THE ERA AND EXAMINER.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1874.

Public Schools.

There are, in the United States, over fourteen millions of children within the school age, for whose education over ninety-five million dollars are expended annually, and two hundred and twenty-one thousand teachers are employed. This is our standing army, and these our raw recruits.

The American doctrine is, that "the property of the State shall educate the children of the State." This benefits, equally, the rich and the poor. It decreases crime *reduces taxes*, improves labor, increases the value of property, and elevates the whole community. One of the first and decisive questions asked in seeking a permanent location for one's family, is, "What are the means provided for education?" A village, town or State, with good free schools, is the resort of families; without them it is the home of criminals.

In France, from 1867 to 1869, one half the inhabitants could neither read nor write; and this half furnished ninety-five per cent. of the persons arrested for crime, and eighty-seven per cent. of those convicted.

In the six New England States only seven per cent. of the inhabitants above the age of ten years are unable to read and write, and yet eighty per cent. of the crime in those States is committed by this small minority. In New York and Pennsylvania an ignorant person commits, on the average, seven times the number of crimes that one who can read and write commits, and in the United States the illiterate person commits ten times the number of crimes the educated one commits. These facts are derived from official statistics.

These unerring guides of the statesman, statistics, demonstrate that the most economical, effective, and powerful preventative of crime is the free public school. Universal education tends to universal morality.

In a republic like ours, where all political power is vested in, and derived from, the people, where "the government is of the people, for the people, and by the people," no subject can be presented to the citizen of greater importance than the education of youth. A well educated commonwealth, however narrow its borders or poor its soil, soon becomes rich and powerful; while an ignorant one, even under the happiest circumstances, of land and air and sky, falls a prey to anarchy, poverty and despotism.

Intelligence in rulers is essential to good government. With us the rulers are the voters, hence the necessity of fitting them by education to rule. With intelligent voters, our form of government is the best yet devised; with ignorant voters, it is the worst.

An intelligent people seek freedom, an ignorant people, despotism, as naturally and surely as the needle seeks the pole. The founders of our free institutions knew this two hundred and fifty years ago. A free State, a free school, and a free church, are the cardinal principles of American liberty. Hence the early settlers of America scarcely completed the log cabins for their families, before they began the log school houses for their children. The school house was developed and spread from Maine to California. The finest building that springs up in every village of the great north west is the public school house. Like the light of heaven and the water of the earth it is free alike to rich and poor. It is the nursery of the American citizen.

It was not till after the close of the late war that the public school house began to attract any considerable attention in the southern States. Within the last few years, however, very considerable progress has been made in many of these States in working out the practical problem of public education. The public schools in Richmond, Petersburg and other cities in Virginia, are equal, in all respects, to the public schools of Philadelphia, New York, or Boston. The same may be said of the public schools in Atlanta, Augusta, Savannah, Charleston and many other southern cities. There is now pending before the Georgia legislature a bill to give to each school district the right of local taxation. If this bill becomes a law as it probably will, the time is not distant when Georgia will go to the front, side by side with Virginia, in the development of her best resources.

Yet amid this career of improvement, this culture of mind and character, North Carolina, inferior in no respect to either Virginia or Georgia, is doing nothing. When the Georgia legislature were asked four years ago to make provisions for city schools, *they considered the question*. They examined its merits. *They acted*. Twelve of the ablest gentlemen in the legislature were put upon the committee on education, of which ex-Governor Brown was made chairman. The committee availed themselves of all information within their reach. They became convinced that the relief of Georgia would be found in improving the education of the people. They went to work in good earnest; the city school bill was adopted without opposition and the people of Georgia have never complained. Virginia, Tennessee, and other southern States in like manner have comprehended the true idea and economy of public education. There is not, however, a city, town, village or township in North Carolina which can, by law, provide a sufficient school fund to support a public school for the education of their children. The legislature will not trust the people this far. A city school bill has been pending in the general assembly about twelve months. Every possible guard has been thrown around the bill to prevent abuse. The taxpaying citizens of several cities in the State have asked for the law, yet the legislature cannot trust the people with this right. The legislature has been urged to authorize the county commissioners of the several counties to provide, in their discretion, for the organization of teachers institutes in their respective counties, for the improvement of teachers at a cost not to exceed one dollar for each teacher instructed. Yet, the legislature, by an overwhelming vote, has refused to trust the country with this power. The present general assembly has been urged to permit the people of North Carolina to enjoy the same rights and privileges of local taxation which the people of other States—north and south—enjoy for the education of their children, but the legislature has refused to entertain the proposition. The people of North Carolina are not to be trusted with such rights and privileges.

Col. R. T. Bennett, of Anson.

This gentleman has complained, in person, to the editor of the *Examiner* of an article that appeared in this paper a few days since, under the head of Solomon Bennett's logic.

