The Western, or Fayetteville and Coal fields Railroad was chartered December 24. 1852, and the work of construction begun at Fayetteville the following year. DUNCAN G. MACRAE, an internal improvement veteran, a gentleman who has labored as long, and as faithfully to advance and perfect our internal improvement system as any man who has lived in the State, was the first President, and has been followed by CHARLES B. MALLETT. H. L. MYROYER, A. J. JONES and L. C. JONES, the latter the present incumbent.

GEORGE MONEILL Esq. has been called the father of this Railroad, and no one, perhaps, deserves more credit for originating the scheme than this gentleman; but in a section of country where every citizen was a man of enterprise, and whereall, from the very agitation of the internal improvement subject, have done so much in that behalf, aided and supported every practicable scheme, without regard to section, as have the people of Fayetteville, and the Cape Fear country, it is scarcely practicable to make any distinction, now, in referring to the early history and progress of internal improvements in North Carolina. It is enough to say here that no people have ever done more for others, or been the recipients of fewer benefits from our system, than those Cape

At the breaking out of the war the Western Railroad, as it is known in its corporate capacity, had been completed to within four miles of Egypt, and was, during the war, carried to the coal fields, to obtain supplies of fuel for Confederate purposes; and upon the coal here obtained were the blockade and government steamers at Wilmington largely dependent during the entire war. The length of the road from Fagetteville to Egypt is forty-three miles, and the cost of its construction and equipment was one million. one hundred thousand dollars, or a little more than \$25,000 per mile. The thirty-four miles of the completed line is through the sand hills, the last nine passing through a clay country, underlaid with red sandstone. This sandstone has been, by the way, pronounced by the Government architects at Washington as fine as any specimen of that building material ever exhibited at the office of the Supervising Architect.

In March last work was resumed on this road; the State furnishing a hundred convicts, and under authority of the Legisla ture to make the road a narrow guage, the work of grading the line to Greensboro began. The distance from Egypt to Gfeensboro was fifty-three miles by the direct route, and it has been ascertained that the average cost of grading will be less per mile than on the completed portion of the line from Egypt to Fayetteville. Though a much rougher section, the general contour of the country better fits the grades than that through which the old division passed. The present estimated cost of constructing the road from Egypt to Greensboro will be \$408,000 for the graduation, masonry and superstructure, or an average of seven thousand five hundred dollars per mile for the road completed ready for the running of cars. The line will pass Ore Hill, in Chatham, where is

said to be found large supplies of some of ihe finest iron in the country. Since March last, the grading has been completed for eight miles, a truss bridge, two hundred and fifty feet long and thirty feet high, built across Deep river, together with three hundred feet of trestle work beyond, which have been the great obstacles to the progress of the work from Egypt onward. The cross ties are laid to the Gulf, three and a half miles, the iron purchased, paid for and delivered, and will be immediately laid on that much of the track, now that Deep River is bridged. The grading is progressing satisfactorily within seven miles of Ore Hill, and there now appears no obstacle or difficulty in the way of the rapid progress of the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad. The average cost of the graduation, masonry and making the roadway ready for the superstructure, is but three thousand eight hundred dollars per mile, and supplied with a proper working force, the connection at Greensboro should not be long delayed. There are little or no incumbrances on this road. It has triumphed over the great difficul ties that at one time beset it, and it is now in the hands of its friends, and under the control of a management that will complete and preserve it. It behooves the State to foster this Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley enterprise, by extending to it the aid of all the resources it can command in its behalf. It is designed to extend through the counties of Cumberland, Harnett, Moore, Chatham, Randolph, Guilford Forsyth, Surry and the northwest section of the State. It will be an important connection, bringing into relation sections of the State that produce interchangeable commodities, and its resources of business would be in proportion to the facilities it would afford, and the development it would accomplish. It is a natural line of trade and traffic, an old established line of business and communication antedating our system of internal improvements. It is the old wagon route from Grayson and Wytheville, Virginia, to Fayetteville, when that portion of the Old Dominion together with the Watauga and Alleghany country traded with the old Cape Fear town. It is not yet thirty years since the streets of the

for continued communication between

these sections of country under the improved order of things.

But restore this natural channel of trade by opening up this proposed line of railroad communication, and it will not only develop some of the best portions of the State, but it will revive the business of the Cape Fear country beyond what it was even in those days when Fayetteville and Wilmington were commercial centres for large sections of North Carolina. Nor would this improvement be confined to one or two localities. Greensboro and all points beyond would feel the impetus, and while Wilmington and Fayetteville would grow in commercial and manufactuing importance, contributing of their increased prosperity to the general wealth and public contributions to the State, the tide of general prosperity would set in along the entire line of the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad. The State is four-fifths owner in the road. It should be the constant care of the State to foster the enterprise.

THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF A GRICULTURE.

The report of Col. Polk, which is now before the Legislature, sets forth in detail the operations of this Department since its organization, and shows from the amount and character of work accomplished that the Board has neither been idle nor un mindful of the great interests entrusted to its charge. North Carolina is the second State that has established a Department of Agriculture and a Fertilizer Central Sta tion. We heartily join the Commissioner in congratulating the Board on its auspi cious beginning, and repeat, what we have often taken occasion to remark in these columns, that no act of the Legisla ture since the war shows a higher appreciation of the necessities of our people than the one establishing this Department. The recommendations of the Commissioner relate strictly to subjects pertaining to his work, and are expressed in distinct

He asks for the enactment of more effi cient measures for securing returns of farm products, and that the compensation of Assessors and Registers of Deeds be

He gives a detailed statement of the work of propagating fish by artificial methods, and regards success in this enterprise as contingent only on more effective laws, and asks for a general fish law which will secure the free passage of fish in all of our principal waters, and also for the creation of the office of Fish Commissioner to be appointed and controlled by the

has been enforced in but few counties, and that grave doubts exist as to its constitutionality, and asks that it be repealed, and that the moneys already collected from this tax be refunded. He claims that the law, divested of this embarrassing feature, is more simple, effective and economical in regulating the sale of fertilizers than that of any other State in the Union, and that the license tax is heartily supported by a vast majority of our farmers. He asks for a strong law to protect sheep

husbandry, and gives figures from partial

returns of seventy-eight counties that show

about one dog to every three sheep. There are 111,039 dogs in the State. He makes no specific recommendation in regard to the dog tax, but asks this question, "Does our State Constitution guarantee to a citizen the right to keep and propagate a species of property by which the value and existence of his neighbor's property is constantly jeopardized and imperilled? The returns from the seventy-eight counties (although twenty-four townships are omitted, and the returns confessedly im perfect,) show that during the year 28,081 sleep were destroyed by dogs, being 8,000 more than lost by disease. He thinks our present fence law should be made to conform to the demands which the changes of time have created and, although arbitrary legislation abolishing fences throughout the State would work injury to many sections, still a general option law, the Commissioner is of opinion. is desirable. The report asks for a rigid game law, and suggests that where, upon proper evidence, any person's stock is adjudged to be habitually mischievous, the owner be required by law to confine it to his own premises. The utility of estab-

lishing an experimental farm is discussed. These are the most important recommendations. A statement of what many of the States are doing for agriculture, with notices of the various agricultural organi zations in North Carolina, and a synopsis of the work done in the Department is included in the report. The outlook is en-

Two important bills were passed by the House of Representatives on Wednesdayone authorizing the issue of certificates of deposit in aid of resumption, and the other making greenbacks receivable for duties.

WAKE POREST COLLEGE.

Great Increase in Number of Students-Reduction in Price of Board.

[Correspondence of THE OBSERVER.] WAKE FOREST, Jan. 17. MESSES EDITORS: There seems to be displayed at present all over our State an intense and almost universal interest in regard to education, literature, and science generally, and we are exceedingly gratified to state that Wake Forest College stands among the front ranks of those who are putting forth every effort in behalf of this good, grand and great movement. She is rapidly gaining ground in the respect of a rapid increase in her num-ber of students. There are at present in attendance between 100 and 125, and they are arriving on almost every train. Only two left at the close of the past term, which expired on the 15th inst. The price of board has been recently very much reduced. Good board can now be had at town of Fayetteville were thronged with wagons and stock drovers from Southwest from \$5 to \$10 per month; in clubs at Virginia, and Northwestern North Caro-\$5, and in private boarding houses at from \$8 to \$10. The price of tuition has also recently been reduced to \$30 per term. By this arrangement, young men in the most limited circumstances have the glo lina. This natural current of trade was disturbed and diverted by the competition of the North Carolina Railroad and other lines of internal improvement, because adequate facilities were not alike afforded

NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE.

[Correspondence of THE OBSERVER.] NEW YORK, Jan. 15, 1879.

