

BATTLE OF THE CRATER.

Next Sunday is the 47th anniversary of the "Battle of the Crater," which was one of the most remarkable battles of the war, and was one of the few battles in which the men fought hand-to-hand using the bayonet and clubbing muskets. It is called the battle of the crater because of the explosion of a mine under the Confederate breastworks, that caused a large hole 125 feet in length, 97 in breadth and 30 feet in depth.

As heretofore stated, fighting began around Petersburg about the middle of June, 1864, and the Confederates had successfully repulsed all assaults made by the Federals, so that the latter determined to attempt other methods of breaking the Confederate lines. Accordingly it was decided to dig a tunnel under the ground from the Federal breastworks, where the two were not far apart, and to blow up the Confederate works by placing a large quantity of powder and exploding it under the fortifications.

The place selected for the explosion was under Pegram's salient, about 140 yards distant from the Federal breastworks, and about a mile southeast of the old Blandford church, on the eastern suburbs of Petersburg. Accordingly a tunnel (or gallery, as it was called,) was dug 510 feet long and then at the end under the Confederate works two more galleries were dug extending out on each side, one 37 and the other 38 feet long. In this mine 320 bags of powder were placed, making a total of 8,000 pounds. This mine or tunnel was dug by members of the 48th Pennsylvania regiment who were experienced miners from that State.

While of course the Confederates could not know exactly where the Federals were mining, or digging tunnels, yet they suspected that it was being done just where it was done and therefore they dug or sunk two shafts in their works where they suspected the Federals were digging, but these two shafts did not quite reach the Federal tunnels. Every night the Confederates were fearing just such an explosion as did finally occur and slept with the dread of being blown up any minute.

The time selected for the explosion was 3:30 o'clock on the morning of July the 30th, 1864, and many thousand troops were ready to rush into the Confederate works as soon as the explosion had blown them up and then have an easy time in capturing Petersburg. The Federal troops were in readiness awaiting the explosion and the Confederates were resting in safety as they thought. At the designated time there was no explosion and the Federals were becoming impatient and uneasy at the delay. Finally volunteers were called for to go into the tunnel and see why the powder had not exploded. This was a most hazardous undertaking, for if the explosion should take place while the volunteer was in the tunnel of course he would be blown into atoms. Sergeant Henry Reese, of the 48th Pennsylvania regiment, who was an experienced miner, was selected for this dangerous task and he bravely entered the tunnel and found that the fuse had gone out, which had been lighted to fire the powder. He lighted it again and returned in safety to his command, and his feat is deserving of praise from everybody who admires courage and self-sacrifice.

The explosion occurred at 4:45 o'clock, one hour and a quarter after the time first designated, and when day was dawning. That part of the Confederate works, under which the explosion occurred, was occupied by Pegram's battery of four cannon and parts of the 18th and 22nd South Carolina regiments, of whom 278 were killed or wounded by the explosion, which burst like a volcano, upheaving tons of earth and timbers which crushed or buried the ill-fated Confederates without a moment's warning. The plan of the Federals

was to rush into the Confederate works as soon as the explosion took place and then rapidly advance to the crest of a ridge about 500 yards in the direction of Petersburg, and then the capture of that city would be easy.

The long delay in the explosion had somewhat deranged the plans of the Federals, and so when it did occur they did not advance as promptly as they had intended, and when they did advance and occupy the hole made by the explosion (now called the crater) they remained there for an hour instead of rushing forward, and during this fatal delay the Confederates had rushed to the rescue and poured a most deadly fire upon the mass of men huddled in the crater. Re-enforcements by the thousand came from the Federal lines but they too could or did not advance any farther. Finally a large number of white and colored troops attempted to charge the Confederates, but they were driven back in such confusion that their own official reports spoke of them as a "disorganized rabble." Before 10 o'clock orders were issued for the Federals in the crater to withdraw, but the space between the lines was so swept by the Confederate fire that it was more dangerous to withdraw than to remain there. At 2 o'clock the Confederates re-took the crater and captured all the Federals who had not previously escaped, and thus ended most disastrously to the Federals their attempt to capture Petersburg by a mine explosion.

