

THE RALEIGH REGISTER.

J. C. L. HARRIS, Editor.]

"Ours are the plans of fair delightful peace—unwarped by party rage to live like brothers."

[W. M. BROWN, Publisher.]

VOLUME I.

RALEIGH, THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1878.

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The Weekly Register.

The demand for silver is decreasing. W. B. Allison has been re-elected Senator by the Iowa Legislature.

Cleopatra's needle is now in the Thames river and will soon be erected in the city of London.

The entire population in line of the Russian march from Adrianople to Constantinople, are fleeing to the latter city.

The Kentucky Legislature has passed a bill calling a convention to revise the Constitution of that State.

Charges of bribery have been preferred by Gen. M. W. Gray against Chief Justice Willard of South Carolina. A committee of investigation has been appointed.

Messrs. Bradley T. Johnson and W. G. Hinton, two noted Virginia politicians indulged in a fistfight in Richmond the other day. Both wanted to fight a duel but were prevented by their friends.

Senators Hill, of Georgia, and Lamar, of Mississippi, are opposed to the re-remonetization of silver. The chambers of Commerce of New Orleans, Savannah and Charleston, have adopted resolutions sustaining the position taken by Messrs. Hill and Lamar.

Senator Blaine introduced a bill in the Senate on Wednesday last, providing for the re-remonetization of a silver dollar, the number of grains in each dollar to be regulated by the director of the mint from time to time in order to make it of the value of a gold dollar. The legal tender value of the silver dollar is to continue for five years.

A Russian official dispatch from Kazanlik, January 19, says Gen. Gourko fought Suleiman Pasha from the 15th to 18th instant. The Turks were finally driven into the Rhodope mountains. Their loss was 4,000 killed and 3,000 prisoners. Forty-nine guns were also captured.

There are said to be three-hundred thousand refugees in Constantinople. The greatest distress prevails. People are dying from hunger and cold in great numbers. Austria has given her consent for Russia to occupy Constantinople. The feeling between England and Russia has grown more conservative; it is now probable that Russia will not be interfered with, and that she will dictate peace from the Turkish capital.

Republican and Democratic members of Congress, who are in favor of the repeal of the resumption act and the re-remonetization of silver, held a caucus in Washington on Monday last and adopted a resolution setting forth the purpose of the organization was confined to the repeal of the resumption act and the re-remonetization of silver. Gen. B. F. Butler, of Massachusetts, was a leading spirit in the meeting.

The South Carolina supreme court has decided that circuit judges in that State must be elected by ballot instead of viva voce. This ousts all the circuit judges elected prior to 1877 by the Republican legislature, and retains Kershaw and Wallace, elected last year by the Democrats. It was a constitutional question, involving the construction of the word "ballot." The supreme court divided, Associate Justices McIver and Haskell agreeing that a ballot was required. Chief Justice Willard dissenting in favor of viva voce, which was uniformly practiced by the Republicans. When the decision was announced Judge Townsend immediately adjourned the circuit court at Columbia.

JOINING ISSUE.

One of the best things that could be adopted is to "make the payment of poll tax an indispensable prerequisite to the right to vote." The sooner this is adopted the better.—*Oxford Torchlight*.

The next Republican State Convention will take ground for the abolition of the poll tax. We want no dodging; if the Democratic party are opposed to this measure, let them speak out in their State Convention and say so. Fear of the people and not opposition to the measure from principle, prevented the last Legislature from submitting an amendment to the Constitution making the payment of the tax on the poll a prerequisite to voting. We are satisfied that the Democratic party are in favor of this measure as an additional qualification for voters. Whether that party has the courage to express its honest conviction upon the question, is a matter of doubt. We hope the advice of *The Torchlight* will be adopted, so that the issue upon this question may be made up at once. If the majority of the voters of this State express themselves in favor of continuing the poll tax and of making the payment thereof, a prerequisite to voting, we shall cheerfully submit to such decision. The everlasting negro question having been eliminated from the politics of the South, the attention of the people will now be directed to State issues of this kind.

CONTEMPTIBLE.

The personal allusions to the Editor of this paper as an argument against abolishing the poll tax, may be proper in discussing this question and may carry conviction to the minds of the people; so far as we are concerned they are simply contemptible. We know that we possess the confidence and esteem of the people without regard to party among whom we live; we know that every member of the Bar who has any knowledge of the Halifax poll tax cases, never believed for a moment that we were actuated by any other motive than to perform our sworn duty fearlessly and impartially. Conscious of this fact both by personal assurance and by the acts of the legal profession and by the people with whom we come in contact, the personal assaults herein referred to, have only excited loathing and contempt for the creatures who have exhibited these sleuth-hound traits.

