

THURSDAY, Sep. 11, 1879.

H. A. LONDON, Jr., Editor

END OF VOLUME I.

With this issue the Record completes its first volume and closes the first year of its existence. Twelve months have now elapsed since we undertook the venture of publishing a newspaper in the county of Chatham, and it is with much pleasure that we are enabled to state that this "venture" has been eminently successful. The people of this county have shown their appreciation of the value and importance of having a county-paper, and have extended to the Record a most generous support. Many have exerted their personal influence to extend its' circulation, not content with merely "wishing it well," thus giving proof of their sincerity. To such our grateful thanks are tendered, and they can have the pleasant satisfaction of knowing that to their kind efforts is the success of their county-paper chiefly due. To those kind friends and comforting prophets, who so pleasantly predicted that "the Record would not last three months," we tender our sympathy at their disappointment, and hope they may not be so greatly mistaken in all their calculations. While the Record is strictly democratic in politics, yet among its warmest friends are the leading Republicans of the county, a fact that is peculiarly gratifying to and appreciated by the Editor.

We have endeavored to give our readers a good family and county paper, so that they would welcome its weekly visits, and it is gratifying to hear that this effort has been so successful. In conclusion we will add that the Record may be considered as a permanent institution in Chatham, and will continue in its great work of building up the industries and developing the resources of our great county.

Denial of Justice.

The last legislature in its laudable desire for "Retrenchment" passed an Act to have "cheap justice," which in effect almost amounts to a denial of justice; we allude to the act giving Magistrates exclusive jurisdiction over certain misdemeanors. A large majority of the most intelligent Magistrates of this county sent a petition to the legislature (which was at the time published in the Record) protesting against the passage of the bill, and requesting that Chatham might be excepted from its operations if it did pass. The bill, however, was duly passed, and now after it has been in force a few months its practical results are being experienced. We learn from the Goldsboro' Messenger that, at the late term of Nash Superior Court, there were about a dozen appeals from Magistrates in criminal cases, in which they had taken final jurisdiction, and EVERY ONE of those cases, with only one exception, had to be dismissed at the costs of the prosecutor, for the simple reason that the Magistrates had neglected in their warrants to properly describe the offence! And doubtless the same defect will be found to exist in a large majority of the cases tried by justices of the Peace, because it matters not how intelligent a Magistrate may be, he is ~~not always sufficiently learned in the law to describe offences by their technical terms~~. On these appeals no bill of indictment is sent before a grand jury, but the cases are tried upon the papers sent up by the justices, and the warrant should describe the offence with almost the same precision required in an indictment, and it is of frequent occurrence that an indictment drawn by a Solicitor is found to be fatally defective, and it is not to be presumed that our Magistrates are as intimately acquainted with legal definitions as our Solicitors. We would, therefore, urge upon our Magistrates to fully appreciate the very great responsibility devolving upon them in having so much power entrusted to their hands, and suggest that they use the utmost care in writing their warrants. Be particular that the offence is described in proper words: otherwise the criminal will escape punishment and his innocent victim be made to pay a bill of costs.

Hon. John Kerr.

The people of Chatham, especially our older citizens, will deeply regret to hear that the Hon. John Kerr died at his residence in Caswell county, on the 5th inst. For a third of a century he had been known and honored by the people of this county. Long years ago were they accustomed to hear his impassioned and thrilling eloquence in political debate, and enjoy the charms of his conversation in social intercourse. Our old men still delight to talk of those political discussions between such giants in debate as Venard and Kerr both now gone to their eternal rest. His powers of oratory were of an unusually high character and his command over vast assemblies was complete. With a fine commanding presence, with an eye that at times seemed to flash fire and electrified his hearers, with a voice clear and sonorous, pouring forth streams of burning eloquence, expressed in the choicest language, no wonder he was considered an orator without a superior in North Carolina.

He was elected as a member of Congress from this district in 1856. In 1862 he was appointed a Judge of the Superior Court to succeed Judge Thomas Ruffin Jr., who had resigned to enter the army. In 1874 he was elected Judge of the Seventh Judicial District, which position he held at the time of his death.

It may truly be said that John Kerr was a man of most noble impulses, kindly feelings, and above all was a Christian gentleman. Full of years and honors he has passed from among us, but his memory will long dwell in the hearts of a people that honored him so much when living.

A Generous Act.

Jay Gould, one of New York's millionaires, has sent five thousand dollars to the yellow fever sufferers at Memphis, and has instructed the President of the Howard Association at that plague stricken city to keep on with his noble work as he will foot the bill. An act of such large-hearted generosity enables humanity, and elevates our opinion of human philanthropy; and coming as it does from a Northern man to the colored citizens of a Southern city, it reminds us that we are fellow-citizens of a common country. Truly "charity hideth a multitude of sins," and so will this noble deed cover as with a mantle many of the faults and shortcomings of this generous benefactor, who has rendered such substantial aid to his unfortunate fellow-men.

