The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1898.

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

THE continued low price of cotton, with no present prospect of its being higher, ought to convince the farmers of the south that they must plant less cotton and make more hay, corn and wheat. The farmers of the South seem to be in worse condition than the farmers of the west, and it is because of the low price of cotton.

We would call the attention of our cotton planters to some statistics as to the prices and the yield of cotton that should be very seriously considered. These statistics show the number of bales produced each year, for the past four years, the price a pound and the total proceeds of their sale, as follows:

Crop.	Bales.	Price.	Proceeds.
1893 '94	7,549,817	7.69	[illegible]
1894 '95	9,901,251	5.79	[illegible]
1895 '96	7,157,346	[illegible]	[illegible]
1896 '97	8,757,951	7.12	[illegible]

From the above figures it will be seen that the "short" crop of 1895 '96 sold for more money than the big crop of 1894-'95. In other words the 7,157,346 bales in '95-'96 sold for $3,315,933 more than the 9,901,251 bales in 1894-'95. And to illustrate this still further we would state that the amount still unmarketed to January 1st, 1897, was 398,12 bales which sold for [illegible] a bale, a total of $[illegible]. But the present crop 7,[illegible] were marketed up to January 1st, 1898, which sold for [illegible] a bale, making a total of $221,[illegible].

In other words our farmers shipped to market nearly a million more bales up to the 1st of January of this year than they did up to the 1st of January last year, and yet received for them $21,[illegible] less money.

Why then [illegible] policy? What is the use of making so much cotton if a smaller crop will bring just as much money?

No one need be surprised at the many scandals disgracing our good old state under the administration of Gov. Russell. Nothing else was or could have been expected. When his nomination was obtained by such disgraceful and fraudulent means, what else could have been expected of him?

No one doubts, certainly no one can deny, that Russell's nomination as the Republican candidate was obtained by fraud and bribery. It was so notorious as to be known of all men. Of course, at a time like this he had to regard with favor his accomplices and tools—the men who had fraudulently secured his nomination. And of course these men, being utterly unscrupulous and unprincipled in [illegible] now Republicans in packing political conventions, did not hesitate to perpetrate all kinds of scandals when appointed to office. Nothing else could have been expected of such men. Hence there need be no surprise at many more scandals disgracing our State while such men are in power.

And yet all this is reform!

DURHAM was considerably stirred up last week, because of the grand jury indicting a large number of the citizens of that town for violating the law against gambling. Now, it must not be inferred from this that Durham is a den of gamblers or any worse than other towns. The Judge made a special charge to the grand jury against gambling, and the Solicitor seems to have been unusually diligent in finding out the violators of the gambling act, which has been construed to include even raffling at church festivals. So that, many persons who had never played a game of cards and would be horrified even to see gambling have unintentionally violated the law by raffling and are now indicted.

CONGRESS seems to be devoting its time almost exclusively to a discussion of the annexation of Hawaii and the independence of Cuba, instead of a discussion and consideration of some measures of relief for our people in the United States. It is a true, it a true, saying that "Charity begins at home," and therefore Congress should seek first to give relief to our own country and people before it attempts to give relief to the Cubans and Hawaiians. But of course no one need expect any relief for the American people to be given by this Congress.

THE Raleigh *News and Observer* is to be congratulated (as are also its many readers) upon its greatly improved appearance. It is now printed on a new press, purchased at a cost of $7,500, and its appearance now is equal to the splendid editorial and other matter with which it delights its readers.

Ill Treatment of Convicts.

From the Raleigh News and Observer.

A guard at the convict camp on Caledonia farm, No. 2, writes as follows:

"The prisoners here are almost starving and they are brutally and inhumanly whipped. They are also suffering from exposure to the cold. Then there are a number of freedmen here, a place where such people do not belong.

"On Christmas day the superintendent and one of the prisoners was on a drunk and the superintendent knocked the prisoner dead with a stick, then he went for a doctor. The prisoner came near dying.

"W. R. Dixon and D. S. Russell have put upon whipping post. They have had too much work to whip convicts on. Dixon also goes to the field and whips the men with a long green switch from 30 to 40 lashes.

"[illegible] half drunk all the time. Steward, D. S. Russell, is half drunk all the time.

"We, the parole, are not treated properly and I never should have come to this number if I had known what I did. We hope the next legislature will do something for us. We are worse than the Dismal Swamp land.

"Some of the prisoners' friends are [illegible] from Winston the 19th to get a pardon for them."

We have been looking up on some of the matters referred to in the above letter and it is shown to be true. We shall have more to say in connection with the Penitentiary next week.

The News will gladly give space to your paper for the letter from the convict, if it is known who it is.

For obvious reasons the name of the writer of this letter is not given, though he requested that it be done. The letter is genuine and true.

Wake County's Treasurer.

From the Raleigh News and Observer.

[illegible]

The Alliance and Office Seekers.

From the Raleigh News and Observer.