MESSES, EDITORS: Julius A. Gray, Esq.,
Cashier of the Greensboro National Bank, is here, making arrangements to secure an additional amount of currency for his Bank, that it may extend its accommodations. This was hardly practicable hereto fore, for the legal amount of Bank capital was in great measure assigned to other sections before the South was in a condition to claim its proper share. But of late, in the stagnation of business, the Banks here have been materially reducing their capital, and the surplus is readily assigned to applicants from the South The government bonds to secure the cir culation, which a few years ago cost ten or fifteen per cent above par, can now be bought by Mr. Gray at a little below pare and that will be a saving. It is true that they are only four per cent bonds, but these are as good as any for deposite to secure circulation. The amount of investments in these new four per cents is amaz ing -six millions on Monday and six een yesterday. Money must be exceedingly plenty and exceedingly difficult of investment to cause such enormous sums to be loaned at so low an interest as four per cent. When business revives, and money shall be wanted for business purposes, these bonds will go below par.

I was also favored to-day with a call

from Adjutant General Johnstone Jones, who is here representing North Carolina in a National Militia Convention. I was surprised to learn from him that there are three thousand uniformed militia in North Carolina, and the State receives \$5,000 a year from the general government toward the equipment of troops; and it is hoped to secure double that amount.

The extraordinary performance of a woman, Mrs. Accerson, in walking 2,700 quarters of a mile in 2,700 consecutive quarters of an hour, was brought to a suc cessful termination on Monday evening amidst the immense applause of a packed crowd in the hall and the street adjoining, and with showers of roses. She has deposited \$8,000 in bank as part of her share of the admission fees during the four weeks in which she has been engaged in this wonderful feat. Think of the woman's endurance who for every quarter of an hour, day or night, during four weeks, could rouse herself, often from sleep, to make the required tramp. The fastest time was 2 minutes 372 seconds; the slowest 10 minutes. The fastest was the last. She is fairly prostrated and under medical care.

The scarlet fever is raging in this cityfrom forty to seventy cases reported daily The number of arrests by the police last week, was less than 900, a much smaller number than has been known in any previous week for many years. Hurrah for Murphy's temperance lectures!

There was a great fire last night about 9 o'clock, illuminating the city for a great distance, very brightly at my boarding house a mile off. It was the notion store of Howard, Sanger & Co., 100 feet wide on Broadway and Crosby, by 200 feet on Grand street, with four lofts each of equal extent, occupied as wholesale clothing stores by Mumberry, Kraus, Lauer & Co., and Edwin Bates & Co. losses are set down at a million and a half, nearly all (perhaps more than all) He states that the ton tax on fertilizers covered by insurance. The morning papers give no idea of the origin of the ire, pernaps for the reason that a suspicion is entertained. No doubt a rigid in vestigation will be had, for the insurance companies will confest the payment if they can find any reason for doing so. The immense building was formerly occupied. as it was still owned, by Brooks Brothers, clothiers. It was leased a few years ago to Cochran, McLean & Co., at the enormous yearly rent of upwards of \$100,000, sum which doubtless helped to cause their failure some three years ago. The goods in single buildings is one of the eculiarities of the present time.

> Like everything else, the railroads are on large scale. The capital of the Reading Railroad, for instance, is \$34,278,175. It owes \$78,234,559, Its receipts last yea were \$11,539,593 Its expenses \$7,319, 366. Its income fell short of its expenses and interest by \$824,950. A bad showing.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[Special Correspondence of THE OSSERVER.] WASHINGTON, Jan. 16, 1879. MESSES. EDITORS .- The severe freeze he snow last night made the Asphalt pave ments and streets of the city quite slippery and dangerous to the pedestrian and horse-several serious injuries resulting from falling on the streets have occurred this winter. The proximate cause of the death of Mr. Schleicher, of Texas, was fall on New Year's day.

POLITICAL MATTERS. The Democratic Senators held a caucus vesterday morning to determine upon a line of policy in regard to Senator Ed munds' resolution declaring valid the 13th. 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution. The resolution of Mr. Edmunds was pronounced as party "clap-trap. Senator Jones, of Florida, (who is always active and diligent) called at tention to the necessity of an early out the oppressive and unjust manner in he is dead. which this law is being entorced. It is a little remarkable that Sepator Edmunds liberal statesmanship can discover no legislation to suggest for the South except something tending to manufacture capital of Supervi ors and United States Marshals the unwarranted interference of the military power of the general Government of the Southern States, the unblushing and whole-"bull dozing" and Returning Board con spiracies-all fail to catch the attention of this statesman from Vermont. Men like Edmunds and Blaine hold their position in the Senate of the United States by pander ing to the prejudice and ignorance of their their whole attention. This would be excusable, in a small cross roads politician. but is disgraceful in the man who holds position in the Senate of the United

The Cooking and Hayes fight was quite ively in the executive session of the Senate yesterday evening. Hayes' appointments to the Custom House in New York do not suit the views of Conkling. He charges that the President made the change out of personal spite to him be-

cause he did not choose to bow to the Adnominations of Hayes. This is a dogfight, in which the honest people of the on the President resulted in the expression of broad and patriotic views in behalf of the whole country from the Senator of New York then the Democrats could af ford to co-operate with him; but of the

two I think Haves is the better. While Conkling affected to ignore Blaine's bloody-shirt resolutions it was only ecause he thought Blaine was getting the 'mside track" in the Presidential race for 1880. For it is only a month since in a rious opportunity of securing a liberal education, and of becoming men and citizens worthy the name of North Carolinians.