The Federals were so disappointed at their unsuccessful effort that they had a court-martial to investigate "the facts and circumstances attending the unsuccessful assault on the 30th of July." Gen. Hancock was the president of that court, and they censured the general officers for their improper handling of their troops, and especially Generals Ledlie and Ferrero who had sought safety in a bombproof instead of by their personal efforts endeavoring to lead their troops forward. Gen. Meade, in his official report, asked that Gen. Burnside, who had command of all the troops engaged, be relieved from his command because of his disastrous failure.

In this battle the Confederates, although taken at such a disadvantage, fought with the utmost courage, not surpassed during the entire war. Although shocked and surprised by the terrible explosion the Confederates rallied promptly and fought with most stubborn bravery, and drove back the greatly superior numbers of the enemy. The Federal losses, as reported by Gen. Meade, were 4,400, of whom about 2,000 were prisoners, and the Confederate loss was 922, including those who had been blown up by the explosion. The Federals suffered greatly while huddled in the crater, exposed not only to the deadly fire of the Confederates but to the blistering heat of the July sun and parting for water.

Next morning, at the request of the Federals, there was a truce of four hours for them to bury their dead lying between the lines and to remove the wounded. Among the Confederate troops in this battle were Ransom's brigade and the 61st regiment from this State, all of whom fully sustained the well-earned reputation of our gallant Tar-Heels. This was the last and only attempt on the part of the Federals to capture our works around Petersburg by an explosion and sudden surprise.

The crater is now enclosed and an admission fee is charged by its owner to see it, and hundreds of visitors from the North and South have been there since the war to see it, for it is now the most interesting spot around Petersburg.

A MOST stormy and disorderly scene was enacted in the British House of Commons on last Monday, the like of which has rarely been witnessed even in our sometimes turbulent House of Representatives. The Prime Minister of Great Britain could not speak because of the jeers and hootings hurled at him while attempting to make a speech explanatory of the government's position on the veto bill. This is said to have been the first time in its history that the House of Commons refused to listen to a speech by the Prime Minister.

N. C. TROOPS PRAISED.

Who would ever have thought that a Republican Senator from far-away Montana would make a speech in the United States Senate praising and glorying in the courage and heroism of our North Carolina soldiers at the battle of Gettysburg? And yet that was done on last Thursday, and was well done at that, by Senator Joseph M. Dixon, now of Montana, but who was born and reared in that part of this county that was attached to Alamance county by the Fusion Legislature of 1895.

From the official records Senator Dixon showed that in the celebrated charge at Gettysburg, mis-called "Pickett's" charge, there were fourteen regiments of Virginia troops and fifteen regiments of North Carolinians, and that the latter suffered a greater loss in killed and wounded. He also corrected some of the errors made by certain histories in reference to the part borne by Virginians and North Carolinians respectively in that noted battle.

The readers of THE RECORD will remember the letter from Senator Dixon published in this paper in 1907, when he contributed so liberally towards the erection of the Confederate monument at this place, in which he expressed his admiration for the bravery of our soldiers and his desire to commemorate their heroism.

THE senatorial controversy is waxing warmer and warmer, and a good deal of bitterness is being aroused, just as was predicted by THE RECORD some months ago when deprecating any agitation of the senatorial contest before next year. In this controversy among good Democrats THE RECORD will not take part and will do nothing tending to disturb party harmony. We regard the success of the party above the success of any aspirant and we therefore will not jeopardize that success by aiding in the creation of party dissensions and differences.

THE Canadian reciprocity bill, that passed the Senate last Saturday, is claimed as both a Republican and a Democratic measure. It originated with a Republican administration and was earnestly urged by the Republican President, and yet its passage is due to the Democrats, for a large majority of them voted for it and a majority of the Republicans voted against it. No doubt each party will claim the credit of all benefits that may accrue from it, and blame the other party for all the disappointments it may bring.

A Splendid Achievement.

