"Voters Oyez" by J. G. R.

WEEKLY ERA.

W. M. BROWN, Manager.

OFFICE in the old "Standard" Building, one square South of the Court House, Fayetteville Street.

RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION:

WEEKLY—One year,	$2 00
Six months,	1 00
Three months,	50
TRI-WEEKLY—One year,	4 00
Six months,	2 00
Three months,	1 00
One month,	50

☞ INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE. ☜

The Weekly Era.

VOL. III. RALEIGH, N. C., THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1874. NO. 47.

WEEKLY ERA.

RATES OF ADVERTISING:

One square, one time,	$ 1 00
" " two times,	1 50
" " three times,	2 00

*** Contract advertisements taken at proportionately low rates.

☞ JOB WORK executed at short notice and in a style unsurpassed by any similar establishment in the State. Special attention paid to the printing of BLANKS of every description.

We clip the following bit of spice from "ye" Leavenworth *Times*:

I Wish I was an Editor.

I wish I was an editor,
I really do, indeed;
It seems to me that editors,
Get everything they need.
They get the biggest and the best
Of everything that grows,
And get in free to circusses
And other kind of shows;
And when a mammoth cheese is cut
They always get a slice,
For saying Mrs. Smith knows how
To make it very nice.
The largest pumpkin, largest beet,
And other garden stuff,
Is blown into the sanctum by
An editorial puff.
The biggest bug will speak to them,
No matter how they dress—
A shabby coat is nothing, if
You own a printing press.
At ladies' fairs they're almost hugged
By pretty girls you know,
That they may crack up everything
The ladies have to show—
And thus they get a blow-out free,
At every party feed;
The reason is because they write
And other people read.

We publish the above as an undoubted specimen of pure poetry, it being entirely a creation of imagination, with not a bit of reality in it, as far as actual experience goes. Were the items about being hugged at fairs by pretty girls true, the business would be ruined, for every man in the country would turn editor about fair time.

An Alarming Evil.

One of the saddest and most alarming evils among us, is the want of parental discipline, and the lawless spirit resulting from it among the youth of our land.

Children now-a-days generally govern their parents. When they get beyond the period of infancy, they almost immediately become young gentlemen and ladies. Boys and girls are generally, to a very slight extent, under the oversight of their parents. Not unfrequently they are sent into the streets that mother may not be troubled with them, and such boys very quickly acquire all the accomplishments which belong to young gentlemen of the period. The girls walk the streets arrayed in the fashions of the day, and read the illustrated papers, and, before they enter womanhood, often have their minds corrupted with false views of life, and imaginations excited by images ruinous to mind and heart.

Why, with such an education as our young people generally obtain, need one be surprised at the dissipation of our young men, and the fast habits of some of our young women? The evil seeds that are being sown every day in our streets, must be expected to take root, and in due time spring up and bear deadly fruit. Has not the time come for parents to watch more closely the impressions, for time and eternity, being daily made upon the minds of their children?

Disobedience to parents is one of the perils of "the last day," 2 Tim, iii: 2. Let Christian parents labor, watch and pray, and seek to save from ruin those they love.—*Central Presbyterian.*

Marrying by Proxy.

The Court of Law and Equity, in Kansas, City, (Mo.) was recently the scene of a rather extraordinary matrimonial transaction. An aged man, evidently passed his fiftieth year, called upon the clerk of the court for assistance in marrying a wife. This was a marriage between two persons separated by fully 6,000 miles of land and water. The old man informed the clerk of the court, that he wanted to get married to a woman now living in Holland; that he would perform such ceremonies as were necessary here, and she would be married to her brother in Holland as a proxy for him. Then, the brother was to ship him his wife with her baggage, direct to Kansas City. It appears that the lady has an objection to leaving her home in Holland before she had been married in some manner, and as the bridegroom cannot afford to leave his business here to go after his wife, he decided to apply to the courts for an act of procuration. The clerk, as soon as he understood the case, proceeded to prepare the necessary papers, and the old man went away delighted with the happy consciousness of being a married man with his bride 6,000 miles away. There are many ways of being married, but this appears to be the most unsatisfactory way of all. It is not likely that it will become either popular or fashionable.