H. M.

H. M.

Sugars of all grades, Coffee, Tea; Crackers of different kinds; Cream Cheese; Liquors; Cigars and Tobacco. Call at Watson's for and the country can discover nothing in good Goods at lowest prices.

the political record of the pompous, dignified Senator from the State of New York to distinguish him from the whang-doodle politicians of the present day who ignore the country's good for self.

TILDEN VB. GRANT. Montgomery Blair has written a letter which he takes the position that the contest in 1880 will be between Tilden and Grant. He thinks Grant will certainly be the nominee of the Republican party, and that Samuel J. Tilden is the only man who can carry the four Northern States, which is necessary to success. CONGRESSIONAL.

The Senate is discussing the bill to revise the present Patent Laws. The House is in the discussion of the bill for the improvement of the Mississippi River. Gen. Chalmers, of Mississippi, made an excellept speech on the Constitutional power to mprove the Mississippi. W. H. M.

STATE AND FEDERAL AUTHORITY. Conflict of State and Federal Authority—the case Carried at Last to the Supreme Court of the United States,

[Correspondence of THE OBSERVER.] The irrepressible conflict between State and Federal authority goes on, and though the scene shifts frequently the conflict is unchanged. The latest cases, since that in Virginia, are one in Florida and one in Tennessee. In the former, which came up n the circuit court of the United States for that State, Judge Settle of course held the old Federalist idea, and in the latterthe Tennessee case-one Davis, a deputy internal revenue collector, shot and killed one Haynes, Davis, we see it stated "was adicted in the State court for murder, and sought to remove the case to the circuit court of the United States. The judges of that court, Baxter and Trigg, in order that the case might be carried up to the Supreme court, agreed to disagree, and certified their disagreement to the Supreme court of the United States." The case will thus come up in that court, and its decision will settle all similar cases .-

Charlotte Observer. We are glad to see from the above state. ment and editorial which we clip from THE OBSERVER that our people everywhere are becoming interested in the safety and perpetuity of the Constitution as it was handed down to us by our forefathers, and that the sovereignty of the States will not be surrendered without a struggle.

Our lawyers in North Carolina made question up in the "Hoskins Case" by an appeal from our Supreme Court. It is evident that no appeal lies under the 709:h section of the United States Statutes, as there was no decision "against a right claimed under the statute," but the de-

cision was in favor of the right. The counsel for the State of Tennessee have taken the question up by making a canals and branches of the Nile, passing where, on important constitutional questions, it is customary for the Judges to disagree and have the question certified.

Governor Vance seems to have discovered one error and submits to the Legislature natives in their picturesque costumes, whether the appeal should be further prosecuted-we think it ought not for he reasons above stated, but the question is too vital to be ignored or neglected and we hope that the Legislature will direct the counsel for the State to take the necessary steps in the Circuit Court to take one of the cases to the U. S. Supreme Court. In Dunlaps case, involving the right of removal of a criminal case under the Civil Rights Bill, on account of prejudice against color or race by the people of a county where the indictment is pending, the ques tion has been properly certified on a division of opinion, but by some strange and inexcusable neglect it has never been pressed to trial or advanced on the Supreme Court docket, as all cases involving consti tutional questions are entitled to be. A resolution has been introduced by Mr. concentration of such immense stocks of Cobb; of Lincoln, inquiring into the status of thsee cases and we hope that our Legislators will not pass the matter by and permit our sister States to have all the honor and the glory of maintaining the sovereign rights of the States.

The question involved in Dunlap's case has been decided squarely for the States by Justice Bradley in the Returning Board four of the languages, which we can comcases, where he decides that the discrimi nation against the petitioner, to entitle him to a removal, must be by a State statute, and not a mere individual preju-

lice or partiarity. The other question in the Revenue cases might be easily carried up by a motion in Patterson's case who, it is alleged murdered the Soider family in Ashe, and where the defendants are now out on nominal bail. Not a man who has moved his case to the Federal Courts, has been punished, and removal now means exemption from the criminal laws of the land. Are we to have a class "higher than the law," or are we to administer the law to all alike?