Gen. Hood's Children.

In our last issue we mentioned the death of Gen. Hood and that he had left a family of eleven little children perfectly penniless.

Appeals have been made for contributions for their support throughout the South, which have been liberally responded to. It is estimated that in Georgia alone the sum of ten thousand dollars has been raised. It is very proper that the South should make provision for the helpless orphans of one who so gallantly fought for her rights.

Agricultural Organizations.

In a late issue of the Record we urged upon the farmers of Chatham the importance of their uniting together in local organizations, and on this subject we copy the following from the last Monthly Report of the Department of Agriculture:

"Of all the great and leading interests of the world, agricultural, the most important of them all, is the only one which is not maintained, nurtured and advanced by the fostering, protecting hand of co-operative effort. If it be true that advancement in agriculture must be mainly dependent on experience, then how important that those engaged in it should unite in some form of association to profit by the experience of others of each other! How better can this be done than by a mutual interchange of views, an investigation of causes, methods and systems, and a comparison of results? And where better can this be done than in the meetings of the agricultural clubs, granges or associations and Fairs?"

The agricultural condition of a people may be fairly judged generally, by the number and character of its agricultural organizations, for they indicate the measure and community of interest existing. In 1876, Wisconsin had 61, Indiana 99, Illinois 133, Iowa 144, North Carolina 27, Virginia 36, Tennessee 55 and Georgia 77. Of the 27 reported in our State, twenty-two are in existence and are in a prosperous condition. Of this number ten hold annual fairs. There should be an organization in some form in each county of the State, and wherever practicable, annual fairs should be held. It will be the pleasure, as it is the duty, of the Commissioner to render any aid possible in organizing and establishing such associations, and he invites correspondence from the leading farmers and mechanics on the subject."

Correspondence.

WE WILL BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE THE LETTERS OF ANY SUBJECT THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST, AND WILL INSIST ON A REASONABLE NAME AND DATING EVERY ARTICLE, AND ONLY ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER. THE EDITOR IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF CORRESPONDENTS.

FOR THE RECORD.
Our Roads and Churches.

Bear Creek, Sept. 1st, 1879.

Mr. Editor—To what must we attribute the failure of your corps of correspondents to supply your columns with the news from their respective neighborhoods? Certainly not because they are busy on their farms, certainly not because they have not subjects upon which to write; for any one traveling over any public road in Chatham county would discover enough to enable him to write at length. We have circumambulated this section to a limited extent, and yet we have a subject which will, or may prove interesting to some of your readers when come to our office. The roads—the public roads, which the Overseers are required to keep in passable condition are in some sections almost impossible—in fact would be to a man house-driven by a gang-headed man; such would break their necks in a cullie, or risk themselves over by falling over large roots, or coming in contact with huge trees. Such is the condition of the public roads between here and the Gulf—where gulf-hawks recently been may now be found a handful of green pine-tops with a shovelful of dirt on them; to drain pools of water from the road sides, one occasionally finds a ditch about one foot deep by one wide across the road; stumps as large as a bushel measure stand in the middle of, or on either side, and when stones have been thrown into excavations to fill up, and they are ponderous, sometimes to some degree. Not long since the writer had his horse become frightened at a large rock and had it not been for the heroism of his colorado would probably have been called into requisition and the county put to the expense of a匹an's burial. What is the use of a road law unless it be enforced; and what is the use of a road unserviceable to be traveled, and why appoint road overseers if those appointed will not, and cannot be made to, keep the roads in good condition? There are but few lawful roads in Chatham county, and don't tell Randolph is ashamed of her sister on this account.

Another deplorable fact is evident which should shame the cheek of every professing Christian with the dash of shameless tessu—Several substantial temples in which to worship God, are shamefully neglected by members of the congregations assembling in them from week to week—frequently they are desecrated by hogs, cows, sheep, and other irreverent beings, and are places of resort for any and all characters, good, bad and indifferent, for the perpetration of deeds and the commission of misdeeds, which the Demon of Darkness would not tolerate even in his sulphur domain. Valentine of Garrison. Yours, etc., Ossipee.

FOR THE RECORD.
BEECHER'S HILL, N. C.

Sept. 5, 1879.

Mr. Editor—If you will be so kind as to give space in your valuable paper, we would like to say a few words about our little town, and its present condition. Now don't laugh at me because we call it now, for indeed it does begin to look like a town; the sound of hammers may be heard from every quarter, and is only hushed by the gloom of approaching night driving the workmen to their quarters. Twenty months ago there was no building of any kind on the hill, except a small church for colored worshippers—now there are two good dwellings, a blacksmith-shop, and very soon will be a large two-story store, erected on the same site, where, a few months ago, a store, goods and all, were burned, belonging to the same enterprising gentleman, Hackney and Ward.

This Spring, the colored people added smartly to their church, and now have a good, large church, Hornaday to keep up with the balance of the town folks, has added

means to trap the benefits of the experiences of each other!

