WEDNESDAY......JANUARY, 15, 1879.

EARLY PROGRESS OF THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD. The Western North Carolina Railroad both in the magnitude of the undertaking and the results sought to be accomplished through the development its completion was designed to bring about, was the greatest work of internal improvement in which the State has engaged, and any thing pertaining to its early history and progress must interest the whole people of North Carolina.

The work was ordered to be completed by sections, and the division from Salis bury to Morganton was first divided into three sections, the first from Salisbury to Statesville, twenty-five miles; second, Statesville to Hale's store, in Catawba, twenty eight and three-quarter miles third, Hale's to Morganton, twenty-two miles; making the distance from Salisbury to Morganton, by the first survey, seventyfive miles. The first regular report of Chief Engineer James C. Turner bears date of August 27, 1856, and was consid ered in the second annual meeting of stockholders at Statesville, August 28,

The Engineer's estimate for the first sec tion was \$537,341.83; for the second \$586,802.66, and for the third section \$557,683.00, or total cost of completing the railroad from Salisbury to Morganton \$1,681,782 50, being for the completed superstructure, without equipment, an average of \$22,423.76 per mile. "The topographical features of the country between Salisbury and Morganton, says the report of the Chief Engineer, "exhibit that irregularity of outline and variety which usually characterize all countries of a primitive formation, and there is no part of the State, not actually in the mountains, more broken up with high and steep hills."

On the 11th of March 1856, the first section of twenty-five miles was put under contract, and the engineer reported to the stockholders' meeting in August that \$65. 000 worth of the grading had been done. The State had made her first subscription of eight hundred thousand dollars, and individual stockholders had made up their four hundred thousand, and the work was satisfactorily, progressing at the close of the first fiscal year, and an additional twelve miles, extending to the Catawba River had been put under contract. What the hopes and aspirations of that day were, and what it was designed to accomplish, through the construction of the Western North Carolina Railroad, may be gathered from a paragraph in the report of the Chief Engineer, above alluded to. He

"The North Carolina Railroad is now completed, and in direct communication with your own city of Wilmington. The At lantic and North Carolina Railroad is rapid ly progressing toward completion; the safe and secure harbor of Beaufort, one of the best on the Atlantic coast, will soon be as accessible by land as it now is by water. The Western North Carolina Railroad tering care to extend and connect it with the Tennessee Roads, thus completing, so far as your State can, that important link in the chain, which is, at no distant day, to unite the Pacific with the Atlantic Then will North Carolina, no longer a vassal to other States, take that position among her sisters of the Union, to which nature and her geographical position so justly entitle her. Then will it be known that there is an interior of North Carolina -an interior rich and productive in both mineral and agricultural resources. Then will it be known that for agricultural purposes, not only your valleys, but your mountains are rich and productive to their

very summits." In locating the railroad between Statesville and Morganton it was found that by leaving Newton three miles to the South, a saving of some \$155,000 could be made, and it was accordingly decided to give Newton a branch, which the Legislature of 1856-'57 authorized, and so a branch road three miles long was built, and all regular trains passing over the Western North Carolina Railroad have been required to run in and call at Newton, to the great inconvenience of the road and the no less annoyance of travellers. Our last Legislature ordered the line of the road to be so changed as to pass directly by Newton, and the work of grading and getting ready for the superstructure on this change of line has been more than half completed, and the trains will be run

By the terms of the amended charte in 1857, the first section was made to terminate at Morganton, and the second at a point ten miles east of the Western portal of the Swanannoa Tunnel, which permitted more on the road to be put under contract, and the work more rapidly and vigorously pressed forward. And accordingly in June of that year fifteen miles more, in addition to the Newton Branch, were put under contract, making fifty-five miles in all under way the first of June 1857. To the August meeting the Chief Engineer reported that all the masonry between Salisbury and Statesville had been completed, while West of Statesville toward Morgan ton all the masonry was under contract and progressing satisfactorily. Nineteen of the first twenty-five miles from Salisbury had been made ready for the iron, and the remainder would be in a short time. Iron had been purchased for twentyfive miles of road, and the engines Swannanoa and Catawba had been delivered during the summer of 1857, and before the annual meeting in 1858 it was promised that the whistle of the locomotive should

be heard in the valley of the Catawba. At the fourth annual meeting, August 26, 1858, the cars were running twenty miles west of Salisbury. The railway was open to the Catawba River, and the work of track-laying was going on with all possible dispatch, under a contract with Col. CHARLES F. FISHER for putting down the superstructure from Salisbury to Statesville. The effect produced upon the pecple of a section of country by the progress of a line of railroad was alluded to by the first President, R. C. PRARSON, Esq., and his remarks are doubtless appropriate

and expressive of the feelings and sentiments of the people along the extension of the Western North Carolina Railroad today. Mr. PEARSON, in his fourth annual

"The steam engine, as it penetrates ountry upon its iron track, becomes itself the most potent of all arguments for its continued and rapid advance; even the hardest-fisted tax-payer who had shuddered at the recital of the cost, whilst unseen releases his hold upon his pocket-book when he beholds its down train laden with his products, and revels upon the thoughts of the rich return which its up train will make to his coffers; and just as we bring nearer home to every man on the line this practical argument, will the fear of railroad taxes vanish into thin air, and each recipient of the benefits which railways confer become a willing and active agent in pressing

our great work on to completion."

