

# THE WEEKLY

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RALEIGH, N. C., T.

## THE ERA AND EXAMINER

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W. M. BROWN, BUSINESS MANAGER.

THE DAILY will be delivered anywhere in the City at FIFTEEN CENTS a week, payable weekly; Mailed for \$3.00 a year; \$1.50 for six months; \$2.00 for three months and SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS a month.  
THE WEEKLY \$3.00, and THE WEEKLY \$2.00 a year.  
THE WEEKLY ERA AND EXAMINER is a sixty-four column paper, the largest ever published in the South.

During the present month over one hundred clerks in the treasury department at Washington, alone have been engaged in preparing information in response to congressional enquiry concerning the distribution of the public funds, and as yet, in no instance has any transaction of an illegal character been discovered. This fact speaks volumes for the efficiency and honesty of the public service under the present administration.

The Oxford Herald must not misunderstand the Examiner. Its article quoted last week in condemnation of the legislature, was commented on simply to show the drift of public sentiment as to the worthless do-nothingness of that body. It was not intended to convey the Herald's condemnation of the political course of the majority in the legislature.

The Examiner fights square. It is not seeking the manufacture of political capital. The late democratic legislature made enough of that article for the republicans, to answer the purposes of the republican party for a whole year.

### The Women of our Country.

An issue is growing up out of the necessities, the intelligence and wants of the woman of this country which has got to be met at an early day, and it is time we all began to consider of it.

It may suit some to designate that issue "women's rights" and thus prejudice for a time an uneducated, unreasoning public sentiment, but the middle of the afternoon of the day has arrived when some men shall monopolize all the pleasant and profitable employments, and others grow rich on the toil of women paid for at the rate of fifty per cent of a man's compensation for the same amount of labor.

Oversensitive and superficially refined people affect to regard it as unwomanly for a woman to aid in the conduct of a store, to fill a clerk-

ice, or to enter upon any of the easy, nice, good-paying vocations men are so eager to follow.

But, such people make no sort of objection to a woman taking a stand at the wash-tub, or assuming the position of chief-engineer of a cooking stove; or even going into the cotton field with a hoe, or a plow at twenty-five cents a day!

The avenues of remunerative industry cannot be much longer closed to women of intelligence, ability and character, and the issue of employment and compensation for women is one, the age and the intelligence of the times force upon the consideration of the thinking men of the country.

As the republican party of North Carolina was the first to give woman her rights of property and her rights of person,—the first to place a woman in a public position of profit and trust, the Examiner hopes to see republicans the first to take the stand in a general recognition of the rights of the female sex to appropriate and remunerative employment on a wages-basis equal with men.

North Carolina led all her sister States in the matter of female education. The first college for the education of females was established in North Carolina, and to the Methodist people belongs the credit of that performance.

The proposition to train and educate the female mind met the general objection, less than half a century since, that it was *unwomanly* for a woman to study the higher branches of intellectual science.

To think of preparing herself for teacher in a school of high grade was the presumption of unsexed folly. To think of writing a book, corresponding for, or editing a newspaper was to proclaim her immodesty, if not want of sense.

And when a lady proposed to explore the field of medicine, every sense of propriety was indignantly stirred.

But we have to-day ladies filling professorships, and teaching the languages in at least one female college in North Carolina.

Our own Miss Fisher is recognized as the most accomplished American writer of fiction, and she has even been compared to some of the English masters. Beginning with her "last ninety days of the war," and the productions of Mrs. Spencer are not surpassed for scholarly completeness, point and practical interest by any writer in the press of this country. And our own Miss Dimmock, having graduated at the great Switzerland school of medicine, is one of the coming physicians of note in America.

Here, then, we have Miss Henderson, a professor in college; Miss Fisher, a novelist; Mrs. Spencer, a journalist, and Miss Dimmock, a physician,—all North Carolina

ladies of the highest standing and none the worse off for having demonstrated their ability to earn their living and do their country a high service at one and the same time; and each and every one of these ladies is perfectly innocent of having done anything to provoke the feebly-minded sneer in stereotyped phrase—"women's rights"—"strong-minded" and the like silly brainless.

