

# The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, January 9, 1879.

H. A. LONDON, Jr., Editor.

## THE LEGISLATURE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina is now in session, having convened at the State Capitol yesterday, and is naturally attracting the attention of our people, who are looking to their Legislators for some relief from the "hard times." But while there is much that the Legislature can do for their relief, yet with all that they can do, there will be much disappointment and grumbling at their action, for really they will not be able to do all that the people demand. We therefore warn our readers in advance, not to expect too much at their hands, for the body politic is now somewhat in the condition of the human body when slowly recovering from some dangerous illness, and we must not have two much "doctoring," but by kindly treatment, close attention to business, simple diet, and strict economy, endeavor to build up the enfeebled system and restore a healthy tone to the body politic. As our Legislature meets only once in every two years, and can remain in session only sixty days, there will be no time for windy speeches or "bum-boom" resolutions, but the Members should devote their whole time and attention to the careful consideration of such measures as will best promote the interests of our people. The eyes of the people are upon them, closely watching their every action, and they will be held to a strict accountability. The most important questions which are likely to engage the attention of the Legislature, are the Public Debt, the Public Schools, the protection of Sheep Husbandry, the No-Fence Law, and the Public Roads, and it is the duty of the Members to give their most serious consideration to these questions, and take such action as will best promote the true interest of our beloved old State.

## OUR PUBLIC ROADS.

We know of no subject more directly affecting the people of Chatham county, or one of greater importance to them, than the condition of their public roads. And we call this matter to their attention just now for three reasons, viz: First, because the roads are now probably in as bad a condition as they ever can be, and the evil therefore being present and daily realized, our words may have more effect and be better appreciated than at any other time; Second, because the Legislature is now in session, and if our road-law needs amendment (as many think) the discussion of the question may do some good in ascertaining what amendments would be best; and Third, because our Inferior Court meets on the 20th inst., and the Grand Juries, who have been summoned for that Term, can have their attention called to the condition of the Roads, and indict such overseers as have not complied with the requirements of the law. We would direct their attention to Section 15 of the Road-Law, as published in another column of this paper, and ask them to carefully read the same, so that they may fully know what is a "lawful road."

If the law is too strict, and requires too much of an overseer, it is not the fault of the Grand Juror, and it is none the less his duty to indict any overseer who does not comply with its requirements. If it is a bad law, it should be repealed, and the best way to have it repealed is to enforce it. We think that the entire system of working our roads should be changed (of which we will speak hereafter), but while the law stands as it does, it should be enforced, and by enforcing it, its harshness and defects will become so odious to all, as to render its amendment certain. The present law is either good or bad; if good let it be enforced, and if bad let it be repealed, but do not let it remain a dead letter and a sham!

The present wretched, and almost impassable condition of our roads, is the best proof that our road law is either defective and wrong in principle, or is not enforced, and we rather think that it is both. It certainly does seem an unjust hardship on an overseer, to expect him to comply with all the requirements of the law as it now reads, and with the means at his command that most of them have. But while this is true, yet our overseers as a class can make our roads better than they are. They can at least fill up holes in the roads, and can put up sign boards and mile posts as required by Sections 19 and 21 of the "Road Law" published elsewhere,

## Correspondence.

### FOR THE RECORD.

#### An Atricious Crime!

BELLE VOIR, N. C.,  
December 21, 1878.

**Mr. Editor:**—The cotton gin of Mr. Manly Lindley was consumed by fire, on the night of the 19th inst.; evidently the work of an incendiary, as there had been no fire near the premises in a day or two. Total loss—no insurance. Mr. Lindley is a poor man, with several children, and has toiled hard to support his wife and children; but in one night, the fatal torch consumed his all. His gin was near the Chatham line. "Oh for a whip in every hand! To lash the rascal, naked, through the land."

JUPITER.

### FOR THE RECORD.

ST. LAWRENCE, N. C.,  
January 4, 1879.