The Chief, Engineer reported that his corps of Engineers were in the field locating the line from Morganton to the base of the Blue Ridge, and that in a few weeks the second section of the Western North Carolina Railroad to Old Fort would be

ready for the contractors. Some difficulty and delays having been experienced with the contractors during the year 1858, the whole of the unfinished work to Morganton had been recontracted with CHARLES F. FISHER, and the President reported that "the energy displayed by the contractor, Mr. FISHER, gives promise that the road will be fully completed to Morganton by the first of January, 1861." The cars were running, in August, 1859. to the Catawba river, thirty-seven miles and there only awaited the completion of the long bridge to cross over and speed along up the valley of the Catawba. Fifty-two miles of roadway was al ready ironed, or ready for the iron. exclusive of the Newton Branch, and it was ascertained that this first fifty-two miles of the road, completed ready for the running of the care, would cost one million. two hundred thousand dollars, including

The August meeting of 1860 found the cars running to Icard Station, eleven miles east of Morganton, and so satisfactory was the progress of the work, and so economic cally confined within the estimates, that the Company felt able to complete the road through to Paint Rock with the orig inal appropriation of four millions from the State and two millions of individual subscriptions, and accordingly the Chief Engineer was directed to locate the line to the Tennessee connections, and his re port thereon was made to a called meeting of the stockholders in Balisbury, Novem ber 23, 1860.

THE REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

The report of the State Treasurer, pub lished elsewhere, will commend itself to the people of the State and the public at large as a plain, pointed, and businesslike document. A people are fortunate whose public fund is in the hands of gentleman of the ability, business habits and integrity of Treasurer WORTH.

The statements of various funds, receipts and disbursements, show that they have been properly managed and faith fully applied, and that while the specia now so fairly begun, needs but your tos. tax levies by the last Legislature were not adequate to all the appropriations voted. yet by rigid economy, and the observance of law in the administration of the Treasury Department, there has been created no deficit-no debt made by the Treasurer on the bypothesis that the Legis lature would make good disbursements in excess of its appropriations-and the dis bursements of the Treasury have not therefore, gone beyond the actual resources

of its vaults. The debt statement will arrest public at tention, and the careful classification of the same affords the fullest possible information on the subject of the State's indebtedness. From this state ment it is seen that the principal and the interest now due on the old or ante-war and that the principal and interest on other recognized bonds, issued during and since the war, under authority of acts of the Legislature before the war, ordinances of convention, funding acts, etc., between 1865 and the special tax issues and appropriations of 1868, amount to \$13,741, 247.35, and that the total amount of the State debt now, exclusive of special tax bonds, is \$27,120,227.85, subject, however, to a deduction of the amount of interest paid by the Receiver of the North Care lina Railroad of the annual dividend of six per cent. passed into his hands by order of the Circuit Court of the United States in the Swazey suit, which amount the Treasurer has not ascertained, but which may be stated at about a million dollars. This would leave the recognized debt, in round numbers, at \$26,000,000.

Against this indebtedness, the available assets of the State are slim. Save the three millions of stock in the North Carolina Railroad, the State appears to own no productive stocks, though she holds stocks and bonds of the face value of over seven

The Treasurer recommends an adjustment of the State debt, but recognizing the impoverished condition and failing regest how this is to be accomplished, or the new, or compromise obligation met, should an adjustment be effected. He merely recommends that terms of com promise be offered the State creditors, embracing such amount of principal and rate of interest as may be consistent with the ability of our people to assume."

The Treasurer calls upon the Legislature for a uniform system of assessment for taxation, throughout the State, and in a few words illustrates the evils and hardship to many tax-payers, of the present want of uniformity in the system. The matter is worthy of the most careful consideration at the hands of the General As-

A HARD WORKED PREACHER. - A Ba tist preacher in North Carolina has reache Bible through fifteen times in the las fifteen years, by torch-light. Last year, besides raising with his own hands two bales of cotton, fifty barrels of corn and 200 bushels of potatoes, he travelled 2,000 miles, preached 120 sermons and received miles, preached 120 sermons and receive for his ministerial services \$120.

