The Observer.

RALEIGH, N. C.

THURSDAY..... MAY 15, 1879

CHURCH TROUBLES.

The brief telegraphic announcements made of the progress and results of the Ritualistic trial in the Pennsylvania Episcopal Convention conveyed little knowledge. The Philadelphia papers did not add much understandable information in regard to a subject much talked of in all denominations, and of special interest to Episcopalians throughout the country. About all that was learned from either was the fact that the deliberations of the Pennsylvania Diocesan Convention resulted in the formal condemnation of the usages of the advanced Ritualists by an unexpectedly large vote. The question will come up in other Dioceses, notably in the Maryland Diocesan Convention which meets on the 28th instant, and in which it is thought the fight will be a hard one.

To one who thinks that neither the catechism nor a form of worship is the "chief end of man," and that man's salvation is, these things would seem easy of settlement. If people do not like the church they are in, let them make another one to suit themselves, and let those who stay behind bid their erring brethren go in peace, and pray that after all said and done in this world of sin and quarreling, all may meet at peace with one another in the better world across the dark river, where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest. Meanwhile, however, folks wish to know what all the fuss is about, and to frequent inquiries of us yesterday we hope, with the efficient aid of the Charleston *News and Courier*, to give an understandable answer.

The observances which precipitated the issue in Pennsylvania occurred during the holding of mission services at St. Clement's, Philadelphia, under the auspices of certain ministers connected with an organization known as the Order of St. John the Evangelist. The order is an English one; some of its members were ordained by the Church of England and others by the Protestant Episcopal Church of this country, but, as is well known, the one is the parent of the other, and while governmentally distinct, they are of one communion, and their priests may officiate in either country. Under the directions of the Superior of the Order, these priests go forth in twos and threes, and journey from place to place, holding services at various churches in conjunction with the Rectors, the Evangelist Fathers, as they are sometimes called, confining themselves almost altogether to the delivery of lectures and sermons, and the private instruction of those who would confer with them. Both in England and in this country their doctrinal views are regarded as most advanced, and of the type usually spoken of as ultra ritualistic. Bound by vows of celibacy, poverty and obedience, under the direction of a Father Superior, and wearing a long black robe and a biretta, they were, for even these reasons, looked upon with not a little disfavor by those of the Church who shunned and avoided anything that was seemingly an approach towards the practices of the Roman Catholic Church. But the reports of the doctrines preached and taught by them were even more alarming to the middle and low churchmen, and finally a "committee of inquiry" was appointed by the last Pennsylvania Convention to examine into the truth of rumors affecting St. Clement's Church. It should be said in the first place that complaints against St. Clement's Church ante-date the last Convention. As early as the 27th of January, 1877, Bishop STEVENS addressed a communication to the Rev. O. S. PRESCOTT, the Rector, (having already previously spoken and written to him upon the subject), requesting him to discontinue certain usages and practices in his mode of celebrating Divine worship. In February the Bishop had a conference with the Rector, his warden and two vestrymen, after which he again wrote him, asking attention to his previous request, and later again repeated it in writing. The vestry met, passed resolutions to the effect that the rights, usages and ceremonies observed in the parish were dear to the congregation, and, in their judgment, in nowise contravened the laws, canons and spirit of the Church, and declared it to be their "solemn conviction that the Rector should not accede to the demands made upon him by the letter." Finally, they resolved to provide for "such steps, by injunction or otherwise, as should seem fit, to preserve and maintain the interests confided to their care." The Bishop, with the advice of the Standing Committee, then officially admonished the Rector to discontinue the practices referred to in his first letter. On the 3d of May, 1877 the Rector promised to "put in abeyance some of the practices," and was in answer informed by the Bishop that he saw no necessity for farther correspondence on the subject, unless he was willing to comply with the admonition and judgment of his Bishop, against whom he now definitely and distinctly arrayed himself. The Convention then met and appointed a committee of inquiry, composed of six persons, clerical and lay. Their report and the resolutions accompanying it were presented to the Convention last week and gave rise to a very warm and prolonged discussion. The report finds that numerous celebrations of the Holy Communion are held on the same day, the one at midday being a "high celebration," when the priest alone communes, the congregation being forbidden; processions pass through the church with a crucifer and candle bearers and banners of the Virgin, the dove, the vessels used in the Eucharist, &c.; candles are lighted at various stages of the service; the priest is attended by boys during service; the elements, immediately after the consecration, are lifted up by the celebrant and a priest assistant, whereupon prostrations more or less entire take place both within and without the chancel, and whenever the priest or the boys pass the communion table, they bend the knee. So much relates to the ritual. The committee of inquiry further report that the doctrine of the true presence, prayers for the dead, something very nearly approaching the invocation of the Blessed Virgin and of the Saints, and auricular confession, have been taught and believed and practiced. The resolutions offered by them were in brief: (1) That the practices and usages, especially those in connection with the holy communion, were in entire contrariety to those of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and by their similarity to those of the Church of Rome, calculated to do a serious injury; (2) That a canon be prepared whereby the Standing Committee, by a two-thirds vote may, with the consent of the Bishop, deprive a parish so offending of its representation in the Convention; and (3) that the report be referred to the Bishop and Standing Committee, with power to take such action as they may deem proper and necessary. The resolutions were considered and discussed separately. All were adopted by overwhelming majorities. The vote of the clergy was 89 to 20 in favor of the resolution of censure, and that of the laity 68 to 12—a total vote of 157to 32.