With its usual spirit of enterprise, the Charlotte Observer issued Wednesday, July 26th a special edition of about 100 pages telling the story of the present condition and future possibilities of the territory of the two Carolinas between Greenwood, S. C., and Durham, N. C. It is the story of staff correspondents and regular agents of the Observer at the regular price of 5 cents. Wrapped copies will be sent by mail postpaid from the Observer office in Charlotte to any address in the world for 10 cents each. News dealers and agents should send their orders early. No matter where your friends live or address with remittance of 10 cents for each copy to the Circulation Department, The Observer Company, Charlotte, N. C.

Cotton Crop Promising.

Memphis, Tenn., July 23.—The Commercial-Appeal tomorrow will say:

The cotton crop grew and developed in a normal way during the week in the two Carolinas, Georgia and all States west of the Mississippi river and in Tennessee. In Mississippi and Alabama there are complaints of excessive rainfall, but the damage appears to have been slight and such will be easily overcome with fair weather. The plant has grown rapidly, but generally taking on fruit also. Continued excess of rainfall might cause excessive growth at the expense of fruitage so that dry weather east of the Mississippi river is desirable.

General and copious rains have caused marked revival of the plant in Texas and Oklahoma and the outlook is decidedly more promising. Sufficient rain for the present has fallen in these States.

Noted Blind Tiger Sentenced.

Durham, July 22.—L. S. Rochelle, father-in-law of B. L. Dnke, was this afternoon sentenced to a term of six months in the Durham county prison for violating the North Carolina prohibition law by retailing whiskey.

Rochelle claimed to be conducting a feed and grocery store, but a raid of the place by the police disclosed the presence of several hundred gallons of whiskey. Every effort was made to have the sentence changed to a fine; which the defendant's son-in-law would have paid but the judge refused and Rochelle was sentenced along with a number of negro tiger proprietors.

Escaped With His Life.

"Twenty-one years ago I faced an awful death," writes H. B. Martin, Port Harrelson, S. C. "Doctors said I had consumption and the dreadful cough I had looked like it, sure enough. I tried everything I could hear of for my cough and was under treatment of the best doctor in Georgetown, S. C., for a year, but could get no relief. A friend advised me to try Dr. King's New Discovery. I did so, and was completely cured. I feel that I owe my life to this great throat and lung cure." It's positively guaranteed for coughs, colds and all bronchial affections. 50c and \$1. Trial bottle free at G. R. Pilkington.

Arizona and New Mexico, the two remaining territories within the boundaries of the United States, are destined to wait until another Congress meets before they can expect Statehood. Neither one of them will be admitted to the Union during the present extra session.

Sprains require careful treatment. Keep quiet and apply Chamberlain's Liniment. It will remove the soreness and quickly restore the parts to a healthy condition. For sale by all dealers.

Six deaths in New York and one in Boston of victims of Asiatic cholera give warning that the United States is seriously menaced by the plague which is so serious in Italy.

A Peek in His Pocket

would show the box of Bucklen's Arnica Salve that E. S. Loper, a carpenter, of Marilla, N. Y., always carries. "I have never had a cut, wound, bruise or sore it would not soon heal," he writes. Greatest healer of burns, boils, scalds, chapped hands and lips, fever sores, skin eruptions, eczema, corns or piles. 25c at G. R. Pilkington's.

The increase in tax values in Wake county, exclusive of corporations, under the reassessments just completed, is about \$7,000,000, so that the total property assessment is about \$24,000,000.

Parsons Poems a Gem.

From Rev. H. Stubenvoil, Allison, Iowa, in praise of Dr. King's New Life Pills. "They're such a health necessity. In every home these pills should be. If other kinds you've tried in vain, USE DR. KING'S. And he will again. Only 25c at G. R. Pilkington's.

The new assessment of taxable values in Alamance county shows an increase over last year's assessment of approximately \$1,027,000.

Never leave home on a journey without a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. It is almost certain to be needed and cannot be obtained when on board the cars or steamships. For sale by all dealers.

Randolph will have a county fair at Asheboro October 31 to November 3rd.

Kill More Than Wild Beasts.