He says, in the first place, that it is not a name by which he is known at home, and that the association under the name is not pleasant; that the article in question holds up to public criticism some of his physical peculiarities for which he is not responsible; that while his conduct is a proper subject for criticism, and he expects nothing else at the hands of the *Examiner*, he appeals to this editor if either his conduct or peculiarities merit the epithets and severe ridicule with which the article abounds. And referring to the mutual estimation of their acquaintance of the past two years, desires that the editor of the *Examiner* will do Mr. Bennett and himself the courtesy and justice in the premises that ought always to exist and obtain among gentlemen.

The article in question was written by a staff editor, but the editor in chief will here assume the authority to say that it was not the intention to wound Mr. Bennett, or to injure him. His action in relation to the State geologist was deemed to constitute good ground for criticism, and in the ridicule attempted it was not the desire to give more than "a random sting."

But since Colonel Bennett has made known to the editor that he feels hurt at portions of the article, and communicates the fact in a manner so courteous and gentlemanly as to appeal to the highest instincts of a gentleman, the *Examiner* here, fully and freely, withdraws every portion of the said article that could be, by the most sensitive gentleman, tortured into personally offensive words.

Making a Record—Digging Their Political Graves.

The democrats of this legislature are making a very pretty record in the legislature.

The rich man's party—that is the party of all the wealth and intelligence in the State, the democratic party—was out in full force in the house yesterday, on an educational system for the rich, as against the poor.

Mr. McGehee, the leader of the aristocracy in the house of representatives, brought forward a measure to donate all the State land about Raleigh to the University at Chapel Hill, and in addition thereto tax the people of the State one hundred thousand dollars a year for the support of that hot-house of aristocracy.

An amendment was offered to substitute *common schools* for "university," but the proposition was rejected.

It required, to make the vote of the house a tie, that Mr. Johnston of Buncombe, or Mr. Buncombe of Johnston, should answer aye, when the name of an absent member—Mr. Blackwell was called—and also that the clerk should fail to record the vote of Dr. Wheeler, of Forsythe; and the democrats of the house sustained and endorsed the omission of the clerk by refusing to allow Dr. Wheeler to record his vote, though he was present and protesting that he voted no.

The vote by this kind of democratic tactics was announced, fifty for; fifty against. Whereupon the speaker, Mr. Robinson, possessed of an unaccountable infatuation to bury himself deeper than the lowest strata of the magnificent marble of his native Macon, voted aye, and, so, the bill passed the house.

Now the *Examiner* would delight to see a flourishing school at Chapel Hill, and so would all the poor people of North Carolina; but when it comes to this, that the democratic party of North Carolina, in and out of the legislature, in refusing to do anything for the free school system of the State thus declares its purpose to resurrect the university for the education of rich men's sons, and thus perpetuate that traditional aristocracy so offensive and oppressive to the masses of the people, by taking the peoples' lands and taxing the peoples' property to educate the children of these rich men, and let the poor go uneducated, as a cardinal principle and time-honored custom of the democratic party, the people will say down with both the university and the democratic party.

When the democratic leaders sounded their slogan *"we are the party of all the wealth and intelligence of the State,"* they meant a great deal. All their legislation since 1870 has been to keep down the masses of the people—legislate the rich rich, and the poor poorer—and now, having just voted down every measure that at all looked to the building up and encouragement of a system of free schools for the poor people of the State, this legislature of aristocrats—this party of *"all the wealth and intelligence of the State"*—proposes to put its hands into the pockets of the poor working-men of North Carolina and compel them to bear the burden of educating rich men's sons.

The North Carolina Railroad Consolidation Bill.

By request the *Examiner* publishes the consolidation bill as it passed and is now a law.

Practically it is a dead letter on the statute books, and, might as well be repealed; for it is certain that the North Carolina railroad company will never accept it, containing, as it does, a clause, reflecting, by implication, on one of the stockholders and present president of the company.

It is doubtful, even, if the governor calls a meeting together under it, for, without the active aid and co-operation of Hon. W. A. Smith, the gentleman aimed at by the democrats of the legislature in their petty, political spite and puerile disreputable, personal legislation, a quorum of the private stock of the North Carolina railroad cannot be gotten together to even consider this matter.

The active enemies of the scheme of consolidation could have desired nothing better to defeat it than this section referred to—numbered section 10 in the bill—and aware, as they must have been, that such personal legislation defeated the scheme, the motives of senators and representatives voting this section in was clearly to kill the measure.

The *Examiner* does not regard this present consolidation bill as worth the paper it is written on, and although its publication gratifies some of its friends, the *Examiner* protests against incurring the expense of four and a half dollars for setting it up, to say nothing of the space the bill occupies.

