

THE OLD YEAR.

These sweetly sad lines of England's Poet Laureate recur to our mind as we approach the closing hours of the old year—1881. Yes, "the old year lies a dying," and some will grieve and others rejoice. To some the past year has brought sorrow and sadness; to others pleasure and joy, but now it is all gone, gone with its joys and sorrows, with its disappointments and successes. The close of every year naturally brings its train of reflections and causes us to pause for a moment. The knell of each departing year awakens in our breasts memories of the past and forcibly reminds us of the transitoriness of life. The years are but milestones in life's journey, and as one after another is passed we are carried that much nearer to the end, and diminishing the number that stands between us and the grave. How many of those who were journeying with us so full of life and strength and hope were eagerly looking forward to this milestone in our journey, have dropped by the wayside! And who of us will, during the coming year follow those to "what country from whose loins no traveller returns."

In many respects the past has been a memorable year. While no pestilence has devastated our land, yet the Angel of Death has gathered in its victims far and wide, and seems to have selected the strong, the beautiful and the brave. The rulers of the two mightiest nations have been assassinated—the President of the United States and the Czar of Russia. Private sorrow has been commingled with public grief. Terrible and unprecedented calamities have occurred by field, by fire and by flood, and yet we have great cause to be thankful that no destroying war has occurred and that amicable relations exist between all nations. For the severity of its weather this year has long remembered—the cold of last winter and the heat of the summer having been unusual. Like an unprecedented drought prevailed in many portions of the United States, particularly in our immediate section. But though this will cause many of us to closely economize and some may suffer temporary privations, yet no famine has scourged us and there is no danger of any man, woman or child dying of starvation.

But let us not sorrow for the past; rather let us prepare for the future, and let us all each and every one, resolve in the coming year to faithfully do our duty in that state of life in which it has pleased God to call us.

THE JEANNETTE'S VOYAGE.

At last news has been received of the fate of the long lost steamer, Jeannette, which in July, 1879, sailed on an exploring expedition to the Arctic regions. This steamer was purchased and fitted out at a great cost by James Gordon Bennett, the proprietor of the New York Herald, for the purpose of exploring in the interior of science and commerce the frozen regions of the Polar seas. The commander was Lieutenant De Long, of the U. S. navy, an accomplished officer and a man of great physical powers, and the crew was selected with great care. No expense was spared in the equipment, and the expedition left San Francisco with the best wishes of the civilized world for its success and safe return. Nothing having been heard from the steamer in a long time other expeditions were fitted out and sent in search of the missing Jeannette, but all returned without any tidings of her, and it was feared that she and her crew had shared the same fate that befell the expedition of the unfortunate Sir John Franklin, many years ago. This anxiety and suspense was, however, dissipated last week by the welcome intelligence that two-thirds of the crew had arrived on the Northern coast of Siberia, and that the remainder would probably arrive in a few days. They report that the Jeannette was crushed to pieces by the ice last June, and that the crew escaped in three boats, arriving at the mouth of the Lena river in September, after a three months voyage of great danger and privations.

So much suffering is endured by these Arctic explorers, and so little accomplished that it is surprising men will continue to engage in these expeditions. We suppose they are influenced by the same motive that prompted Columbus to navigate an unknown sea in search of the New World. We opine, however, that they will hardly discover another such country as America in the Polar regions!

AN EXTRA SESSION.

It is stated on good authority that the Governor will convene the General Assembly in extra session about the first of next March. There are two reasons that doubtless will prompt him to do this. Congress will this winter make a new apportionment of members of the House of Representatives, and in this apportionment North Carolina will gain one member, so that the Congressional districts in the State must be re-arranged. And another reason for the extra session is that some legislation is necessary to perfect the contract recently made to sell the State's stock in the Cape Fear & Yadkin Valley Railroad Company.

THE C. F. & Y. V. R. R.