## FROM WASHINGTON.

[Special Correspondence of THE OBSERVER.] WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 13, 1879. Masses, Epirors:—The House adjourned at 12 m. until 3 p. m. when the funeral services of Hon. Gustave Schleicher will take place as stated in my letter of yester. day. The programme is very much the same as that adopted in the case of Mr. Hartridge. A committee of members from the Senate and House will leave this even ing, with the remains of Mr. Schleicher for San Antonio, Texas. The Committee of "Foreign Relations," of which Mr. Schleicher was a member, met this morning and passed a resolution asking Congress to direct the payment of the salary due Mr. Schleicher for the present Congress, to the widow. They also request the incoming 46th Congress to order the payment of the salary to the widow, until Mr. Schleicher's successor is elected, which cannot be before next September.

THE TOBACCO TAX AGAIN. Commissioner Raum went before Senate Committee on last Saturday and made an argument against the reduction of the tobacco tax from 24 to 16 cents per I do not think the Commissioner of In-

ternal Revenue has any right to attempt the control of the legislation of Congress He is simply an executive officer. Compressioner Raum is induced to this course I suppose because it appears from his report to Congress, that the falling off of the receipts in the Internal Revenue for the last fiscal year amount to \$8,341,020.

88 as compared with the preceding fiscal

Now what is the cause of this falling off of the revenues of the government? It is attributable to the general depression of business resulting from Sherman's process of getting down to hard pan." Poverty creased consumption. It is a poor mode of obtaining revenue to starve the people into such a state of exhaustion that they are unable to produce the article upon which the tax is levied. The financial legislation for the last few years has nearly destroyed all the business of the land, and almost made a nation of paupers. Then the absordity of taxing the products of labor until the production of the article ceases, and the manufacturer of the raw article is driven to suspension. The facilities to make money have all been destroyed by this class legislation, and yet the burdens of taxation are to remain the same! These are "gievances too grievous to be borne

The report of Commissioner Raum shows that the people of the United States, during the last fiscal year, paid into the Treasury the vast sum of \$104,660,781.57 for internal revenue alone. Consider that, in addition, the American people pay over \$100,000,000 in gold for the same time, to the grasping government bond-holder, in addition to the many millions for high tariffs and swindling railroad and we can have some idea of an overburdened people who also have to meet the demands of State, corporation and private Of this \$104,000,000 North Carolina

pays \$1,818,358.94, Virginia pays \$6,501, 476 89. The sixteen Southern States pay wenty-six and one third millions of dollars, about one-fourth of the whole. The aggregate of the six New England States is but \$3,594,682 39, about one half as much as is paid by Kentucky or Virginia. The State of Illinois pays four and three quarter millions more tax than any other State. It is obvious that most of the tax comes from the agricultural industry and the enterprise of the country, while the States engaged mostly in manufacturing, and which have the largest amount of tariff produc tion and the most vested capital and bank facilities, pay a much less proportion. These facts should put the American people to thinking. The men who have made us "hewers of wood and drawers of water" should be held to a strict accounta-W. H. M.

LETTER FROM GREENE COUNTY.

[Correspondence of THE OBSERVER.] Snow Hill, N. C., Jan. 9, 1979. Messes. Editors: It becomes my pain ful duty to chronicle the sad and sudden death, that occurred here Tuesday, the 7th inst . of Mr. Daniel Pittman, of Lenoir county. Mr. Pittman had come to town Monday previous; to visit a near relative of his, Mr. James Kilpatrick, employed as clerk in the establishment of Messrs. Grimsley & Dixon. These cousins, both promising and noble young men, who were each other as loving brothers, came to the store from dinner about ten minutes to one. Mr. Kilpatrick stepped behind the counter, walked to the upper end, and was ousy waiting on a customer. A negro man, in the meantime, wanted to see a pisbonds together amount to \$13,378,980.50; tol, and called. Mr. Pittman, seeing his cousin occupied, volunteered to wait on the negro, moved to the lower end of the counter, reached in the show-case, got a pistol, and handed it to him for examination. The negro asked if it was loaded. Mr. Pittman replied, no; but unfortunately it was loaded, the fact being unknown to Mr. P., whereupon the negro began revolving the pistol, and accidentally discharged it, the ball taking effect in Mr. Pittman's forehead, just above his right eye. Mr. Pittman instantly fell, like one dead, to the floor in an unconscious condition. Drs. Jones, Rountree and Galloway were called in, made a full examination, explored for the bullet without success, and pronounced the wound fatal. Mr. Pittman lingered in a comatose state until halt-past twelve day before yesterday, when his spirit gently took its flight to join the celestial choir in that beautiful land "beyond the sunset's radiant glow." It is but just to add that the pistol was loaded to meet an emergency, an attempt having been made to rob the store a night or two previous to the shooting. The bereaved family have the sympathy of the entire community. Every attention was shown the dying young man by the citizens of the town, Messrs. A. J. Griffin and J. D. Grimsley deserving special mention. The negro was tried before a magistrate and acquitted. Several of the witnesses examined saw the shooting, and knew it to be purely accidental. Snow Hill has never witnessed such de-

pression in business. The cry of hard times is in the mouth of everybody. Mr. William Kilpatrick cam the 7th instant, and in broad daylight purloined one of our queens, Miss Happie Harper, but her mother was willing. Rev. Mr. J. P. Simpson assisted them to get away. May they have a prosperous journey through life. By the way our town has been honored by the acquisition of Mr. Simpson just mentioned above. He

has permanently located with us.

