rose sustain Mr. Battle in building school houses and getting good teachers, and then send the children to school.

HENRY S. KEITH.

Raleigh, January 14, 873.

Governor Holden's Disabilities.

The Senate Impeachment Court of the last General Assembly, in a fit of partizan insanity, long since deplored by the people of the State, and disapproved at the time of all good people, saw proper, in deposing the Governor from office, to also fix on him life-bans of political disability.

At a time when so many of our people were seeking the removal of disabilities imposed by Congress, and when the State Legislature was clamoring for the relief of divers prominent citizens of the State, that Legislature banned the only man in the world it had the power to touch. The mistake is now apparent, and since Congress has removed the disabilities of all, with slight exceptions, the disposition is manifest on the part of this Legislature to correct the mistake of the other by removing the disability imposed on Governor Holden.

A resolution has already been introduced, and the matter is in proper shape before the Legislature. That it will promptly act favorably to the relief of Governor Holden, no one entertains a doubt, and as an earnest of a better era of feeling in our State, and a disposition to repair the mistakes and forget the errors of the past, the public sentiment of North Carolina is strongly setting in the direction above indicated.

The Republicans, always first in amnesty, will vote unanimously for this relief, and the Conservatives will do honor to themselves who support this measure.

It is hoped that the desired action may not be delayed a day; and let the Legislature of North Carolina, with one voice, speedily send up an appeal to the Congress for the relief of the last one of our fellow-citizens, that President Grant may enter upon a second term of his high office with a country fully restored—with not a single one of his fellow-citizens under political bans—the foot of a *bond-man* pressing the soil of the United States nowhere in all our broad, peaceful and free domain.

Vaccination in the Penitentiary.

The Physician to the Penitentiary desires the *Era* to state, that, the Board had ordered the convicts to be vaccinated some days since, and he is only waiting for some non-humanized vaccine virus ordered from New York, and daily expected.

The omission to have the convicts vaccinated as they enter was an error in the first Board, but hereafter that matter will be attended to.

A pest-house, remote from the quarters of the convicts, has been provided against contagion; and the Board has very properly agreed to allow the Physician fifty cents remuneration for each convict and employe vaccinated.

The Western North Carolina Railroad.

The *Era*, to-day, contains, in its correspondence department, an able, well written, intelligent and comprehensive article on the Western North Carolina Railroad, and the financial troubles and depressing difficulties which beset it.

It is gratifying to observe, that, in whatever writers have to say on this subject, the official conduct of Governor Caldwell in reference to the matter is generally commended, in that he has but done his duty as the Executive of the State.

Reference is made, in the communication of "Catawba," to the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad, in which the State has, or had a much larger interest and a more valuable property, being a line much nearer completed and producing a much heavier annual income than the Western North Carolina Road.

Another correspondent writes the *Era* and asks "Why is he (the Governor) silent on the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Road—a Road in which the State has invested seven millions and is endorser for a million more—a Road that is surely worth protecting, earning annually, as it does, $350,000; with one hundred and eighty miles of finished track, and about all the grading completed?"

The Legislature, last Winter, with all the facts before it, after a long, patient and exhaustive investigation, decided by its action that the State could afford no relief to the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford, and so events had to be left to take their course, and the State's interest to take care of itself, or be sacrificed. The Governor could have accomplished nothing, whatever action he may have seen proper to take, and after the Legislature had disposed of the matter, any interference of the Executive, unasked, would have been merely gratuitous intermeddling.

In the case of the Western North Carolina Road it is quite different. Although the Legislature has had the matter in hand, giving it a hasty and unsatisfactory consideration, friends of the Road and parties interested therein have besought the Executive to bring the subject once again before the General Assembly. He took such action as was necessary to procure time, and a message will soon be transmitted to the Legislature covering the ground and giving all the information on the subject the Governor has been able to possess himself with.

It is painfully apparent that little or nothing can be done to protect the damaged and sinking interests of the State in this Road, but very little harm can result to any one from a further investigation of the subject by the Legislature, and if nothing can be done, why then the sale of the Road must take place, unless there shall be found good ground for litigation.

The people of Western North Carolina, so much interested in the completion of their Road, and so manifestly impatient under the existing delay, are assured that the Governor is not hostile to them or their interests in this matter, and he will do nothing in the premises he does not feel that his duty to himself, his high office and his State shall make it obligatory on him to undertake; and if there is found no cause for litigation on the part of the State there will be none, and no unnecessary delay caused or useless obstructions thrown in the way of the early completion of the Road under the auspices of that association of capital said to be ready, anxious and amply prepared to finish the Western North Carolina Railroad to the Tennessee line.