NO EFFECT.—A German paper contains a reply from a clergyman who was travelling, and who stopped at a hotel much frequented by wags and jokers. The host, not being used to have clergymen at his table, looked at him with surprise; and the clerks used all their artillery of wit upon him without eliciting a remark in self-defence. The worthy clergyman ate his dinner quietly, apparently without observing the gibes and sneers of his neighbors. One of them, at last, in despair at his forbearance, said to him, "Well, I wonder at your patience! Have you not heard all that has been said against you?"

"Oh, yes; but I am used to it. Do you know who I am?"

"No, sir."

"Well, I will inform you. I am chaplain of a lunatic asylum; such remarks have no effect upon me."

John Dog, of Massachusetts, has had his name changed by the legislature of that State to John Kerr—which is a distinction without any difference, except perhaps, as to the size of the animal.

Aid often comes at the right time; this is not the case when the point of somebody's boot assists you in coming down stairs.

WEEKLY ERA.

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1874.

Enough of Sectionalism.

Everybody, except the Democratic party, have had enough of the sectional troubles which have for so many years wrung the hearts of the people of the United States. The Democrats are not satisfied, and even in the presence of widows who mourn husbands, and orphans destitute because their father, were slain in a sectional war urged on by them, they are trying to get the West and Northwest combine with the South as against the North and East of our country, and are already boasting what they will do when they thus get the North and East under their feet. They do not seem to be able to comprehend how the grain growing West, the cotton producing South and the manufacturing North can live in harmony under the same general government, and each contribute to the wealth of the other, and to the glory of our common country.

We, of the South, have had enough of secession, and we want no rings or combinations, either of persons, corporations, or sections of country. We want simply the Union of States our fathers fought for—a country that is the admiration of the world, and an asylum for the oppressed of all nations—a government strong enough to protect itself from all foreign enemies, and at the same time extend to its humblest citizen full and equal protection in all his rights.

This is the difference between the two political parties in this country: Democracy is based on sectionalism and stirs up strife between the different parts of the Union. Republicanism is based on loyalty to the national government, and labors to protect the week against the strong, to educate the poor, and by internal improvements build up our waste places, develop our resources and thus add greater glory and prosperity to our country.

The Tax of Ignorance.

There is nothing that will help more to improve the condition of the people of North Carolina than education. We mean by "education" not only a knowledge of books but a knowledge of the mechanic arts, agriculture, &c.

If a boy is allowed to grow up in ignorance of both books and a trade, he can only command as wages eight or ten dollars per month. Take another boy of equal intelligence and give him a thorcugh knowledge of books, or a good trade, he easily commands a salary of $75 or $100 per month. The difference between the pay of the one and the other, is the monthly tax that the first is compelled to pay for his ignorance.

Can any State prosper which allows such an enormous tax to be levied on its citizens?

Knowledge is power. Knowledge is wealth. Knowledge, whether of books, or of the mechanic arts, or sciences, is a capital which the State should furnish to every young man beginning life. Without that capital, he drags out a comparatively useless existence. If he marries, he entails poverty, ignorance and all their train of evils on his wife and children. As a citizen he can add only a mite to the general stock of usefulness, and is unprofitable as a means of revenue to the State. Not only that, but he is an actual burden. In health, he can barely provide a scanty subsistence for those dependent on him, and if he loses his health or dies, his family must suffer or become a charge on the county.

Should not those who aspire to rule the State give this matter serious thought and aid a reformation? If they fail to do it, do they not show themselves incompetent to rule?

Dr. J. J. Mott, of Statesville, is suggested as the Republican candidate for Congress from the 7th Congressional District.

The Statesville *Intelligencer* pays him a handsome compliment, and well deserved, too, we think. His politics we do not admire, and shall do all we can to defeat him should he be the candidate of his party; but he is undoubtedly the most prominent, the most popular, if not the ablest Republican in the District, and if we must have a Republican in Congress from this District, we know of none whom we would prefer above Dr. J. J. Mott.—*Salisbury Watchman.*

The Statesville *Intelligencer* and the Salisbury *Watchman* are both Democratic papers, and therefore the compliment to Dr. Mott is the more marked.