How better can this be done than by a mutual interchange of views, an investigation of causes, methods and systems, and a comparison of results?

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FOR THE RECORD.

Mr. Jordan Spivey's dog was run over and instantly killed—loss heavy. Same day and train, Mr. Terrill Womble had a fine cat killed—loss is severe.

STILL WORSE.

Mosquitos are so large that they actually sit on legs and bark; and oh, how they bite. I have seen several large enough to weigh a pound improving.

Osgood has a cotton gin, grist-mill, and saw-mill going up rapidly. Land is 100\$, selling at \$50 per acre.

Osgood WATCHMAN.

FOR THE RECORD.
FALL CREEK, N. C.

Sept. 5th, 1879.

Mr. Editor—On the 2d inst, there was a revenue raid in the south-western part of Chatham. The officers were, Thomas Womble and Clarendon Justus. They were accompanied by their guide, Thomas Wright, who appears to know every spring branch, and every path in that vicinity. When they arrived in that section, the news was spread all on the bend of Deep River that they were there and the "moonshiners" took to the timber on the 3d inst. I need not imagine how the blockaders knew the revenue officers were there so soon; but they say that Thomas Womble sent them word that he was coming, and if they had any fodder out, take it in." The revenue officers chased one man in the thickets up and down Fall Creek first in Chatham, then in Moore, several hours, but they could not catch him. Thomas Womble affirmed that he ran him twenty miles. While they were in pursuit of him, they came to a gully and stopped, they were not worse served by the storm than the farmers, who in many cases lost well nigh all they had. To these relief has been carefully extended, and there is no fear of any severe distress among this class.

The merchants are beginning to rebuild the stores washed away, and will replace nearly all as they were before the storm. The new hotel will be built either at Beaufort or Morehead, but certainly in time for occupancy next season. There is some dispute as to the best place to build the hotel. Morehead is more accessible but at Beaufort the braces is considered better, and there are some other special advantages. The new structure will be well built, with at least 200 rooms, and many improvements.

The great storm has wrought some changes in the harbor and bar which are very important to the port. About one fourth mile of the sandy point of Shadeford Banks was washed away. The depth of water on the bar has increased some three feet. The depth now, as determined on Saturday by sounding for the pilot, was at low water, 17 feet; at high water, 21 feet. This is an material advantage to the harbor, as that depth will permit the passage of any coasting vessel.—Observer.

Price, 50cts.

FOR THE RECORD.

Osceola, N. C., Sept. 4, 1879.

Dear Sirs—To what must we attribute the failure of your corps of correspondents to supply your columns with the news from their respective neighborhoods? Certainly not because they are busy on their farms, certainly not because they have not subjects upon which to write;

for any one traveling over any public road in Chatham county would discover enough to enable him to write at length. We have circumambulated this section to a limited extent, and yet we have a subject which will, or may prove interesting to some of your readers when come to our office. The roads—the public roads, which the Overseers are required to keep in passable condition are in some sections almost impossible—in fact would be to a man house-driven by a gang-headed man; such would break their necks in a cullie, or risk themselves over by falling over large roots, or coming in contact with huge trees. Such is the condition of the public roads between here and the Gulf—where gulf-hawks recently been may now be found a handful of green pine-tops with a shovelful of dirt on them; to drain pools of water from the road sides, one occasionally finds a ditch about one foot deep by one wide across the road; stumps as large as a bushel measure stand in the middle of, or on either side, and when stones have been thrown into excavations to fill up, and they are ponderous, sometimes to some degree. Not long since the writer had his horse become frightened at a large rock and had it not been for the heroism of his colorado would probably have been called into requisition and the county put to the expense of a匹an's burial.

Mr. Womble, Esq., who is teaching the free school in this district, out of

"half of his money," thus securing the names of a great many friends of

Mr. Womble, to this petition. Mr.

John Gantner, Jr., having testified to

the effect that he was "foaled into"

Now we positively assert this state-

ment to be a falsehood. We do not

intend securing the benefit of the

free school until next year—and such

was distinctly intimated by the

Board of Commissioners. And we

also assert that two-thirds of the

signers to this last petition are young

men—who are too old to have the

benefit of the school—and what have

no families at all.

You will please publish this and oblige,

Yours truly,

Osceola.

FOR THE RECORD.

Are Ministers Exempt From

Road Duty?

MARTINSVILLE, N. C.

Sept. 4th, 1879.

Dear Sirs—I see that other people write to you when they want information on any subject, and that has prompted me to write to you to explain a matter, while it is of no immediate use to me, yet some of my friends are desirous of an explanation.

The question I would ask is this:

Are ordained ministers of the Gospel

subject to road-duty under our exist-

ing laws?

The reason I ask this question, is we have some ordained ministers in our neighborhood, and some of the overseers of roads do not know what disposition to make of them.

Please give me your views of the

matter, through the columns of your

excellent paper.

Yours &c.,

H. C. VESTAL.

FOR THE RECORD.

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