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WESTERN N. C. RAILROAD.

The Directors of this road held a meeting in this city last Saturday, and we learn that it was determined to go ahead with the grading and completing the road beyond Morganton. This will be gratifying to the people of the west, and the friends of the road generally. The road should be completed by all means. It is much needed, and until it is finished the great resources of the west must remain undeveloped. Besides the portion of the road now completed will never pay expenses until it is finished through. Let it be done by all means.—Banner.

Father J. J. O'Connell, Catholic Priest from Columbia, S. C., addressed a very large audience in the court house at this place last Sunday evening. His argument was principally a vindication of the doctrine of the Catholic Church. He is an able and impressive speaker. His reasoning was clear, and his conclusions pointed and forcibly drawn. The audience appeared to be much interested.—H.

MAYOR'S COURT.

A case of some interest to retailers of spirituous liquors was before the court yesterday morning. It was an action brought by Jack Hall, against Wiley W. Holdt, a house, in a plea of debt for the sum of Fifty dollars. The Plaintiff alleged that Holdt, who had been a customer at his bar, and had run up an account to the amount claimed, and produced his books in court to show the correctness and justness of his account. The Defendant made no issue as to the justness or correctness of the account, but pleaded that no retailer could collect an account for liquors if for a greater sum than Ten Dollars, that he would pay what the law allowed and no more. The plaintiff insisted that the court had no right to consider it in its decision, if it was the law, that such a point was for a higher court, to which the defendant could appeal, that where a party proved his account by his own oath and witnesses, and no issue was made to its justness, and the amount being under Sixty Dollars, the court was bound to decide in favor of the plaintiff and asked for a judgment in his favor. The Mayor stated that the law upon the matter was clear and plain, that the Revised Code chap. 79, Section 4th, declared that no Retailer of spirituous liquors by the small measure, shall sell to any person on a credit, liquors to a greater amount than ten dollars—unless the person credited sign a book or note in the presence of a witness in acknowledgment of the debt, under the penalty of losing the money so credited, that there was no evidence in this case, that such had been done, and while his own convictions were that no man ought to relieve himself of a debt which he had fairly made in this manner, yet it was the law of the land, and as such it was his duty to decide the case in accordance therewith, and should give a judgment in favor of plaintiff for the sum of ten dollars, and the defendant to pay cost.

We regret to learn that a great deal of trouble and distress is anticipated on account of marked disposition on the part of the creditors to push their claims. While in the Mayor's office yesterday, we noticed that he was very busy issuing warrants in civil cases, and we learned from him that he had issued about thirty during the day. This is truly a state of affairs for these hard times, and will be the cause of untold trouble and distress, if kept up.—H.

The NEWBORN Times has been purchased by Col. S. D. Pool and Mr. R. A. Shotwell. The former gentleman will conduct the Editorial and the latter the local department. The name of the paper has been changed to the Journal of Commerce, and it is needless to say that its politics have been changed also. Under the auspices of Col. Pool it will be an able and zealous advocate of the President's policy and a decided enemy of Radicalism in all its phases. We wish the new paper all imaginable success, and are sure it will eminently deserve it.

THE ROUND TABLE ON POPULAR SUFFRAGE.

The Round Table has the following: "No one who has studied the appearance of the crowd which an election gathers about the polls, or followed the means which are made use of to influence popular sentiment, can long remain in doubt whether the licentious freedom of our suffrage is compatible with an enlightened government. In the nature of things, it is folly to expect judicious decisions of great national issues from an ignorant, impassioned populace, marched on by the impassioned philippics of an adroit orator to the ballot box. It is madness to leave the final appeal to the judgment of a mass mainly composed of such elements as no sane man would repose confidence in on the simplest everyday affairs. The greatest difficulties, it is true, must attend any effort to restrict the suffrage. It is hard to see clearly in what quarters curtailment should be made, or upon what principles the right to vote should be awarded; but there is yearly less and less doubt that our national prosperity, if not our national existence, can only be preserved by abandoning a republicanism based, as every temperate observer must admit, upon the most Utopian misapprehension of human progress."