DEMAGOGISM.

"Loge's move is a demagogical attempt to relieve the negroes from paying any tax at all to defray expenses of the government. They pay little besides poll tax, which by law is appropriated to the school and pauper purposes. If the poll tax is abolished the free school system in the State is at an end.

Radical sheriffs will be opposed to the abolition of the poll tax, as one great opportunity for speculation under the head of "insolvents" will be taken from them.—*Oxford Free Lance*.

Our reasons for advocating the abolition of the tax on the poll are as follows: I. The tax is unjust. Citizens between the ages of twenty-one and fifty years are required to pay a poll tax, simply and solely because they breathe the air which is free to all.

II. The State is bound to protect its citizens; neither riches nor poverty alter this obligation. Property owners have something tangible upon which taxes are assessed, levied and collected. For this reason they have a right to demand ample protection from the commonwealth. There are thousands of men in North Carolina who are not possessed of property to the value of one dollar. These men are citizens and are entitled to the same rights and privileges which are guaranteed to all the citizens of North Carolina, without regard to race, color, previous condition of servitude, riches or poverty. Poverty is a misfortune—not a crime. The life and liberty of the poorest man in the State are as sacred and as much entitled to protection as the greatest and most powerful citizen in the State. This protection is vouchsafed not account of wealth or poverty, but because of citizenship. If this be so, upon what grounds can a tax on the poll be justified? The fact that the tax on the poll is not exacted after the citizen has reached the age fifty years, is an argument against the tax. Property never ceases to pay taxes. Why then should men who are neither poor nor infirm, be exempted from the payment of taxes on the poll after they reach a certain age and not make the same exemption as to property owned by people who are over fifty years of age?

III. Of the two hundred and thirty thousand voters in this State, only one hundred and fifty thousand list their polls for taxation; of the latter number only one hundred thousand pay poll tax. Owners of property are compelled to pay poll tax. Men who own no property can not be made to pay poll tax. To collect this tax from men who can be made to pay and allow the majority who are assessed with this tax, to go free and not pay the same, is unjust, and renders the burden of taxation unequal.

For these and other reasons heretofore given, we say abolish the poll tax, and leave the State, counties and municipal corporations to obtain their revenue from real and personal property.

Free to every Reader of this Paper.

In order to introduce the Diamond Spring Wheat in this section, I will send a small package of sample grains, with special terms to agents, and my Seed Catalogue for 1878, free of charge to every reader of this paper on receipt of a three-cent stamp to pay postage. The Diamond Wheat is the largest in the world. It grows and matures in any climate in the United States. The grains average nearly one-half inch in length. One grain produces from 25 to 35 stalks, with heads averaging from 7 to 9 inches, and each head containing about 40 grains. Address W. S. Trron, Seedsman, Cleveland, Tennessee.

The Supreme Court.

We are indebted to *The News* of this city for the following digest of opinions as filed on Monday last:

1. *State ex rel. Cluman v. Staton*. Where suit on a guardian bond is brought in a different county from the one where the guardian resides and gave his guardian bond, it is error to allow defendant's motion to dismiss. The proper motion is to remove to the proper county, and if neither party makes such motion, possibly the Court might remove it *ex mero motu*. On failure to take steps to remove, the defendant can not object to going on with the trial.

2. *Paige v. Price*. Where an affidavit for arrest and bail stated "all the statements contained in the complaint are true to the best of affiant's knowledge, information and belief;" and the complaint specified which facts were averred upon knowledge and which rested upon information and belief, *Held*: that the affidavit was sufficient under the statute.

3. *Bernard, Admr. v. Johnston*. A motion for a new trial upon the ground that the finding of the jury was against the weight of evidence, there having been no objection to the admission of any evidence nor to any part of his honor's charge, it is in the discretion of the court below and is not reviewable here.

4. *State v. Smallwood*. I. The counsel offered to read a portion of the Supreme Court opinion, delivered in a former appeal, containing a statement of some of the facts; this being refused, the counsel offered to read the whole opinion. The Court refused this also, offering to permit the counsel to read any proposition of law decided by the Supreme Court in this or any other case, *Held*: No error.

II. Three of the jurors next day having filed an affidavit that they did not believe the prisoner guilty, and only assented to the verdict upon an understanding that he would be recommended for mercy and would not be hanged, and the Court refused to set aside the verdict, *Held*: No error.