LETTER FRO & BERTIE COUNTY.

[Correspondence of THE OBSERVER.] WINDSOR, Jan. 12, '78. EDITORS :- Our people have just heard of the death of Col. David M.

In the Eastern and Northeastern portion of the State he was well known. We knew him to be a man endowed with many of the noblest qualities of our race. We repeal of the juror's test oath. He pointed | can scarcely bring ourselves to believe that

Mentally he ranked in our section as second to no man in the State. Indeed many who makes such pretensions to broad and of us were proud of him as our strongest man in the State. Can it be that our noble Carter is dead?

As a friend he was true. He was the for the Republican party. The odious soul of honor. Did he ever disappoint juror's test oath, the outrages of elections any just expectation? Was he not above

all manner of guile? Large in heart and a giant in mind, where is his equal? In all the counties of the Albemarle country, he was greatly sale robberies by carpet-bag thieves - the beloved. In Beaufort and Hyde, and the grand view of the city of Cairo and the surrounding counties, he began life, known as a man of extra power. Such men as Stanly, Donnell and Col. Joshua Taylor were proud to call him their friend. But I need not write in his praise. city of Raleigh has lost a great man.

constituencies—they have not the hotest independence to tell their followers the of his life prepared by some master hand, true state of things in the South, but who will do justice to him. We mingle whatever panders to a local whim engages our sorrows with those of his afflicted amily. Alas! Can it be true that David M. Carter is dead?

SENATOR JONES, FLORIDA.

[Correspondence of THE OBSERVER.] DURHAM, Jan. 14, 1879. MESSES. EDITORS :- Your Washington City correspondent in your issue of Jan'y 8th, writing about the return of Senators to the city says: "From the "Land of Flowers," Jones, who misrepresents the State in the Senate, has already come." I respectfully ask if this is not a mis-print. For surely the assertion does not accord with public sentiment about Wash ington City; nor in any portion of the United States. And among his own concountry care but little. If Conkling's war stituents, without regard to party, he is honorable Senators, a firm, honest representative of the Land of Flowers. Respectfully, DANL. REID,

> Just Arrived at Watson's Store Sugar-cured Hams, Lard, Bacon Sides Parapsco and Orange Flour; the best brands of Baking Powders, Canned Goods,

Late of Pensacola, Fla.

Letter from the East.

ANCONA, ITALY, Dec. 18, 1878. be surprised to learn that "our correspondent" is en route for Egypt, in which country this will be posted to you. We go tomorrow to Brindisi, and there take steamer for a three days' voyage to Alexandria. After spending Christmas in Cairo, we take a boat up the Nile to the first cataract (six weeks up and down,) visit the canal of Suez, tarry awhile at Jerusalem, em-bark again at Mt. Carmel, and return to Italy in March, by way of Constantinople and Athens. I shall send you such desultory notes of travel as I may be able to jot down from time to time in these far away regions, and if I can add aught of interest to the columns of THE OBSERVER, it will greatly increase the pleasure of my trip to know that the good wishes of some of your many readers follow me in my wan-

This is a great town on the eastern coast of Italy, commanding lovely views over the sea, and to-day is so sunny that it makes a bright contrast to more northern latitudes where rains, snows and fogs have prevailed for weeks past. This will not be in time to wish you a "merrie Christmas," but my thoughts will be with you all in the Old North State on that day. Think of my passing it in the shadow of the Pyramids, and, perhaps, of being at the Holy Sepulchre on Ash Wednesday. CAIRO, CHRISTMAS.

Here we are in Egypt; but one's head still swims from three day's tossing on the Mediterranean, and letter writing is a burden to the flesh. There was no storm, but we had high winds and a rough sea, and old Neptune, who probably has his head quarters now in the Levant, as in the days of heathen mythology, exacted and received a plentiful tribute from all. In fact the mal de mer aptly translated by Mark Twain as the "Oh My!" was epidemic. But it is all over now and everything looks bright ahead. Thick clothing has been thrown aside, so warm is it.

