

Author of "The Cabin and Parlor."
At the dead of night there was a cry.

"Fire, fire, fire!"
Even in a great city, where thousands are at hand to render aid, it is a terrible cry at that hour. But on a lonely plan- tion how inexpressibly awful!

"Fire, fire, fire!" It rang through the night, and was echoed from the ne- ighborly quarters, in every variety of the tones of horror and alarm.

The mistress of the mansion, awaking at the cry, sprang from bed, and hurried to the door, gazing around bewildered. For a moment she was conscious only that something like herself in the shrieks of the maid who had slept in the room, and who, instead of assisting her, was pointing, with terrified ges- tures, to the ruddy reflection play- ing against the trees in front of the house.

Suddenly, to add to the confusion of the scene, the chamber door was flung open, and a crowd of female servants rushed in, flocking frightfully together, like a covey pursued by the sportsman. They closed around Mrs. Stewart's bed, screaming, weeping, wringing their hands, and de- priving her of what little presence of mind was left.

"Oh! missus, we shall be burned to death, we shall, all of us. The fire has caught the staircase. The blessed Lord show him mercy on us." These, and similar exclamations, filled the air, and distracted her attention.

Meanwhile the conflagration became more serious each minute. Had that ter- rible group listened, they could have heard the roar of the flames in the hall outside, and the crackling sound that an- nounced the approach of the fire to the wood work near the staircase, warning them, that, if they would save their lives, their flight must be instant. But they only huddled the closer together, sobbing, moaning, embracing one another franti- cally.

"At once a man dashed into the room, with agitated face and dress disor- dered, thrusting aside the terrified maids, he hastily approached his mistress.

"Fly," he cried, "at once, this mo- ment, or you'll be too late." And glanc- ing rapidly around the room, he snatched the table cover from a centre table, which stood in the middle of the apartment, covered with books, pretty trifles, and flow- ers in vases. This he threw to his mistress, exclaiming, "it will keep the fire from catching. Come."

"KEEP A CHECK UPON ALL YOUR
RULERS."

"I will go, missus," he said, "don't cry no more."

He looked around, as he spoke, for some means of sealing the second story. There was no ladder and only one staircase, but the bough of an ornamental tree, that overshadowed the house, fortunately held out a means of access to a bold heart and a strong arm. Not stopping even to hear his mistress's thanks, he clambered up the tree, ran out on the limb, and dropping on the roof disappeared within the dwelling.

How breathless were the moments that ensued. The flames were spreading with frightful rapidity. The eaves of the build- ing began to smoke, showing that the fire within had reached the roof, and soon af- ter the whole line of them flashed into conflagration. Meantime the lurid ele- ment poured out from the windows, ran upward licking the combustible front, and streamed in a waving, dazzling pyramid, high over the top of the mansion, far in the blue firmament. Millions of sparks, accompanied by volumes of rolling smoke, sailed down the sky before the breeze, completely obscuring the heavens at in- tervals, though occasionally this thick canopy partially blowing aside, the clam- mous sun was seen peacefully shining down through the rent, in strange contrast to the otherwise terrific scene.

The roar of the conflagration had now become intensely loud; and, to add to the horror, there began to be heard the awful sound of timbers falling within the house.

Mrs. Stewart watched the fire in silence, her hands clasped, and lips part- ed, ever since Juba had disappeared with- in the house. Each moment appeared an age to her. At last the suspense, thus lengthening out interminably, as it seemed, became intolerable.

"Oh! it is vain," she cried, making a new effort to rush into the flames, "he cannot find my boy. Let me go myself. For the love of God—"

But at that instant, through the smoke that almost hid the only window that was not already on fire, appeared the faithful Juba, holding aloft the infant. The flames were all around, and in moment more would overtake him. He made a rapid gesture for some one to approach.