A Snake in a Woman's Stomach.—A lady living in this county informed us one day last week that some 20 years ago, while drinking water at a spring, she swallowed a very small snake, but that it gave her no amount of uneasiness for six or eight years, but then it began to increase in size, and affected her appetite, which became ravenous. The reptile increased to such proportions as to greatly enlarge and disfigure her person. For the last ten or twelve years, until recently, she had suffered more than human tongue could tell. She had doctored with many, had tried everything, but nothing seemed to help her, when her sister, who was a clairvoyant physician at Lockport, Ill., prescribed medicine which had expelled the reptile from her stomach, and several pieces from her stomach, but a large portion of it yet remains in the colon, too large to be passed in the usual manner. The lady appeared in usual health, and perfectly rational on every subject.—Valparaiso (Ind.) Republican.

A Self Contradiction.—The Radical theory presents the deprivation of the South of a part of the representatives to which it is entitled by the Constitution, in the light of a judicial process for punishing the crime of rebellion. If that is true, why is the penalty to be inflicted on Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri—all States with a large negro population—which did not rebel? This is only one of the various self-contradictions of this preposterous theory, which we defy them to explain.—Balt. Transcript.

A cute and pretty young "widder, has just taken the conceit out of a gay young student of Michigan, by exhibiting to said student after her "surrender" and marriage, a beautiful daughter and 3 sprigs of young America, named respectfully Augustus, James and Reuben. If he is a good "papa," he can make these "boys" useful.

"Gentlemen of the jury," said a Western lawyer, "would you set a rat trap to catch a bear, or make fools of yourselves by trying to spear a buffalo with a knitting needle? I know that you would not. Then how can you be guilty of convicting my client of man-slaughter for taking the life of a woman?" The prisoner was acquitted.

"Grandpa, did you know that the United States have been in the habit of encouraging and acknowledging Tories?" "Certainly not; what kind of Tories?" "Territories. Now give me some peanuts, or I'll catch the measles, and make you pay for 'em."

"What sort of a sermon do you like?" said Dr. Rush to Robert Morris, one day. "I like, sir," replied Mr. Morris, "that kind of preaching which drives a man into the corner of his pew, and makes him think the devil is after him."

A rich city is Chihuahua (i. e. city of joy,) in Mexico. Most of the houses therein are built of ore, from which the silver has been only partially extracted. The number of inhabitants has been reduced from 80,000 to 12,000. An American proposed lately to buy all the buildings, gradually, and to extract the silver from them.

A public meeting of the Citizens of Rowan County will be held at the Town Hall on Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock, of County Court week, for the purpose of inviting and encouraging immigration from the North and for the promotion of the agricultural interests of the County.

By request.

JAS. H. ENNIS,
Mayor.

If idleness be the root of all evil, then is matrimony good for something, for it sets many a poor woman to work.

IS REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT A FAILURE?

Nothing but the return of that spirit of compromise and conciliation which animated the great American statesmen of 1850-51, can save this country and government from anarchy and irretrievable ruin, and should republican government prove a failure in the United States, it will take hundreds of years to revive it. On this subject, the New York Sun writes as follows:

The monarchists of Europe have always contended that republican government cannot be permanently successful. They admit that it may flourish and expand for a time; but eventually, according to their view, it must fall as a consequence of inherent weakness in the system. Then say, truthfully, that the experiment of republican government has been repeatedly tried, and that, with the single exception of the United States, it has uniformly proven a failure. And even our own case, according to the friends of monarchy, is no evidence of the incorrectness of their theory. They claim that our government is now just passing through the ordeal which is to test the question of its perpetuity, and they believe that the present aspect of our political affairs is indicative of the early dissolution of the government. We have no apprehension that the predictions of the monarchists will be realized. We believe that republicanism is destined to spread, as the world advances in enlightenment, until monarchy will cease to exist, and until the whole civilized world shall enjoy freedom and the largest civil and political liberty. But at the same time, the fact cannot be ignored that the enemies of republican government now have some reason to feel hopeful that our experiment will prove a failure. The upheaval caused by the late war, followed closely by the rupture and growing animosity between the Executive and legislative departments of the government, coupled with the intense bitterness of partisan feeling throughout the country, are well calculated to encourage monarchists in the belief that the end of the great republic is drawing near. Nor would we attempt to disguise the fact that there is real and substantial danger in the present state of our public affairs. When men, high in the service of the government, boldly declare that one or her ought to be hanged; when one class declares that Congress is not a constitutional body, while another class declares in favor of impeaching the President; when the whole country is almost boiling over with political excitement, as is the case at the present time—it is not prudent to disguise or understate the fact that there is danger in these things.—There is no more truthful adage than the one which says that "a house divided against itself cannot stand." If the conflict between the partisan of the President and those of Congress continue to increase in violence in the same ratio that we have lately seen, it will not take long to bring the government to the precipice over which the despots of Europe are so eager to see it topple. Shall we go blindly on in this suicidal course until the fulfillment of the monarchical prophecies be reached? Shall we confirm and demonstrate the theory that republican government is a mistake? If we would avoid the danger of such an end we must cease the foolish conflict which now disturbs and agitates the country, and restore the Union to its old condition of peace, tranquility and prosperity.

A FEROCIOUS ANIMAL.—HALF-HORSE, HALF-OX.
During last week, an animal was brought to this city from the northern part of this State, the like of which was never before seen, we venture to assert. A year ago we learned from several reliable gentlemen who had seen it that such a monster was extant, though rather too diminutive to attract much notice, and that, should it live to attain full size, would be a marvel of ugliness and ferocity. About the middle of the present month its keepers concluded that it had attained a growth sufficient to astonish any community in which it should be exhibited, and it was brought to this city to remain, as it was supposed, till after the State Fair; but its extreme viciousness rendered it unsafe and improper to allow it to stay here, as well as dangerous to the crowds that will be in town the coming week.
A gentleman who saw it while here describes it as follows: The general characteristics and features of the horse are blended with those of the ox in this strange and remarkable beast. The head and neck are broad and heavy, giving it the fierce disposition of the buffalo rather than the quiet and docile character of the ox, while a mane reaching from the forehead to the shoulder and sweeping to the knees, add to the general appearance of ferocity. The horns are heavy at the base, but very short and remarkably polished and pointed. The eye is dull, but suggests things unutterable—an expression of latent power and devilishness which the general appearance of the animal confirms. The muzzle is black and ugly, the large nostrils arguing a large breathing apparatus and unconquerable

endurance. The jaw is heavy and prominent; the forehead full but rather square. The depth of shoulder is very great; the fore legs short and large; the foot broad and deeply cleft.

But here the bovine resemblance ceases altogether, and the equine characteristics begin. The body is slight and rounded, closely covered by a glossy coat of fine short hair; a long flowing tail nearly reaches the ground. The hinder legs are smooth, and lithe as those of a race horse, and the hoofs rather slight but well formed, contrasting strangely with the heavy legs and cleft hoofs of the forward part of the animal. Its gait, too, is a ludicrous cross between that of the two brutes of whose nature it seems to partake. While the motions of the forward part of the body are slow, awkward and shambling, those of the hinder are extremely graceful and agile. Altogether it is one of the most wonderful curiosities to be found in the animal kingdom. Who will give it a name?—Indianapolis Journal, Sept. 29.

PETROLEUM.

The discovery of Petroleum in North Western Virginia, and in other States, continue to be made. Perhaps no recent discovery has contributed so largely and rapidly to the increase of wealth and to the growth of population in the immediate neighborhoods.