Mrs. W. L. Hargrave's excellent school resumes the 18th inst. She is a lady of great learning, an admirable educator, and well deserves the patronage of the public. She is ably assisted by a corps of experienced teachers, including her distinguished husband. I wish her increased prosperity. The weather remained extremely cold for four or five days up to yesterday. It is now quite warm. "P. EARL." is now quite warm.

THE IRON TRADE. - The statistics of the iron industry for the past year show an encouraging condition of that branch of isiness. Elevated railroads materially contributed to the increased consumption.

fund amounting to \$9,000,000 and the school property of the State is valued at \$12,000,000 a year for public school in-

some arge and confurable. Terms moder-

## Report of the Treasurer.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, TREASURY DEPARTMENT, RALEIGH, January 7, 1879. To His Excellency, Zebulon B. Vance. Governor of North Carolina. SIR: I submit this report of the rece

and disbursements of this Department for the fiscal years ending on the 30th day of September, 1877, and 30th day of September, 1878, with statements which explain

The summary statements of the Educational and Public Funds show a balance to the credit of each fund on the 30th of September last as follows: \$ 18,600.265 Educational fund, 100,192,991 Public fund,

Statements A and B contain the receipts and disbursements of the Educational Fund, which, for the two years, are as fol-OWS:

PERMANENT FUND. Enfries of vacant lands. \$ 8,563.30\$ Fines, forfeitures and penalties, 9,288.59

INCOME OR DISTRIBUTIVE FUND. Tax on Auctioneers, 197.98 Tax on Retailers of Lq'rs, 19,163.21 Interest on U. S. Bonds. University Normal School (refunded) \$28,524.06

Total receipts, Statements C and D contain the disbursements of the Educational Fund, for the two fiscal years, stated as follows; FROM PERMANENT FUND.

\$7,805.00 Investment in U. S. Bonds, DISTRIBUTIVE FUND ommon schools. 17,501.63 Expense account University Normal S. hool, Colored Normal School,

-\$21,543. \$29,348.13 Total disbursements, Statements E and F contain the receipts of the Public Fund, which, for the two fiscal years, amount to \$1,066,957,59%.

Statements G and H contain the disbursements of the Public Fund, for the same time, amounting to \$1,147,451.66 1-6. These disbursements, in addition to the ordinary expenses of the State government, embrace the usual special appropriations to the several charitable and penal institutions, and extra appropriations and interest on bonds, as follows:

Western N. C. R. R., Western Insane Asylum, 50,500 Penitentiary, 100,000 Interest on mortgage

bonds issued on account 118,545 of Western N. C. R. R.,

\$344,241.93 It is proper to suggest that these large subsidies, special expenditures are in excess of the usual appropriations provided for by special taxation, and the fact that they have been met without an increase of the revenue levies, is evidence of the rigid economy in the administration of the government in its several legislative, executive, and judicial departments, as the saving by the large reduction of these expenses has admitted of more extensive aid from the Treasury to the several works

> I am compelled to state, however, that the Treasury has suffered embarrassment in consequence of a deficiency of funds to meet special appropriations for the Western North Carolina Railroad, and public buildings, a large portion of which remains unpaid.

> now in progress under the authority of the

General Assembly.

In this connection I call the attention of the General Assembly to section 7, of article V. of the state Constitution, which requires that "every act of the General Assembly levying a tax, shall state the special object to which it is to be applied, and it shall be applied to no other pur-

The Treasurer, as a ministerial officer, should obey a statute giving direction to

Sec. 3, page 1, of the act to raise revenue, provides that "the taxes hereinafter designated shall be applied to defray the expenses of the State government, and to appropriations to charitable and penal institutions."

In making these special payments from the general fund. I did not conceive it my duty to consider to what extent the action of the General Assembly, in giving this direction to the funds, was consistent with the sections of the Constitution and the Statute above quoted.

I obeyed the General Assemby as far a was able with the means in my hands, The balance to the credit of the Public Fund, on the 30th of September last, was \$100,192.99 $\frac{1}{3}$ , applicable as follows: \$55,069.62 General purposes, Agricultural Department, • 12,827.96 13,670,41

Penitentiary, Insage Asylum. 8,000. Institution, Deaf and Dumb and Blind. 10,625.