'I'm particularly uneasy on this point,' said the fly to the young gentleman who stuck him on the end of a needle.'

Spelmania, Or, Choice Extracts from Spelman.

The following are a few choice extracts from the columns of the *Blasting Powder* of the 28th of August, 1872, a newspaper edited by John Spelman who has recently been appointed to office by a Republican administration. Here they are:

"There are two candidates in the field for President of the United States—one is a Radical, the other a Liberal. The first was nominated by a convention of the office-holders at Philadelphia; the other was nominated by the best and purest men in the now disbanded Republican party, and was afterwards nominated, also by the Democratic Convention at Baltimore."

"The office-holders' candidate is Gen. Grant, whose soldiers recklessly destroyed so much of our people's substance in the spring of 1865. He was nominated by the men already in office, because they know that when Grant loses his office they will certainly lose theirs also. It is certain that unless Grant is re-elected in November, they will all give place to better men. On the principle that one good turn deserves another, they hope by keeping Grant in to be kept in themselves, and they well know that the only way for them to retain their fat salaries is to re-elect Grant."

[It appears, however, that altho' they did elect Grant, this black-sheep, Spelman, has managed to grab a fat salary himself from Grant whose election he so strenuously opposed.—ED.]

"Now, we of the South know Gen. Grant; we became acquainted with him when the United States troops foraged through this country. He was then a successful general. In 1865 he became a politician and seeing that both sections desired reconciliation he proclaimed, "Let us have peace," and was elected on the peace platform. But what kind of peace has he given this country? We assert, and no sane man will deny it, that his whole administration has been taken up with "agitation." The just expectation of all law-abiding citizens, that good feeling should be restored between the two sections, has been postponed, delayed and defeated! He has been the *arch agitator*, thinking thereby to secure his re-election. Peace between the sections and harmony between the North and the South, would result in the election of some other person as President, so Grant studiously kept alive the flames of hate and sectional animosity that he might *serve another term of four years, at twenty-five thousand dollars a year.*"

"Thus he made the welfare of the South entirely subordinate to his own personal interests. He did not care to promote the public good, but only to gratify his own avarice. Selfish considerations weighed more with him than the happiness and prosperity of the Southern people. He has by *false* and *wicked* statements deceived many of the Northern people as to the wishes and purposes of the Southern whites. To accomplish this *he has not scrupled to state falsehoods as facts*, and to lend the weight of his name and office to gain credence for his *untrue statements.* He has deluded the negroes as to the intentions of those who oppose him, and has permitted his associates and personal friends to fire the negro heart with inflammatory harangues and with false and infamous declarations that those who oppose him would put the colored people back into slavery. He also has allowed *his dirty minions* and his leading supporters in the Southern States to stir the negroes up to the commission of crimes and misdeeds and barn-burning, and has never rebuked them for their devilish course. He and his beloved *carpet-baggers* have done these things and have used all other available means to keep the negroes in hostility to the Southern whites, and thus, he has aided in bringing upon us many of the misfortunes of the past. *He has done these things wilfully, knowingly and corruptly; he has done them to promote his selfish ends and to gratify his malice, his spite and his hate.*"

"Now what has he done for our benefit? What, during the entire term of his Presidency, has he accomplished in our behalf? Nothing—absolutely nothing. We defy any one to point to a single act of his that is calculated to benefit or improve our condition. If we have been at all prosperous, it has been in spite of his *wicked* designs and of his *malignant hatred*, not because he has acted in a solitary instance as if he were President of the whole country. In return we owe him no kindness for his misrepresentations and no thanks for his *still baser actions. He has dealt us out hate and calumny;* and we have manhood to give him hate for his hate, detestation for his detestations—and as for his calumny, we need only to represent him as his actions show him to be, for all *honorable men to despise him.* Such is the candidate of the Convention of office-holders."