The Convention closed its work by adopting the following canon, the vote standing: Yeas—Clergy 57, Lay40, total 97; nays—Clergy 42, Lay 37, total 77.

ON INNOVATIONS IN RITUAL.

First: The godly admonition and judgment of the Bishop, given in writing, with the advice and consent of his council of advice, shall have the force of law in this diocese in respect to all innovations in ritual, ornaments and vestments, so far as they are not regulated by express law of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States; and such admonition and judgment shall have the same authority in respect to all ritual observances and formal absolutions in connection with private confession not expressly authorized in the Book of Common Prayer so to be used, and as to all practices tending to the encouragement of such confession as a habit or its enforcement as a duty or to the establishment of the confessional in this church as a part of its system of ordinary discipline; provided, however, that if it shall be shown to the satisfaction of the standing committee that anything thus disallowed by the Bishop has been the usage in that particular church or congregation during the preceding twenty years, or else in at least one third of the churches of this diocese at the time of the admission of such church or congregation into union with the convention, then such usages shall not be deemed innovations in such church or congregation; and for this purpose the clergyman and church wardens shall be summoned before the Bishop and standing committee within ten days after service of said admonition, and shall be heard in objecting to the same.

Second: Any clergyman who shall refuse or neglect to comply with the godly admonition and judgment of the Bishop, given as aforesaid, with the proviso aforesaid, may be presented and tried under the canons of the general convention for a violation of the canons of this diocese and a breach of his ordination vow.

TIME'S CHANGES

This paper never talks irony, nor italics, nor Latin. Neither goes down in this latitude, and the use of either is sure to get the user into trouble. But for this fact, learned to be a fact after long experience, and the truth of which has been illustrated within a week by the public judgment upon one of THE OBSERVER'S "women preacher" correspondents, the heading of this paragraph would have been "*tempora mutantur*," and all the rest of it, signifying what is expressed by the two English words which do head it, and which are intended to call attention to two incidents in the life of the new Cardinal.

Dr. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, who became a Cardinal in the Church of Rome on the 12th inst., made his first appearance in public life as the earnest and able opponent of Sir ROBERT PEEL'S re-election as member of Parliament for the University of Oxford because Sir ROBERT was an advocate of Catholic emancipation.

Thus much we learn from history. The second incident is taken from an Anglo-Roman paper of the 12th inst., as telegraphed to this country, and is about thus: On most Saturday afternoons in the last year of the first decade of the present century two boys, aged respectively nine and five, might have been seen playing in the grounds of Bloomsbury square, London. The boys, both natives of the square, offered the most complete contrast to each other in appearance. The younger, whose head was profuse with long, black, glossy ringlets, was a child of rare Jewish type of beauty, and full of life and activity. The other was grave in demeanor, wore his hair close cut, and walked and talked and moved in a way which in young people is called "old-fashioned." He was of pure English race and Puritanical family. The names of the children denoted these differences as much as their appearances. The one was BENJAMIN D'ISRAELI, the other JOHN NEWMAN.

Sixty eight years have passed since then, and much has happened in the meantime, but nothing more wonderful than that the handsome little Jew boy should become a Christian and Prime Minister of Protestant England, and the Puritan lad a Catholic and a Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church.

ONCE more Death is in our household. With the passing away of yesterday and the beginning of a new day upon earth, the soul of WILLIAM KEARNEY UPCHURCH passed from this life to begin a better life in the world above. His was a rough exterior, but the heart was true. His was a modest occupation, but he did his duty. He was a carrier of THE OBSERVER and had been from its beginning. During all his service we knew the boy and knew that he was doing his duty in the station to which it had pleased God to call him; but only since April 21st have we really known the man, affectionate, loyal, true.

GENERAL GRANT has gathered up in his European tour a great deal of what General DICK TAYLOR called "loot." Among other gifts, he received from the Sultan of Turkey a present of two horses of pure Arabic blood. They have been shipped by steamship to New Haven, and as much care was given to them as if they were cabin passengers.

OLD-TIME CAPE FEAR IMPROVEMENTS.