Western North Carolina Railroad.

For some months we have been collecting the facts connected with this road, its mortgage and its management. At last Gov. Caldwell has waked up to the fact that the State has an interest in the road. To-morrow we propose to give such facts and figures as we have been able to collect. The mortgage was the ruin of the company. Gov. Caldwell was a leading member of the board of directors when the mortgage was made and the money borrowed.—*Sentinel.*

Between politics, mismanagement and the mortgage, the Western North Carolina Railroad has been ruined, and that is the simple truth.

"Governor Caldwell was a leading member of the board of Directors when the mortgage was "made and the money borrowed," says the *Sentinel*, but that paper neglects to state, that, Mr. Caldwell, when a member of that board, vehemently opposed the mortgage, and in the meeting at which the mortgage was resolved upon he predicted that the mortgage would be the ruin of the Road, and calling for the ayes and noes when the question of mortgage was put, voted against the mortgage, all the other Directors voting for it, except Calvin J. Cowles, Esq.

Can't the *Sentinel* do scant justice in this matter?

CORRESPONDENCE.

Superintendent McIver refuses to give up the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The following correspondence explains itself:

RALEIGH, Jan. 15th, 1873.

HON. ALEX. MCIVER, Raleigh:

Dear Sir:—Having received from his Excellency Governor Caldwell a Commission appointing me Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of North Carolina, and taken the oath required by law, I respectfully notify you that I will be ready to take charge of the office on to-morrow.

Having derived great pleasure as well as profit from the perusal of your exceedingly able report to the present General Assembly, I hope, and from our friendly relations, believe, that you will continue to aid me with your valuable counsels.

Truly yours,
KEMP P. BATTLE,
Sup't Pub. Instruction.

OFFICE SUP'T PUB. INSTRUCTION,
Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 16th, 1873.

HON. KEMP P. BATTLE:

Dear Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst., giving notice of your appointment by his Excellency Governor Caldwell.

Assured as I am from an acquaintance with you of more than twenty years, of your eminent fitness for the duties of the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, I would cheerfully surrender the office to you, if I believed that my term of office had expired, or that the Commission under which you claim is legal.

By the first section of Article III of the State Constitution the term of office of all officers of the Executive Department shall commence on the first day of January next after their election, and continue until their successors are "elected and qualified." By section thirteen of the same Article: If the office of any of the said officers shall be vacated by death, resignation or otherwise, it shall be the duty of the Governor to appoint another until the disability be removed or his successor be "elected and qualified."

An officer is one who is invested with an office.

Mr. Reid had not been invested with the office and therefore he was not an officer. The office of Superintendent of Public Instruction never became the office of Mr. Reid and therefore it was not vacated by his death or otherwise. The Constitution continues the term of the present incumbent and no vacancy has occurred. It is reasonable that the Constitution should designate the person, if it has a suitable person on hand, to continue in office in case the person dies or refuses to qualify; and the Constitution of North Carolina does this very thing. It continues the term of the incumbent until his successor is "elected and qualified." No vacancy occurred, and His Excellency had no authority to grant the Commission to which you refer; and for that reason the Commission is null and void.

I, therefore, most respectfully decline to surrender to you the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Sincerely yours.
ALEXANDER MCIVER,
Sup't Pub. Instruction.

Printers' Monument to Mr. Greeley.

The printers of the United States propose to erect to the memory of Horace Greeley a strictly printers' monument, to be cast of types from all the printing offices of the United States, each office being requested to contribute two pounds of type; and on the third day of February, which is the birth day of Mr. Greeley, every printer in the country is requested to contribute the worth of a thousand ems, say fifty cents, toward the erection of the monument.

The *Era* will at once forward the type, and the compositors of this office, on the third of February, will all forward their mite to the parties authorized to receive it. It is hoped that no printing office in North Carolina will fail to do likewise.

Farm-Yard Scraps.

During the past year 2,000 pounds of walnut kernels were shipped by rail from Broadway depot in Rockingham county. They sold at 30 cents per pound, bringing the handsome sum of $600 for these small and seemingly worthless things. The *Register* says: "These walnut kernels were gathered mainly by poor children in Brock's Gap, who had no other way in which to turn an honest penny." They are used in making candy.