Four of the maids, comprehending his wish, snatched a blanket, and rushed promptly forward. The heat was intol- erable, but they disregarded it, and stand- ing beneath the window, with the blan- ket outstretched, they shouted to Juba to throw the child toward them. He had, however, anticipated them. The infant fell while they were speaking, was caught safely in the blanket, and was hurried immediately to Mrs. Stewart, who clasped it to her bosom with frantic delight.

The whole was the work of less time than we have taken to describe it.

But simultaneously a terrific crash was heard, that made the very earth tremble beneath the spectators; a huge column of smoke shot up toward the sky, from where the roof had been; and, as if propelled from a force pump, a gush of intense flame followed, leaping far up into the highest heaven.

He had "fought the good fight," that the "goal was won." God gave him strength to forget the agony of his crushed and mangled body, and to remember only that he was going to bliss everlasting.

Thus, over the renewed sobbing of the spectators, over the wild shriek of his mis- tress as she rushed toward him, over the roar and cracking of the conflagration, there rose, like a trumpet, the incessant cry, "Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelu- jah!"

One would not have thought that it was a poor, maimed, bleeding, dying sufferer that spoke, but the happiest and proudest of men.

They reached him, stooped over him, would have raised him. But at that mo- ment, he looked up at his mistress, a triumphant smile breaking over his face, and then fell lifeless back, a "Hallelujah" still trembling on his tongue.

And so he died. His grave has a mar- ble tablet, with the words "Faithful unto death." What nobler motto could there be.

A fact.

HARSHNESS TO CHILDREN.

"Kiss me, Mamma, do kiss me, I can't go to sleep."

The child was so sensitive, like that lit- tle shrinking plant, that curls at a breath, and shuts its heart from the light!

The West.—We find an interesting letter in the Rutherfordton Banner of a late date, from one of the extreme Western counties of our State, and take an extract.

The Railroad question is the hinge on which, here in the West, the next Govern- mental election will turn. The candidate to expect success, must be a decided Internal Im- provement man. None other need apply.

The campaign betwixt Clingman and Gait- her is expected to commence actively at Waynesville. I am much mistaken, or there has been a considerable change of sentiment, west of the Ridge against Clingman. The current of public opinion now sets against him. He may turn it into his favor. He and they will have to exert themselves to insure suc- cess.

It is reported here that Stokes, of Wilkes, is or will be a candidate. If he and Clingman both run, Gaither will be elected, unless Fagg or some body of like stamp, politically, is in the field. There are many Wilkes people here who would vote for Stokes. Besides, the vol- unteers in the late Mexican war, throughout the entire district, would almost unanimously support him. The political elements are some- what confused now, but the first Thursday in August will reduce the chaos to order.

Cherokee is rich in minerals.—Iron, Copper, Gold and Marble. Silver mines are believed to exist. One was sold in Tennessee, near the line, for \$50,000, a short time since. This would be a desirable county to reside in were it not so much exposed, from its geographical position, to the incursion of depredators from the adjoining States of Tennessee and Georgia, and were it not for the Mexican like population prevalent in parts of it, arising from the inter- marriages of the Whites with the Indians. It was a great error to permit any of the abori- gines to remain here. It was a bad policy for all classes, and will require an age to do away the evil thereby engendered. The surface of the country is not so much broken as in some other counties in the Western end of the State. The eminences surrounding Murphy diminish to mere mole hills in comparison with the mountains in Haywood, Macon, and Buncombe.

White Hair Dye Wanted at Wash- ington.—The old fogies are in the ascendant at Washington. White beards and bald heads have it all their own way. A full head of hair—black, brown or red—is said to be considered prima facie evidence of the incapacity of the person for a fat office. He is too young. Therefore, the candidates of Young America are very desirous of obtaining a white hair dye, which will change, over night, the most raven black locks to a hue as white as the driven snow; or—

Leave no hair on the top of the head, The place where the hair ought to grow."

Powder and pomatum won't do for ap- proaching hot weather. Young America wants a white hair dye. Apply at all the hotels at Washington.—N. Y. Herald.