So far as the jetties were concerned, the work done in the improvement of the navigation of the lower Cape Fear from its commencement in May, 1823, to August, 1830, covering a period of seven years and a half, the hopes of the harbor men at Wilmington were dashed by the storm referred to in the extract from Mr. JAMES, yesterday. But they do not appear to have been disheartened, for the work of repairing damages was immediately begun, and so on throughout a period embracing the best portion of this century they have maintained their faith in the practicability of giving the port of Wilmington a good draft of water and successful, easy navigation. A people so determined and so well informed as to the capacities of their waters as evidenced by the description which Mr. JAMES furnishes, are not easily discouraged in any undertaking, and they have the gratification of feeling at last that to their perseverance are they indebted for the success which is about to crown the great effort below Wilmington.

It has frequently been asserted, and repeatedly within the past two months, in circles adverse to the commercial interests of Wilmington, and the State at large as to that matter, that the work on the lower Cape Fear can never be brought to a successful termination, and that the time, labor and money expended there have all been thrown away. So it did appear after the August storm of 1830, and it has seemed many times since that the task was a hopeless one, but thanks to the improved sciences and engineering skill, and the pluck and energy of a brave people, there is every prospect now that the port of Wilmington will be on a footing with some of the more favored of her Southern sisters. But to continue the report of Mr. JAMES:

"After fifteen days labor the dredging boat was got off and again set in operation. The materials of the jetties were so injured and scattered that it was equivalent to a total loss. The building of the jetties was recommenced immediately, and they have resisted the violence of every gale that has blown since. There has been a difficulty in making a part of the jetty on the west side of the river (opposite Old Town, now Mr. Cowan's farm) stand; and a like difficulty in respect to the jetty on the east side, nearly opposite Old Town. This difficulty arises from two causes. The first is, that the jetties pass, in part, through a sandy foundation; the second, that the river is so confined at these points that the current produced is at least equal to that at the bar of the river. From these two causes, a good deal of the planking has been washed up. To stop this Captain Blaney has ordered stone to be thrown alongside the jetties.

"At this time (November, 1833,) there are six of the jetties built which were recommended by Major Bache. There are three more yet to be built. The dredging boats have worked only on the bulk head and middle shoals. These were unquestionably the shallowest. There is a third shoal called the wreck shoal. This, at the time the operations on the river were commenced, was considered a very small obstacle to the navigation, the other shoals then being so much greater; but at this time the wreck shoal is the greatest obstacle, the bulk head and middle shoals having such an increased depth of water on them. Great, however, as is the obstacle, there is on the wreck shoal eight feet of water at low tide. On the bulk-head shoal, at the lowest stage of the tide, there are eight feet six inches. The average rise of the tide on this shoal is four feet, making an average at high water of twelve feet six inches. On the middle shoal, at the lowest state of the tide, there are eight feet three inches. The average rise of the tide here is four feet, making the average high water at least twelve feet across these three shoals.

"Now these are facts which have a most important bearing on the foregoing specifications and which ought to be noted here, to wit: The average depth at the Main Bar, at high water, is, I believe, fifteen and a half feet. The average depth at low water is nine and a half feet. It is important too to keep in mind that the New Inlet Bar is washing wider, by which a greater quantity of water passes there now than formerly, and of course the extra quantity which is vented at the New Inlet has the effect of diminishing the quantity which formerly flowed over the Main Bar.

"In July, 1831, a dredging boat, prepared in conformity with the order of Captain Blaney, came to anchor on the bulk-head shoal, and began to work. This boat is very superior to the one prepared by Mr. Fulton. She will move on an average three hundred cubic yards per day; the average work of the one prepared by Mr. Fulton, was a hundred cubic yards. The dredging boat is now at work on the middle shoal. This shoal was no doubt at some remote period a heavily timbered swamp. The evidences of this fact are that stumps, roots, cypress knees, and every kind of vegetable matter common to the swamps in this part of the country, are excavated by the dredging machine; and they are so thick and close as to retard, in a very great degree, the operations of the machine. In working on this shoal, we have broken three main shafts, the refitting of each of which has occasioned a considerable interruption in our progress.

"I have thus presented to the view of your Excellency a correct outline of the course pursued in working the river below Wilmington. Having lost all my papers in the storm of August 1830, above referred to more copious or accurate details are not in my power. I cannot, however, conceive that such details would tend to fortify the reasoning or to augment the zeal of the advocates for improving the navigation of the Cape Fear River. The facts which I have stated in this letter are all of them indubitable. Some of them are susceptible of demonstration by trials and experiments. Indubitable, however, as they are, there are others facts which confirm them. I will mention these briefly.

"In 1823, '24, '25, '26, there were a number of lighters, sometimes called pettiaugus, in Wilmington. Now the demand has so declined that there are two only in the place. Vessels of the same or greater burthen now load at the wharves that formerly employed lighters to transport the produce below the shoals to complete their cargoes.