\$100, 192, 994 It is seen, that of the above stated baiance, only \$55,069.62 were applicable to general purposes, which amount was exhausted before any settlements were made by Sheriffs of their tax accounts for the present year, by the payment of the interest due November 1st on the Mortgage Bonds issued for the purchase of the Western North Carolina Railroad, the salaries of the executive and judicial officers, and other expenses, such as public printing,

convéving convicts to the Penitentiary, &c. PERLIC DERT. Statement I exhibits the bonded debt in detail, giving dates of issue and maturity. and authority under which the bonds were

The debt is classified as follows: Bonds issued before the war. known as "old" bonds...... \$8,371,400 00 Interest due on same ..... 5,007,580 50 Bonds issued since the war by ..\$13,878,980 50 authority of acts before the

Bonds issued since the war, by authority of ordinances of Con-vention, and acts of the Gen-eral Assembly, passed since 

Bonds issued under Funding acts of March 10, 1866, and August 20, 1863-Funding act of 1866.\$2,231,000 Int'st due on same.. 1,310,262 3,541,262 00 Funding act of 1868 \$1,657,600 Int'st due on same... 990,987

Total... Bonds issued during the war, by authority of acts passed before the war, for internal improvement purposes, to which are added \$2.5,000 issued for Chat-ham Railroad under ordinance of Convention of Jan. 30, 1862... Interest due on same ....

Total amount principal and int'st..\$27 120,227 85 The special tax bonds are eliminated from the general statement of the debt, and reported in a separate statement, marked K, where they appear as the re-sult of unwise legislation. The principal of the "old" or ante-war

debt, as shown in the foregoing clasifica-tion, is \$8,371,400. Of this amount \$2, 794,000 were issued for the construction of the North Carolina Railroad. Deducting this amount there remains as principal

\$5,577,400, The interest on this class which is reported at \$5,007,580.50, is subject to a deduction of the amount paid by the Receiver of the dividends from the North Carolina Railroad Company, which

amount I have not ascertained. The 2d, 3d, 4th and 5th classes are bonds ssued during and since the war, amount ing in the aggregate to \$8,588,645, principal, and \$5,152,602.35 interest. Tota \$13,741,247.35.

The character of the issues embraced these several classes is explained in the tabulated statement, as well as in the foregoing

These figures commend themselves to the serious consideration of the General Assembly. I suggest that some adjustment of the

debt should be made with the creditors. It is true that the works of improvement, which have been constructed as an equivalent for the liberal aid extended by the State before the war, are now almost wholly unremunerative, and that there are but little, if any visible fruits of the large appropriations, which make up the debt contracted since the war, on which the State can depend in an arrangement with the creditors. It is further true that the financial con-

dition of our people has been changed by the heavy losses which they have suffered Yet the debt bears upon us as an incumbrance to our prosperity, which is increased by the continued postponement of an adjustment. Terms of compromise ought to offered the creditors, embracing such an

amount of principal, and rate of interest,

as will be consistent with the ability of our people to assume. If such terms should be rejected by the creditors, the responsibility will rest upon them and the end of negotiations wil have been reached. The Raleigh & Augusta Air-Line Railroad Company has completed its exchange of bonds with the State as authorized by law, in the redemption of the mortgage of \$1,200,000, held by the State on the property of the company, and executed under an ordinance of the Convention of

By this transaction the principal of the debt has been reduced \$280,000, and interest \$177,138, making a total reduction of \$457,138. The statement of the debt is made up with this reduction.

STOCKS AND BONDS. I have omitted the statement, in the usual tabular form, of the stocks owned by the State in corporations, and bonds held in exchange with them. They appear in the following statement, and do not include stocks purchased with special tax bonds.

STOCKS. North Carolina Railroad Com-Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad Company...... 1,266,500 Western Railroad Company (from Fayetteville)..... Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal Company.....

Total face value of stocks, The market value of these stocks is nominal, and they are entirely unremunerative, except the stock in the North Carolina Railroad Company.

Roanoke Navigation Company...

The following mentioned bonds are held by the State in the nature of exchange, and are unavailable City of Raleigh, date January

1, 1863... Raleigh and Gaston Railroad Company, date Jan. 1, 1863. Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad Company, now Carolina Central, different dates from Jan. 1, 1860 to July 1, 1862, inclu-

Total face value of bonds......

ASSESSMENTS OF PROPERTY. I call the attention of the General Assembly to the importance and necessity of changing the system of assessing

property for taxation. The present mode has been unequally and unjustly practiced in many counties of the State. An extensive correspondence with the authorities of several counties, as well as tax payers, gives evidence of a general want of uniformity in listing property for taxation. The Commissioners of many counties have construed the law according to their own convictions without regard to the uniform rule required by the Constitution, as well as the Statute whose intent it is to give effect to the constitutional provisions. As the effect of this much property has been unlisted and the State deprived of just revenues. A thorough revision of the rules of assessment and listing of property is demanded, so as to equalize and justly distribute the ratio of taxation

among our people. Very Respectfully, Your Obt. Serv't, J. M. WORTH. State Treasurer.