A meeting was held in Raleigh last week of the commissioners, who were appointed by an Act of the last Legislature to consider all proposals to buy the State's stock in the Cape Fear & Yadkin Valley Railroad Company. The meeting was held for the purpose of considering the proposition made by Dr. Canolun in behalf of a Northern company. The commissioners were in session several days and carefully considered the proposal, and after a full discussion, accepted the same with a few alterations. It is thought that the State's interest is fully protected, and the purchasers acquire no rights at all until they pay in full the sum of \$1,500,000, of which \$500,000 is in payment of the State's stock, and \$1,000,000 to pay off the floating indebtedness of the company. Proper securities are made to prevent a re-pledging of the road. The purchasers are to mortgage only ten per cent. amount and proper securities are to be thrown around the issuing and selling of the bonds. This contract made by the commissioners must now be approved by the Governor and Council and by the general stockholders of the company, but it is understood that this approval will readily be given, so that we may regard the road as sold. The purchasers say that they intend commencing the road rapidly and pushing it forward to an early completion.

Guiton's Behavior.

Guiton's insolence is only equalled by his egotism, and the incident attending his trial are extraordinary. His behavior during the trial has not been equalled by any prisoner that we have ever read about. He shows not only those witnesses who testify against him, but also his lawyer, Mr. Scoville, who is defending him. We publish herewith some of his utterances. A Dr. Worcester testified to his sanity, which enticed Guiton that he interrupted the witness as follows:

"How much pay do you expect to get for that opinion, Doctor? I think that is worth about \$500. If you go to Corkin he will give you a little slip for that amount. I am sure I do not think the opinion is worth one cent to this jury, but probably Corkin will pay you \$500 for it. There is no use in wasting time on this witness. That five hundred dollar idea has changed my opinion. The question of my fee agency in this matter is the first question. What does this witness know as to what occurred in the spiritual world? That is something which he could not see, nor any other person. This is a question of fact for the jury to pass upon. It is for the jury to say whether they believe my statement or not."

He thus speaks his opinion of the Doctors:

"These experts allow me to say, are high-toned. High-toned, respectable men, with all respect I say that they hang more—correcting himself—like many men as the doctors kill. There is no question about General Garfield's being alive to-day, whatever my motive might have been, if the doctors had not killed him, but the Lord allowed the doctors to finish the work I began, because he wanted him to go; and he did not go before his time, any way. We have all got to go. It is a question of time."

He shamefully abuses his lawyer, Mr. Scoville, as follows:

"You are stupid, Scoville, as a witness is. You are just compromising my case every time on cross-examination. You are not fit to be on the case at all. If I had some first class criminal lawyer he would show you how to do this business. I would have got John D. Townsend, of New York, or Judge Megruder, of Maryland, if you had not shoved them off with your confounded vanity and egotism. You are no more fit to manage this case than a ten-year old school boy. Your business is in examining titles. You had no business here at all and compromise me with your blundering way. Scoville, you should have let the man go two hours ago. If I were indicted for manslaughter, and Scoville defended me I would be hanged for murder. If you had let this man go two hours ago it would have been better for the defence. (To the Court) I tell him to get out of the case. He is ruining my case. He is not fit to try it. Mr. Scoville (with an air of patient resignation)—No one realizes that more than myself. The Prisoner (in a fury)—Then get out of the case, you consummate idiot. You have got no more brains

A Shrewd Swindle.

Hon. David A. Jenkins, who was elected State Treasurer in 1868 and 1872 by the republicans, was the victim of some sharpers in Washington City, a few days ago. The Washington Chronicle gives the following account of the "little game" played on this venerable bar-bell:

"Yesterday morning about eleven o'clock, Mr. Jenkins was walking up Pennsylvania avenue when he was accosted by a young man of gentlemanly appearance, who addressed him by name and appeared most glad to meet him. Mr. Jenkins hesitated and informed the young man that he did not recognize him.

"That's very likely," said the young man, "for I left the State some years ago, and have changed considerably since." But I remember you perfectly. Why, my father was John McDowell, cashier of the bank in Charlotte. I think you will remember me now.