The Charlottesville (Va) *Chronicle* says: "We learn with much pleasure that parties exploring this county in search of iron ores have recently developed a deposit on the lands of Dr. John R. Woods, and there is every reason to believe the vein continues through the adjoining lands of John Wood, Jr., and perhaps on to adjacent lands. These discoveries are within one-half a mile of Ivy depot, on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad."

Every farmer knows, or he thinks he knows, how to take care of potatoes for winter use, but we will describe briefly our methods. Dig the potatoes, if possible, when the ground is dry; but if this cannot or has not been done, they should be allowed to dry on a barn floor, the adhering soil removed, and then the roots may be carried to the cellar. We provide large boxes which will hold about twenty bushels each, (cast off three boxes) raise them a few inches from the cement floor by cross pieces of scantling, and then fill them with the clean and dry potatoes. A lid excludes them from the light. If there happen to be a few wide cracks in the bottom of the box the ventilation will be better; and if the tubers are clean and the cellar cool there will be little rot.

Whose Ox?

It not unfrequently makes a deal of difference whose ox is gored.

Whenever the Federal authorities have taken a citizen of one State to another to stand trial before a circuit court, we have heard the howl of "centralization" from one end of the country to the other, whether such arrest and conveyance was according to law or not.

Mr. Alvin Bettis, of Cleaveland county, living within a few hundred yards of the South Carolina line, was arrested by Federal authority and taken to Yorkville. This was an outrage, and Governor Caldwell promptly resented it, and in vindication of the dignity of the State had Mr. Bettis released and returned to his State. In this case, President Grant acted like the chief magistrate of a great nation should act; but this did not satisfy "the friends of good government"—they still insisted that the Federal government was a "centralized despotism."

Mr. David A. Ramsour was arrested at Wake Forest College, charged with Ku Kluxing in Cleaveland county, and taken to South Carolina for trial where the offence was said to have been committed. Mr. Ramsour was given the choice of going on to South Carolina without delay, or wait in Raleigh for an order of transfer from the Judge for the District of North Carolina. "The friends of good government" convulsed the nation with their indignation on this occasion.

Captain W. H. Trezevant, of Charlotte, was arrested in that city last Spring under a warrant from South Carolina, and taken to that State to have the charges inquired into. The transfer of Captain Trezavant, under the circumstances, was unlawful, as this writer protested at the time, and Governor Caldwell, apprized of the occurrence, took the proper steps to have Mr. Trezevant returned to his State. The charges were speedily inquired into, and Mr. Trezevant released, but "the friends of good government" will never recover from the great injury done them by the arrest of the Captain.

BUT HERE THE SCENE CHANGES:—A party from Robeson county in this State crossed over to South Carolina the other day, and without warrant or color of authority, arrested some citizens of the latter State on the ground that they were in some way connected with the Robeson outlaws, and they started with their prisoners to North Carolina.

The South Carolina authorities interfered, arrested the kidnappers, and fined them. "The friends of good government" dash promptly to the rescue, and the officers of the law in South Carolina are severely denounced for their action—a city paper this morning characterizing an officer there as a "miserable sheriff."

The parties apprehended in South Carolina by the Robeson county vigilance committee and outlaw hunters, may be guilty of crimes against the State of North Carolina committed within her limits, but there is a lawful way of reaching them through requisition of our Governor, and guilty or innocent, no citizen or officer of North Carolina can invade a sister State, or interfere with the liberty of her citizens.

It is a gratifying circumstance for this writer to be able to state his intimate belief that the day has passed when Federal officers will be permitted, under any circumstances, to transport the citizens of one State to another without warrant of law; and "the friends of good government" may as well understand that they will not be permitted to exercise or assume an authority not granted anywhere in law; conduct which they have so often denounced as an outrage in others, and which never has, and never will obtain the sanction of the great body of the American people; for here, as in England, every man's house is his castle, and as the English Monarch dare not cross the threshold of the humblest subject against the will of the occupant, except by warrant of law, so the President of the United States, or no officer or citizen of a State, can invade another State, or deprive the meanest citizen of his liberty, but by authority of the law.

Let all the people of the United States, and all other liberty-loving people rejoice that we have passed through all the phases of a dangerous revolution, and if we have sometimes resorted to dangerous practices, our free institutions are at last vindicated, peace and harmony prevailing everywhere, and regularly constituted authority the only law now known to the General Government, the Government of the States or any of the law-loving people thereof.