III. Where a motion is made in the court below to set aside a verdict on the ground of improper conduct on the part of the jurors, which motion is founded on affidavits, the Court here will not look into the affidavits. The facts must be ascertained by the Court below, and spread on the record.

(1) If the motion is based not on the misconduct, but the mistake of the jury, the Supreme Court can not take notice of such mistake whether they find against the facts or the law, as their jurisdiction is confined to matters of law adjudged below and those they are to find in the record. This Court corrects errors of law committed by the Court below, not by the jury.

(2) Misconduct of the jury to impeach their verdict must be proven by other evidence than their own.

5. *State vs. Lane*. The plea of former acquittal is a mixed plea of law and fact and it must always be left to a jury under instructions from the court to pass upon the fact whether the offence charged against the defendant on trial is identical with one for which he was formerly tried. The State following the settled rule of law cannot appeal from any action of the Inferior Court, except (1.) Where the court has given judgment for the defendant on a special verdict. (2.) Where it has given a like judgment upon a demurrer to an indictment, or on a motion to quash.

Where in a misdemeanor on the court withdrew the plea of former acquittal from the jury, and sustaining it, discharged the jury, *Quere*, Whether defendant can be tried hereafter.

The Western District.

It is given out that the bill introduced by Congressman Waddell of this State, to abolish the Western judicial district will receive the recommendation of the Judiciary Committee that it do pass. There is now a large number of gentlemen in Washington for the purpose of protesting against the passage of the bill. These gentlemen were heard by the Judiciary Committee on yesterday. It is more than probable that the bill will pass the House, as it has become a party measure with the Democrats. We are not informed of the position of Senators Merimon and Ransom upon this question. We doubt the passage of the bill by the Senate.

Popular Monthly.

"The United States Life-saving Service," liberally illustrated; "The City of Mexico," with twenty different engravings; "The Artificial Production of Gold," with a dozen good pictures; "From Stone Hammer to Breech-loader," illustrated with about forty good engravings, are some of the brilliant and highly instructive articles contained in FRANK LESLIE'S POPULAR MONTHLY for February, now ready. In addition there are a number of excellent Short Stories by popular authors; the continuation of "THE AMERICAN COUNTESS," by ERRA W. PIERSON; a beautiful chromo frontispiece, illustrating a Parisian marriage *fete* of eighty years ago, with interesting descriptive matter; Scientific Notes, and so forth, in almost endless variety.

Each number of the POPULAR MONTHLY has 128 pages quarto, and 100 very interesting illustrations. It is without doubt the cheapest and one of the best and most popular magazines published in the English language.

Send in your subscriptions to begin with the January number, and commence the new volume, as also the new serial story, "THE AMERICAN COUNTESS."

Annual subscription price, \$3; single copies, 25 cents—postpaid. Address, Frank Leslie, 537 Pearl Street, New York.

Report of the Claims Commission.

We are indebted to Gov. C. H. Brogden, member of Congress from 2d District, for the following information gathered from the seventh general report of the U. S. Claim Commission, which was presented in the House of Representatives, second session of the 45th Congress, December 6th, 1877. It shows the amounts of claims allowed by said Commission to claimants in North Carolina, as follows:

Mary Allved,	\$125 00
Wiley Barrow,	450 00
Peter Best,	140 00
George B. Bliven,	650 00
William Brown,	2,000 00
Eli G. Burton,	150 00
John Carson,	480 00
Willis Cole,	2,875 00
William L. Edwards,	125 00
Thomas L. Hall,	900 00
Johd Herring, Sr.,	660 00
Marsden Holden,	413 00
Lightfoot W. Hoyle,	300 00
A. G. Hunsucker,	140 00
Elizabeth Jolly,	125 00
John Jones,	125 00
Newton E. Jones,	150 00
Henry Ledbetter,	400 00
Thomas McLane,	136 00
James P. Mason,	470 00
John Mercer,	455 00
William Merrick,	250 00
Thomas Morgan,	145 00
Rachel S. Nick,	125 00
Mordecai Parish,	360 00
Samuel D. Pope,	125 00
Archibald Porter,	212 60
Robert Reeves,	1,706 00
Caleb Sloop,	165 00
Frances Snelling, widow of William Snelling,	747 00
Julia Steward,	175 00
Wiley D. Sutherland, administrator of Moses Taylor,	485 00
William R. Sutton,	560 00
William Teague,	250 00
Silas Vernoy,	450 00
James Watts,	150 00
Bazil H. Wright,	140 00

Before these claims can be paid, it remains for Congress to pass upon them, and make the necessary appropriation.