The number of people killed yearly by wild beasts don't approach the vast number killed by disease germs. No life is safe from their attacks. They're in air, water, dust, even food. But grand protection is afforded by Electric Bitter, which destroy and expel these deadly disease germs from the system. That's why chills, fever and ague, all malarial and many blood diseases yield promptly to this wonderful blood purifier. Try them, and enjoy the glorious health and strength they'll give you. Money back if not satisfied. Only 50c at G. R. Pilkington's.

Canada is in such need of farm hands that the Immigration Department is advertising in 7,000 newspapers in the Dominion, the United States and Great Britain for workers; and yet in New York there are men that can't find work and have no money to go where it is plenty.

AN OLD ADAGE SAYS

"A light purse is a heavy curse." "Sickness makes a light purse." "THE LIVER is the seat of nine tenths of all disease."

Tutt's Pills go to the root of the whole matter, thoroughly, quickly satisfy and restore the action of the LIVER to normal condition.

Give tone to the system and solid flesh to the body. Take No Substitute.

Flour Quickly Made.

Beloit, Kan., July 22.—Two miles from here lives W. S. Gagle, a farmer, who has piping hot biscuits ready to eat made from wheat that was standing grain just thirty minutes before.

His header was driven into the wheat field at 3:14 o'clock. One minute later the wheat in the straw was at the separator. A quantity was threshed, loaded into the farmer's automobile, and at 3:23 was at the mill. Six minutes saw the wheat come out as flour, and a minute later the automobile delivered the flour at the down-town bakery.

Fourteen minutes later at 3:42, the biscuits were taken from the oven, baked and ready to eat.

Alfalfa Good for Man.

Hot Springs, S. Dak., July 23.—A request is likely to be made for another clerk to help handle the mail that is coming to Mark Rich, the rancher who announced that alfalfa is good for man as well as beast.

The announcement has brought inquiries from every State, and he is swamped with letters for information and for samples, some of them inclosing money.

Rich has met this demand by organizing a company to put alfalfa on the market as tea and as breakfast food.

President Taft's announcement at Manassas that France has joined in the peace pact and that three other Powers were about to do the same gives gratifying evidence of the growth of the peace sentiment among the leading nations of the world.

Happiest Girl in Lincoln.

A Lincoln, Neb., girl writes, "I had been ailing for some time with chronic constipation and stomach trouble. I began taking Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets and in three days I was able to be up and get better right along. I am the proudest girl in Lincoln to find such a good medicine." For sale by all dealers.

DR. JULIUS SHAFFER

OPTOMETRIST, Registered and Licensed by Board of State, Member State and National Association of Opticians, will be in

PITTSBORO, AT THE EX-LINE HOUSE. TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1 AND 2, AND AT BYNUM THE 3D.

for the purpose of examining the various refractive deficiencies the eye is subject to and fitting glasses. Dr. Shaffer is well known to our readers, therefore needs no further recommendations.

Coffins and Caskets

A full stock of Coffins and Caskets always on hand and sold at all prices. All kinds and sizes.

B. Nooe, Pittsboro, N. C.

CUT FLOWERS.

WEDDING BOUQUETS, FUNERAL DESIGNS.

PALMS, FERNS, BLOOMING PLANTS, CABBAGE

AND TOMATO PLANTS

All orders given prompt attention. M. J. MCPHAIL, Florist, Sanford, N. C.

LAND SALE.—By virtue of an order of the Superior Court rendered in the cause therein pending entitled, "R. L. Ward and others, vs. J. J. Riggsbee and others," I will, on Saturday, the 26th day of July 1911, at the court-house door in Pittsboro, N. C., sell to the highest bidder a tract of land in Baldwin township, Chatham county, North Carolina, bounded on the north by the lands of Net Kirby and J. L. Heaney; on the east by Net Kirby and Savannah C. Ward; on the south by the lands of J. M. Burnett and R. W. Hanks heirs, and on the west by the lands of Tom Pace and wife, Florence Pace, containing 143 acres, more or less.