[From Washington Chronicle.]

Governmental Control Over Railroads.

Mr. Hawley, of Illinois, on Monday introduced in the House of Representatives a bill looking to the exercise of such governmental control over the railroad monopolies of the country as to compel them to pay a proper regard to the convenience, comfort, and safety of the public, and at the same time protect the latter against exorbitant charges for the services rendered. After declaring the power of Congress in the premises over roads from one State into another, the bill provides for the appointment of a commission to investigate the business of the railroads, inquiring into their rates for passage and transportation, their receipts and expenditures, the running of trains, the amount and quality of rolling stock, character of accommodations for passengers, and such other matters as many be necessary in order to furnish Congress with data whereon to base such legislation as the public interests may be found to demand.

This is a step in the right direction, and has been taken none too soon, for the people are now pretty generally aroused to the necessity of using the governmental machinery, which, in their collective capacity, they control, as a means of grappling with those monster corporations in whose presence, as separate individuals, they are powerless and without defense. The constitutional right of Congress to control such corporations has lately been ably argued by Judge Shellabarger, of Ohio, in a letter which has been extensively published; but, even if this right did not exist under the Constitution as it is, public sentiment would soon demand an amendment whereby the right would be expressly guaranteed. The necessity for its exercise may at any moment become so imperative as to overrule all other considerations, for, as population is distributed under our modern civilization, a large proportion of the people depend for their very existence upon the regular and unobstructed operation of the railroads. Some idea of the power of the latter over the interests of vast communities may be formed from the position in which New York, Philadelphia, and other great cities were temporarily placed a year or so ago by the action of the railroad and canal companies which control the lines of communication entering the authracite coal region of Pennsylvania. The amount of public inconvenience then occasioned by the sudden imposition of prohibitory freight rates was incalculable, and had those rates been maintained a few weeks longer, a coal famine must have resulted, stopping hundreds of factories and carrying distress to tens of thousands of homes.

But we need not refer to extreme cases in order to find warrant for governmental regulation. The simple fact is that the principle of competition, relied on as an adequate security for mutual justice in transactions between man and man, is now, in most cases, altogether inoperative in transactions between individuals and the great carrying companies. What, then, is the protection of the individual against extortion and other oppressions? Evidently he has but one resource, and that is to combine with the mass of his fellow-citizens and use, for the control of the corporations the same kind of agency which was used for their creation, viz: that governmental organization through which alone the great body of the people can combine their strength for their mutual benefit and protection.

The last rail on the northern division of the Cairo and Fulton railroad, connecting Little Rock, Arkansas, with St. Louis, has been laid. The southern division of this road extends from Little Rock to northern Texas, where connection will be made with the International railway, which in turn connects at Hearne, Texas, with a system of roads extending to the Gulf of Mexico. This division will be completed within the present year.

The Skeleton.

A distinguished physician of this city has at our request kindly furnished us the following anatomical facts concerning the human frame. The skeleton of an adult person consists of two hundred and forty-six distinct pieces as follows:

Bones of the head,	8
Ear,	6
Face,	14
Teeth,	32
Back—vertebral column,	24
Ribs,	24
Tongue,	1
Upper extremities—arm, wrist and fingers,	64
Breast, sternum,	1
Pelvis—hip, sacrum and coccyx,	4
Lower extremities—leg, instep and toes,	60
Sesamoid,	8

A Johnston County Farmer.

Robert F. Faucett moved from three miles of Haw River in Alamance county in 1867 and settled on an old worn out place in Johnston county where Jim Pearce used to live, and he has about paid for it this year in cotton.—Mr. Faucett tells us that with only the help of his family he made fourteen bags of cotton last year and has already got nine hundred and ten dollars for thirteen of the bags, the money paid him by the State National Bank of this city, and the other bag as soon as he is through picking will bring him between seventy and eighty dollars. The secret of this farmer's success is: he had four sons. And they worked with father.

Robbie Foard, one of Rutherford (N. C.) amateurs, will do the tragedy in the town of Rutherfordton with his Happy Twelve The villagers and their sweethearts are *so* glad they've come.

Perfidious and Malicious Conduct of Militia Col. Russ Exposed.