We cannot doubt that Petroleum can be found in large quantities in the coal regions of this State, and perhaps at other points. The Petroleum and Mining Company, whose office is located at Greensboro, have in possession a number of sites and much mining land, we believe, but to what extent they have yet pushed their researches after Petroleum we are not authentically advised.

The rich coal and iron mining interests on Deep river have not yet been fully developed, for the want of sufficient capital and enterprise, and the lack of proper facilities for transportation. The character of the coal and its highly inflammable qualities in that section indicate the existence of Petroleum, or some other similar substance, lying in the region of the lower strata of the coal beds. The shafts or wells sunk have perhaps not been deep enough to reach it, and we have heard of no attempts at boring in that region. Why should not the trial be made, both on Deep river and among the coal beds in Rockingham, at an early day? Treasures of immense wealth doubtless lie hidden beneath the soil of our State, which it only requires energy and enterprise to develop.

During the war H. E. Cotton, Esq., of Fayetteville, successfully proved that Kerosene could be made largely from the coal beds of Deep river. "We have heard nothing recently of his efforts. We hope the various Mining Companies in the State, or other agencies, may speedily solve the question as to the existence of Petroleum. We need some thing besides cotton to set in motion the energy and enterprise of the people. But until that something is made palpable, we hope that the best efforts of our people will be directed, more largely than ever, to bringing out the agricultural resources of the State.—Sentinel.

SECESSION NORTH AND SOUTH.

From the Louisville Journal.

In the course of an interview that we had with Jeff. Davis in January, 1865, the subject of the terms of peace was introduced. Mr. Davis asked us what was the chief objection of the North to the recognition of Southern independence.

We answered that the North knew perfectly well, as unquestionably he did, that if she would lay down her arms, and consent to a division of the Union into two Confederacies, she herself would very soon be dissolved—that State after State singly and States combined, would secede, and the whole North be split up into petty powers, or no powers, all of them contemptible in the eyes of mankind, and not one of them willing or able to contribute to the payment of the national debt. Mr. Davis replied, with his characteristic calmness, that this was certainly true, but that the same thing would happen, and probably happen all the sooner if the North continued to prosecute the war.

We thought at the time that Mr. Davis was greatly mistaken, and told him so. We still trust that we were correct in our estimate of the character of his opinion, but just now we can include no other confidence that we were. The North continued to prosecute the war, and the South after the bravest and most desperate resistance known in war annals, was conquered. But now come the North's trials. Now we are to see the test of her internal strength. If, out of the dreadful war between the North and the South, a Northern civil war arises, if Northern armies march against each other, vengeance before them and blood and death and desert behind, many Northern States will soon weary and sicken of the horrible work, and will probably adopt secession as the quickest and surest remedy, fully relying upon the mighty troubles and perils of the Federal Government as a perfect security against coercion.

Trial of Thomas Dula for the Murder of Laura Foster—Conviction of the Accused—Sentence to be Hung 9th November—Appeal taken to the Supreme Court.

The trial of Thomas Dula and Ann Melton, for the murder of Laura Foster, which took place in Wilkes county, some two or three months ago, and removed to Ireland, was commenced before Judge Baxton, last Friday morning. Upon application of Counsel, the case was separated, and Dula put first upon trial. The State's Attorney, W. P. Caldwell, Esq., was aided by Messrs. — Clements, and N. Jordan, and the prisoner defended by Messrs. R. M. Allison, R. F. Armfield and Gov. Vance. A very large number of witnesses were examined, and the case occupied the whole of Friday, Saturday and the following night; the Judge gave his charge to the Jury after midnight, and about day break the Jury brought in a verdict against Thomas Dula—Guilty of Murder. At 8 o'clock, Sunday morning, the prisoner was sentenced to be hung on the 9th of November between the hours of 10 and 1 o'clock. An appeal was then taken to the Supreme Court.