"In 1823, '24, '25, '26, it was no uncommon occurrence to see eight or ten vessels lying on the shoals at the same time, endeavoring to navigate the river; and it can be proved by testimony of the highest respectability that at one time seventeen up river bound vessels were lying on the shoals. A vessel got up for a packet between Wilmington and New York, would be sometimes a whole week in passing the shoals. I aver that this is never the case now. No instance can be pointed out of a vessel that has kept in the channel, lying two tides during the last nine months on the same shoal; although the vessels that now frequent our port are generally of a larger class and of greater burthen than they were before the works for the improvement of the navigation of the river were commenced by the State of North Carolina."

AT WASHINGTON.

The vote in the House on Tuesday on the question of passing the peace bill over the President's veto showed a majority of thirty acting with the Democrats. On no other question have the Democrats been able to make so strong a showing, parties in the House being closely divided. It is thought that the caucus committees will meet to day and the caucus itself on Monday next.

The indications are that Congress will adopt the programme indicated by THE OBSERVER on receipt of the telegraphic announcement of the President's first veto.

THE Washington correspondent of the Baltimore *Gazette* of the 14th says that the House is determined to pass a free coinage silver bill and the income tax and they will go through the Senate. The Democrats want a veto on both these measures. They want to make vetoes cheap, as Mr. BECK has said.

THE WIDOW OLIVER has claimed to be a British subject and has appealed to the Minister at Washington for money to prosecute and aid to resist the persecutions of old SIMON CAMERON.

The Southern Baptist Convention

[Correspondence of THE OBSERVER.]

FOURTH DAY.

ATLANTA, May 11, 1879.

EDITOR OBSERVER: Reports of Committees on Italian Missions and Agencies were presented, discussed and adopted. These reports are too long for your columns, and might not be of special interest to your readers generally.

The interests of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, located at Louisville, Ky., were presented by Dr. J. P. Boyce, President of the Seminary. $300,000, or nearly so, have been secured in Kentucky, and $100,000 in the other Southern States in bonds. But until these bonds can be collected and invested, so that from the interest the Seminary can be sustained, contributions are now needed to carry on the work of the Seminary. It should not be suspended, nor can the principal of funds given for permanent endowment be used to carry it on. About $20,000 are needed to sustain the Seminary for the next year; and it is for the denomination to say how this amount shall be provided. An appeal was made to the Convention, and over $4,000 raised for the Seminary.

Reports on new fields of labor on the work of the Domestic Mission Board and Indian Missions, were discussed and adopted.

P. M.—The subject of a Mission to the Chinese in California elicited some interest in the Convention, and action taken recommending the Domestic Mission Board to send Dr. J. B. Hartwell to California as soon as possible. Dr. Hartwell was a Missionary to China for seventeen years.

THE SABBATH IN ATLANTA.

There were thirty-six churches in and around Atlanta, occupied on Sunday by ministers of the Southern Baptist Convention. There were ninety of these ministers who preached, or delivered addresses at mass meetings or to the Sunday schools of the various churches. The weather was very fine, as it has been all the time, and the congregations were overflowing. The Atlantians are a church-going people, beyond what is usual in large cities. The preaching to which they listened on Sunday was highly acceptable to them, and was able in an eminent degree.

Fayetteville.

[Correspondence of THE OBSERVER.]

FAYETTEVILLE, May 13, 1879.

EDITOR OBSERVER:—Our streets present a lively appearance to-day, owing to the number of delegates to the meeting of the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows, and the Episcopal Convention, both of which will be in session in our city this week.

THE ODD FELLOWS.

The Grand Encampment met to-day with quite a good attendance, and after electing the following officers for the ensuing year adjourned to convene in the place selected for the meeting of the Grand Lodge next May:

E. Hubbs, of Newbern, Most Worthy Grand Patriarch

L. C. Howlet, of Greensboro, Grand High Priest.

H. T. Clawson, of Raleigh, Grand Senior Warden.

R. J. Jones, of Wilmington, Grand Scribe and Treasurer.

J. J. Barefoot, of Wilson, Grand Junior Warden.

The following were the appointments:

Henry Porter, Raleigh, Grand Sentinel.

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND PATRIARCHS:

Campbell Encampment No. 1, J. L. Dudley, Wilmington.

Pine Encampment, No. 3, D. G. McRae, Fayetteville.

Calumet No. 4, S. K. Eaton, Newbern.

Talula, No. 8, D. B. Bradford, Elizabeth City.

Paisley No. 10, David Scott, Greensboro.

Reberton No. 13, Ed. Pennington, Tarboro.

Rowan No. 14, Theo. F. Klutz, Salisbury.

McKee No. 15, W. B. Hutchings, Raleigh.

Wilson No. 16, W. P. Wooten, Wilson.

Rocky Mount No. 19, D. K. Styles, Rocky Mount.

Salem No. 20, J. H. Shultz, Salem.

Catawba River No. 21, Thos. Ledwell, Charlotte.