Green B. Raum, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, has issued the following circular to Collectors:

"Collectors are hereby informed that it has been decided to prepare all registered stamps for tobacco in denominations of ten, twenty, thirty, forty, fifty and sixty pounds; each stamp to have nine coupons attached, each coupon representing the tax upon one pound of tobacco, so that where manufacturers desire so to do they can cover any package containing not less than ten nor more than seventy pounds with one stamp and the coupons attached. The new stamps will be issued by this office as fast as supplies of the different denominations of the old-issue stamps are exhausted. It is estimated that the stock on hand of stamps of the denominations of 15 pounds, 21 pounds, and 29 pounds will be exhausted from sixty to ninety days."

Judge Henry—Edgecombe Court.

This gentleman was in Wilmington on Tuesday last. We presume he is on his way to Edgecombe where he will hold court commencing next Monday.

Poll Tax Delinquents.

The commissioners of New Hanover county are vigorously prosecuting all persons who failed to list their polls for taxation during the year 1877.

STATE NEWS.

PERSONAL RECOUNT.—Sheriff Larkirk got into a difficulty the other day with a man named Rook about taxes, when the son of Rook cut the Sheriff twice in the back.—*Weldon News*.

MILL BURNED.—On Wednesday night last the valuable grist mill of Mr. S. W. Dowtin was burnt to the ground. This was a valuable piece of property, and its destruction will entail great loss and inconvenience to the community.—*Warrenton Gazette*.

COTTON FACTORY.—We are glad to note at our cotton factory, that a goodly portion of the machinery is already running and giving employment to upwards of twenty operatives, male and female, and that more hands will be employed as soon as the balance of the machinery is put in working order.—*Newbernian*.

DIRECTORY VACANCY FILLED.—We are glad to announce that Jesse G. Kennedy, Esq., of Lenoir county, has been commissioned by Gov. Vance a Director of the Atlantic & North Carolina Railroad to fill the vacancy recently occasioned by the death of the late Mr. J. M. Parrott.—*Newbernian*.

RESIDENCE BURNED.—We learn from the Boynton papers that Col. T. F. Goode had the misfortune to lose his residence, in that place, by fire, on Tuesday night of last week. The cause of the fire is not stated. A considerable amount of silverware and jewelry was also lost. The loss is estimated at \$5,000. Insured in Va. Fire Marine Insurance Co.—*Torchlight*.

SUDDEN DEATH.—Mr. John Stott, a worthy citizen of the Old Fields Township, died suddenly of heart disease on Monday, the 7th inst. Mr. Stott had gone out as usual to feed his stock, and was attacked on his return to the house, and when found, life was extinct. He was a brother of Messrs. Henry and Aley Scott, and was highly esteemed as an honest, upright citizen.—*Wilson Advance*.

SEIZURE.—On Friday night last Deputies Jno. W. Betts and C. M. Rogers, and special Deputies Jno. C. Gorman, Wm. H. Hughes, and L. A. Moore, made a raid on a whiskey still about 14 miles from this place. It was run by Tinsley Oakley, at the same place one was seized some time ago. Oakley made his escape. There was very little whiskey on hand. Not being able to procure vehicles, the stills—two in number—were cut up and destroyed.—*Torchlight*.

LAW SCHOOL.—Judge Dick and Mr. Dillard, it is said have agreed to open a law school at this place. About two years ago Judge Pearson made all arrangements to move his law school to Greensboro and had associated with him Judges Dick and Settle and Mr. Dillard. The condition of Judge Pearson's health at that time prevented the consummation of this plan. The fine climate, healthful situation and cheap living in Greensboro would make this an admirable place for a law school.—*New State*.

REVENUE RAID.—Capt E. R. Page, Deputy Collector at Large of the Second District of North Carolina, has just returned from an extended trip through the counties of Northampton, Halifax, Bertie, Martin, Edgecombe, Pitt, Green, Lenoir and Jones, where he has been looking to the interest of the revenue service of the district, or in common parlance, where he has made several seizures of fraudulent tobacco, but says the attempts to violate the revenue laws now are less frequent than he has ever known heretofore.—*Newbern Nut Shell*.

HANGED.—Arden Nelson was executed on Friday the 18th at Plymouth, N. C., for the brutal murder of John Webb, at Merry Hill, Bertie county, on the 20th of April last, for the sole purpose of robbing the store in which Webb was a clerk. About two thousand people were present, and the condemned man was escorted to the scaffold by Sheriff Sprull, of Plymouth, Sheriff Bell, of Bertie, and Rev. H. G. Hilton, of the Episcopal Church. Nelson made a dying speech of one hour in length, exonerating all confederates, asking forgiveness, and declaring his punishment just. He died in eleven minutes, and was buried in the jail-yard.