All the evidence which led to the conviction, was entirely circumstantial, but so connected by a concatenation of circumstances as to leave no reasonably doubt upon the minds of the Jury that the prisoner was at least one of the parties that committed the murder. He was most ably defended by his counsel, as was likewise the prosecution. The patience of Judge Baxton during this long and tedious trial, and his humane and impartial charge to the Jury, in sifting the evidence and giving the prisoner the benefit of every reasonable doubt, was but characteristic of an "upright Judge" and profound Jurist, who is an honor to the Bench of the State. During the trial the Court room was thronged with spectators and deep interest manifested in the result. A most foul murder of a young woman had been perpetrated—one who though frail, had been decoyed from her home by her betrayer under promise of marriage, and instead of a bridal chamber, received first a dagger in her heart and plunged unconsented into a bloody grave. The Calendar of crime contains not a darker deed.

The term of the Court having expired, the case of Ann Melton, the supposed co-defendant and accomplice of Dula, was continued, and, probably, will be removed to another county.

The following brief statement of the complicity of parties in this tragedy as adduced by the testimony, may not be uninteresting to the public: Ann Melton is a married woman, young and beautiful, and a paramour of Dula's for several years, and had great influence over him—Laura Foster, a distant relative of Ann's, handsome and young, had likewise succumbed to his amorous under promise of marriage, perhaps. Ann Melton and Dula's mother are near neighbors—a half mile apart; Laura Foster resided with her father, five miles distant. It was said that Ann became jealous of Laura, and wanted her out of the way, and was perhaps present at the killing, if she did not aid in the deed. Thursday previous to the murder of Laura, which was on Friday, Dula borrowed a mule from a neighbor, as he said, to work the road, but no doubt to dig a grave in the woods for Laura. That night, he is supposed to have visited Laura at her father's, and induced her to leave her home under some pretence, before day, she taking her father's horse and traveling one road, while he traveled the parallel road—both leading in the direction of his mother's house, and near Ann Melton's, where Laura's body was afterwards found buried, with a stab in the side. Both Dula and Laura were seen by neighbors as they passed along the two roads, on the morning of the fatal day, and Laura told her acquaintance who questioned her that she was going off to get married, &c. The horse which Laura rode afterwards returned to her father's. It was stated that Dula had threatened Laura for some cause which had arisen out of their intimacy.—Statesville American.

John asked Julia if she would have him. "No," she said at once, "I'll not have you," but before John could recover from his surprise she archely put in, "But you may have me!"

The following has been translated for the New Haven Register.

A European friend of mine related the following story: I married a widow who had a grown up daughter. My father visited our house very often, fell in love with my step-daughter, and married her. So my father became my son-in-law, and my step-daughter my mother, because she was my father's wife. Some time afterwards my wife got a son—he was my father's brother-in-law, and my uncle, for he was the brother of my step mother.

My father's wife, i. e. my step-daughter had also a son, he was of course my brother, and in the meantime my grandchild, for he was the son of my daughter.

My wife was my grandmother, because she was my mother's mother. I was my wife's husband and grand child at the same time. And as the husband of a person's grandmother in his grandfather, I was my own grandfather.

A vessel advertised for Bombay, and lying at Antwerp, was applied to recently to receive on board boxes containing hats and other precious objects worth \$40,000. The captain was not ready to take them; they lay on the wharf and took fire. They were opened, and found to contain no valuables, but substances sure to enter spontaneously into combustion; the vessel had insured them for \$40,000 and reckoned on the vessel taking fire at sea and being utterly destroyed.

An Englishman being asked how he spelled salmon, replied: "with a hess, a hay a hell, two hoos, and a hen."

A good deal of the consolation offered in this world is about as soothing as the assistance of the man to his wife when she fell into the river. "You'll find ground at the bottom, my dear."

Sir Peter Lely made it a rule never to look at a bad picture, having found by experience that whenever he did his own pencil took a hint from it. Apply this to bad books and bad company.

Trying to tie the feelings—to tie a pretty girl's bonnet, without tending her lips.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

From Washington—Stanton.