The Grand Lodge will convene this evening, and I will keep your readers posted from day to day in regard to its transactions. The Cape Fear and People's Steamboat Company has tendered the use of its side-wheel steamer, "Gov. Worth," for an excursion down the river to-morrow afternoon. A large number of the members of the Grand Lodge are very anxious to avail themselves of this opportunity to enjoy a pleasant trip on the Cape Fear, and at the same time make the acquaintance of some of our handsome brunettes and pretty blondes as the Odd Fellows of Fayetteville have promised their visiting brethren that the fair sex of our town will be well represented on the excursion. Some of the older members say that the Lodge has too much business before it to indulge in pleasure even for half a day; but these, be it understood, are married men.

C. M. Busbee, Esq., of Raleigh, will deliver an address on "Odd Fellowship" tomorrow evening in the Baptist Church. From the reputation of the speaker we feel we have a treat in store.

THE EPISCOPALIANS.

The Sixty third Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of North Carolina will meet in St. John's Church in this place to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock. Every arrangement for the comfort and entertainment of the clergy and laity has been made by the hospitable people of Fayetteville, and when I say this, any one who has ever visited the town, will know at once that if the delegates do not enjoy themselves it will be their own fault. More anon.

NAMDETS.

Orthodox—The Rev. Alexis Tonsher (going round his new parish)—"Of course, you observe Lent, Mrs. Rickyard?" Mrs. Rickyard—"Oh, yes, sir, we allus hev pancakes o' Shrove Tuesday!"

Eastern Travel.

[Correspondence of THE OBSERVER.]

JAFFA, THE ANCIENT JOPPA, March, 15.

EDITOR OBSERVER:—Our ship came to anchor about half a mile off of the shore and was at once surrounded by the boats of the natives, who all clamored vociferously for the privilege of taking us to land. Selecting one of the ungainly barges, we entrusted to it our fates and fortunes; not without difficulty, however, for the waves brought the boat at one moment surging up to the gangway, and at the next it was down twenty feet below us. These boats are of the rudest structure, flat-bottomed and tub like, and the oarsmen stand at their work after the manner of the lightermen of the Cape Fear at Wilmington; their oars being merely poles with bits of board nailed at the end for blades. Nearing the shore it was necessary to pass through a reef of rocks over which the breakers were foaming and thundering, and the passage way between is not more than thirty feet in width. One cannot repress a feeling of anxiety as we look at our seamen and their rude implements, and this feeling is not decreased by the reflection that these men are Mohammedan fatalists, who, if Allah has decreed that they shall perish by water, will accept that fate with stolid indifference, and will resign us to ours with calm impartiality. But anxiety is changed to admiration when we observe with what careless ease they manage their ugly barque, as on the crest of a wave she rolls directly through the centre of the pass into the still waters beyond.

The coast of Syria is a dangerous one, and has been wreck strewn in all ages. As long ago as the beginning of the twelfth century, we have from Saewulf, an Anglo-Saxon pilgrim who visited Palestine in those days, a vivid account of a disastrous storm at this place:

"As soon as we came within sight of the port, I was seized with a great desire of landing. I hired a boat, but before I reached the shore, the sea was troubled, and became continually more tempestuous. We landed, however, with God's grace, without hurt. But next morning we heard the roaring of the sea, and saw that every body was in confusion and astonishment. We were dragged along with the crowd to the shore, where we saw the waves swelling higher than the mountains, and innumerable bodies of drowned persons scattered over the beach, while the fragments of ships were floating on every side. The ships were driven from their anchors by the violence of the waves, which threw them now up aloft and now down, till they were run aground or upon the rocks, and there they were beaten backwards and forwards until they were crushed to pieces. For the violence of the wind would not allow them to put out to sea, and the character of the coast would not allow them to put into shore with safety. Thus out of thirty very large ships, laden with palmers and with merchandise, only seven remained safe. Of persons of both sexes there perished more than one thousand that day. Indeed, no eye ever beheld a greater misfortune in the space of a single day, from all which God snatched us by His grace; to whom be honor and glory forever. Amen."

This quaint account of the old chronicler and his story show incidentally how great was the number of palmers, or pilgrims, to the Holy Land at that time, when the success of the First Crusade had just thrown open the Holy Places to the Christians of the West.

On landing there is the usual formality of passing the baggage through the custom house, though we have come from one Turkish port to another; and an officer with heavy sabre, and gorgeous in uniform, demands our passports. But we have been long enough in the East to know that it is safe to bully an official, so I resist the demand, and the bribe of a small sum placed in his expectant palm enables me to pass without further question. We made our way through the narrow streets, all miry from the recent rains, to an inn beyond the town kept by some Germans, members of a Protestant Missionary Association. It overlooks the sea, and is surrounded by the orange groves, which extend in a broad belt around the town. Jaffa is justly famed for its oranges, and at this season the dark green trees are bending almost to the ground under their load of golden fruit. Some of these orchards are of great extent, and they are all enclosed by high hedges of prickly cactus, forming a perfect protection against the depredations of either man or beast.