Under the head of "woman's work" correspondent writes in the Examiner to-day, and the article, in connection with the issue that forces itself on the attention of the public is well worthy of consideration.

### The New School Law.

The amendment to the school law which was ratified February 12th, repeals the rules and regulations which the legislature of 1891 had adopted, and the provisions of which are substantially as follows:—

That the school districts shall contain an area equal to a square of from four to seven miles.

That the school districts shall be as nearly square in form as the situation of the several localities, and the convenience of neighborhoods will permit.

That the school-house shall be as near the center of the school population of the district as practicable.

That the people of each district shall elect three suitable persons district trustees, the people of each race electing their own trustees.

That the district trustees of each district shall solicit voluntary contributions to defray half the cost of building, repairing and furnishing the district school house, and to supplement the school money, due the district, so that the public school may continue each year, as long as the people of the district may wish to continue it; determine the time at which the school shall begin; recommend a teacher, who will be acceptable to the people of the district; and assist the school committee in all matters pertaining to the district school.

These rules having been repealed by the general assembly, can not be re-enacted by the board of education.

The recent regulation which is published in a foot note on the blank forms of orders for school money has not been repealed. It remains in full force, and is as follows:—

The law intends that the highest prices, to-wit:—\$20, \$30 and \$40 a month, according to the grade of the teacher, shall be paid only for schools in which twenty or more pupils are taught. If the number of pupils is less than twenty, the highest prices which may be paid out of the public school funds are:—To a teacher who holds a third grade certificate, one dollar a month for each pupil; to a teacher who holds a second grade certificate, one dollar and a half for each pupil; to a teacher who holds a first grade certificate, two dollars a month for each pupil, counting the number of pupils in each case by their average attendance.

The act also changes the time of reporting school statistics by the register of deeds, from July to October, and makes it the duty of school committees to report to the county treasurer the funds of money apportioned to the school districts of their respective townships.

These are the only changes in the school law by the general assembly at the last session, and they are published for information, in answer to many inquiries, at the instance of Alex. McIver, superintendent of public instruction.

### The Demoralized Condition of North Carolina—Labor and Production Unremunerative.

Senator Ransom, who has just returned from a visit to North Carolina, reports the condition of the State, so far as agricultural and cotton interests are concerned, as worse than at any time since the war. He states that, while the cotton crop will be large, the prices will be low, and hence not as remunerative as heretofore. The prices are low because of the increase in the yield of the crop, and also on account of the foreign buyers having anticipated it by contracts when gold was high. The higher the ruling rates of gold, the lower the market price of cotton correspondingly is. Many of the plantations have changed hands. The labor is disarranged, and there is not the same class of men in management of plantations as heretofore. The former planters seem to have become demoralized, and now accept positions on railroads or in stores at from \$40 to \$50 per month, giving up their former occupations.—Washington Correspondence New York Herald, Feb. 24th.

Senator Ransom is gloomy, and does not correctly represent matters here.

The same class of men in management of plantations as heretofore, and who "now accept positions on railroads or in stores at from \$40 to \$50 per month," are generally of that class who attempted to conduct large farms on borrowed capital and rented land. It was a system of farming that has cursed North Carolina since the close of the war worse than anything else which has befallen her, and if these mushroom farmers are retiring from the field, as Senator Ransom says, it is a happy omen for the agricultural interest of the State.

It is a noticeable fact that our substantial, permanent farmers are buying, each year, less of fertilizers, stock, and breadstuffs, so that the farming community is rapidly approaching a self-supporting system.

The senator in referring to "disarranged" labor doubtless means to say that there is a steady exodus of the colored people from the State,

and these constituting, for the most part the actual working population, it is next to impossible in many sections to obtain farm labor at any price.