Mr. Jenkins knew Mr. McDowell, the cashier of the Charlotte bank, very well, and the young man then began to talk of the people in Charlotte, evincing such perfect familiarity with them that Jenkins was completely deceived, and at once accepted his new acquaintance as what he represented himself to be. Under his guidance Mr. Jenkins resumed his walk and finally was piloted to 315 Elex-oth street, where his new friend wished to complete a business transaction. This business consisted in the obtaining of a supposed winning from a game at cards, which were dealt by a tall man, with a black mustache. He did not seem satisfied with the winning, but proposed to tempt fortune still further, and as every layout of the eight cards was made he regularly won, until Mr. Jenkins was himself induced to try his luck. He said before he commenced that he had no money with him, but the man who dealt was willing to take his checks, although he smilingly intimated that that would probably not be necessary. It proved to be the contrary, however, and instead of winning, Mr. Jenkins lost, and to cover his losses he increased his stakes, so that he finally gave three checks, one for \$400, one for \$1,200, and one for \$1,800, on the Citizens National Bank of Raleigh, N. C. The checks were made payable to J. W. Jones, but were given to Mr. Jenkins, who was assured, simply as a matter of form, but so soon as the two sharpers got them in their possession they closed the game on the old gentleman and proceeded to depart. He asked the return of his checks, but was indignantly and rushing into the street, sought a policeman. Of course by the time the officer of the law arrived the burly men had flown, and nothing was to be found but a pack of cards and some blank checks. The matter was subsequently reported to police headquarters, and Lieutenant Arnold was detailed to investigate the case. He went to the house, but all he could learn was that the two men had engaged the parlors, paying for them in advance. No trace of them could be found, and it was at once evident that they had left the city. It is the impression that the men who worked this game were ex-panthers from New York. As the checks were made payable to bearer, it is possible that the sharpers may have worked them off on some innocent parties, but Mr. Jenkins at once telegraphed to Raleigh stopping their payment, and he has advised them, cautioning innocent parties from attempting to trade in them."

Marriage Insurance Company.

A duly incorporated company has been organized by which a man is paid a certain sum of money upon his marriage. An agent is at Greensboro soliciting members, and from his advertisement we learn the following:

"THE SOUTH-WESTERN BENEFIT GUARANTEE is the name of an organization recently established in the city of Memphis. The objects of the Guild are the creation of Nuptial and Endowment Funds of which, upon the marriage of one of its members, a Nuptial Benefit of \$2000 shall be paid, or in case of the non-marriage of a member at the expiration of the endowment term a benefit of \$1000 shall be paid. These benefits are paid upon certain conditions, as follows:

A person who shall marry at the end of four months after becoming a member shall be entitled to 1-12 of \$2000, or \$166 2/3; for each additional four months that he shall remain single he will be entitled to \$166 2/3 for 48 months. Thus in 48 months he would be entitled to the full benefit of \$2000, the highest amount we pay. At the end of four years, if still single, he passes into the Endowment Period, which period lasts five years. If at any time during the endowment period he marries he gets a Nuptial Benefit of \$2000. At the end of the Endowment Period, if still single, he draws \$1000 and severs his connection with the Guild. The estimated cost of a member is \$20 a year. The organization is under the control of the most reliable business men of Memphis."

Private Henry H. Franklin, Company I, First Cavalry, has been tried at Fort Walla Walla, W. T., by general court-martial for conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline, the allegation being that he wrote and sent to the editor for publication in the New York Witness of July 28 last a letter advising all respectable young men to keep out of the army, as it is a world of iniquity, spreading vice and crime all around it, and that the whole army was rotten to the core. He was found guilty and sentenced by the court to confinement at hard labor in charge of the guard for seven months and forfeiture of \$10 per month for the same period.

General News.

The probable anthracite coal production for 1882 is estimated at 30,000,000 tons.

In Pennsylvania a laborer placed a can of dynamite on his cooking stove to dry. The dynamite exploded, killing the man, his wife and four of their children. The house disappeared along with them.

The New York Herald says after the war a colored man went from North Carolina to Boston and started in trade as a tailor. He now gives employment to 100 persons and is worth \$50,000.

The stock law for the whole State of South Carolina has passed the Legislature, with an amendment extending the time for it to go into operation in certain counties in the low country until next October.

William Gale, the English politician, who delights in walks, showing endurance, is now on his way to New Orleans, where he purposes walking 2,500 miles in 1000 hours, walking two miles and a half in each hour.