The foregoing are verbatim selections from the pen of *John Spelman*, who has the "manhood" to slander, hate and revile a political opponent, but has the craven meanness to cringe to that opponent, and to seek and accept office at his hands. Who would not rather be a *dog* and bay the moon, than be a wretch so vile? Other extracts, no less elegant, will be given in future numbers of the *Era.*

The Lutherans of Statesville will build a church soon.

The Daily *News* of this city wants Congress to "make a liberal appropriation to buy Holy Water for the Devil," and says "this is a fit occasion for such an outlay, on the part of the government."

Taxed as our people are, the *Era* objects to any appropriation of money for the use of the head of the Democratic party. What does the head of that party want with anything that is "holy?" Neither he nor his party deal in "holy" things, and it is quite bold in the *News* to acknowledge the leadership of the Devil and ask for public money to be appropriated to his use for any purpose. Besides, that party ought to be satisfied with the huge volumes of "back water" taken by its leaders during the past few years on all sorts of subjects, without whimpering about appropriations to buy any other kind of water.

It is well known that the whole Democratic party, head and all, is in a hot place, but it has no right to call on the government for assistance to cool off. The government already has several hundred millions of dollars to pay on account of the wickedness of that party, and the people don't want to hear anything about further appropriations for the use of that party till the war debt is paid,

By a stupid blunder, the Democrats have lost the 3rd Congressional and probably the 4th Judicial District. Waddell, the back-pay grabber, and calumniator of the North Carolina Legislature has received the Congressional nomination. Norment, a Merrimon bolter and disorganizer, has been nominated for the Solicitorship. The nomination of McKay may save the Judicial District. He is an able lawyer and a pure man.—*Piedmont Press.*

The *Piedmont Press* is a Democratic organ in the Western part of the State, and evidently don't like the doings of his brethren in the Wilmington "gerrymander." As the *Press* advocates "shooting deserters and recusants," and as Col. McKay had some experience as Colonel of the Sampson militia in dealing with deserters and recusants during the war, the *Era* is not surprised at the kind word spoken for him by the *Press.*

Is the public to understand that the *Press* wants Waddell shot for "grabbing the back-pay," along with "Norment the Merrimon bolter and disorganizer?" Verily it begins to look like the Democratic leaders mean to atone somewhat for their outrages on Republicans by "Ku Kluxing" each other.

Gone Over.

The many friends of Mr. W. W. Peebles, of Northampton county, will be surprised to learn that he has succumbed to the office alluring voice of Radicalism. He made his turn over speech in Jackson last Saturday, in which, he is reported to us as saying, that "where there is the greatest number, there is the greatest good." This makes the second change he has made during his political life. Those who know Mr. Peebles' character, standing and ability, as we do, will be mortified to hear of the step he has taken, and we venture to predict that in after life he will regret it more than any act of his whole life.—*Roanoke News.*

There are no better men in the State than W. W. Peebles, of Northampton, and W. T. Faircloth, of Wayne. They are both gentlemen of character, and have been for years leading members of the legal fraternity. They have both recently announced their intention to co-operate with the Republican party, and we welcome them, and all like them, into the ranks of the great Union Republican party.

The Democrats have made loud boasts of how much money has been saved by their management—how economically the State government is run by them, &c. Don't the people pay as much tax as when the Republicans had charge of the Legislature? If such large sums have been saved, where is the money? It is not in the State Treasury, and a Democratic committee of the Legislature reported that Mr. Treasurer Jenkins' books were all right. Nothing has been paid for internal improvements except a little on the Marion & Asheville Turnpike, and the Democracy refused to complete even that small improvement for the people of the West.

The people are not to be hoodwinked with these fine stories, when the truth is, that these Democrats cut down the salaries of a few Republican officers in order that there might be more money left in the Treasury for the members of the Democratic Legislature.

The Democrats are very anxious to revive the University, but they have made no efforts to build up public schools for the poor children of the State.