To the Editor of The Era:—

SIR—Enclosed I send you a letter from J. B. Bryant, Esq., to me explaining why he signed the card with J. T. Harris to Col. Russ. Please insert. This proves beyond the shadow of a doubt the fact that the Colonel will resort to any means to gratify his malicious feelings; he has had no cause or excuse for misrepresenting me in any transaction, except my refusing to pay him 25c. extra per bushel for his potatoes. His perfidiousness is shown in violating the promise made to Mr. Bryant not to publish the card to which his name was signed.

Respectfully,
D. C. MURRAY.

RALEIGH, Jan. 14, 1873.

D. C. Murray, Esq.—

SIR—When I signed the note with J. T. Harris to Col. J. P. H. Russ, dated January 9, 1873, in reference to the peas, I told Col. Russ that the gentleman from the country who came in and offered us $1.25 for the peas which I had offered to you for $1.15, was joking. I knew he did not want the peas, and he did not buy any from us at any price, for either himself or you. I explained this matter to Col. Russ, who insisted upon my signing the paper, which I did, without the explanation accompanying it, under a *promise* from Col. Russ that it should not be published. You may imagine my surprise, therefore, when I found it had been published, and as its publication unexplained is calculated to mislead the public and injure you, I feel in honor bound as an act of simple justice to make this statement to you.

I am, respectfully, yours, &c.
J. B. BRYANT.

Fists.

☞ *"I'll bet I can drink six* glasses more," cried Amos Boswick, a New York boy, who had already drank eight glasses of Bourbon Whiskey.—He staggered home, and as he seated himself near the table, his mother slapped him two or three times on the head with her open hand. The boy attempted to throw up his hands, but fell on the table with his head resting on his arms. After a few minutes his mother ordered him to get up. As she took him by the arms he gasped, and rolled from the chair to the floor, dead.

☞ *Oh, no, she wouldn't marry* again. A beautiful girl she was, living in Georgetown, D. C. when a young man there fell in love with her and they were engaged. But after all she married a dashing young officer who in the late war threw his fortune in favor of the South and died fighting under the Stars and Bars. She named her first boy after this first lover, and the widow and her son moved away out West. The other day the old Georgetown bach saw the death of this boy, aged 12 years, published in the newspaper, and he went right out there, and the old flames were rekindled, and they are now living, man and wife, together in Georgetown, and not even the teeth are wanting to enable the wife to chew on the cud of her first love.

☞ *Col. Keating in his travels* gives the following of how they fatten their women for the African and Asiatic markets: As soon as betrothed she is cooped up in a small room, with gold shackels on her ankles. If her proprietor has lost a wife by death or divorced one, her anklets are sent forward to the matrimonial candidate. When she has attained a desirable size, indicated by filling the pattern rings, she is carried in triumph to her new home. The preparation of food that actually produces that coveted dimension—a mountain of fatness—is called dough, made of the seeds of a vegetable peculiar to the country. Some positively die from excessive fatness in an effort to surpass in that bewitching accomplishment rival candidates for matrimonial positions.—These famous mortals are not the poor girls. They are the higher orders in society, and therefore are ambitious, like fashionables in some civilized States, of securing an elevated position with a rich husband, Bruce the traveler, saw a great queen in Africa—a gem of women, the envy of her sex and wife hunters—who weighed over four hundred.

☞ *Boys, this is of a little sailor* boy who was sent up the main mast to furl a sail while the storm was raging; read it, and it will tell you why the little fellow wasn't afraid:

"Why did you send him? He cannot come down alive."

"I did it," replied the mate, "to save life. We've sometimes lost a man overboard, but never a boy. See, how he holds like a squirrel. He is more careful. He will come down safe, I hope."

Again I looked till tears dimmed my eyes, and I was compelled to turn away, expecting every moment to catch a glimpse of his last fall.

In about fifteen or twenty minutes, he came down, and straightening himself up with the conscious pride of having performed a manly act, he walked off with a smile on his countenance.

In the course of the day, I took occasion to speak to him.

"Why did you hesitate when ordered aloft?"

"I went sir," said the boy, "*to pray.*"

"Do you pray?"

"Yes, sir. I thought that I might not come down alive, and I went to commit my soul to God."

"Where did you learn to pray?"

"At home. My mother wanted me to go to Sabbath-school, and my teacher urged me to pray to God to keep me, and I do."

"What was that you had in your jacket?"

"My Testament, which my teacher gave me. I thought if I did perish, I would have the word of God close to my heart."