The people of the west must wait for a railroad until the people can elect another legislature; in the meantime it will be well to consider of the disaster and damage the democratic party, during the two past legislatures, has inflicted upon the State and the people.

The Pay of Do-nothing Members of the Legislature versus Working Clerks.

Our legislators fix their own pay at five dollars per day for three or four hours' work, and they manage it so that they can draw their pay every day if they wish.

They also fix the pay of the clerks in the various executive departments at less than half the amount the legislators receive, though most of these clerks are required to work nearly all day, and can only draw their pay at the end of three months.

Of course it is not expected that clerks should draw as much or as often as members of the general assembly. But it does seem reasonable that these over-worked and under-paid officials might be allowed to draw their pay at the end of each month. All of these gentlemen are poor, most of them have families, and it costs as much for them to live in Raleigh as it costs members of the general assembly, and but for the courtesy of the State treasurer, would be put to serious inconvenience by reason of being required to wait three months for the scant salary allowed them.

Is this difference between legislators and clerks reasonable? Is it just?

The Consolidation Bill.

AN ACT TO AMEND THE CHARTER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD COMPANY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES THEREIN MENTIONED.

SECTION 1. *The general assembly of North Carolina do enact:*—That the North Carolina railroad company, a corporation chartered by the general assembly, session 1848-'49, is hereby authorized to construct and make, or to purchase, hold and complete the construction of a railway from Salisbury to or near the line of division between this State and Tennessee, at or near Paint Rock, and to the Georgia and Tennessee line in the county of Cherokee.

SEC. 2. That the said North Carlina railroad company may purchase the Western North Carolina railroad, or any one or all the divisions of the same, whether at judicial sale or any other sale that may be made thereof, and thenceforth may have, hold, possess and be entitled to the said railroad and all its contracts, franchises, rights, privileges and immunities, and all the property and estate of every description, real and personal belonging to the Western North Carolina railroad companies; and by such purchase the said company shall acquire all the rights, privileges and immunities conferred on the Western North Carolina railroad company by its charter, and all amendments made thereto.

SEC. 3. That said company may in like manner purchase the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad, and thenceforth have, hold and possess the said railroad and its contracts, franchises, rights, privileges and immunities and all the property and estate of every description, real and personal, belonging to said Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad Company; and by such purchase, the said North Carolina Railroad Company shall acquire and succeed to and exercise all the rights, privileges and immunities conferred on the said Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad Company by its charter and amendments made thereto. The governor of the state, in order to further and aid such sale and transfer, is authorized and empowered to transfer to the said North Carolina Railroad Comdany all the stock owned by the state in the said Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad Company; and until the transfer of the stock of said company is approved by the individual stockholders of said road, the governor shall retain the right to appoint directors in the said Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad Company; *Provided*, That if the stock of the private stockholders in this road is purchased, the price given therefor shall not exceed the market value of said stock at the time when the purchase shall be made; *Provided further*, That the said Atlantic and Norlh Carolina Railroad shall not constitute assets for the payment of the bonds heretofore issued by the state to build the North Carolina Railroad.

SEC. 4. That the line of railway so purchased and acquired, shall become absorbed and merged into the said company, and the whole line shall be known by the name of the North Carolina Railroad Company.

SEC. 5. That said corporation, in case it shall become the purchaser of the Western North Carolina Railroad, is authorized to complete the construction of the said railroad and its divisions, and shall have the necessary powers for so doing; and for the purpose of raising money to accomplish the purposes of this act, the said North Carolina Railroad Company, may, at its option, make, execute and issue its bonds, payable with interest thereon, either in United States currency or gold, and in this country or any foreign country or state, and at any rate of interest it elects, not exceeding eight per cent. per annum, and for any amount not exceeding thirteen thousand dollars per mile of finished road, made or to be made, which bonds shall be signed by the president, countersigned by the directors, and attested by the secretary of the company, and sealed with its corporate seal, and be wholly or partly in sums of five hundred dollars, or one thousand dollars each, with the usual half yearly interest coupons annexed; the principal and interest of said bonds to be made due and payable at such times and places, and in such manner, and to be sold at such times, places and prices as the directors may elect, the principal of said bonds to be payable is not less than ten nor more than twenty years, the sale to be made by M. E. Manly, W. A. Graham and R. F. Armfield, commissioners to sell and dispose of such bonds as may be issued in pursuance of the provisions of this act, and said company are hereby prohibited from ever resisting the payment thereof on the plea of usury. The proceeds arising from the sale of said bonds, and also from the sale of certificates of indebtedness herein authorized to be issued, may be applied to constructing, purchasing and repairing of the railroads to extend over the routes herein mentioned, for equipping the same, for discharging any indebtedness of said company and for purchasing any securities or liabilities which may embarrass the operations of said company: *Provided*, That said commissioners shall set a part out of the proceeds of the sales of said bonds, a sum of money not less than one million eight hundred thousand dollars, to be applied to the construction of said Western North Carolina railroad from Old Fort by way of Asheville to Paint Rock, and to no other purpose.