**Editor Record:**—We have recently had the honor and pleasure of spending a short time with Rev. Thos. W. Guthrie, H. C. Wall, Esq., and Col. T. C. Leak, all of Stockham, Richmond county, in this State, while they were visiting among the relatives of Mr. Guthrie, in this county. Five days of said gentlemen's time with us were devoted to field sport, and as an item of some interest to others of their caste, we give a statement of their achievements in bird-shooting, as follows: The number of birds killed 257, and of these Col. Leak killed 115, having fired only 185 times. At one time, when Col. L. was rather apart from the other sportsmen, he flushed and shot a bird, which, when it fell, was immediately pounced upon by a hawk, and Col. L. advancing, reloaded and shot, and killed the hawk also, as it flew. An impudent hawk, and a good shot.

Success to THE CHATHAM RECORD!  
Yours Truly,

S.

### FOR THE RECORD.

TALLADEGA, ALA.,  
Dec. 28th, 1878.

**Editor Record:**—Having a moment's leisure, I thought I would make a few suggestions for the consideration of the enterprising farmers and stock-raisers of your county. I am aware of the fact, that there is a large amount of land thrown out, in Chatham, the strength of which is by no means exhausted; and which will afford an incalculable amount of pasture for raising, or growing sheep or goats. In a word, I think Chatham county is just about as well adapted to an enterprise of this kind as I have ever seen anywhere, and admits of no doubt, if assiduously attended to, would yield a very handsome profit to any one who might engage in the business. Furthermore, permit me to suggest to the middle and aged class, or portion of farmers of Chatham, the propriety of growing sheep, with the view of reclaiming their worn-out lands; for I believe it is generally conceded that exhausted land can be reclaimed by penning sheep on it, as effectually as by any means whatever. Should one man not feel able to engage in this business alone, let several throw their means together, and thereby more good can be accomplished to the parties interested, and the county at large. As for transportation, you can not complain, for you have railroads on all sides, which lead direct to large cities, consequently remunerative prices can be obtained readily for all the wool and mutton which can be grown.

While writing this sketch, I feel if I were a few years younger than I am, I might be tempted to return to Chatham and establish a "ranch" in the region of Alston's quarter, or in the Harris neighborhood.

Land-holders are compelled to reclaim their lands, or they will fall into other hands.

Respectfully,  
JAMES HEADEN.

OKE HILL, N. G.,  
January 1, 1879.

**Mr. Editor:**—I see in the RECORD of the 5th of December, that the new Board of County Commissioners have appointed Dr. J. B. Burns, Physician for the Poor House, and that he is to examine the county lunatics at \$2 50 each. This is what I call "retrenchment," as the former price paid for examining lunatics was \$5 00. I think the present Board of County Commissioners are the right men in the right place.

I see also, in the RECORD, of the 12th of December, that jail fees have been reduced to 30 cents a day for each prisoner; and that purchasing agent for the poor house is allowed 2 1-2 per cent. commissions. The former price paid as commissions, was 5 per cent. Then we call 2 1-2 per cent. "retrenchment." But it seems to me like the office of purchasing agent, might be abolished entirely, while the Commissioners retain a man as Superintendent of the Poor House at a salary of \$300 a year. This amount should command the services of a fair business man, and I see no necessity for having a purchasing agent; then the Superintendent should do the purchasing without any extra fees. The merchants of your town are men of good business qualifications and upright gentlemen, and I have no hesitation in saying that the county would not be hurt if the prices of supplies were entirely left to them, as they buy supplies at market prices they would be perfectly willing to sell to the county for cost in cash, as they pay goods for produce which

they sell to the county for the poor. In the event the Superintendent of the poor was to agree to pay too much for supplies or the farmer or merchant charge him an over price, then it is all left with the county commissioners as they have to say what shall be paid before an account will be paid by the sheriff. The county commissioners are the tax-payers guard, and we may safely trust our county finances in the hands of the present board.

I notice in a recent issue of the RECORD, that you favor working the public roads by taxation. I am opposed to that plan, as the tax-payers have as much as they can bear now, and to tax old men who have worked the public roads 30 years, and let their sons go about without working the roads, would be very unjust. Then we have quite a number of poor widows in this section, and I guess all over the county; and I tell you it will not do to put the old men and widows to working the roads. If you tax them to work the public roads, then it is them doing the work. Let us young men, and the freedmen work the roads; enforce the present road law, and we will have good public roads.