At a recent meeting, in Raleigh, of a company of Alliancemen—the executive committee of the State Alliance, perhaps—a resolution was adopted urging the Alliance hereafter to pay more attention to strictly Alliance matters and less to partisan politics. All which suggests the idea that the farmers of the country lose the opportunity of their lives to improve their material condition when they allowed the office seekers to get into their organization and convert it into a political machine. If they had at the outset taken Dover's advice to kick the seat of the breeches and the rope of the neck and throw them out of the window and then organized the Alliance for the work which it was professedly organized to accomplish, it would be active today instead of dead, and the farmers would have more money in their pockets instead of the office seekers having it all, while the rank and file have nothing to show for the fees they paid except discontent of spirits, higher taxes and worse government.

The State's "Manure Pile."

From the Raleigh News and Observer.

The Bulletin, a monthly publication of the Agricultural Department, usually contains an article by the Commissioner of Agriculture. When capable men hold this important position, these articles are full of interest and value. The December Bulletin, which reached us January 24th, contained this paragraph:

"Owing to press of work, due to recent changes, the Commissioner of Agriculture is unable to find time to prepare anything for this issue of the Bulletin."

The "press of work" consists in drawing a salary. The "recent changes," disgraceful to the men who effected them, whereby the department created for the good of the farmers is made a dumping ground for incompetents in other departments, will be vigorously rebuked by right thinking farmers everywhere.

It is stated that of the four women now in the North Carolina university, one will be graduated with the class of 1898—Miss Salie Stockard. Miss Stockard will be the first woman who has ever enjoyed the distinction of receiving a diploma from the University of North Carolina.

Washington Letter.

From our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21, 1898.

The democrats in the House believe that Cuba deserves recognition at the hands of this government as the republicans whatever they may have voted this week to aid Spain, by a continuation of the disembarking policy. And in addition, Mr. Dingley, the Republican floor leader, admitted that the Cuban question was a partisan question. For, if the democratic party could not see for moving a campaign in Congress to bring them in a single week by their opponents. If the democrats get [illegible] who believe that [illegible] and duty of this country to aid the war in Cuba by all lawful means, they will get about twenty members of the entire vote of this country. Mr. Dingley can do no more opposition to doing anything to help Spain, for patriots upon whom he will depend for votes in his own district are [illegible] Congress has never [illegible] the House will have to do the same. But no more [illegible] do or say at once the cause of Spain, for today have done work more to bring down democratic majorities to the Congressional Republicans, declaring for recognition of Cuba by the government. In the [illegible] will be a holiday [illegible].

The [illegible] anxiety to help [illegible] the Treasury department [illegible] make that may give [illegible] Thursday [illegible] Senate [illegible] Senators who have an [illegible] have not yet received [illegible] number of letters [illegible] the treasury. Some of [illegible] opposed to [illegible] well.

The republicans did not [illegible] a caucus today. The old Senator Matthews resolution, declaring that U. S. bonds payable in silver [illegible] the option of the government, which was introduced by Senator Teller, pigeon holed. The Populists [illegible] has [illegible] to get [illegible] the resolution in the Senate and there is the slightest doubt that it will be adopted with a number of votes to spare when it is called upon, nor is there any doubt of its being pushed to a vote. It is in charge of Senator Vest.

The quarterly meeting of the executive Committee of the American Bimetallic Union was held in Washington this week, for the purpose of taking the preliminary steps for participation in the Congressional campaign of this year. Gen. A. J. Warner, of Ohio, tendered his resignation as President of the Union, on account of his bad health, but was persuaded to withdraw it on the promises of members of the committee that they would take up his work while he took a long rest and tried to regain his health. The committee will prepare and issue literature opposing the arguments put forward in support of the Gage currency bill. It will also issue a full and exhaustive reply to the report of the Indianapolis Currency Commission. The committee was also enlarged and now consists of one member from each State and Territory and the District of Columbia.

The election of a silver chairman and a silver secretary was the convincing answers of the Democratic Congressional campaign committee to the thousand and one tomfool stories that have been told about the possibility of its doing otherwise.

Reports to the Labor Commissioner show that 112,000,000 fish were caught in the State last year, valued at $1,800,000.

Mr. Job Smith, a young man living in Onslow county, was cutting rail timber, when the tree lodged, slipped and struck him on the head, killing him almost instantly.

The Devil in Church.

Bourbon, Ind., Jan. 18.—The Rev. Mr. Akin, pastor of the Flock of Bethel church, north of this city, concluded that his methods were too old-fashioned. He had read of real live sermons elsewhere, and determined to give his simple congregation something startling.

Unknown to the minister his son, George Akin, also decided to live up to his name in the church, and secretly secured his wild west costume.

Sunday night Rev. Mr. Akin took for his theme "His Satanic Majesty."

He was an eloquent man, and he painted the devil in a vivid color. He spoke for half an hour, and the congregation sat in breathless silence.

At the close of the meeting, he straightened a long, dressed in red, a devil, with [illegible] and [illegible] and [illegible] smoke [illegible] and [illegible].

"I am the devil," said all of a sudden.

[illegible]

Many women in the audience were [illegible] and [illegible] the door. [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] man, [illegible] and [illegible] the door. The [illegible] was [illegible] the door. [illegible] Akin [illegible] the door [illegible] the door [illegible] the door