Jaffa is a city of great antiquity, its inhabitants claim the oldest in the world, but the earliest mention of it in the Bible is in the distribution of land to the tribe of Dan by Joshua, that is about 3,300 years ago. To this port the wood for Solomon's temple was floated down the coast from Lebanon and from here Jonah embarked for Tarshish. The Greeks made it the scene of their fable of Andromeda, and some ancient chroniclers have strangely confused the sea-monster that was sent to devour the virgin with the whale that swallowed Jonah. Sir John Mandeville, who visited Palestine early in the fourteenth century, and whose book of travels was once so popular, has a droll passage that "the town is called Jaffa because founded by Japhet, the son of Noah. And there may still be seen in the rock the place where the iron chain was fastened wherewith Andromeda, a great giant, was bound and put in prison, before Noah's flood; a rib of whose side, forty feet long, is still shown." The author has strangely distorted the classical myth, and mistaken the fair Andromeda for the scamonster sent to make a meal of her.

The town is now small and dingy and dilapidated, without any fine buildings or towers to make it attractive, though its situation is picturesque, being on a high hill that rises abruptly from the sea, giving the houses a terraced appearance, and making the streets so steep that some of them are a series of stairs. The chief trade is in fruit, of which the oranges, lemons, pomegranates and watermelons are very fine. A tomb is still pointed out as that of Tabitha or Dorcas, that is, gazelle, a name, as has been well said, "generally associated in the East with the perfection of female beauty, but that has become the type of the greater loveliness of that charity with which she clothed the poor by the labor of her own hands." It need hardly be said that there is nothing to identify this tomb, nor the house that is shown as that of Simon the Tanner; but standing upon the roof of the latter, which is flat and stuccoed as is customary in Syria, one can but feel that it was to just some such place the Apostle retired at noon for his devotions, when he saw that wonderful vision which revealed to him the great truth, so hard for a Jew to believe, that as "God is no respecter of persons," how much less should we mortals "call any man common or unclean."

We have been detained several days at Jaffa by the rain which is coming down steadily—not an unrefreshing sight to travellers fresh from Egypt—but shall start for Jerusalem this afternoon. We make a formidable caravan; for though we number but eleven travellers, not only has all our baggage to be carried on mules, but also food and wine and a complete dinner and breakfast service, and eight tents with all their furniture and paraphernalia; so that to transport and take care of us, our dragoman has a troop of twenty-three men, and thirty-nine horses, mules and donkeys. The horses are passable, but by no means one's idea of the barbs of the desert; our tents are double-roofed, impervious to rain, are carpeted and furnished with iron bedsteads, wash stands, tables and camp stools, and are very cosy and comfortable. The saloon tent looks very cheerful, lined with bright colored calico, and the table, with its snowy cloth and napkins, and display of china and glass, is suggestive of pleasant social hours to come.

This sketch of "Tent Life in the Holy Land," with its luxuries and conveniences, will hardly remind old Confederates of their tent life on the Potomac and elsewhere.

It may not be amiss to say at the outset of our journeyings that in such notes of travel as I may be able to send, I shall make no pretence whatever at giving anything new about Palestine, nor strive to solve any of the questions that have divided scholars in all ages. This ground has been gone over so often and by such able men, from Bishop Arculf in the seventeenth century to Dean Stanley in our own time, that it would perhaps be presumptuous, even in an OBSERVER correspondent, to attempt to give more than the mere impressions made upon the mind of a traveler, together with such brief historical allusions as seem indispensable, or to endeavor to picture other than the life of a wanderer in the Holy Land. Among your readers there may be some for whom the subject itself possesses sufficient interest to compensate for my shortcomings, and any such I will ask to accompany me to the Holy City; to kneel with me at the manger of the Nativity; to linger on the banks of the Jordan; to stand by Jacob's well and Rachel's tomb; to float on the clear waters of Galilee; to wander over the desolate sites of Chorazin and Bethsaida; to rest awhile in the Christian village of Nazareth; and to look down from the mountains of Samaria upon the beauty and glory, the desolation and death of the Promised Land. G.

The Preacher-Poet.

[Correspondence of THE OBSERVER.]

TARBORO, May 8, 1879.