But such organs of Senator Ransom as the Wilson Advance and Raleigh News are congratulating the people on this state of things, for they affect to see in that prospect, hopes of a democratic majority in the State elections hereafter; and surely General Ransom and his party are not prepared to object to such "disarrangement." On this, however much practical and patriotic people might lament it.

The policy of the party with which Senator Ransom affiliates has been from the close of the war to drive out and destroy the negroes of the State, the only labor we have to "do with," and if they have succeeded in driving out the colored people, the tide of emigration likely to swamp our prosperity, the senator and his party are responsible for it.

The democratic party has persistently refused to allow any system of free schools in North Carolina which should give any hope to a colored man, or even a poor white man of educating his children. That party has refused, in the legislature to vote State aid to the Oxford Orphan Asylum at the suggestion that the colored people might be led to expect something of the sort for their orphan poor. That party of reckless hate, partisan meanness, political rascality and extravagant corruption, has virtually disfranchised the voting population of the large negro counties. In a word, everything the devil could suggest or hell sanction, the democratic party has attempted to do in revenge on the negroes of North Carolina for having been freed and allowed to vote.

And now when an alarming exodus of the negroes is realized, Senator Ransom sets up a sensational lament that "labor is disarranged."

It is the privilege of the Examiner to assure the senator to the contrary of his melancholy prognostications, that the State of North Carolina is putting on a new era of intelligence and prosperity; and as for the joy of the Wilson Advance, that the negroes are all going away, the Examiner is happy to say that the number of white men emigrating into the republican party from the party of the Advance is far less than from the State. And if we are to suffer the misfortune of a waste in our laboring population, the people of North Carolina are nowise in danger of again falling under the curse of democratic misrule, the hilarity of editorial fledglings and pinfeathered political roosters to the contrary notwithstanding.

### Woman's Work.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER:—I have read with very much interest your editorial in the Examiner of the 24th inst., occasioned by the appointment of a woman to fill the place of postmistress at Concord, and I am gratified at your taking the stand you do, for a word of encouragement oft times lightens the heavy burdens for a while, and no one will attempt to deny that women who are dependent upon their own exertions for a livelihood have a hard and bitter struggle for life. Especially is this the case in the Southern States where nearly every avenue of labor is closed against her, either by custom or public opinion. Teach, take in sewing, take boarders, or starve, seems to be the rule laid down for woman's observance here. To be sure there are no cases of actual death of the body from starvation; but in some instances there is such complete death of all ambition, all desire, seemingly all power, to longer fight with the monster that it seems as if a coffin and a shroud were things to hail with joy, even though they be the poor pine box and scanty covering which public charity bestows, and the weary body be sent to its last resting place with only the requiem which the poet sang for all the pauper world:—

"Rattle his bones over the stones,  
Only a pauper whom nobody owns."

Is it right that this should be so? Surely there is work enough for all in this busy world, and bread enough and to spare; but when there are so few ways to earn bread and so many mouths to be filled, is it any wonder that some get shoved to the wall and in their despair give up the struggle?

Men claim to be the natural protectors of and providers for women, but it would seem that they sometimes forget this, else why should Judge Settle have occasion to decide that the husband cannot and shall not whip his wife? and why do we see men lounging about our streets in idleness while their wives are trying to earn food and clothing for the family (and the family includes this lounging head of the household, who, thanks to Judge Settle, no longer has the law on his side when he whips his wife for failing to provide him with pocket money,) by taking boarders, taking in sewing, or teaching.

Now, the question comes, will these "natural protectors" help to

open a way for women to earn honest living? Women make as good accountants, copyists, clerks, postoffice clerks, or telegraph operators as can be found in the world; they can stand in shops and sell goods, just as well as men can; they make accurate and rapid calculations and proof readers; why should they not be permitted to enter these fields of labor as their employers? Don't throw your hands in disgust, and talk about "woman's sphere," and all such trash. A woman's sphere is where she must can do it herself and all around her, can she best accomplish this, by starving both body and soul? No way is open by which she can work and live? I assert that all honest labor is honorable. You disgrace your employment, if you do not do it honestly.