SEC. 6. That to secure the payment of the bonds and other evidences of debt issued as aforesaid, and the interest thereon as the same becomes due, the said corporation may execute and deliver mortgage deeds with power of sale to such trustee or trustees as may be selected or agreed on, one of whom shall be the governor of this State, the same to be signed by the president, countersigned by three directors, and attested by the secretary of said corporation, conveying its railway, branches, franchises and property, including its road bed, superstructure, equipment, choses in action, evidences of debt, and all its real and personal estate of whatever kind; and the said deeds and all other agreements the said company may enter into, which by law requires registration, when duly executed, may be recorded in the register's office in the county of Wake, and its registration in that county shall be deemed an effectual and sufficient registration for all purposes whatever, and shall give it priority and preference over all claims against said corporation; and it shall not be necessary to record or regisier the same in any other county, any law to the contrary notwithstanding: *Provided*, That the said mortgage shall contain as full and ample provisions in the matter of sale and foreclosure for the security of the bonds and coupons, or either, in case of default in the payment of one, or other, or both, as are contained in the deed of indenture or mortgage made the first day of November, 1867, between the said North Carolina railroad company of the first part, and William A. Graham of the second part.

SEC. 7. That no public sale of said North Carolina railroad company, or any part thereof, or any of its franchises or rights, shall be made under the mortgage provided for in this act, until such sale shall have been advertised for six successive weeks in two newspapers in the city of Raleigh, of the greatest circulation.

SEC. 8. That the directors of the said company shall be authorized to purchase from the stockholders of the same any of the stock owned by them, and they are empowered and directed out of the first moneys arising from the sale of bonds or from any lease made or to be made, to purchase from the private stockholders or any of them who may desire to sell their stock or any part thereof, and to pay for the same at the rate of fifty dollars per share, and the stock so purchased shall become the property of the said company; *Provided*, That if any stockholder or stockholders of the said North Carolina Railroad Company, being such at the time of making such consolidation, agreement, contract or arrangement for the purchase, merging or other acquisition of any of the railroads contemplated by this act, shall be dissatisfied with the same or dissatisfied with the acceptance of this act by the stockholders, the said company shall pay to such dissatisfied stockholder or stockholders, the full value of his, her or their stock to be assessed by three disinterested commissioners appointed for that purpose by the clerk of the superior court of the county in which such stockholder may reside on the application of either party made upon twenty days' notice; but the said company shall not be compelled to pay for stock of any such dissatisfied stockholder or stockholders, unless he or they shall give written notice of such dissatisfaction to the president, secretary or treasurer of the company whose stock shall be held by him or them, within three months after such consolidation, agreement or other arrangement for the purchasing, merging or acquiring the railroads aforesaid, or after the acceptance of this act by the requisite number of stockholders: *Provided, further*, That the sale of any share or shares to the company under the provisions of this act by any executor, administrator, guardian, trustee or persons acting in a fiduciary capacity shall be valid in law.

SEC. 9. That the said company shall have the power and authority to contract for prorating or for interchange of business traffic with any railroad company, doing or desiring a connection business, whether chartered by the laws of this State or any other State, upon such equitable terms as the directors may agree upon.

SEC. 10. That if the commissioners, appointed by this act, to sell and dispose of the bonds, shall decline to act, resign or die, then the governor shall appoint a sufficient number of commissioners to fill their places; but no person shall be a commissioner, director or general manager who has heretofore or may hereafter decline to testify before any committee, legislative or otherwise, or before any court of competent jurisdiction, in regard to any matter touching or growing out of his conduct while president, or director of any railroad, or while acting in any other public fiduciary capacity on the ground that if he were to testify he would criminate himself, or on any kindred or like grounds; or who has been convicted of embezzlement; or who has failed to return to the treasury any special tax bonds as required by law; and the bonds shall only be sold in such amounts as shall be needed from time to time to carry out the provisions of this act, and shall at no time exceed the sum of five hundred thousand dollars over and above the actual amount due and paid.

SEC. 11. That any director or officer of the said North Carolina railroad company, or other person entrusted with any of the bonds, certificates of indebtedness or other funds of the company, who shall be guilty of any wrongful appropriation, misapplication, malfeasance or other corrupt use of the same with intent to benefit himself and defraud the company, shall be guilty of a felony, and upon conviction thereof before any superior court of the State, shall be punished by a fine not less than ten thousand dollars, and by imprisonment in the penitentiary not less than ten years, and shall further be guilty of embezzlement.