EDITOR OBSERVER:—Your correspondent in the last OBSERVER, who writes to correct errors about the Rev. Mr. Alston, needs some correction himself. I knew his mother's family while they resided in Edenton, and was a schoolmate with Philip in the old Edenton Academy, which was at that time in charge of the Rev. John Avery, the rector of the parish. All your correspondents have mistaken his name, which was Philip William Whitmel Alston; though he never doubled his W.'s, but always signed his name Philip W. Alston. His mother was Elizabeth Johnston, daughter of Mr. Johnston, and the cousin, *not the sister*, "of the late "wealthy" James C. Johnston, Esq., of Chowan county, *not Bertie*. His place, Hays, near Edenton, is a noted place as being the seat of Gov. Samuel Johnston, rebuilt and beautified by his son Philip W. Alston, the son of Philip Alston and Elizabeth Johnston, was born at the family residence on Fishing Creek, in Warren county, on the 28th of February, 1813. His father died not long after, and his mother, with her family, moved to Edenton, *not Bertie*, about 1818, and lived there for many years. Philip, his youngest son, early showed indications of talent, and was a great favorite at Hays, with Mr. Johnston, and was the especial pet of his sister, Miss Helen S. Johnston, who amused herself in teaching and giving direction to his opening intellect. While a boy at the Academy he was writing poetry, and drew pictures remarkably well with his pen. Many years ago, Mr. Jas. Johnston showed me in his library a manuscript volume of his juvenile works, some in poetry and some in prose, printed with his pen, with almost the regularity and accuracy of type, and also many scenes executed with his pen, that looked like engravings. I have heard that Mr. Johnston defrayed all the expenses of his education both at the Academy and the University. He was a man not only of distinguished ancestry, but was himself a gentleman of the old school, one of "nature's noblemen," whose great wealth was often employed in deeds of generous benevolence of which the world never heard.

Philip Alston entered the University at Chapel Hill in 1826, when he was less than 13 years old, and while there was remarkable for his amiability, his social qualities, his genius, and his high moral character. The oldest and most distinguished of the Professors of the University said of him many years after he left College, that "he was the best boy he ever knew." He graduated in 1829, the University conferring on him the honor of the degree of A. B. He remained a year at the University after he graduated, cultivating his taste for letters and improving his mind by study and reading. I suppose it was during this period that he wrote the most and best of his poetical pieces, some of which are now before me. He wrote an Elegy on leaving the University; another piece called the Magician. At this time, the struggles of Greece against the Ottoman power, which had for years aroused the interest and sympathy of all Christendom, so stirred his youthful spirit, that he composed a long ode, "The Greek Vision," which shows what he felt as a man and a patriot, for that classic and long down trodden land, emerging from its cruel bondage to vindicate her ancient renown. In 1831, he moved to Randolph, Tennessee, and joined his elder brother James, who had lately settled there. Soon after this his mother and family joined them and resided there. In 1836, he became a candidate for the ministry of the Protestant Episcopal Church, was ordained a Deacon in 1838 and admitted to the Priesthood in 1840. In 1839, he had been unanimously called by the vestry to the rectorship of Calvary Church, Memphis, of which he continued rector until his premature death in 1847. Thus early passed away one of North Carolina's most gifted sons—the scholar, poet, artist, theologian, and in all and above all, a faithful, devout Christian man.

After his death Bishop Otey, of Tennessee, published a volume of his sermons, dedicated to James C. Johnston, Esq., whose liberality provided the means for their publication. They show the intellectual and spiritual measure of the man, of whom the Bishop said: "That for varied and accurate information, vigor of intellect, soundness of judgment, happiness of illustration, fertility of imagination, beauty, strength and harmony of composition, I deem it not extravagant to say that I have never known his superior at the same age, if indeed his equal can be found anywhere in the church." J. B. C.

A Tapeworm in a Man's Eye.

[From the Philadelphia Times, May 11.]

John J. Andrews, a merchant of this city, was sitting blindfolded yesterday in the second story front room of his handsome residence, No. 608 North Thirteenth street. Mr. Andrews' shapely head was bound up with many linen bandages, but although his eyes were for the time being sightless he was in a happier frame of mind than he had known for years. He has been blind in the left eye for twenty years or more, and during the past two years he has at intervals suffered the most intense agony in the eye from which the light had gone out. 'Scores of doctors looked at and prescribed for the eye, but without doing it any good, until on Sunday last an eminent surgeon of this city removed from the eye a live cysticercus, or embryo tapeworm. This is the first authenticated case of cysticercus in the human eye that has ever occurred on the American continent, although there have been a hundred or more cases reported in Europe, particularly in Prussia. Mr. Andrews' case is in every way similar to the case of the "snake" in a horse's eye, which was reported in the *Times* about a year ago, except that in the case of the horse the parasite in the eye was, the doctors said, a common long round worm, while that in the gentleman's eye was a larval tapeworm.

INSURANCE STATEMENTS.

STATEMENT

SHOWING THE CONDITION OF THE

Phoenix Insurance Company, OF HARTFORD.

DECEMBER 31ST, 1878.