> The Orphans of the State. [Correspondence of THE OBSERVER.]

WILMINGTON, Jan. 4, 1879.

Messes. Editors: While the attention of the members of the Legislature is being called to the necessity of laws to protect sheep, crops, and so forth, I would like to ask the religious and secular press throughout the State, as a matter of right, justice and charity, to impress upon the Legisla ture the necessity of a law for the protection of poor orphan children, so that the little means left them by parents shall not be taken or stolen from them by their guardians, who often pay them in bankrupt notices, or so arrange their property, although often living in luxury and extravagance, that it cannot be reached by law should the orphans have friends and means to contend for their honest dues and rights. Make it, gentlemen, an honest offence, punishable with fine and imprisonment, for any guardian to appropriate to his own use the money and property of his wards, and there will not be so many crushed and broken-hearted orphans dependent upon the cold charities of the world, who feel that the State does not afford them protection, and that every one is his or her enemy, endeavoring to crush them because they have been robbed by those who Again, let the law require that all signatures to guardians' bonds shall be signed

attach their own signatures in the proper place upon the bond, and said bond filed with and recorded in the office of the Judge of Probate of the county where the ward resides, who shall be required also to see that the security is ample and good. The necessity of the latter law will be

apparent when I state that a young lady in one of our eastern counties lost some fifteen thousand dollars, left her by her parents, and is unable to recover one cent because the bond given by her guardian was destroyed by fire, with the court-house, and no one could remember the names of the sureties to the bond. Yours truly, WILL.

GERMAN TOBACCO. - The area of land n Germany upon which the tobacco plant is cultivated exceeds 50,000 acres, Prussia, Bavaria, the Duchy of Baden, Alsace and Lorraine being the counties which grow the most; and the average yield is about 3,300 pounds to the acre. With this crop some 50,000 tons of leaf and 1,250 tons of prepared tobacco are imported yearly, the exports barely reaching four thousand

The Tobacco Tax.

[Special to the Richmond Dispatch, 14th.] WASHINGTON, January 13.-Senator Withers informs me that he has had a conerence with Senator Bayard, and that I stated his position on the tobacco tax correctly in my dispatch the other night -viz., that he is for a reduction to 16c. Senator Eaton, of Connecticut, has been reported as against a reduction to 16c., but he said this morning that he is in favor of reducing the tax to 12c. He and his colleague, Senator Barnum, may be both counted for the House bill when it comes before the Senate either with or without the favorable consideration of Mr. Morrill's committee. Senator Johnston to-day arranged pairs on the tobacco bill which 270 were in blast and 446 were out for Messrs. Cooke and Bayard, who go south with Mr. Schleicher's body. Col. Burwell, who was before breakfast this morning looking after the pairs of senators about to leave Washington, has arranged in regard to pairs for Messrs Bailey, of Tennessee, and Garland, of Arkansas, and others, who are in Louisiana with the Teller committee. A valuable tobacco document was placed in the hands of senators to-day. It gives extracts from the speeches of Senators Sherman, Thurman, and Bayard in the Senate March 1 and 1875. The present Secretary of the Treasurv then ably and earnestly opposed an increase from 20c. to 24c., and said that the law under which tobacco is now taxed was dishonorable and unjust. Mr. Bayard said that more money could be raised by reducing the tax below 20c. than by increasing it to 24c., and opposed the increase. Mr. Thurman, in opposing the increase, alluded to the enormous burden under which tobacco then groaned, and asked, if even a tax of 5 per cent. was imposed upon wheat, or Indian corn was taxed 10, 20 or 30 per cent, upon its value, what would you hear from the country? And yet, he said, tobacco was taxed from 100 to 400 per cent.

### Col. David Miller Carter. [From the Wilmington Star.]

We knew Colonel Carter most intimate

ly-knew him from his boyhood. W are, therefore, prepared to give an intelli gent estimate of his capacity. He had as much pure intellect as any man in North Carolina. This is our deliberate judgment formed long ago, and tenaciously held be cause nothing occurred compelling or authorizing a change of opinion. He had admirable logical powers that were capable both of the acutest and severest ratiocination and of the most prolonged exercise. His perspicacity of thought was unrivalled in our State so far as we know. So luminous, so clear, so condensed were his intellections that his very statement was an argument. We heard John S. Long, of Newbern, one of the most eloquent and brilliant men in North Carolina, say, that he heard Col. Carter make a pure, dry legal argument some years ago, that was so closely welded in its successive links of reasoning-so compact of thought, that it excited his mind to the highest possible point and exhilarated him as a splendid outburst of eloquence would have done. We knew David Carter well, and we believe him to have had brain enough to have easily risen to the highest place in the legal profession