Secretary Stanton had a lengthy interview with the President this morning. His early retirement from the Department is considered to be certain.

Senator Cowan, of Pennsylvania, arrived this morning and also had an interview with the President.

Radical demonstration in New York.

New York, Oct. 18.
A large Republican ratification meeting was held last night at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Prominent Radicals delivered speeches, assailing the private and public character of President Johnson, and earnestly urging on the people the importance of the adoption of the Howard amendment as a security for the future. A series of resolutions, expressive of those principles and ratifying the Republican nominees of this State, was unanimously adopted.

Fenian Predictions!

St. Louis, Louis, Oct. 17.
James Stephens, Fenian Head-Centre, made a speech here yesterday, in which he declared that the battle for Irish independence would commence on Irish soil before New Year.

Terrible Hurricane on the Bahamas—From Mexico.

New York, Oct. 19.
Havana dates to the 13th received. A terrible hurricane commenced in the Bahamas on the 30th and lasted two days. About half the town of Nassau was destroyed. Twenty churches were demolished. The neighboring island suffered in the same manner. Large numbers of vessels were lost and damaged. It was the severest hurricane known since 1861.

Gen. Castelman is en route to Vera Cruz, to replace Marshal Bazaine.

A number of citizens from Matamoros had arrived in the city of Mexico, begging the Imperial Government to take possession of the former city, and stating that a large number of troops was unnecessary, as the whole population would rise in favor of the Empire.

Baltimore, Oct. 19.

Gov. Swann has summoned the Police Commissioners to answer the charges against them, on Monday next, at Annapolis.

From Europe.

New York, Oct. 20.

The Steamship *Peruvian* is in with Liver, cool dates to the 11th.

There is nothing of political moment from England.

The Empress of Mexico had arrived at Trieste from Rome. It is said that she visited the Vatican, while in Rome, for the purpose of securing the sanction of the Pope to everything her husband had done as Emperor of Mexico, which was at first positively refused. She remained all day making further efforts but the result has not transpired. She is reported to have told the Pope that she would not leave the Vatican unless the request was granted.

The Times says of the great meeting of working-men at Leeds, that no political movement has for a long time attracted so much attention as was proved, on Monday, by the collecting together of so great a multitude in order to discuss and support the principles of the manhood suffrage association, which has established in London.

The cholera still continues in London. The Emperor of Austria has declined to renounce the title of King of Lombardy and Venetia.

The Baltimore Police Commissioners.

Baltimore, Oct. 20.

No new developments yet in regard to the police difficulty. The Commissioners will respond by counsel on Monday.

Gov. Swann visited Washington to-day. There are some speculations and many rumors as the object of the visit.

The directors of the First National Bank, of which Gov. Swann is President, have petitioned him to desist from his purpose in regard to the Commissioners.

The President Visits Baltimore.—Police Commissioners, &c.

Washington, Oct. 21, P. M.

The President visited Baltimore to-day, in acceptance of an invitation from the Young Catholic Friend's Society, to be present at the closing session of the Plenary Council. He is accompanied by Mrs. Patterson.

With regard to the Police Commissioners, it is understood that a compromise has been proposed by parties representing the Governor, that the Commissioners should appoint one of the judges in each ward and one clerk from the conservative party. This proposition is now under consideration by the Commissioners.

The Baltimore Commissioners Again.

Baltimore, Oct. 22.

The Police Commissioners were on yesterday in consultation with their counsel and they will not appear in person before the Governor, but file a response, through counsel, denying his power to try the charges, but at the same time, declaring their readiness to meet accusations before any Court of competent jurisdiction. They have not entertained any proposition looking to compromise, but declare their determination to resist any encroachment upon their functions.

The Empress of Mexico Insane.

New York, Oct. 22.

Foreign papers, and also the *Herald's* Paris correspondence, state that the Empress of Mexico has become insane.

Latest Financial.

New York, Oct. 22.

Gold \$145½. Exchange 9½.