ASSETS:

Value of real estate and ground rents owned by the Company, (less the am't of encumbrances thereon)	$ 135,000	
Loans on bond and mortgage (duly recorded and being first liens on the fee simple)	128,000	
Acc't of stocks and bonds of the United States, and of this and other States, also all other stocks and bonds absolutely owned by the Company	1,665,778.09	
Stocks, bonds and all other securities (except mortgages) hypothecated to the Company as collateral security for cash actually loaned by the Company	122,530	
Interest due and accrued on stocks and other securities	7,895.70	
Cash in Company's principal office and belonging to the Company deposited in bank	410,290.34	
Premiums unpaid	163,455.28	
All other assets, detailed in statement	1,0[illegible]3.33	
Total assets		$2,624,082.74

LIABILITIES:

Losses unpaid, including those resisted	$ 113,442.65	
Reserve, as required by law	754,109.69	
Total liabilities		$ 867,552.34
Surplus as regards policy holders	$1,754,530 40	
Capital stock paid up	1,000,000	
Surplus as regards stockholders	756,530.40	
Total income	1,351,669 83	
Total expenditures	1,198,286.46	

NORTH CAROLINA BUSINESS IN 1878:

Risks written	$525,335
Premiums received	5,956.87
Losses paid on risks taken	5,585.93
Losses incurred	12,085 93

NORWOOD GILES, Agent, WILMINGTON.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
Office of Secretary of State,
INSURANCE DEPARTMENT,
RALEIGH, May 14, 1879.

In compliance with Section Eight of "An Act Concerning Insurance," ratified March 12th, 1877, I certify that the above is a true extract from the sworn statement of the

Phoenix Insurance Company,

to December 31st, 1878, now on file in this Department, and the statement is hereby approved.

W. L. SAUNDERS, Secretary of State.

my15-1t.

STATEMENT

SHOWING THE CONDITION OF THE

Seaboard Insurance Company, of Norfolk.

DECEMBER 31st, 1878.

ASSETS:

Value of real estate and ground rents owned by the Company (less the am't of encumbrances thereon)	None.	
Loans on bond and mortgage (duly recorded and being first liens on the fee simple)	$ 95,574.25	
Acc't of stocks and bonds of the Unit'd States, and of this and other States, also all other stocks and bonds absolutely owned by the Company	19,250	
Stocks, bonds and all other securities (except mortgages) hypothecated to the Company as collateral security for cash actually loaned by the Company	6,717.40	
Interest due and accrued on stocks and other securities	949.02	
Cash in Company's principal office and belonging to the Company deposited in Bank	18,150.02	
Cash in hands of Agents and in transitu	1,771 50	
Premiums unpaid	956.11	
Total assets		$ 143,36[illegible]

LIABILITIES:

Losses unpaid, including those resisted	5,500	
Reserve, as required by law	8,066 25	
All other claims	156	
Total liabilities		$ 13,722.25
Surplus as regards policy holders	$ 129,646 05	
Capital Stock paid up	122,422.61	
Surplus as regards stockholders	7,223.44	
Total income	25,428.14	
Total expenditures	21,166 34	

NORTH CAROLINA BUSINESS IN 1878:

Premiums received	$5,906.60
Losses paid on risks taken	7,676.87
Losses incurred	6,226.87

Cameron, Hay & Co., Agents, Raleigh.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
Office of Secretary of State,
INSURANCE DEPARTMENT,
RALEIGH, April 23, 1879.

In compliance with Section Eight of "An Act concerning Insurance," ratified March 12, 1877, I certify that the above is a true extract from the sworn statement of the

Seaboard Insurance Company,

to December 31, 1878, now on file in this Department, and the statement is hereby approved.

W. L. SAUNDERS, Secretary of State.

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STATEMENT

SHOWING THE CONDITION OF THE

United States Branch of the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company of Liverpool,

DECEMBER 31st, 1878.

ASSETS:

Value of real estate and ground rents owned by the Company (less the am't of encumbrances thereon)	$ 520,700	
Loans on bond and mortgage (duly recorded and being first liens on the fee simple)	1,216,719.13	
Account of stocks and bonds of the United States, and of this and other States; also all other stocks and bonds absolutely owned by the Company	1,810,887.50	
Stocks, bonds and all other securities, (except mortgages) hypothecated to the Company as collateral security for cash actually loaned by the Company	3,548.65	
Interest due and accrued on stocks and other securities	32,999.06	
Cash in Company's principal office and belonging to the Company, deposited in Bank	328,147.87	
Premiums unpaid	339,050.68	
All other assets, detailed in statement	49,844	
Total assets		$4,301,897.[illegible]

LIABILITIES:

Losses unpaid, including those resisted	$ 308,781.13	
Reserve, as required by law	1,620,484.55	
All other claims	504,579.48	
Total liabilities		$2,433,829.13
Capital Stock paid up	$1,228,200	
Total income	2,600,5[illegible]3.34	
Total expenditures	1,971,219.83	

NORTH CAROLINA BUSINESS IN 1878:

Risks written	$1,302,347
Premiums received	16