SEC. 12. That the bonds authorized by this act to be issued, and the mortgage made to secure the same may be divided into two series or classes: The first series or class shall be on all of that portion of the finished road, the said company now owns or may hereafter own between Morehead and Paint Rock: The second series or class shall be on the other roads it may construct, and acquire and own.

SEC. 13. That the Governor shall have power to remove, for causes which he may deem sufficient, any directors appointed by him, and shall have power to fill the vacancy, and shall report to the next session of the general assembly any action taken by him in the matter of removals.

SEC. 14. That the directors of said company shall have the power to change the location of any of the lines their said company may purchase; *Provided*, That the line of railroad, in Catawba county, running from its main line to Newton, shall not be changed until the main line shall have been constructed to within one mile and a quarter from the court house in said town of Newton.

SEC. 15. That immediately after the sale of the first mortgage bonds under this act, the said North Carolina Railroad Company shall commence work on the line of the road between Old Fort and Paint Rock, and continue the work thereon without intermission, until the work is completed between said points; and immediately thereafter, it shall be the duty of the said company to commence work on the line between Asheville and the Georgia and Tennessee line, in Cherokee county, and continue the work thereon until the said line is completed; and to enable said company to carry on and continue said work, it is hereby made the duty of the commissioners named in this act, to reserve from the proceeds of the sale of said lands a sum of money not less than seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars in cash, to be applied only in the construction of the said line between Asheville and the Georgia and Tennessee line in Cherokee county; and all moneys raised on any bonds issued on any part of the line west of Asheville, shall be set apart by said commissioners to be applied exclusively on the line between Asheville and the Georgia and Tennessee line in Cherokee county.

SEC. 16. That immediately after the passage and ratification of this act it shall be the duty of the governor to call a meeting of the stockholders of the said North Carolina Railroad Company and submit this act and amendment of charter for their acceptance or rejection, and if a majority of the stock so represented shall vote to accept the same, it shall become a part of their charter.

SEC. 17. That all laws and clauses of laws coming in conflict with any of the provisions of this act, be and the same are hereby repealed.

SEC. 18. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its ratification.

In general assembly read three times and ratified this 10th day of February, A. D., 1874.

J. L. ROBESON,
Speaker House Representatives.
C. H. BROGDEN,
President of the Senate.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
Office Secretary of State,
Raleigh, Feb. 10th. 1874.

I, Wm. H. Howerton, Secretary of State, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy from the original act on file in this office.

WM. H. HOWERTON,
Secretary of State.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

NOON DISPATCHES.

Printers on a Strike.

LOUISVILLE, KY., Feb. 10.—The printers employed on the *Courier-Journal* have struck because the proprietors refused to discharge Jno. Bennett, the foreman. Only half sheet issued this morning.

Destructive Fire in Pennsylvania.

BETHLEHEM, PA., Feb. 10.—Hildenberger's new opera house was burned this morning. The fire broke out between 12 and 1 o'clock. The fire is supposed to have been caused from the crackers used by the Germans during the concert last evening. Loss, $50,000.

Washington Items.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—Marshall Packard and Appraiser Pitkin, of New Orleans, and Busteed, of Alabama are here.

It is expected Senator Carpenter will speak on the Louisiana election bill to-day, when it will be referred to the committee on elections and privileges.

Crime in New York.

NEW YORK, Feb. 10.—Prosper Evans, who has for some time been drinking to excess, attacked his wife and son, aged six years, with an axe, inflicting a very severe, and it is feared fatal injuries. He then attempted to stab himself through the heart, inflicting several wounds. Evans was arrested.

Martin Higgins, hackman, convicted of committing an outrage on the person of Mary O'Brien, an Irish girl from Philadelphia, was sentenced by Recorder Hackett to 20 years in the State prison.

JAPANESE NEWS.

The Attempt to Assassinate the Mikado's Prime Minister.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 10.—The steamer Tasco Da Gama arrived, in 18 days and 23 hours from Yokahama; the quickest time on record. The following are the particulars of the attempt to kill Iwaura: As Iwaura was returning from Mikados temporary residence to his own dwelling, his carriage was stopped near the outer castle moat by bamboo poles stretched across the road. The sides of his vehicle were cut through by swords, and Iwaura hastily descended, and found himself attacked by several armed men from whom he received wounds in the loin and shoulders. He ran to the moat close at hand and sprang into it, remaining hidden for about an hour, after which he returned to Mikadoes house, to which foreign surgeons were summoned who at once discovered that his injuries were in no degree dangerous. He will probably be able to resume his duties in a few weeks. This is the first attempt at assassination of high officials since the murder of Hirosawa Sanga in 1872. No clue has yet been discovered.

MIDNIGHT DISPATCHES.

Death of an Author.