Improvement.—There can be no better sign of the condition of a town than is afforded by the appearance of its buildings. If they are vacant, or old, and dilapidated, and insecure, it is certain that the town cannot be in a pros- perous condition. Such was the state of things here until lately. It is now the fashion to brush up, to repair, or to rebuild; and, instead of low rents and numerous vacant houses, every house is occupied, rents are on the advance, prop- erty will sell, and sell at good prices. We are reminded of all this by noticing the commence- ment of the process of demolition of some half a dozen small wooden tenements on the cor- ner of Market Square and Gillespie street, for the purpose of putting up in their places sub- stantial brick fire proof stores. They will extend about 50 feet on Market Square and about 130 ft. on Gillespie street, the lots belong- ing to H. & E. J. Lilly, W. Daughon, Capt. Crow, A. W. Steel, and G. Downing, Esq. who are not only consulting their own interest by this step, but improving the appearance of the town, and adding to its security from fire. We shall be glad to see their example followed by others.—Fay Observer.

North Carolina Bonds.—The bids for the North Carolina six per cent loan for \$500,000, were opened at the Bank of the Republic, N. Y., on Thursday last. The entire amount was awarded to Messrs. Camman & Co. The pre- mium obtained was \$5 02. There were a number of bids exceeding this amount; but the bid of Messrs. Camman & Co. covering the whole loan, and being above the average, en- titled them to the award. The amount bid for exceeds \$2,000,000. The following is a list of the bidders:

	Per ct.
R. S. Young, Concord, N. C.	\$5,000 2
P. Rand, Raleigh, do.	10,000 1
W. W. Holden, do.	3,000 4 50
Chas. Manly, do.	1,000 av.
Robt. C. Lindsay, Guilford, N. C.	5,000 1 05
Ditto do.	3,000 1 55
A. M. Burton, Beattie's Ford, N. C.	5,000 2 31
Jan. L. Bryan, Windsor, do.	1,000 0 44
Ditto do.	1,000 0 53
Ditto do.	1,000 0 59
Ditto do.	1,000 0 61
Ditto do.	1,000 0 82
Ditto do.	20,000 par.
E. H. Knox, Hillsborough, do.	4,000 3 10
Ditto do.	5,000 5 50
John C. Salem, do.	11,000 1
N. Kendall, Fairville, do.	2,000 10
Thos. D. Hogg, do.	12,000 6 10
H. Miller, Salisbury, do.	2,000 2
Geo. Little, Raleigh, do.	1,000 4 50
L. Thompson, Hotel, Bertie co. do.	3,000 5
Peter W. Harrison, Salem, do.	8,000 5
Henry Carlton, New York, do.	25,000 par.
R. E. McIntosh, do.	75,000 3
Ditto do.	25,000 5 50
John Tams, Norfolk, Va., do.	5,000 4
Ditto do.	5,000 1
Ditto do.	5,000 1 25
A. C. Finley, Petersburg, Va. do.	5,000 5 03
John B. Oliver, do.	5,000 2
W. S. Owen, Black Walnut, Va. do.	10,000 4 90
Camman & Co., New York, do.	500,000 5 02
Ditto do.	75,000 4 02
Ditto do.	100,000 5 03
Ditto do.	100,000 5 53
Ditto do.	100,000 6 02
Decapet & Co., do.	10,000 3 50
Ditto do.	10,000 4 26
Ditto do.	10,000 4 52
Ditto do.	14,000 4 78
Ditto do.	2,000 5 02
Selden, Withers & Co. Wash'ton, D. C.	500,000 4
A. M. Barton, Beattie's Ford, N. C.	4,000 2 31
T. P. Westley, Nashville, do.	10,000 3
L. Ould, Baltimore, M. D., do.	3,000 3
Ditto do.	3,000 4
Ditto do.	3,000 5 09
J. H. Lindsay, Greensborough, N. C.	10,000 4
Ditto do.	5,000 4 50
Ditto do.	5,000 5
Wm. Colgate, New York, do.	15,000 4
Richd. B. Terbell, Nottoway, Va., do.	3,000 2
John V. Wilcox, Petersburg, do.	30,000 3 11
Ditto do.	20,000 5 01
Ditto do.	10,000 6 27
W. L. Steele, Rockingham, N. C., do.	3,000 2 50
Ditto do.	2,000 1 50
Thos. D. C. Harris, Washington, D. C.	1,000 1
J. G. Lash, Salem, N. C.	30,000 4
Ditto do.	25,000 2
Ditto do.	20,000 2
Ditto do.	15,000 2 15
Ditto do.	10,000 2 15
Ditto do.	8,000 3 78
Ditto do.	6,000 3 35
Ditto do.	5,000 3 1
Ang. Belmont, New York, do.	12,000 3 26
W. W. Gotham, Exr.	20,000 4 62
Robt. B. Bolen, Petersburg, Va. do.	15,000 4 1
Ditto do.	10,000 5 21
Edw. Hudson, Churchville, Md. do.	5,600 5 00
Chas. Glover, Newbern, N. C. do.	5,000 2 25
John Beard, Compt. Tallahassee, Fla. do.	21,000 5 10
Amos Wayne, Newbern, N. C. do.	7,000 2 38
R. Kingsbury, Oxford, N. C. do.	10,000 3 25
	\$2,010,000.