I am passing this happy festival in the capital of Egypt, and one feels rather lonely so far from home at the joyous season. An American clergyman read the church service in our parlor this morningour only reminder of the observance of the day beyond the Atlantic. Here no considerate small boy makes one long for death as a relief from his nerve destroying great blunder in attempting to take the horn, nor drives to frenzy all four-footed beasts with his fire crackers-meet and appropriate celebration of the anniversary of that day which saw the birth of the Prince

> We passed but half a day in Alexandria. and came on here in four hours by rail. The journey was very interesting through the wide plain, intersected by numerous constantly Arab villages, all composed of low mud huts, in which people and animals seem to live together promiscuously. It was a Moslem fete day, and all the towns were large crowds of the amusing themselves at various games; cranes, snipe and other birds fluttered out of the marsh grass as the train whirled by, while the ill-formed cattle and patient looking camels that were browsing by the roadside scarcely cast a look at our flery invader of the ancient solitude. The weather is lovely. The thermometer stood at 55 degrees at an early hour this morning, and one realizes that he is indeed in a land of cloudless clime and sunny skies. This town is thoroughly oriental, only a small portion of it being as yet intruded upon by European civilization. The bazaar, or street of the principal shops, is a brilliant scene of life and animation. The negroes and Arabs on their donkeys and in their varied dress the English book seller, the Damascus silk merchant, the German photograph dealer, the Turksh pice-trader, the Jewish clothes vender, the Greek pharmacist, the Arab money changer, the French

ly; the street crowded with all com plexions of men, in all possible costumes, and jabbering in all possible tongues; even our party finding constant occasion for al mand. And now there is a confusion in the crowd, and a pushing aside of the donkeys that encumber the street, and two jet black Nubians, dressed in white, come running on, and shouting to clear the way for the passage of a carriage. It contains some Circassian beauties from the Viceroy's harem, of whom we strive to get glimpse, but see only a mass of pink silk and white tulle, the latter covering their

faces, and the clear pink and white of the neck showing that they have beautiful complexions. It is all a strange and motley scene, and so utterly different from the humdrum of Western life. To-morrow we take donkeys and ride three or four miles into the desert of the so-called "petrified forest," where there are fossil re mains of huge palm trees and ferns. It is said that there is, somewhere in California, a similar curiosity. Indeed, from hearsay

confectioner, all mingle heterogeneous

one would think that everything was to be found in that State, and that, too, upon a very large scale. Our old professor of Mathematics used to say, that parallel lines. however far produced, could not meet except in infinity. Possibly that also may be

found in California.

There is more foliage about here than ! had supposed, and to-day we have seen some splendid acacia, orange, bananna and date trees. Our visit to the pyramidswhich we had seen in our devices, looming up in the distance, looking so like the pictures with which one has been familiar from infancy, was full of interest. At a distance of ten miles from Cairo, just within the borders of the great desert. stand these wonderful monuments, the whole object of which has never ceased to be a puzzle to antiquarians. From the top of Cheops, to which we clambered there is a valley of the Nile on one hand, and of the boundless waste of the Libyan desert on the other. This latter is very impressive. and as a picture of utter desolation even surpasses one's expectations. The sun was very hot, though we are in mid-winter, and the glare blinding, necessitating the use of umbrellas and shades for the eyes, and it is a source of wonder how man could ever venture into such inhospi table wastes. Descending from the pyramid we examined the Sphinx and the ancient tombs. These tombs are built like temples, of enormous blocks of granite, some of them about equal in length and breadth to a billiard table and several feet in thickness, and though they date back more than two thousand years before the birth of Christ, the lines are as true and the masonry as perfect as though they were erected yesterday. The though that one is an idst the monuments of a civiliza tion that flourished more than 4000 years ago, and that it was, too, a very high order of civilization, inclines one to meditation; but you have little time for revery or sentiment of any kind, for Arabs of all ages and conditions crowd around, screaming stituents, without regard to party, he is believed and honored, as one of the many they, that they have to be driven off with a stick like so many dogs, Like dogs, too, they leave you a memento, and you are fain to scratch and to devote yourself

to a hunt after fleas. This afternoon we stood under the wide spreading branches of a sycamore, which, tradition says, once sheltered the Holy Family from the sun during the flight into Egypt. The tree, probably, did not sprout unin a thousand years after the V rgin was dead, but yet it is impossible to hear it called "Mary's tree," without a feeling of

We shall reach Thebes before February.

and upon embarking at this season of universal gayity for our voyage up the Nile. [Correspondence of THE OBSERVER.] it may not be amiss to quote, in conclusion, the legend that surmounted the Egyp-MESSES. EDITORS:—My letter is dated tian exhibit at our Centennial Exposition: from a port on the Adriatic, and you will "The oldest civilization sends warmest

The oldest civilization sends warmest greetings to the youngest! Old Africa salutes young America."

Failures Last Year.