The Democrats have had charge of the Legislature since 1870. Have they reduced the taxes any? Have they built any railroads? Have they even built a turnpike road? Have they paid any of the State debt? Have they made any arrangement to compromise or settle any of the State debt? These are questions the people are asking, but they receive no satisfactory answer from the Democracy.

CORRESPONDENCE.

It must not be understood that THE ERA endorses the sentiments of its correspondents in every instance. Its columns are open to the friends of the party, and their communications will be given to the public as containing the views and sentiments of the writers.

Voters—Oyez.

To the Editor of the Era:

That wide-awake and sterling journal, the *New York Times*, in a recent issue, after enumerating the magnitude and vital importance of the powers and duties of Congress, says:

"If American government is to continue to be a thing of which we can feel as justly proud as we have formerly felt, one of two things must come about—either the demands made upon it by the people must be lessoned and changed, or the machinery of government must be materially altered." * * * *

"The method by which officers are chosen does not secure men fitted for so much work, or for work so complex, so difficult, so extensive. The voters do not look for men qualified for it. They will not, as a rule, take them when they can be found. They choose their officers for something else—for personal popularity, for fidelity to certain defined party principles, for their views on some particular question, but very rarely for that capacity for varied business; for that experience, training, tact and versatility, which are required, to attend successfully to the duties that are being crowded on all officers," &c.

The above contains a reflection on the people themselves, as well as sounds an alarm to the country. By "the method by which officers are chosen" the *Times* evidently has allusion to the usual nominating Conventions. These extracts furnish food for thought, reflection and action, especially at the present time, when the people are about to select candidates to fill those offices, whose work is "so complex, so difficult and so extensive." The whole difficulty lies in the apathy and indifference of the people. They mean well, but they suffer themselves to be imposed upon and circumvented by the scheming politicians. Demagogues know quite as well how to create a favorable public opinion and manipulate conventions in the Republican, as in the Democratic party; and they must be watched, as well. It will be well for the good and true men of the country, those who do not seek office and who desire good government, to keep a sharp look out for those who are constantly setting forth their assumed importance by blowing their own trumpets, or what is more common and shameless still, putting their trumpets to the mouths of others, to get themselves blown into public notice. "Dick, Tom and Harry" may be good fellows, may have acquitted themselves well in their several positions and occupations, but those facts furnish no conclusive evidence of their ability to manage successfully the affairs of this great nation. They can no more attain unto it than a common man can wield the club or do the labor of Hercules. It is utterly preposterous to suppose that every and any aspirant is qualified for the responsible duties of legislation. The press and the partisan may declaim as they please, but some experience and a vast amount of political knowledge, find a useful place in the machinery of statesmanship; and these, with a modicum of honesty and good common sense, are sadly needed just now in that department. The people would do well to note this fact; and while no worthy and intelligent young man should be kept back, let it be borne in mind that as old men excel in counsel, the council chamber should not be closed against them. The moderation of age may now, as it has often times before, so temper the impetuosity of youth, as to lead to the very best results. True merit is "modest, easily, kind," and is generally far outstripped by brazen impudence and demagoguery, especially in a nominating Convention. The political trickster knows this, and having often verified the adage that "falsehood will go a mile while truth is putting on his boots," he always keeps his boots on. Let the people look out for these well-shod gentlemen, they will do well for action, but will fail entirely for counsel, and it is good—yea, the very best counsellors that are needed in the present emergency.

Let there then be less puffing and more modesty; less excitement and more sobriety; less dictation and more reliance upon the good sense and free choice of the people. And the people too, must wake up, look around for themselves, select their best men and take the trouble of going to the conventions and polls and voting for them, if they do not wish their dearest and most vital interests to fall into the hands of ignorant and corrupt men.