This is a gratifying result. It shows that the credit of North Carolina is good. The amount of premium is \$25,100.

Whilst such is the credit of North Carolina, we learn from the Norfolk Beacon that that of Virginia is below par. Her 6 per cent. bonds which lately sold at \$108, are now selling at 98 1/2. This is owing to the vast appropriations of the present Legislature for rail roads, &c.

There may be such a thing as over-riding even internal improvements. The debt of Virginia is already \$10,042,184, besides about \$4,000, 000 of guarantees of rail road companies' bonds.—Fay Observer, April 4.

SALE OF STATE BONDS.

Great credit is due to the Public Treasurer, Mr. Courts, for the attention and labor he has bestowed upon this department of his duties. He has spared neither pains nor expense in laying before American and European capital- ists the nature and value of the State's resour- ces, and of the advantages offered in these bonds. His patriotic efforts have been thus far crowned with most fortunate results. We feel satisfied that, if the bonds had not been couponed, and if they had been offered in no other market but that of our own State, they would not have commanded more than three per cent.—Raleigh.

BY AUTHORITY.

LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES
Passed during the Second Session of the Thirty-second Con- gress.

[PUBLIC ACT—No. 84]

AN ACT to supply deficiencies in the appropriations for the service of the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, one thou- sand eight hundred and fifty-three.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be, and they are hereby, appropriated to supply deficiencies in the appropriations for the service of the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-three, to wit: For any money in the Treasury and there- to appropriated, namely:

For compensation of the Vice President of the United States, one thousand six hundred and thirty-eight dollars and eighty- five cents.

For out of a charge of affairs at Denmark, four thousand five hundred dollars.

For salary to the Commissioner at Sandwich Islands, from the seventh of June, eighteen hundred and fifty, to July first, eighteen hundred and fifty-two, and to the same extent as the same now provided by law, four thousand four hundred and fourteen dol- lars.

For contingent expenses of the office of the Treasurer of the United States, one thousand dollars.

For salaries and commissions of registers of land offices and receivers of public moneys, and for the purchase of public moneys, two thousand and fifty dollars.

For expenses of depositing public moneys, by receivers of pub- lic moneys, two thousand and fifty dollars.

For the extension of the United States Capitol, four hundred thousand dollars.

For the completion of the repairs of the Congressional Library room, authorized by the act approved March nineteenth, eighteen hundred and fifty-two, twenty thousand five hundred dollars.

For compensation of three men, at one dollar per day each, for one year, to finish and keep in order Lafayette Square, one thou- sand and ninety-five dollars.

For closing Lafayette Square with an iron fence, five thousand one hundred dollars.