Enclosed please find \$2 to pay the subscription for three months each, for the four parties whose names I gave you recently.

If all your correspondents would adopt the above plan, and send the RECORD out of the county, and out of the State, your subscription list would soon run up so that the RECORD's life would be sure to last as long as Chatham is a county.

The RECORD is a Chatham enterprise, and should be encouraged and supported by our own people first, then others will help us to support our own paper.

Wishing the RECORD a long and useful life, and its editor a Happy New Year, I am yours,

Very Respectfully,  
C. C. CHEEK.

### FOR THE RECORD.

Mr. EDITOR:—I will give it as my experience, that there is nothing more refreshing to the energies of a care-worn farmer, than to occasionally lay aside all business, and make a few days visit from home. Such being my condition, I, in company with a neighbor, made a short visit recently, to Durham, which was attended with so many pleasant incidents, I can not refrain giving you an outline of our trip. All things ready, we bid good-bye in the afternoon, to our families and the monotony of routine farm-work, for our proposed visit. Nothing of interest occurred until we reached the suburbs of "old Chapel Hill," when we were hailed by that clever and hospitable gentleman, Col. W. F. Askew, who, learning that it was our intention to spend the night in the Village, bid us welcome to open the gate, and for us to drive in. I will not attempt a description of our kind treatment, at the hands of this clever gentleman and his estimable wife. Suffice it to say, that the most fastidious, could not spend a night under their hospitable roof without carrying with them pleasant remembrances of their most cordial entertainment. The Colonel is owner and proprietor of the large Neuse Paper Mills, in Wake county, and spends the most of his time down there, giving it his personal supervision, while his wife resides in Chapel Hill with her children, for the convenience of educating them. The Colonel has accumulated considerable property, by close, hard work, and teaches his children that it is no disgrace to take hold and do likewise. Early next morning we had breakfast, and were caned on the road.

The tolling of the "old bell" for morning prayers, and the hurrying of tardy boys to the Chapel, took my mind back to twenty years ago, when I, too, was a "Chapel Hill Boy." Those were "flush times" in Chapel Hill; more than four hundred boys assembled morning and evening in the old Chapel, to the toll of that bell; young men in the pursuit of knowledge to fit them for after life.

But alas! many lives among those noble fellows have already been spent! While it is often pleasant to call back reminiscences in our past life, yet when I recur to my College days, and the incidents in the years which soon followed, sympathy and pity for that unfortunate age fills my breast. "Boys will be boys" was again verified to us in the sight a two-horse wagon, as seen on the top of the New East building loaded with wood. Although it was quite early when we passed through Chapel Hill, we saw evidences that there was still life in the Village; the streets presented quite a business appearance. About a mile beyond Chapel Hill, we had the unexpected pleasure of meeting with our popular countryman, W. F. Stroud, Esq., who was looking after the building of fine Mills on property recently purchased in Orange county. He was glad to see us, and not having time to chat as we liked, excused us of the permit to spend a night with him on our return at his house.

The country from Chapel Hill to Durham, a distance of twelve miles, is quite broken, and not very prepossessing to the traveller, in fact it looks quite poor in the vicinity of Durham. At 10 o'clock we had reached our destination, and securing our steed, we proceeded to the world wide known smoking tobacco factory of W. T. Blackwell & Co., where we met our friend and former countryman, Capt. N. A. Ramsey, who has been book-keeper for this mammoth concern for several years, and they are fortunate in securing the services of this accomplished ac-