in our State. Men who were pigmies to

him intellectually were better known and

more favored. He was a good scholar, and could have become very eminent if he had so chosen. He had a natural aptitude for languages. and when quite a youth could read the most difficult Latin at a glance. He wrote well-like a man of reflection who had not neglected the graces of style. He had good taste in polite literature, and was familiar with the best authors of our language. He was a man of for tune, and was never a hard student who bent all his energies to secure the highest positions in the land, or to win that mead of praise that is so pleasant and grateful to the ears of the professional politician. He was an independent thinker, and was, therefore, in capable of wearing servilely a party collar. He thought and acted for himself. His views and opinions were eminently con servative and moderate. He was every inch a patriot, and a devoted friend of North Carolina and its cherished University. But he is gone; friend of our youth and of our advanced manhood. Since George E. Badger died no man in our State of finer intellect has left us for-

One-Half to the Informant,

In view of the interest taken in remov ing the 40 lashes save one for petty of fences we take from the Charlottesville Chronicle the following amusing story of how it was administered in Virginia in the good old times :-

"In colonial times, when Col. Archibald Cary was a magistrate, living at Williamsburg, a man who was much disliked by his neighbors, on account of his vindictiveness and general meanness, came before the old Colonel, and informed him that his neighbor, John Brown, had violated the Game law by killing a deer before the 1st of September. Now, although Brown was a good, honest, poor man, much esteemed by his acquaintances, Esquire Cary was bound to issue a war rant for his arrest, and when Brown appeared before him he confessed that he had killed the deer, knowing at the time that he was violating the law; but that his wife had a great longing for venison, and knowing that deer daily frequented his corn-field, she gave him no peace. had begged her to wait a little while, till the 1st of September, but she vowed she could not wait. So he killed the deer. The old magistrate, seeming full of com passion, said:

"Brown, the law is explicit; you will have to pay the fine, which is £5. "'Lord bless your heart, Col. Cary.' said Brown, 'all I have on earth would

not sell for £5. "Well, then,' said the Justice, turning to the law and reading, without paying strict attention to punctuation or the exact position of the words, 'Whoever shall be guilty of shooting, snaring, trapping, or in any way killing a deer within this, his Majesty's Colony of Virginia, at any time between the 1st of May and the 1st of September, shall pay a fine of £5, and if shall be awarded of 39 lashes on the bare back, well laid on, one-half to be given to in the presence of five competent and disthe informant, and the other half to the interested witnesses, the said witnesses to King.' 'Mr. Constable,' said his Honor, 'as we are enjoined to do justice and love mercy,' and where an odd amount, which is not capable of an equal division is to be divided, between a rich man and a poor man, I always give the poor man the larger share; you will, therefore, give the informant in this case the 20 lashes, and whenever you catch his Majesty, the King, in this colony, you will then give him the 19.' So the majesty of law was maintained, much to the satisfaction of all who knew the odious informant."

> SERVED THEM RIGHT. - The Baltimore's Sun's telegraph letter of Monday says that the commission of the present postmaster at Greensboro, N. C., will shortly expire. The place is worth \$2,400 per annum. A day or two ago two North Carolina members of Congress went to see the Postmas-ter-General, and asked him to appoint a Democrat named by them. The Postmaster-General replied that he thought the place should be given to a Republican. Just so; no man who calls himself a Democrat has a right to appeal from his party to the other party.

American Iron Trade.

(Special to the New York Berald, 18th.) PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 12, 1879 .- A report of the condition of the American iron trade for the past year has just been completed by James M. Swank, secretary of the American Iron and Steel Association. It states that the production of pig iron in the United States in 1877 was 2,314,585 tons, and in 1878 was 2,382,000 tons, Pannsylvania shows an increase of over 100,000 tons, while Ohio shows a decrease of over 30,000 tons. In 1878 Pennsylvania made more than fifty per cent. of the total production of pig iron in the United States. At the close of 1877 there were in the United States 716 blast furnaces, of of blast. At the close of 1878 there were 700 furnaces, of which 200 were in blast and 440 out of blast. The stock of pig iron on hand unsold at the close of 1877 amounted to 642,351 net tons. At the close of 1878 they were very much less, being about 516,000 tons. At the close of 1876 the stocks aggregated 686,798 tons. The shrinkage in stocks was remarkably uniform in all producing States, and it is very significant of the caution which characterized this branch of the iron trade throughout the year. No State materially increased its stocks in 1878 The consumption and the production of pig iron, as well as the reduction of stocks, were greater in 1878 than during the previous