What any woman might do well, and to receive compensation therefor as a man would receive for the same labor. It always seems to me that strong, able-bodied men are a little out of their sphere when they stand behind a counter dealing out pins, and tape and shortstrings. Not that I would turn them all out to starve,—but I should like to see them put into practice a little of this much boasted "protection" by sharing these occupations with women who are capable of doing the work just as well, and who would hail with delight any opening which enabled them to earn in an honest, upright way, their daily bread.

TRUFAX.

### Another Letter From Warren Court.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER:—A very large concourse of people were in attendance upon the court, on Thursday, or at any rate, on a visit to the town. The "oldest inhabitant" informed us that no such crowd had put in an appearance in years, and it brought to his mind forcibly the days of "auld lang syne." Horse jockeys were plentiful, and the racks surrounding the court house grove were crowded with horses, for parties to swap, among them, as well as numerous conestogas, and fresh ranged to \$10 for the pair.

The court was densely packed, and beside the "bar" entirely of colored men, and interesting arrangements for the conveniences or accommodations are afforded to any but the legal profession, and the jury, and the balance of mankind is forced to stand almost on tip-toe to observe and keep the run of the court details. The bar, judge's and jury's position, occupying about one half the space of the room—is an elevated platform, about four feet higher than the rest. The jury sit in split-bottomed chairs, and the audience stand behind. The first matter which was called to the attention of the judge, after opening court was a motion, made by counsel Ball, of Greensboro, on the part of his client, Stephen A. Douglas, to set aside the verdict of the court at last term, awarding \$10,000 damages to Joe Turner for aiding and assisting in his arrest, during the Kirk war. The argument of Mr. Ball was based on several counts, among them the non-age of his client, at the time the alleged offense was committed; the "surprise" which was taken in the verdict, on account of the absence of his attorney at the time the verdict was given; the unintentional failure on the part of the clerk of Orange or Granville—from which the case was removed—to correctly copy the transcript, &c. The judge set aside the verdict, and again placed the case on the docket. No dissent whatever was made to the motion on the part of the plaintiff or his attorneys. During the discussion of the motion, Col. Edwards, who had formerly acted as attorney, gave notice that he no longer acted as attorney for the plaintiff, and Mr. Wilson, of the firm of Eaton and Wilson, we believe, is retained in his stead. The motion was discussed with much ability and minuteness by Mr. Ball, and we understand covered the whole ground, and completely silenced the gums of the other side. Only a few minor, trivial fighting and petty larceny scrapes were settled during the day.

About noon Jo. Turner set up opposition show to the court at the corner opposite the hotel. He had some refuse lumber from the new hotel arranged for seats, and soon as he had obtained dinner, he hearsed his old speech—a collection of his unique and thread-bare editorials—to a promiscuous crowd of drunken whites and indifferent darkeys. "Curley-head" Bill Alston acted as his right bower. His effort fell still-born upon the ears of his hearers, and had about as much effect as would that of one of Dr. Grissom's craziest inmates of the Lunatic Asylum. We beg pardon of said lunatic for making the comparison, as we feel that we are doing that individual great injustice.

Governor Holden arrived on the Thursday's train from Raleigh. It is understood the case in which he is interested, will not come up for hearing until Friday or Saturday, at the close of the State docket, and may be postponed until one day next week.

The snow and rain of Tuesday night and Wednesday, deterred many from coming to town on yesterday, and in a great measure broke up the "horse business" on the square.

The colored woman whom I mentioned in my last, as having poisoned her husband, has had her case moved to Franklin county. She was brought into court from the jail, on Wednesday, on the shores of a couple of men, as she affirmed that she was unable to walk.