A special dispatch from Norway, Ga., says that Judge James A. Welch was found dead in a stable, suspended by a rope. It is generally conceded that he committed suicide in consequence of financial embarrassment. He was an old and highly respected citizen.

A body of masked men, supposed to be the best citizens of the place, broke into all the drinking saloons in Asheville, Green county, Oreg., at 1 o'clock Saturday morning, and destroyed all the liquor on hand. It is reported that the loss will reach into thousands, but no definite estimate has yet been made.

North Carolina Statistics.

From Mr. Collier Cobb's new map of North Carolina the Raleigh News and Observer gathers the following statistics:

"We find that there are in the State sixty-six educational institutions, such as university, colleges, high schools, military academies, etc. There are in addition graded schools at Raleigh, Wilmington, Bakersville, Goldsboro, Fayetteville, Salisbury, Charlotte and Greensboro. There are twenty-one agricultural societies and clubs of note. There are four paper mills, all water-power, with a daily capacity of eight tons of paper. There are fifty-nine cotton mills and woolen factories, besides a number of factories for the manufacture of textiles, agricultural implements, furniture and wood work, sewing machines, etc. There are no less than twenty-two railways, whose lines are wholly or in part in the State. The extreme length of the State, east to west, from Dare to Polk counties, is 185 miles, and the extreme breadth, from Brunswick to Granville, north and south, is 188 miles. The area is 50,704 square miles, greater than the area of New York. There are ninety-six counties. There are ten sounds, and the area of the sounds and bays is 3,300 square miles. There are fifteen lakes, covering an area of 200 square miles. There are three insane asylums and two institutions for the deaf and dumb and the blind. As to population, there are 1,400,000 persons, of which 688,164 are males, 711,836 females; 1,399,322 are natives and only 3,678 foreigners. There are 857,467 white persons, 531,316 colored persons, 1,245 Indians and half-breeds and one Japanese."

An Inch of Rain.

From the Industrial South. To those who have never given particular thought to the matter, the following statement will appear novel as well as interesting: An inch of rain is that quantity which, falling upon a level surface and not absorbed or allowed to run off, would stand one inch in depth. The amount of water falling upon one acre of land when the rainfall is one inch would astonish any one who has given no thought to the subject. On each square foot of surface there would be 144 cubic inches, and on one acre, which contains 43,560 square feet, would be 6,272,640 cubic inches, which reduced to imperial gallons, weighing 225,230 pounds, something more than 133 tons weight to the acre. The annual average rainfall in this locality approximates fifty inches; consequently each acre receives 5,655 1/2 tons weight of water in a year.

Father is Getting Well.

My daughter says, "How much better father is since he used Hop Bitters." He is getting well after his long suffering from a disease declared incurable, and we are so glad that he has used your Bitters.—A lady of Rochester, N. Y.—Utica Herald.

Miscellaneous Advertisements.

Advertisement for J. Lewis & Co., Hardware of Every Description, Cash, Doors, Blinds, Lime, Cement, Rosin, Rubbers, and various other goods. Located in Raleigh, N. C.

Advertisement for Iron Bitters, a perfect strengthener and sure reviver. Includes text about its benefits for various ailments and a list of agents.

Advertisement for Shaw & Harris, Express Steamboat Co., featuring a steamship schedule and details about their routes.

Advertisement for Dry Goods, Clothing, Hats and Caps, Notions, Groceries, Hardware, Crockery, and other household items.

Advertisement for Patents, featuring information about the Wanamaker & Brown Patent Office and their services.

Advertisement for J. M. Rosenbaum, Clothier, and Attorney & Counsellor at Law, located in Pittsboro, N. C.

Large advertisement for J. Lewis & Co., featuring an illustration of a wagon and text describing their hardware and carriage business.

Advertisement for Iron Bitters, a perfect strengthener and sure reviver, with detailed text about its medicinal properties.

Advertisement for Shaw & Harris, Express Steamboat Co., including a steamship schedule and contact information.

Advertisement for Dry Goods, Clothing, Hats and Caps, Notions, Groceries, Hardware, Crockery, and other household items.

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