PARIS, Feb. 10.—Jules Michela, French author, is dead.

Press Suppression.

VIENNA, Feb. 10.—The Vaterland newspaper of this city has been suppressed, and its office and material confiscated.

Spain Accords Belligerent Rights.

MADRID, Feb. 10.—The *Imparcial* says the government has agreed to the exchange of prisoners with the Carlists.

Death of a Pharmacist.

PHIDADELPHIA, Feb. 10.—Wm. Proctor, Jr., professor in the college of pharmacy, died suddenly last night after delivering a lecture to the students.

A prominent Lawyer of Buffalo Suicides in Savannah.

SAVANNAH, Feb. 10.—Geo. F. Lee, a prominent lawyer of Buffalo suicided at the Pulaski House this morning.

Cabinet Metting---The Busteed Impeachment Case--The Georgia Contested Case.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—A brief Cabinet to-day. All the members present. Several witnesses were examined in the Busteed impeachment case. Busteed is personally conducting his defence.

Nomination—Mrs. E. C. Bainbridge Postmas-ter at Old Point Comfort, Va.

The argument before the House Committee of Sloan vs. Rawles from the first Georgia District closed to-day. Rawles the sitting member concluded his speech which he commenced.

FROM VIRGINIA.

A Defaulting Clerk Arrested at Kanawa Falls--Attempt at Suicide for Embezzling Bonds, &c., &c.

RICHMOND, VA., Feb. 10.—Henry, a defaulting clerk in the Lynchburg internal revenue office has been arrested at Kanawha Falls, W. Va. Notwithstanding the statement of the special agent at Lynchburg that the defalcation amounts to thirty-five hundred dollars, a dispatch from the sheriff of Kanawha states that fourteen thousand, two hundred and nineteen dollars were found on Henry's person. The prisoner will be returned to Lynchburg for trial.

W. D. Coleman, who attempted to take his life yesterday upon being arrested for embezzeling bonds of the State Sinking Fund, will be examined on Thursday, in the police court—his condition being such as not to confine him to his room. The amount of the embezzlement is not known, but a full investigation will be had at once into the affairs of the sinking fund. Probably by a legislative committee at the instance of the commissioners of the fund.

The Features of the Bankrupt Law. More Lenient to the Debtor.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10th.—The Senate to-day after a weeks discussion passed the bankrupt bill.—Senator Edmunds, who had charge of it having persistently pressed it upon the Senate, and refused to allow any measure to be introduced which might set it aside for any time whatever.

The bill is very much more lenient to the debtor class than the old law. One of its principal features being that a debtor who suspends the payment of his paper, cannot be forced into bankruptcy under forty days. An amendment offered by Senator Johnson, of Virginia, to-day, requiring assignees to make public notice, in newspapers having the largest circulation, of sales to be made, was agreed to. The bill further reduces the fees of bankrupt officers to one half of that which they received under the old law, and provides that any arrangement for a settlement between a bankrupt and his creditors shall be signed, by at least one half of the creditors representing one half of the indebtedness. Suits to recover all sums under $500 may be brought in a State court under an order from a federal Judge having charge of the estate. Bankrupt officers are required to make full reports of all facts in connection with cases coming before them to the district court, and the clerks of district courts are to report to the Attorney General every year.

CONGRESSIONAL.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—Senator Gordon introduced a bill to relieve the political disabilities of Raphael Semmes, of Alabama. Referred to judiciary committee.

Senator Bayard submitted a resolution requesting the President to transmit to the senate information called for in resolution of March 1st, 1873, as to whether any officer of the United States army on duty in South Carolina, used effort to procure legislation in that State to compensate him for services rendered in his line of duty, and whether such officer was admitted to the bar in that State and practiced his profession while holding commission as an officer. Laid over.

Senator Gordon, of Georgia, introduced a bill granting aid to the Atlantic and Great Western canal transportation company.

The senate resumed consideration of the bankrupt bill pending; the amendment, being that of Merrimon giving to the State courts the same power as that of the federal courts in executing the bankrupt law, which was rejected.

Senator Johnson, of Virginia, offered an amendment providing that notices of all sales made by an assignee should be published in the newspaper having the largest circulation in the county where such sale is to be made. Rejected.

Edmunds moved to fill the blank in the section in relation to composition with creditors so as to provide that an arrangement for settlement between creditors and debtors in order to be valid shall receive signatures of two-thirds the number of creditors; representing one-half the value of debts. Agreed to.

Mr. Thurman moved to fill the blank as to the time when the provisions of the thirty-ninth section as amended by the committee, shall take effect by inserting the first day of December, 1873, so that the section shall apply to all cases of compulsory or involuntary bankruptcy commenced since that date. Agreed to.