[From the New York Times, 16th.] The annual circular of Dun, Barlow & Company's Mercantile Agency gives the total number of failures in the United States during the year 1878 as 10,478, with total liabilities amounting to \$234,383,132. In 1877 the total failures were 8.872, with liabilities reaching \$190,669,936. This increase of 1,606 failures in the past year is accounted for by the fact that circumstances during the year were "pecultarly influential in encouraging casualties of this character." These circum stances are given as six in number: (1.) 878 was the fifth year of a depression unparalleled in character, extent, and du ration. (2) Unseasonable weather during the first quarter of the year materially restricted sales and collections, causing a good deal of embarrassment: (3.) Business was materially restricted during the first half of the year by he monetary discussions in and out of Congress, together with a possibility of changes in the tariff, which created doubt and uncertainty as to the future. (4.) An enormous shrinkage was caused by a general and permanent decline in values all over the world greater than ever before in a similar period. (5.) The yellow fever epidemic in the South caused a vast material loss from the forced suspension of labor and business (6) The abolition of the Bankrupt law, and the long delay permitted to elapse before its repeal, had more to do with the increase of failures than any other circumstance. Regarding the outlook for the future, the circular says: "It is significant that out o the six leading circumstances enumerated as contributing to failures during the year five no longer exist. In the room of these

disturbing elements other favorable conditions are present, which ought, in the immediate future, to so much improve business as to make the decrease of failures in 1879 much more marked than the increase in 1878." important of these favorable tions is the return to specie payments without a ripple of disturbance in the business world. Another is the fact that values have now reached a level lower than the gold standard in normal times, without which no marked prosperity would have been possible. A third indication of the approach of better times is the prosperity of the vast class who till the soil, while a fourth favorable feature is the changing character of the industries of a

actual settlement The large liabilities of the past year's failures are approached only by the figures for 1873, when they reached \$228,589,000. and customers to cal'. Having the experience of a number of years in the Grocery Business. This sum, however, was divided among only 5,163 failures, less than half the number in 1878. 'The distribution of last year's failures over the country is shown in the following table, with the precentage, aver-

large number of persons as indicated in

the increased amount of land taken up for

States	No. in Busi- ness.	No. of Fail- ures	Per Centage of Fail ures	Amount of Liabilities,
Eastern				
States.	79,765	1,724	1 in 46	\$35,294,02
States.	229 385	3,199	1 in 71	95,293,466
South'n	96,297	1 315	1 in 68	26,322,96
States. West'n	30,231	1,410	1 111 00	20,022,00
States.	240,933	3,436	1 in 70	64,309,5
Pacific St. and				
Ter's	28,361	694	î în 41	13,163,17
m-4114				

Average Liabilities .- Eastern States, \$20,354; Middle states, \$29.7 s; Southern State . \$15,602; Western States, \$18,716; Pacific States and Perritories, \$18,967. Total for the United States, The gradual growth of failures during the past seven years is shown in the fol-

lowing	table:		- 4
E 5	Number,	Total. Liabilities.	A verage Liabilities
18/8	10,478	\$234,363,132	\$42 69
1877	8,872	190 669,930	2 ,491
1876	9,092	191,117,.85	21,020
1875	7,740	201,060 353	25,977
874	5,839	159,239,000	27,313
	5.188	228, 89, 00	44,086
1872	4,069	121,056,000	29,750
	2 21 2 2		20 242

The failures in the Dominion of Canada during 1878 numbered 555, with liabilities amounting to \$9,100,929

THAT "ELFIN."-With the great popularity of the "American Cousin" the "Elfin" is competing with wondrous effect. These two brands of cigars, manufactured by Jones & O'Neil, No. 66 Fayetteville street, will make the nicest and most acceptable Christmas present for your gentlemen friends. Call and get a box and see your friends enjoy them-

Lost.-Between the North Carolina depot and the crossing of Hargett and Daw son streets, one gold ring, with an amethyst set. The finder will be suitably rewarded by leaving it at this office.

HARDWARE, STOVES AND HOUSE FUR-NISHING GOODS.-You cannot find a more complete or better selected stock in the city, than you will find by calling at J. C. Brewster's. His goods are bought low and will be sold accordingly. The best stock of guns and sportsmen's goods in the market always on hand. Dupont's and Dittmar's powder sold at manufacturers prices. Give him a call; you will not re J. C. BREWSTER.

Holleman Building. Favetteville Street.

FOR ULCERATED MOUTH, the healing prop erties of MEADE & BAKER'S CARBOLIC MOUTH-WASH are unexcelled. Fifty cents

FOR ALL DISEASES OF THE TRETH AND GUMS USE MEADE & BAKER'S CARBOLIO MOUTH-WASH. Fifty cents a bottle. FOR OFFENSIVE BREATH from decayed

teeth and diseased gums, use MRADE & BAKER'S CARBOLIO MOUTH-WASH. Fifty cents a bottle.