Sectional issues have heretofore engaged and divided the attention of our public men, but the questions now looming up, are more enlarged and national. The currency, banks, revenue, railroads, canals, transportation, agriculture, telegraphs, science, in a word, the most enlarged political economy, are the mighty subjects for the greatest minds—they cannot be comprehended by circumscribed intellects. The Republican party has done well and deserved well, but it must look well to its men, or it will go down. Honesty, economy and reform, with progress, are necessary to present safety and future supremacy. If suitable men are selected to carry out these demands of the times, all will go well with the party and the country. Let us not be guilty of relying for success, any longer, on the follies, blunder and even the crimes of Democracy; defeat will sharpen its wits, while fasting will only whet its appetite for office. It can *stoop* very low in its thirst to conquer, as it demonstrated in taking a Radical for its standard bearer, in the last Presidential contest. It can shift its sail to suit any breeze. It is a party to be watched and feared. Ruin has marked its pathway heretofore; let it not regain its lost power, through any want of vigilance on the part of Republicans.

A VOTER.

Guilford County.

To the Editor of the Era:

Old Guilford is still alive, and Republicans are becoming aware that an important election is coming on. They are not boisterous, but their minds are at work, and will develop the fact, that the party in this county is stronger to-day than ever before. They have buckled on their armor for a glorious fight, and expect to come out victorious.

Col. Henderson, that old and faithful leader, whose voice has been heard throughout this district so often in defence of the principles of our party, and who has always been found where duty called him, is still looked to as our champion, and I am glad to state that his prospects for the nomination to represent us in Congress are very flattering. This is as it should be, for many reasons. He is deserving of all the honors the party can bestow upon him, for he has stood by it from its infancy to the present moment, ever the same, unswerving advocate of its principles and of the rights of the poor man. He is undoubtedly the strongest man that can be placed in the field, and will, if nominated, carry the District by a handsome majority.

The Democrats fear Henderson, and I believe would rather see any other man nominated, because he has a peculiar way of his own of dealing blows that hurt, and because they know something of his popularity.

But I have digressed, I only wanted to tell you that if we are not making much fuss up here, we are not asleep, by any means, and the party will be found in good trim, with lamps brightly burning, when the time for canvassing arrives, and let the nominee be who he may, he will be a Republican who represents our District next time.

GUILFORD.

Greensboro, May 11th, 1874.

For Judge Seventh Judicial District.

To the Editor of the Era:

The time is fast approaching when the Republicans in this District will be called upon to express their preference for a gentleman to fill the high and responsible office of Superior Court Judge. For this position there is no one who combines all the qualifications, and has higher claims to the position, than James H. Headen, of Chatham county. The writer has been personally and well acquainted with Mr. Headen for thirty years, and knows him to be a man of unswerving integrity and firmness, of fine legal ability, of dignified mien and popular address. For years at the Pittsboro bar, Mr. Headen has sustained an enviable reputation, and has shown himself the peer in professional ability of such legal giants as Hon. S. F. Phillips, Hon. John H. Haughton, Hon. John Manning and others.

Mr. Headen is an unflinching Republican. He is personally very genial and popular. He was elector on the Grant and Wilson ticket. He is generous and liberal—a friend to the poor man, and favorable to the dispensation of impartial justice to each and all. Outside of his own party, he has a large family connection, and exerts a commanding influence.

Let him be nominated, and we gain three members in the General Assembly. His name will be the rallying note of victory, and after the election, no one will be found who wears with greater dignity and honor than he the judicial ermine.

ORANGE.

James H. Headen, Esq.

To the Editor of the Era:

Having noticed in reading your most excellent paper, that it has become common for voters and classes of voters to express their preference for the various persons whose names have been mentioned as suitable candidates to represent the people of North Carolina in the different offices to be filled at the approaching election in August next, we, a large number of the voters of Chatham county, would beg leave most respectfully to present to the favorable consideration of the voters of the Fourth Congressional District, the name of James H. Headen, of Chatham, as a suitable person to be nominated as a candidate for Congress by the Republican Convention soon to assemble. Mr. J. H. Headen is in every way qualified for the position, and can more fully concentrate the vote of the District than any man whose name has been mentioned in connection with the nomination.

MANY VOTERS.

Chatham Co., May 11, 1874.

[From the New North State.]

W. A. Smith's Report.

MORGANTON, April 1st, 1874.