Mr. Sumner offered an amendment to the twentty-first section of the original act as follows:—But a creditor providing his debtor's claim shall not be held to have waived his right of action or suit against the bankrupt where a discharge has been refused or the proceedings have been determined without a discharge. Agreed to.

The bill having been considered in the senate as committee of the whole, was then reported to the senate, and amendments concurred in.

Senator Johnson, of Virginia, modified his amendment previously offered, so as to read as follows: "All notices of sales under this act by any assignee or officer of the court, shall be published in the newspaper or newspapers to be designated by the Judge, which in his opinion shall be best calculated to give general notice of the sale." Agreed to.

The bill then passed—yeas 43, nays 11—and goes to the house for concurrence.

Short executive session. No southern nomirations.

HOUSE.—A bill providing that all mail matter of the third class with the name and address of the sender may be written and also the number and name of the article enclosed, and there may also be written in or on any book or pamphlet, sent through the mail a form of presentation without extra postage being charged. In the discussion that ensued, several instances were mentioned where documents sent by members of Congress, through the mail post paid, were held for large extra postage because the members had written their names or initials on the wrapper.

On motion of G. F. Hoar, the bill was made to apply to matter heretofore sent and was then passed. The House went into committee of the whole on the army bill. The 4th section of the bill requires that all claims for stores or supplies taken or furnished during the rebellion for the use of the army including all such claims now pending and undetermined in any department of the goverment shall be presented before the 1st of November, 1874, to the Southern Claims Commissioners who shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear and determine them. All claims not presented before that day are to be barred, the transfer of the claims from the quarter-masters department, is to be considered as a presentation of the claims. This section gave rise to a long discussion and many amendments were offered to it. The most important amendments that were adopted, was the one offered by Young, of Georgia, extending the time from November, 1874 to November, 1875, and the one offered by E. R. Hoar, of Massachusetts for the appointment of two additional commissioners. An amendment offered by Spencer, of Pennsylvania, was also adopted after a long struggle, transferring to the commissioners all the evidence now on file with the quartermaster general and commissary general.

Mr. Beck offered the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Whereas, the First National Bank of the City of Washington recently became insolvent, and is now in the hands of a receiver, in consequence, as is alleged, of lending to or placing in the control of a single firm the whole of its capital stock, as well as a large part of the money of its depositors, which is in palpable violation of the national banking act; and, whereas, the circumstances attending the failure of said bank, and the character of the management under which so gross a violation of law could have taken place, demand an investigation, that remedies may be applied to guard against like frauds in the future; therefore,

Resolved, Tuat the committee on banking and currency be instructed to examine into the condition of said bank at the time of its failure, and in its prior transactions and general management with power to send for persons and papers.

THE COURTS.

MAYOR'S COURT.—Nothing was before His Honor, Mayor Whitaker, on yesterday, save an arrest of two young bloods who, the night previously, had grown a little too hilarious and consequently boisterous. They were let off with an andmonition and a suitable fine.

SPECIAL TERM OF WAKE SUPERIOR COURT, HIS HONOR JUDGE TOURGEE PRESIDING.—The following cases were disposed of, in this Court on Monday, Feb. 9th:—

Badger, adm'r of McKimmon vs Raleigh National Bank. Judgment for plaintiff.

North Carolina Railroad vs C P Mendenhall. Bill dismissed, and judgment against plaintiff for costs.

T P Lee vs Raleigh & Gaston Railroad. Motion for removal; motion disallowed.

North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company vs Jno H Powell. All day spent on this case, and continued over till to-morrow.

The following cases were disposed of on Tuesday, 10th:—

City of Raleigh vs S N Whitson and sureties. Judgment for plaintiff.

Jasper Flemming vs J H Scarborough. Judgment for plaintiff.

North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company vs Jno H Powell. This cause closed after three days trial. Verdict and judgment for plaintiff. Defendant appealed to the Supreme Court. About thirty-five cases dependant upon this one.

Battle, receiver, vs T J Jarvis. Judgment against plaintiff for costs.

Jos Blake vs Angeline Warren. On trial.

SUPREME COURT.—This Court met at its usual hour, all the Judges being present. Causes from the 12th District were considered as follows:—

A. H. Suddreth gd'n vs McCombs and Suddreth adm'r from Cherokee; H. L. Gudger, Battle & Son for plaintiff; A. T. and T. F. Davidson, Merrimon Fuller & Ashe for defendants. Remanded to have the facts found and distinctly stated. Plaintiffs appeal.

A. H. Suddreth gd'n vs McCombs and Suddreth adm'r from Cherokee, H. L. Gudger, Battle & Son for plaintiff; A. T and T. F. Davidson, Merrimon, Fuller & Ashe for defendants. Appeal. Remanded to have the facts found and distinctly stated.