Terms of sale: One-half cash, balance in 6 months, deferred payments to bear interest at the reserved rate till the purchase money is paid. This June 27th, 1911. R. H. HAYES, Commissioner. Hayes & Bynum, Attorneys

BINGHAM, Asheville, N. C., has prepared BOOKS for College and for Christian. A state citizenship for 10 years, and ASSESSOR in the U. S. office a question, is not confined to the press of ONE STORY, but covers, especially, a complete FIRE WALL, and the 125¢ for Health, Religion, and Education and Safety, and the 1912 Send for Catalogue or come and see. COL. A. BINGHAM, Capt. R. F. B. No. 1733

East Carolina Teachers' Training School. A State school to train teachers for the public schools of North Carolina. Every energy is directed to this one purpose. Tuition free to all who agree to teach. Fall term begins September 26, 1911. For catalogue and other information, address: ROBT. H. WRIGHT, President, Greenville, N. C.

A Typewriter That Means Something. Blindfold yourself. Have ten typewriters, of different make, placed in a row—a Monarch somewhere among them. Try each keyboard in turn. The machine with the highest touch will be the Monarch Light. and you can locate it every time, no matter how its position be changed. Just as the proper touch produces the best work, so does a responsive key action increase the efficiency of a stenographer. MONTHLY PAYMENTS. Monarch Machines may be purchased on the Monthly Payment Plan. Send for Monarch literature. Learn the many reasons for Monarch superiority. A postcard will bring full information. DURHAM BOOK AND STATIONERY COMPANY, 112 West Main Street, Durham, N. C.

VACATION OUTING The Glorious Mountains —OF— WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

"The Land of the Sky" "The Sapphire Country" "The Balsams" Where there is health in every breath. The climate is perfect the year round. In Spring and Summer the Region is Ideal. REACHED BY The Southern Railway

SUMMER TOURIST TICKETS ON SALE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30th, 1911. Let Your Ideas and Wishes be Known.

J. H. WOOD, D. P. A., Asheville, N. C. R. H. DeBUTTS, T. P. A., Charlotte, N. C. J. O. JONES, T. P. A., Raleigh, N. C.

Exchange the Farm. You don't want for the CASH you do through the World's Largest Farm Agency. Thousands of sales everywhere prove right methods. No advance fee required. Ask our agent today for free listing blanks. E. A. STROUT COMPANY Boston New York Philadelphia Pittsburg Chicago

H. H. JORDAN, District Agent, JORDAN, N. C. Call Siler City, N. C.

The North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, The State's Industrial College.

Four-year courses in Agriculture; in Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering; in Industrial Chemistry; in Cotton Manufacturing and Dyeing. Two-year courses in Mechanical Arts and in Textile Art. One-year course in Agriculture. These courses are both practical and scientific. Examinations for admission are held at all county seats on July 15. For catalogue address THE REGISTRAR, West Raleigh, N. C.

The North Carolina State Normal and Industrial College. Maintained by the State for the Women of North Carolina. Five regular courses leading to degrees. Special courses for teachers. Free tuition to those who agree to become teachers in the State. Fall session begins September 13, 1911. For catalogue and other information address JULIUS E. FOUST, President, Greensboro, N. C.

COMMISSIONER'S SALE OF LAND.—Under and by virtue of the power of sale conferred upon me, and under the order of the Superior Court of Chatham county, in the special proceedings therein pending, entitled L. N. Womble, administrator of J. S. Collier vs. Mrs. Willie Collier et als, the undersigned commissioner will sell for cash to the highest bidder, at the court-house door in Pittsboro, N. C., on the 13th day of August, 1911, at 12 o'clock in the forenoon, the following described lands in Centre township, Chatham county, N. C., and bounded as follows, to-wit: Beginning at a dogwood, the old mill road, Harris' corner, running thence west 54 poles to a stone pile, thence south 40 poles to a stone pile with white oak pointers; thence west 50 poles to a stone pile; thence north 40 poles; thence west 14 poles; thence 44 poles to a stone; thence north 49 poles to a stone; thence east 4 poles to a post oak; thence south 50 poles to a post oak; thence down said road to the beginning, containing fifty acres, more or less.

Second tract, beginning at a rock in Collier's line, running north 35 yards; thence west 10 yards; thence south 35 yards; thence east to the beginning, containing one acre, more or less. This July 13th, 1911. R. H. DIXON, Commissioner.