FOR BLEEDING GUMS, USE MRADE & BAKER'S CARBOLIC MOUTH WASH. Fifty cents a bottle. sug 16 6m

OYSTERS .- Send your orders for oysters to Gen. L. S. Baker, of N. C., agent of the S. & R. R., Suffolk, Va. Oysters are opened 12 hours later t.an Norfolk, and will be furnished by the most reliable dealers. They are classed medium, extra, and select. Charges, lowest market price.

The world known Wilson S:wing Machine, with extra attachmer's, complete, only \$20. Address Whart m & Wherton, Company's agents. Greenshoro. N. C.

PRIVATE BOARD. - Several members of the General Assembly can get good board, at moderate prices, with A. M. Powell at the residence of J. A. Jones, on Hillsboro

DISCOLOR OF TEETH rendered beautifully white by the use of MEADE & BAKERS SAPONINE DENTIFRIOR. Fifty cents at

As a GARGLE for sore throat Meade & Bakers Car and c Mouth Wash unequaled. Fifty cents a bottle.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

DR. J. B. DUNN

Office No. 6 Mahler Building.

FAYETTEVILLE STREET. Messages left at the Drug Store of F. H Heartt will receive prompt attention

DURSUANT to the powers contained in mortgage deed, executed July 1, S76, and corded in the Register's offic., for the county of Wake, book 44, page 604, we will sell at public auction, at the Court house door, in the city

Thursday, 20th February Next,

-A VALUABLE-HOUSE AND LOT.

Now occupied by Phil. Thiem, Esq , on the Southwest corner of Cabarrus and Bloodworth

streets, in said city. TERMS CASH.

GRAY & STAMPS,

IM OORTANT SALE .- BY VIRTUE OF THE powers contained in a mortgage from J. tuss and wife to J. T. Leach, registered in Book 45, p. 440, Register's office, of Wake county, I shall on Monday, February 17th, 1879, at the Court House door, in Raleigh, proceed to expose to public sale the interest of said Russ and wife

Wake county, and bounded by the lands of Will

liam Scott and Thes. 64. Jenkins, Thes. Howle.

C. Biake and others This tract is subject to

prior mortgages, which will be announced on day of sale.

J. T. LEACH, day of sale. READE, BUSBEE & BUSBEE, Attorneys for Mortgagee.

DISSOLUTION.

THE COPPARTNERSHIP IN THE GRO cery Business between the undersigned is this day dissolved by mutual consent F. C Christophers will settle the ousiness of the late F. C. CHRISTOPHERS, D. P. MEACHAM, W. L. HARRIS.

F. C. Christophers. M. W. Sorrell

F. C. Christophers, of the late firm of F. C. Christophers & Co., and M. W. S. rrell, successor to Sorrell & Jackson, having formed a co-

at the old stand of F. C. CHRISTOPHERS & COMPANY.

Hargett Street, Will be pleased to have our numerous friends

we can compete with any house in the city.

MEAT MARKET. We make a specialty of Fresh Beef, Por-Sausage and Butter. Also

TOBACCO. TOBACCO. A full stock or all grades on hand, wholesale

Christophers & Sorrell FIRE CISTERNS.

C EALED PROPOSALS will be received un to 12 O'CLOCK M., JANUARY 22, 1879.

For the building of FIVE CISTERNS. Of 30,000 gallons capacity each, to be located by specifications. Bidd rs will be allowed to appear before the committee in person at the pening of the buls.

Bids will be sealed and addressed to the Cit Clerk, marked: "ROPOSALS FOR CISTERNS" By order of the Board of Aldermen, city.

Bids are also solicited on plans and specifi

C. W. LAMBETH, Clerk PERRY & CO.'S

ity and elasticity; great variety of styles suite to every kind of writing. For sale by dealer

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By authority of Commonwealth of Kentucky. Drawing and details under supervision of prominent citizens of Kentucky, in the city of Louisville, on Thursday, Jan. 30th, 1879. NO SCALING! NO POSTPONEMENT!

PRIZES PAID IN FULL 15,400 DISTRIBUTE TICKETS ONLY 82.

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9 Prizes \$200 each, Approximation Prizes \$1,80
9 Prizes \$100 each, Approximation Prizes \$ 90

Whole tickets, \$2; Half tickets, \$1; 27 ticket \$50; 55 fickets \$100. Remit by Post Office Money Order, registry ietter, bank dratt, or express. Full list of drawing published in Louisville Courier-Journal and New York Heraid, and malled to all ticks holders. For tickets and information address COMMONWEALTH DISTRIBUTION CO., of J. COMMERFORD, See'y, Courier-Journal Building Louisville, Ye Building, Louisville, Ky. dec-weda Fri-W10-24.

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