A careful estimate shows the production was increased about 70,000 tons, Stocks were decreased about 126,000, and consumption increased about 195,000 tons. In 1877 the production of iron rails amounted to 332,540 net tons, which was a great reduction from the production of 1876, which was 467,168 tons. In 1878 this decline was wholly arrested, the production during the year being as fully as great as in 1877, and probably a few thousand tons greater. In 1877 the production of Bessemer steel ingots was 560,587 net tons, and the production of Bessemer rails was 432,169 tons. In 1878 the production of ingots was about 730,000 net tons, and the weight of Bessemer rails produced was about 600,000 net tons. Putting the iron and steel rail products of the year together we have in round numbers a total of 930,-000 net tons as the product of the year. This product has only once been exceeded in our history (in 1872), when the product reached 1,000,000 net tons. In 1880 we will probably equal even that immense

The decline in price of pig iron during the year was \$1.50 a ton, and on bar iron t was one-tenth of a cent per pound, or \$2.24 a ton. Iron and steel rails sold during the year at average prices which were higher than the quotations in January. The only discouraging feature of the iron trade of 1878 is that which relates to prices. In both iron and steel rails there was an improvement, but in pig and bar iron there was a decline from the exceptionally low prices of 1877. The report concludes as follows: The old year, take it all in all, was a more active and more prosperous year for the American iron trade than either 1876 or 1877. There was improvement in the demand for all iron and steel producers, and prices, although not satisfactory, were well maintained, except in the case of pig iron. This branch of the trade has had a hard struggle, and many furnaces have been run without profit. The new year opens with the promise of a still more active and more prosperous business for our ron and steel manufacturers than the old year gave to them. Business is in fewer hands and the home competition cannot be so desperate as it has been. Foreign competition for the present is not to be dreaded Prices, it is hoped, are at last at the lowest point to which they can possibly fall, while the unmistakeable and undeniable revival of general prosperity throughout the country gives every assurance of the continuance of the increased demand for iron and steel which characterized the old year.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

FOR YOUNG LADIES

RALEIGH, N. C.

The Spring Term commences on the 30th of January and closes on the 13th of June. All dep riments filled by experienced and suctimes. For circular and catalogue address REV. R. BURWELL & SON, jan15-d2t-w1m

MPORTANT SALE .- BY VIRTUE OF THE powers contained in a mortgage from J. P. H. Russ and wife to J. T. Leach, registered in Book 45, p. 449, Register's office, of Wake countv, I shall on Monday, February 17th, 1819, at the Court House door, in Raieigh, proceed to expose to public sale the interest of said Russ and wife in 110 acres of land, lyin on Walnut Creek, in Wake county, and bounded by the lands of William Scott and Thes. G. Jenkins, Thes. Howle C. Blake and others rior morigages, which will be announced on READE, BUSBEE & BUSBEE.

# Attorneys for Mortgagee

# WOOD & LUMBER YARD

W. L. HARRIS will carry on the Wood and Lumper business at Christopher's Yard, northeast corner Baptist Grove. A large lot of oak wood just received. All orders left at the store of Messrs. Christophers & Sorrell filled promptly W. L. HARRIS.

# NOTICE.

THE REGULAR ANNUAL MEETING OF the Stock olders of the North Carolina Home Insurance Company will be held in the Company's office, in Raleigh, on We nesday, February 8, 1879, at 11 o'clock a. m. W. S. PRIMROSE, Sec'y. jan13-3t

CALE OF VALUABLE CITY PROP-ERTY. By virtue of powers conferred in a Deed of Mortgage executed by the North Carolina Ma-Sonic Temple Association, on the 10th day of January, 1875, registered in the office of Regis-ter of Deeds for Wake county, in Book 39, at page 465, I will sell at public outcry at the Court

House door in Raleigh, on Wednesday the 15th day Jan'y, 1879. the LOT now owned by the said corporation. The lot lies immediately south of the Court House Square, 105 feet broad, and runs from Fayetteville street to Salisbury street 210 feet. The terms of sale are CASH; but if the purchasers shall desire it, arrangements can be made with the mortgagees by which time to pay the mortgage debt can be secured.

The property will be divided into lots to suit purchasers, the dividing lines to be made known

on the day of sale, JOHN GATLING, Attorney for Mortgagee BY VIRTUE of authority contained in a Deed of Trust executed to me on the 23d day of February 1878, and recorded in the Register

office for Wake County, in book 50, page 315, I will, on wednesday the 15th day of January 1879, at 12 o'clock in., expose to public outcry, at the Court House door, in the city of Raieigh, a VALUABLE TRACT OF LAND, adjoining the "Beaver Dam Mill" tract, and the lands of Mrs. Kimbrough Jones, and containing about 90 acres. Terms of Sale-One third cash, and the bal-

ance in six and twelve months. Purchaser to secure the last two payments by mortgage on the land. A. W. HAYWOOD, Trustee,

HA ... VIE BELL TWO