THE LATE CHIEF JUSTICE.—Judge Pearson always carried his important papers with him in the tray of his trunk. After his death at Winston the trunk was taken possession of by Judges Dick, Bynum and Wilson—and all the papers, including the will, examined and read by them. The trunk and papers were then brought by Judge Dick to Greensboro—placed in a vault, and on Friday last turned over to Richmond Pearson, the sole executor of his father's will. The document was written with a lead pencil, according to the Judge's habit for many years past. It is short and simple; and in it we are told does not occur one word about the Chief. No reference whatever to what should be done with him—no wish as to the disposition of his remains. Richmond Pearson will probably be detained in this State a year to carry out the provisions of his father's will. The estate is valued at about \$75,000.—*New State*.

STRANGE OCCURRENCE IN WILKES!

A MYSTERIOUS SHOWER OF STONES!

SUPERNATURAL FREAKS.

Since the dawn of the christian era, and the advent of modern civilization, the credence given by the ancients to dogmas of superstition, has gradually been losing ground, and the portentous omens and supposed supernatural occurrences, that once struck the wondering Orient with sacred awe, and which he was taught to look upon as the handiwork of the God's have lost their hold upon the credulity of mankind.

But as enlightened as we are, and as free as we profess to be from belief in the existence of matter for which we are unable to assign a cause warranted by the researches of science, or justified by the principles of reason; yet we are, nevertheless, occasionally brought face to face with strange phenomena for which we are at a loss to give a natural, or even scientific reason. Having been taught that every effect presupposes a cause, whenever we fail to supply the first, the existence of the latter can only be ascribed to the supernatural.

In the county of Wilkes about 14 miles West of Wilkesboro, in a lovely valley, through which runs the beautiful stream of Lewis Fork, there lived and still live two maiden sisters by the name of Go-forth; and in the month of June 1863, this was the scene of a mysterious visitation in the shape of falling stones. One morning, as was their wont, the negro slaves repaired to their daily task in the cornfield, and about 9 o'clock A. M., were suddenly alarmed by the falling of small stones in different parts of the field, ranging from half a pound in weight to that of a small pebble. The negroes seeing them coming down as if from the Heavens and being satisfied that it could not be the stratagem of human hand, fled to the house in a fit of terror and consternation. Their mistresses thinking them imposed upon by parties concealed in the adjacent forests, prevailed upon them to return to their work the succeeding afternoon.

Upon the third day after, however, the darkies came trooping to the house en masse, out of breath, and telling the most incredible stories concerning what they had seen, and positively refusing to return on the following day unless accompanied by the whites. In order to allay their fears, the ladies of the house accompanied them the next day, only to find the story of the darkies to be an indisputable truth; and that their little farm had become the contested battle ground between the belligerents of his Santanic Majesty and the Prince of Light, or that the infernal furies had devoted them to destruction. The entire neighborhood was now worked up to the highest pitch of excitement. Parties came far and near to witness the scene, all of whom were unable to discover the cause of these strange freaks of the adamant element, and went away more or less impressed with the belief that the place was under the influence of magic. But this was merely the preliminary step in this mysterious phenomenon: the stones now began to make nocturnal visits to the dwelling. They ceased their visits to the field in daylight, and chose to veil their appearance in the mantle of darkness. Noiselessly, and when all was quiet as the grave, they would be seen descending from the ceiling to the floor, which sometimes they would reach and might be picked up, and at others they would never finally reach the floor, but would be mysteriously spirited away; disappearing like a transient spark. They never were known in a single instance to do hurt or damage, and always made their entrance at the most unexpected times, when all the doors and windows were shut; and to use the language of the darkies, were "warm an' smokin'."

During these strange occurrences, the family were constantly visited by various persons who are still living, and do not hesitate to state that the occurrence really took place as described. One gentleman, while sitting in his chair and leaning against the wall, saw, on arising, one of the missiles under his chair, and states that when he sat down he is positive there was nothing under his chair, and that he sat so near the wall that no material substance could have passed behind him without his knowledge. He placed the stone, which he says was about the size and much resembled a half brick, in a valise and carefully locked it up, but on examination next morning it was nowhere to be found.

Any one who doubts the truth of the foregoing, are respectfully referred to the parties named, who are ladies of wealth, refinement, and high social standing in the community.—*Stateville Landmark*.