countant. The hour for dinner being announced, we accepted Capt. R.'s invitation to dine with him, and at once repaired to his beautiful residence, where we were most cordially received and entertained by his most estimable wife. Dinner over, we returned with the Capt. to his office, where, for the first time, we met the Senior partner of this firm, Col. Blackwell, of whom we shall make mention hereafter. To look through the apartment of this colossal establishment, was our leading desire on leaving home, and to this task, Capt. R. assigned himself that afternoon. The counting rooms are most conveniently arranged and handsomely furnished; beyond this, I can not attempt a description, for it is beyond my comprehension; one must see it to fully comprehend its magnitude. Great executive ability is displayed in the management of this immense business, and so well is it governed arranged that it naturally runs itself. A competent head to each department, with Col. Blackwell as buyer of the raw material and Julian S. Carr, Esq., Junior partner, financier, who, by the by, is considered one of the best financiers in the South. It was getting late when we had finished our round of sight seeing, and wishing to spend the night with a friend in the country, we bid these clever gentlemen "good afternoon," and proceeded to the residence of Mr. Alvis Horton, formerly of Chatham, who now owns a fine farm six miles north of Durham, on Eno River. Here we again met with that cordial welcome so characteristic with the people of Chatham. Mr. Horton is a live farmer, and a stroll over his farm will soon convince any one that living is easy with him. Early next morning we bid these clever people good-bye, and were soon in the business town of Durham. There are five very excellent Chatham ladies—wives of prominent gentlemen, living in Durham. The people of Durham are reputed for their cleverness.

By invitation, we again visit the establishment of W. T. Blackwell & Co., and here we met Col. Blackwell, who has time to go around with us during our limited stay. The Colonel is quite a handsome, stout, thick set man—perhaps now that he is married, forty years old, is very affable and pleasant in conversation and is quite communicative on all subjects pertaining to his business. It is very interesting to hear him tell of his coming success in Durham. He says he was in Durham twelve months before it was known that he was there, but that he was at work, and many a package of tobacco has he taken to the express office on his shoulder, and shipped cash on delivery; that he had written as many as thirty-five letters in one night, to parties asking them to buy their goods, for they were not able to advertise. This, too, only about ten years ago, while to day they are reported in the Commercial Report as being worth \$300,000; and no doubt the most prosperous concern established in this State. It is a noteworthy fact, be it said to the credit of these gentlemen, that they did not hear their immense wealth with niggardly stint, but are generous to a fault.

The Methodist and Baptist denominations of Durham have very elegant churches, that would be a credit to any of our cities. It is informed that Mr. Carr contributed \$1700 to the building of the Methodist church, and Colonel Blackwell about the same to the Baptist, being of that persuasion. Both of these gentlemen have families, and elegant residences, with beautifully decorated yards. Col. Blackwell is very fond of fine stock, and showed us through his stables, where are kept twenty-seven elegant horses, for use in their business. We next went to his hog lot, which is well located, with running water through it; there we saw fine strains of Berkshire and other improved breeds of hogs—some of them would weigh from 250 to 300 lbs. A pen of 29 fat turkeys, bought for Christmas, was close by; here a door is opened in the wall inclosing this lot, and we are ushered into a regular kennel, where the Colonel keeps a large pack of hounds for fox and rabbit hunting, of which he is exceedingly fond. It is now nearly 1 o'clock, and being reminded of our promise to our friend Mr. Stroud, who lives nineteen miles distant, over a muddy road, we reluctantly bid these clever people good-bye, and turned our back on Durham with the hope that we may again visit that pleasant place. We have it in proof, that Durham is one of the most hospitable towns in the State. A little after sun-down, we drove up to the gate of our friend, whose shake of hand and genial smile showed the reality of the warmth of our welcome, by both, Mr. Stroud and his very excellent wife. Supper over, we repaired to the parlor of our friend, where were assembled several clever gentlemen of the neighborhood, and among them, Mr. Whitted, the popular school teacher, in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood, and conversation turned to the subject of education; a subject which is now exciting the people of North Carolina; and after a lengthy and animated discussion on the subject of "higher education for the masses of the people," it was agreed by a decided majority that a well educated boy would not plough a kicking mule in a rocky field, without cursing. Our stay with our friend, was very pleasant—

feeling rather like we were at home. The many friends of our clever old bachelor friend Wilson Stroud, will be sorry to learn that his condition is still unchanged—I think though, the symptoms indicate a change for the better. A very clever, sprightly widow at Durham, has the sympathy of a host of friends with the hope that he may soon be all right.

We bid good-bye to our clever friend and his good lady the next morning, and without the scintilla of an accident, to mar the pleasure of this trip, we reached home with renewed energies, and met the fond embracess of an affectionate and loving wife, one of the pleasures of this life that an old bachelor knows nothing about.

FARMER.

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