The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1903

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

WE are pleased to notice very complimentary accounts published of the commencement exercises, last week, of the Slater normal and industrial school for colored youths at Winston. The annual literary address was delivered by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, who properly commended most highly the work being there done.

This school was established ten years ago and under the wise management of its principal has so prospered that it is the leading institution of its kind in this State. The principal is Prof. S. G. Atkins, who was born and reared at Haywood, in this county, and is one of the most respected colored men in North Carolina. The distinguished Dr. J. L. M. Curry publicly complimented him most highly when at Winston some time ago, declaring that he was the equal of Booker Washington in intellect and as an educator.

MARRIAGE is regarded in law as merely a civil contract between a man and woman. It is of course the most solemn and important contract that any man or woman can make, and yet, strange to say, it is the only binding or valid contract that can be made by a minor—by a person under the age of 21 years.

This most important of all civil contracts can be made, according to law, by males of sixteen years and by females of fourteen years of age. No other contract can be made, or at least would be binding, by any person under the age of twenty-one years. A youth of twenty years would not be bound by any other trade or contract he might make, but when only sixteen or a girl at fourteen can make the most important of all contracts, and be forever bound by the contract of marriage. Is this not a legal paradox?

GUILFORD county is to be congratulated upon having voted a bond issue of $300,000 for good roads. This is the largest amount ever voted at any election by the people of any county in this State for such a purpose. Mecklenburg county is the pioneer in good roads and has probably expended nearly that amount on her roads during several years past, but no such sum was voted at any one election.

With this $300,000 all the roads in Guilford can be macadamized and be put in splendid condition, and will be such a comfort and benefit that her citizens will never regret having voted this wise appropriation. They will realize the truth of the saying that a road tax is not as burdensome as a "mud tax," and we predict that other progressive counties will follow her good example.

ALTHOUGH there is no political campaign being waged this year in North Carolina and no political elections to be held, yet there have already been several and there will be many more elections which are of great importance. We refer to the local elections in behalf of schools, good roads and the prohibition or restriction of the liquor traffic.

Elections for these three objects will be held in many towns and counties this year, and if carried will be of great benefit to the communities in which they are held. All three objects are most desirable and any community voting in favor of them is to be congratulated. How much better off would every community be with increased school terms, better roads and less liquor?

THE friends of education should feel greatly encouraged with the progress and success of the educational campaign in this State. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction stated last week that there are now 110 districts in which a special school tax has been levied by a vote of the people and that elections are now pending in 20 other districts, and that 136 districts are considered favorable to local taxation. Educational rallies will be held in each of these 136 districts and a vigorous campaign will be waged.

A STATE temperance convention will be held at Raleigh on the 7th day of next July. Its object is the more thorough organization of the temperance advocates in this State for a great campaign which it is proposed to have next this year.

No rules are prescribed for delegates, but every temperance advocate will be welcomed as a delegate and it is hoped that there will be a full attendance.

New Orleans Expos[illegible]

New Orleans, May 18.—[illegible] hundred thousand visitors [illegible] her gates and most [illegible] every form. Houses [illegible] decorated [illegible] special charge and [illegible] on the way. Bands of music and [illegible] made it gay, parading [illegible] streets, the crash of music and the chorus of thousands [illegible] the thoroughfares that [illegible] in New Orleans [illegible] in the eve of the [illegible] and renewed [illegible] of the [illegible] ventures. Never in the history of the city has such [illegible] been made for the [illegible] and entertainment of [illegible] from abroad as have [illegible] this occasion [illegible] to the best [illegible] business men [illegible] and pleasure [illegible] to all who come [illegible] ask for aid. [illegible] the people [illegible] upon [illegible] [illegible] quarters [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] have [illegible] made [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]