The following causes from the 6th district were argued:—

Jane Hinton vs David Hinton, from Wake. W. S. Mason Smith, & Strong, T. P. Devereux, Moore & Gatling for defendant.

Keziah Christmas et al vs Jas. Jones Ex'r et al from Warren. Batchelor, Edwards & Batchelor for defendants. Continued.

Geo. W. Mordecai, *et. al., vs.* John Devereux, *et. al.*, from Halifax, Moore & Gatling, Walter Clark, R. B. Peebles for plaintiffs. Battle & Son, G. A. Barnes, W. W. Peebles for defendants. Retained. Motion to dismiss petition and to rehear allowed.

Martha Jane Camp *vs.* Richard H. Smith, Ex'r., from Halifax, Peebles & Peebles for plaintiff. Batchelor, Edwards & Batchelor, Edward Conigland for defendant. Continued for report.

Same against same with same counsel continued for report.

Jane C. Hinton *vs.* David Hinton, from Wake, Mason, Devereux, Smith and Strong for plaintiff. Moore & Gatling for defendant. Continued.

R. H. Kingsbury *vs.* W. R. Suit, *et. al.*, John W. Hays for plaintiff. Hargrove, Batchelor, Edwards & Batchelor for defendants. Put off.

M. Hawkins, administrator, vs. W. H. Pleasanis et al., from Franklin, Cook, Bushee & Busbee and Moore & Gatling for plaintiff; J. J. Davis, Batchelor, Edwards & Batchelor for defendants. Argued on motion to dismiss appeal.

John S. Dancy vs. John J. Long, from Halifax. Battle & Son for plaintiff; Moore & Gatling, Batchelor, Edwards & Batchelor, and Ed. Conigland for defendant. Ordered that Benj. O. Joyner be notified that he be allowed to become a party of defendant.

John B McRae et al. vs K. P. Battle, ex'r., from Warren. Merrimon, Barnes and J. C. McRae for plaintiff; Battle & Son for defendant. Decree filed.

The Justices will peremptorily call the appeals from the 6th district this (Wednesday) morning.

THE MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES.—As heretofore announced, the first meeting of the new Board of Trustees of the University is called to meet in this city on the 18th of February. Below we publish in full the bill as it passed both Houses of the General Assembly:—

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO FIX THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do Enact:—Section 1. That the first meeting of the Trustees of the University of North Carolina elected under the provisions of an act to provide for the election of Trustees of the University of North Carolina, ratified on 28th January, 1874, shall take place in the city of Raleigh, on the 18th day of February, 1874.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its ratification.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN THE LEGISLATURE.—Yesterday, Gen. J. C. Gorman, the son of a "Mick" introduced the following:—

Whereas, The people of North Carolina are ever ready to welcome with open arms all, who come among them for the purpose of buying lands or engaging in any and every branch of the various industries of the State; and

Whereas, On the 17th of March, 1874, it is proposed by Rev. Father McNamara, to hold a grand Immigration Convention in the city of Raleigh; to testify our wish and desire to see the sturdy sons and fair daughters and matrons of other nations come and possess the vacant places and idle lands in our midst; therefore,

Resolved, That we the representatives and senators of North Carolina, in general assembly assembled, most cordially appreciate and endorse the suggestion to make the celebration of St. Patrick's Day the occasion to assure, not only the worthy sons of Ireland, but those of all other nations, that we, the people of North Carolina, extend to them a hearty welcome to our borders, and to assure them also that the laws of this State are sufficient and ample to secure to them all the rights and privileges enjoyed by native sons of North Carolina.

Resolved, That we recommend to the people of North Carolina that they make the approaching 17th of March an occasion worthy of the object which the friends of the matter have in view, by attending the proposed Convention, and giving expression to their feelings in the desire to attract population, skill and capital, that thus our country may be filled with industrious people; that our vast resources be properly developed, and that the good name of North Carolina may be made widely known among the nations of the earth.

WASHING THE STREET GAS LAMPS This theme is not yet exhausted. We saw a solitary *footman* with a little ladder slowly wending his way up Hillsboro street on yesterday engaged in the laudable and even to be praised duty of washing the street gas lamps. He was a good stout man, with long arms and brawny muscle, with an expression of fierce determination on his countenance, but we submit in all candor to those who are commanding this department that recruits should be boldly and quickly marched to his relief. For as black as some of these lamps are it would take the most expert mathematician to decipher about what time this gentlemen will accomplish the desired object. One word more—the lamp just below this office needs repairs badly, having been on the stays lo these many dark nights, and all concerned, especially we of this office, will be obliged to you to attend to it and shall ever pray.

Col. L. W. Humphrey, the senator from Wayne, was absent from his seat in the senate yesterday on account of a severe and sudden illness. He is better, and was rapidly recovering last night.