Hon. R. P. Dick,
Judge U. S. Circuit Court
for Western Dist. of N. C.:

SIR:—I would submit the following Report showing the operations of the W. N. C. R. Road for 11½ months, commencing April 20th, 1873, the day on which I took charge of the Road as Receiver, ending April 1st, 1874, and includes the Report made to your Honor on Oct. 1st, 1873.

The total cash receipts from all sources were	$135,542 56
Total expenditures on all accounts were	107,579 01
Leaving a balance on hand on April 1, 1874,	$27,963 55

Of the above item of expenditures the sum of $16,678 12 was collected for and paid to other roads on freight and passenger exchange accounts, leaving the sum of $61,900.89 as the expenditures of W. N. C. R. R. for 11½ months.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT FOR 1873 and 1874.

Gross earnings of W. N. C. R. R. for 12 months to April 1, 1874,	$79,595 47
Gross earnings for 12 months to April 1, 1873,	68,464 45
Excess of gross earnings or an increase of 16¼ per ct.	$11,131 02
Expenditures for same time in 1873 were	$70,900 31
Expenditures for same time in 1874,	68,340 41
Decrease in expenditures in 1874,	$2,568 90

This last amount added to $11,131 02 makes the sum of $13,699 92 as the actual increase in favor of 1874.

From the Master Mechan's Report, it will appear that the increase in the value of the engines and rolling stock on April 1, 1874 over their value on April 20, 1873 is $4,075 39

31,717 cross-ties have been purchased, paid for and have been all put in track, cost	5,956 93
44 tons of iron have also been purchased and put in the track, value	3,740 00
4,448 cords of wood have been purchased, of which 2,200 cords are now on hand	1,760 00
Estimated increase of value to the track by repairs to bridges and general repairs,	$4,467 68
Total increase in value of road, beds and rolling stock,	$20,000 00

I consider this increase to be fully $20,000, and if to this sum be added the actual cash on hand on April 1st, 1874, to-wit: $27,963 55 it will show the actual condition of the property to be worth $47,963 55 more than its value on April 20, 1873, when I first took charge as Receiver. For detailed statements of the matters set forth in the above, I would refer your Honor to the Reports of the Treasurer, Secretary and Master Mechanic, submitted herewith.

I would also report that there have been, and are now pending against me, various suits, both in the Federal and State Courts, which I have defended, viz: Holmes vs. Receiver W. N. C. R. R. McAden vs Receiver, in the State Court, and So. Ex. Company vs Receiver, and Boyden and Bailey vs. Receiver in the Federal Court.

I have also brought several suits against agents of this road, who were defaulters at the time I took charge, and have obtained judgment against some and the other suits are now pending.

I will say, in concluding my Report, that the amended charter of the N. C. R. R. Co., passed by the last Legislature of North Carolina has been accepted by that Company, and as soon as the preliminary arrangements of passing titles can be gone through with, it is the purpose of the North Carolina Railroad Company to commence operations on the Western North Carolina Railroad, and the work will be pushed through with all possible dispatch, until the great consolidated railway is completed.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
Your ob't servant,
W. A. SMITH,
Receiver W. N. C. R. R.

WOULD NOT GO.—A commodore being confined to his room by a severe fit of the gout, some sweeps were employed to sweep the chimneys of the house next door to him, and one of the boys by mistake came down into the commodore's apartment. The boy confused at his mistake, seeing the commodore in bed, said, 'Sir, my master will come for you presently.' 'Will he?' said the commodore, leaping out of bed. 'I beg to be excused for staying here any longer, then,' and immediately ran down the stairs.

A good mother was trying to explain to a young hopeful, the other day, about fighting against the devil. After telling the little fellow who he was, and how hard he was to be successfully resisted, he turned around and said: 'Mamma, I'd be scared of the old devil; but if I was to come across one of the little devils, I'd knock the stuffing out of him.'

A farmer lost a gimlet in the woods near Monticello, Minnesota, three years ago, and the other day cut down an iron wood tree, fast in the forks of which he found—not a gimlet, but a three quarter inch auger! He is sorry he didn't wait a year or two longer, as a two inch auger was just what he wanted.